



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
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.











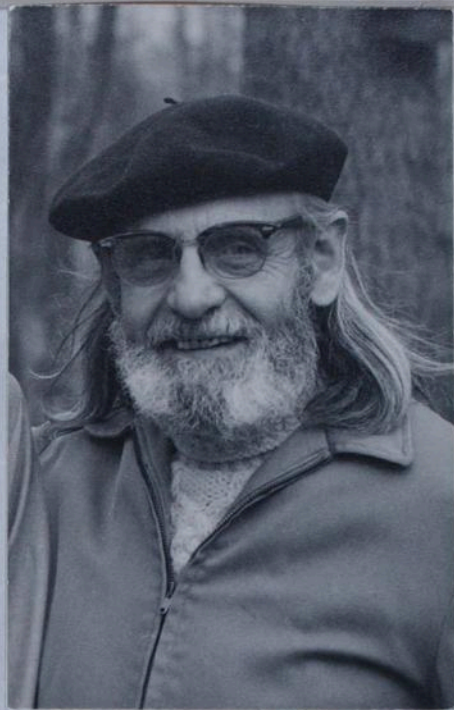




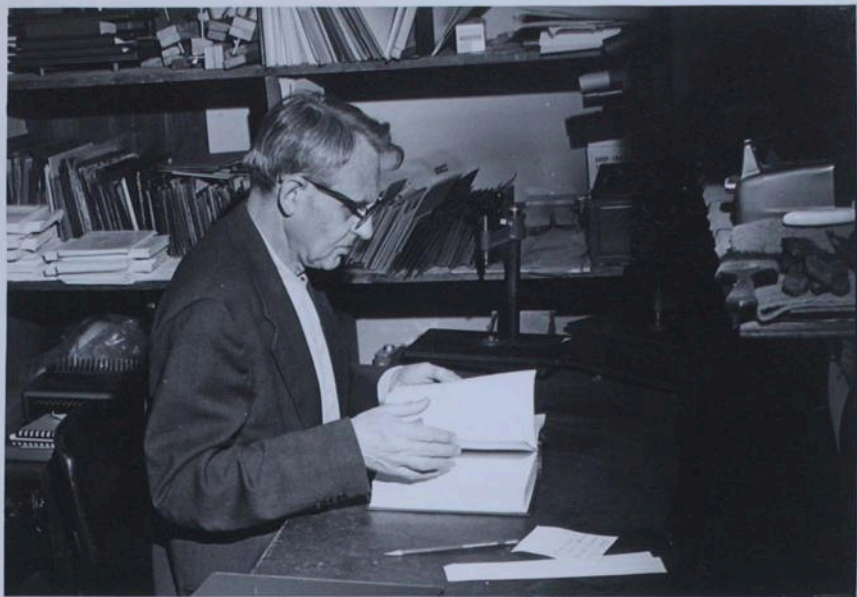






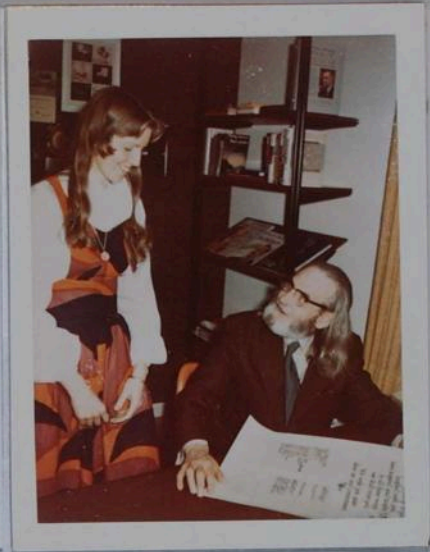












Please Come
to an
Open House
to extend best wishes to



George Van Schaack



Sunday, April 16; 3:00-6:00 p.m.
629 Burning Tree Lane
Naperville (Cress Creek)

