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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.

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Although Botanical collections was the object of my former travels, yet, I was not *inattentive* to the other Branches of Natural History; and, from the various observations I then made, I hope to be useful, in my future researches, to those Professors, who are anxious to form extensive collections for their Cabinets; and shall also be happy to transmit (when required) any information respecting the habits and economy of the various specimens collected.

Persons requiring further information will please to address letters (free of postage) to me at an early period, and which communications will be attended to as early as possible.

JAMES BOWIE.

Kew, Surrey, July 1826.