



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



John weatherhill, inc.

50 Ryudo-cho, Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan • 402-5381 • Cable: Weatherhill

November 19, 1963

Mr. B.Y. Morrison
Box 24, Route 1,
Pass Christian, Mississippi,

Dear Mr. Morrison:

At the suggestion of my friend, Mr. Joseph Alsop, I am taking the liberty of writing to you about a possible publishing venture we have in mind.

2720 Dumbarton Ave NW

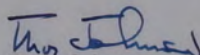
Presently, our company, which is associated with Harper & Row, Publishers, of New York and London, is preparing a manuscript for publication on JAPANESE CHRYSANTHEMUM CULTURE by Tameji Nakajima--one of Japan's foremost experts in this field--and H. Carl Young, an American grower now living in Japan.

Being located in Tokyo, as we are, it is possible for us to design and produce very handsome books at considerably less cost than is possible for publishers elsewhere. And, although we do not presently have a distribution system of our own in the United States, it is possible, because of our association with Harper's, to insure American--and, in fact, worldwide--distribution for any title which we interest them in taking on.

It is our desire to publish a series of handsomely designed and moderately priced books on gardening and horticulture. And it was Mr. Alsop's suggestion, after seeing some of the work we've produced, that you might either have some manuscripts of your own which you would submit for our consideration and Harper's, or, that you might be prepared to serve as an editor of a series of gardening books, and arrange to have a number of manuscripts submitted for consideration. Necessarily, all of the details must remain vague until we first can know whether or not you have any interest in pursuing the idea. If you should be interested, we would like to have your ideas and suggestions for such a series, and, then, perhaps, the next step would be to discuss the matter with Harper's. I shall be very interested in hearing from you in the hope that we might find some way to work together in publishing a distinguished series of books on gardening.

With best wishes,

Sincerely Yours,


Thor Johnsen

TJ:fk

Managing Directors: MEREDITH WEATHERBY (Editorial), TAKESHI YAMAZAKI (Production), THOR JOHNSEN (Business)

Publishers & Publishers' Representatives • Editorial, Design & Printing Consultants

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss., USA, 39571
25 November 1963

Mr. Thor Johnsen:
John Weatherhill, Inc.
50 Ryudi-Cho, Azabu
Minato-ku
Tokyo, Japan.

Dear Mr. Johnsen:

Ten years ago, I should have greeted your letter with a shout of pleasure. Your letter interests me on every level, but in all honesty, I must write you, that as this very day, a day of mourning on account of President Kennedy's tragic death, and a minor mourning on my own account, as it means that I am now 72!

In health, far beyond what is usual and with that good professional front that one learns to wear.

But I know, as no one else can know, that I no longer have the energy that is needful or would be needful for any enterprise such as you outline. Moreover, I am no longer in the book sense. All my energies have had to go into very small stuff...And of course, now, I am in that age, when I am no longer certain that I have anything to say, much less write down for publication.

This spot is too remote from all book centers so that my only contacts come through news papers, magazines, and such mailing lists as I receive. I cannot advise on the present status of horticultural publications, save to say that many houses that have never bothered now seem to be anxious to have "their list" contain almost identical titles (subjects), and the duplication of basic material even with some alleviation in author's varying styles, becomes unspeakably dull. Many of the books, even from good houses, are ugly. You could certainly win on that score.

If the time should come, that I should or might have any book material, I shall be delighted to write you, if you would then be interested. I believe in miracles, but I am dubious of this one.

With all best wishes for successes,

Very sincerely yours,

B. Y. Morrison

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