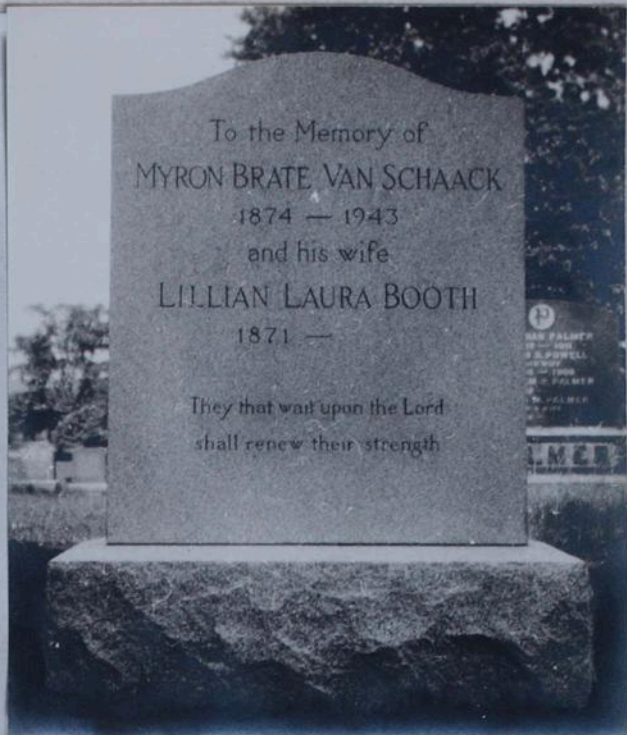
Helen Calkins

-

Nancy Hart



Jack Purpus
Mabel Flaggston
1601 Franklin
Eugen, Ore 97403













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PORTRAIT BY
PLEASE CREDIT **MORRALL**



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Sept. 11-1947
Schenectady

Dear Professor:-

Enclosed I am sending you a letter belonging to you that arrived a few days, am sending it to the University hope you receive it



everything is going on as usual, have received no answer as yet from Union College, did not take those people in as it would cause confusion do hope I'll hear from them soon.

I hope you had

a nice trip, thought of you so often hope the car caused you no trouble, how is your dear mother? I did you hear from her, remember she gave it to him from the tag on me to her will write her to-morrow your truck, said he would write do hope you found an apartment you about same.

will send you trunk when you are ready for same; I have been doing quite a little overhauling as usual if by chance you have forgotten some

thing at the college here - I shall

send it to you. professor on insurance

agent from Union college called up about some insurance you had there; wanted your address so I

Hoping to hear from you soon

Best Wishes.

Your friend

A. S. Elvert.

Enclosed you will find a clipping may interest you Will send pictures later when ready.

Union Teacher Has New Post

Dr. George B. Van Schaack, assistant professor of mathematics at Union college during the 1946-47 term, has been appointed to the same post on the faculty of Washington university, St. Louis, Mo.

A native of West Coxsackie, Dr. Van Schaack joined the Union college staff following his discharge as a naval officer last year. He is a graduate of Harvard university, and has also taught at Michigan State college and the University of Rochester.

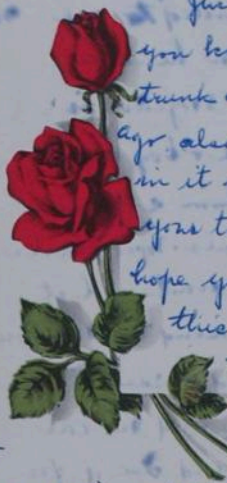
When 200 teachers in Allahabad, India, went on strike, thousands of school children marched in the streets shouting slogans in support of the teachers.

Oct- 1947

Schmidt

Dear Professor:

Just a few lines to let
you know I sent you your
trunk more than 2 weeks
ago also a letter enclosed
in it was the receipt for
your trunk and pictures
hope you received them by
this time, as I did
not receive an an-
swer whether you
received them or
not. I am
worrying whether you received some



I have at the present time an
engineer living at my house
he was recommended to me
by Mr. Heilmann he is a
college man about 31 years is
active in the church + boy scout
movement I find him a person
with very high ideals. Mrs. Travers
said I was on the waiting list
she would try and send me someone
of course she phoned + said there
were two but they had no car
and it would be hard to find for
them in the winter going back

and forth without a car. I am very
sorry it was so if they were as
nice as you to get along with.

I often think of your mother how
she is getting along - if she is
well. Give her my love when you
write to her thank you.

Dr. Falco sent you a letter
from the insurance company
stated an envelope also a personal
letter enclosed in a separate envel-
ope to your house address.

The weather has been lovely

here these last two weeks the
foliage on the trees is beautiful.
This time of year. Hope its as
nice in St. Louis.

