



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4909 Frew Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://www.huntbotanical.org)

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

*Usage guidelines*

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

*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.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,

KEW, SURREY.

Ap. 9, 1920

Dear Mr. Noble,

Thank you for your  
kind note. I am fully  
intending to take advantage  
of your invitation this summer  
but I cannot get away this  
month and during May  
I am (as perhaps Mr. J. C.  
Williams told you) due in  
Cornwall where I shall be  
perhaps a fortnight. So I  
think if early June would  
be agreeable to you I would

go to Templecombe then. And<sup>2</sup>  
on the whole I think I prefer  
that season for seeing a  
garden for the first time.

Sir David Prain gave  
me your 3 Magnolias to  
see what I could make of  
them. No. 3 I have no  
doubt is Soulangiana,  
a pale form. I do not see  
that Nos. 1 and 2 differ  
in their flowers and I  
think they are M. spectabilis  
which is a seedling of  
M. Soulangiana reverted  
back nearly to M. conspicua.

*M. Soulangiana* is as you know a hybrid which produces fertile seed and, like nearly all hybrids, its progeny raised from seeds varies very much within the limits set by the two parent species.

In the case of your Nos. 2 & 1 the purple on the petals is nearly but not quite eliminated &

it gets back very close  
to the Yulan (conspicua)  
But of course the true  
Yulan has been out of  
flower a fortnight, and  
its blossoms are absolutely  
pure white.

Digitized by ~~Journals Trust~~ Institute for Botanical Documentation

W. J. Bean

Heatley Noble Esq.

19  $\frac{4}{20}$

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,  
KEW, SURREY.

Dear Mr. Noble,

It was a

great pleasure to see  
you last week, and I  
am glad you enjoyed

your visit (in spite of the  
weather).

I shall be glad to do  
what I can with the  
Magnolia but if it is  
one of the *Soulangeana*  
forms I must profess

my inability to get  
beyond that name for  
several of them.

Yours sincerely  
W. J. Bean

30. 4. 1920

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,  
KEW, SURREY.

Dear Mr. Noble,

Don't you think the  
Magnolia is *Lennei*? the  
one you admired here in the  
Azalea garden? The flowers are  
certainly not so large nor so  
richly coloured as ours, but  
the shape and colour (if paler)  
are the same. Is it growing in  
a shady place or in indifferent  
health?

If not *Lennei* then it  
is *rustica*, but this is of much  
more recent origin and I have  
an idea that most of your trees



are 40 years or so planted.

I am going to Cornwall on  
May 15th to about the 28th.  
When I get back I will try  
to fix a date with you for a  
visit to Temple Combe. A  
mid-week one would suit me  
best. I have to be at Kew  
every other Saturday & Sunday  
for week ends and  
so my

Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

The Thorn appears to be  
Crataegus coccinea.

Yours truly  
W. J. Bean