



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.

Three hundred and fifty-five
Commonwealth Avenue

April 7, 1922

My dear Mr. Killip:

Just a few lines to suggest that in the preparation of orchid specimens precautions against mildew and rot should be taken. I have just received the first bunches of orchids from the Mulford Expedition of the Amazon Basin and find that they contain worthless rubbish. The flowers, (when present) are so badly preserved that disintegration will follow if they are looked for study. Apparently no attempt was made to dry the specimens properly, and as a result all time spent on them was wasted.

I hope your plans call for advances based on ability to take proper care of material collected, and that quality will be given precedence over quantity. If new species are found it is such a pity to make types out of poor specimens.

With the best of good wishes

Oakes Ames