Mary Ann wants to thank you
again for the book. I saw her
a weeks ago. I received a phone call
that my brother died which was
a shock to me as he was only 54
years of age. so I went down to
N.Y.C. to the funeral. my dearest
friend Mrs. Honicky the music teacher
died suddenly and I feel very badly about
it. We hope you are well + happy
where you are. Sincerely, M. Anna

Sept. 19-1947
Schenectady, N. Y.

Mr. George B. Van Schaack,

Dear Friend,

Your most welcome letter received was very glad to hear from you and that you arrived safe but sorry to hear you had so much trouble with your car and enduring that awful heat trying to find an apartment, hope you will find a good landlady as you are a very good person to have in one's home, do tell her I recommend you very highly. Hope you will be very happy finding a place in a nice section of town. also that you accomplished the trip in good time. I hope you stood the trip ^{well}, you surely do get places all over the U.S.A. I also want to thank you for all the kind favors you did for me while you lived here.

As yet I have taken no one I had called up as soon as I got your letter
people looking for rooms. I was in hope and today they came from the express
of getting the Professors, Mrs. Travers. office to take the truck valuation
called me up, said she would send ^{college} I came corrected and a tag attached to 7165-
in this morning they would come in Kingsbury. St. Louis (St.) Missouri.
afternoon it started to pour here this. The men that came said you would get
afternoon and they did not come they it in a few days when I asked them
they come to tomorrow Mr. Heuman when you would receive it.
friend came over to rent the rooms. Enclosed you will find the pictures we
last night he is a college graduate and took before you left, kindly let me
engineer was sent to Africa + returned know which you think your mother
from the D. E. Co. he is about your age would like the best of you I shall send
single and seems to be a good fellow it to her, when I have some more developed.
I still would like to get a professor in (I also told the men to collect as directed
with him so I don't know as yet how at the other end.)
everything is going to be, will let you Prof. Falso let Mr. Heuman read the
know later if you are interested. letters, they both want to be remembered

Professor I am sending you the to you. I shall give him your address
receipt from the express office I saw he was glad to hear if you arrived safe.

I want to thank you for Mary-Ann
for that interesting look and I shall
ask Anna to have her send a card
and thank you for same. Anna wrote
Mary Ann received a nice pencil case for
getting 25 stars for good lessons in school
and through me Mary Ann wanted you to
know it, and talks of you as nice professor.
How is your mother kindly send her
my best wishes hoping she is well and
contented, is your mother still in box packie
or has she also left for the West by now.
Do write when you can, as I shall always
like to hear from you. do hope you
will keep well and rest a good deal.
I know you have a strenuous winter
ahead of you. pardon my writing in
haste quite late & I want you to get this
letter with enclosed receipt for trunk.
Thanks again - Sincerely - A. S. Elvert.

Dear Prof.

Received your lovely card. Many thanks for same. will send you a parcel in week or so have had a cold was not able to go shopping. picture I had developed was not ready to send your mother enclosing the two they sent me hope your mother gets it for Ymas as promised. Hope you have very pleasant Ymas holidays, sorry you cannot stop in welcome any time.

Your friend
Mrs. Charles Elvert



L. H. H. 1888

AN AMERICAN WINTER SCENE

(I have a roomer here a
Lamp very nice person) March 4-1948

- Dr. Van Schaack, -

Dear Friend, -

I received
your very nice cards
you sent me a while ago
and was very glad to
know you received the
slippers and liked them
I hope they will keep you good + warm
for we are having an awful
winter out here it is snowing again
to-day. I have never encounter - ed such
an awful winter. Thank God I
have that new lil burner and
get enough oil it is working fine
I was really lucky getting it as I
would have froze to death or
closed up and gone down
to Florida. there were long
icicles hanging down around the house



in a few places what never happened
before since I can remember, the ice in the
front was 2 feet thick, it started to run
down my living room off the kitchen I
had to have the man come up and chop
the ice off but the paper is ruined all
on the front side. I shall have it papered
I spoke to Mr. Fountain about it said he
would fix it as soon as it got warmer,
so you see Professor it could be worse.
My blood-pressure keeps jumping up and
down. I could not shovel the snow this
year as much as I would have liked to.
Thank you for your thoughtfulness
mentioning it in your letter. I think of
you often also your mother. I was
notified last week the snapshots were
developed, so I shall go down to Jay's
to the shop and get them home with them
and send it to you, so you can read it to
your mother. How is your sister, do hope
she is also feeling much better.

Prof. I can picture you working very
hard at your work because what you
undertake to do, you do it thoroughly.
I wish you all the luck in the world for
you deserve it. It was very nice of your
friend to ask about me. I thought he was
a very nice person and please remember
me to him its wonderful when he can afford
to make those wonderful trips of he likes
to travel from place to place over the world.
I hope some day you will be able to do
the same that God will reward you
for all your efforts.

Prof. I hope you are satisfied with
your place where you stay and are happy
there. I have roasted duck a couple of
times since you were here and I say
to myself, wish the Prof was here to
enjoy it, as I know you were fond of
it. Spoke to Mr. Nye account of some
insurance if it were due, he said
they received a card for Christmas.

from you said he would drop over to see
the place but he never keeps his promise
so it don't bother me. I guess he's got
enough troubles with his work and things
in general. (Best wishes & regards from ^{me} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~me~~)
Received a letter from my niece that
Mary - Ann is doing very good at school
her marks are excellent so I'm so glad
she is being steered in the right channel. I
know she would want me to say hello to
you from her.

Oh I know how busy you are but I
would appreciate hearing from you when
you have a little time from your work
there is no mail came for you as I would
have sent it to you.

Received a letter from Mr. Luce the
man that stayed here 2 months after you
left. he was transferred to California and
is progressing wonderfully with a new
project as they are building a large
plant (the G. Electric) in North Hollywood
California. Will bring my letter to and
with Best regards to you & your mother -
Respectfully yrs. Anna Elbert

Enclosed a few clippings that may ^{interest you} June 14-1948
Dear Professor, - Schenectady

I received your most welcome cards I enjoyed hearing from you, but was very sorry to hear of your mother and her condition. I do hope she is getting better gradually for your sake as I know you worry a good deal about her with all the important work and worries I hope God will be always good to you for you ~~do~~ deserve the best of everything in life. Prof. I am so glad to hear that you did get in the work you love and I know you are much needed to help in that botanical laboratory with your wonderful discovery of rare grasses and plants which few understand ^{as} thoroughly. I hope some day you will find the right kind of cultured woman that will make a wonderful wife to you and understand your effort and wonderful work you are doing in your life.

Prof. I had a chat with my niece that was here last year with her husband and her dear

little daughter Mary-Ann. (Don't think Mary-Ann) Prof. the man I have living in the rooms
will ever forget you she cherishes that look & you occupied was a lawyer in Russia
sent her from you and (tells her as I bear ^{little} friends) is here about 20 years in this country
in school about the Professor she met here in does not practice law here is connected
Schenectady she studies very hard has very good with the M^c Kesson + Robbins Company
marks in school, my niece she both work - about 58 - very good references a good man
sing at very good positions for large business well recommended. he also must have a
concerns as they both took college courses in same
I am proud of them for their efforts.

How is your sister Professor. I do hope she Business mens club in Schenectady once
in letters even though I have not met her, remember in a while an article appears in the
me to her: when she ever gets a chance and comes papers, subjects he talks on in his line.
up to Schenectady will be glad to meet her. thought you would be interested to know who
I had living here, but Prof. I will be very

Professor had your friend visited you the one that was here and remember now he was a
music prof. and travelled around a great deal. most of the time, travels a good deal on the
kindly give him my best regards. M^r Heuman made for business purposes, never discusses
+ M^r. Heuman want to thank you for remembering) his affairs he has met the Heuman's here
them send their regards to you a couple of times.

Mr. Male was here about my insurance as I wanted to know about changing it to a higher sum in case of fire & if it was due. he said that it paid \$9.50 according to records. asked how you were & asked if he heard from you and he said not of late. he must also be a very busy man. he has besides his teaching an insuring business which I suppose keeps him very busy also his family, a farm, and what not including Michayma town affairs & really don't understand how he does it all. my husband always liked Mr. Male very much and really looked up to him. Prof. May Dacks did you get the Tomb Stone put up and did your mother see it if she did she must have been awfully happy knowing it was there at your father's resting place. Don't apologize for not writing I understand was glad to do for you you were also very good to me in many ways which I appreciate. Do hope you are well and drop in anytime you are up this way. write when you can. Mrs. R. S. Ewert.



Hope this reaches you - the only address
I know!

Dear George;
I am sorry to be so long
in writing you but I have been
pretty well done up with the
hot summer and am just
getting to feel like myself again.
I have been at my work every
day but that was just about all
I could do.

It was delightful having the
little visit with you last summer

but all too brief. Do try to make
a longer visit next year,
I suppose you are in St Louis
by this time. I do hope you
will enjoy your work and
that everything goes well with
you.

Of course, you know already
that Don + Betty did not
come up. After many post-
script^s they wrote they were

buying a house and getting
moved and would have to
give up their trip. I suppose they
are settled by this time, though
I have not heard from them
since.

Do, dear George, write and tell
me how things are going and
forgive my long delay in writing.
Warmest love and every good
wish as always - Elizabeth

June 13, 1946

Dear Van Schaack,

Your very kind letter from Mont
Chocoma is greatly appreciated, but
you are far too generous in your estimate
of assistance given by me during your
recent stay. There was little enough
that I could do. We were all glad
to have you here, and I hope you can
manage another — and more extended —
visit before long. Right now you
would not like our weather, which
is not only hot, ^{but} sticky. That is
the kind we shall have mostly till

has given me an honorary position
as Associate in Botany. Phillip,
as you probably know, succeeds me
as Curator. He is taking on quite
a load, in addition to that which
he is already carrying, but is more
than equal to the job, in my view.

Again many thanks for your
very gracious letter, and do let us
know if you come this way; I'd
like very much to have you know
my small family.

Faithfully, yours,

W. H. Raven

fall. — Your advice is good, & I
am planning a good long rest, —
going North leisurely by auto in
a fortnight or so from now, and
returning in late September. We
shall be at Blue Hill, Maine (on
the coast, across from Mount Desert),
& glad to see you if you happen to be
in that part of New England. Mrs.
Maxon is much better, in spite of
having me on her hands all day! so
we are looking forward to a quiet
restful period of pretty nearly
three months. After that, if all
goes well, I hope to take up fern
study here again. The Museum

Dear George:

Thank you for
the nice letter which
reached me at Danbury.
I was so disappointed not to
see you there. I had looked
forward to a visit with you
as well as the rest.

I had an enjoyable visit
Wm. lovely ideas about the
Country. Helen does
remarkably well keeping
house - with her limited

right. Donald was much
changed to me. It has
been a long time since
I saw him and he has
had all that illness since
then. Betty was the least
changed of all.

I suppose College is closed
and you are free. I hope
you can plan a nice
vacation. Do save a corner
for Wiscasset.

Warmest good wishes and
love - Elizabeth

Department of Mathematics
Washington University
St. Louis 5, Missouri.
October 26, 1947

Dear Elizabeth,

I was very happy to hear from you, but sorry to learn that the latter part of the summer had been so infernally hot. It seems you must be struggling either with the heat or the cold. I hope the coming winter will be mild. But whether or no you must plan on having someone take care of your furnace, please.

I have been saddened these last few days to read of the terrible fires in Maine - they sound so awful as to be incredible. In any event the loss would be a misfortune, but in these days of housing-shortage, the loss must be ^{quite} a serious situation. It seems hard to believe they were incendiary, but if they were I trust the guilty parties will be hanged down. Although that will be small compensation for the destruction of property and forests.

I have been here the best part of two months now and am beginning to feel at home. So far everything has gone well enough that I have not regretted my decision to come here. I have rather more work at the university than I had hoped, but that is partly due to the fact that during this semester I am teaching a graduate course which takes much preparation - another semester I doubt I shall be so busy. Even so that I find a total of two to three days a week to be at the Garden. Although what I do there is work, too, it seems partly as recreation, and I enjoy all of it. I have the title 'Honorary Curator of Grasses' - I don't know what that means, but it would appear that I am in charge of the grass collection - a responsibility which, if properly discharged, would require more than full time - at least at the moment, for the collection is in a deplorable state of disorganization - I believe there are two years' stock just reorganizing it. But since I receive no salary I don't feel bound to work solely at that, although having the job would lead me well. So I alternate between routine work & study.

The library, although very poorly housed and cataloged, is very fine, and one can count on finding in it nearly everything he could wish in the way of reference.

I have found three or four days on which to get out into the country west of here. It is not an exciting terrain, but it is cut up enough to be very pleasant to the eye and I look forward to making a delightful excursion into it.

I have been fortunate in finding a large room in a quiet house in a fine neighborhood - so that when I get to my room I can rest without annoyance.

A couple of weeks ago I had a severe intestinal upset which put me in the hospital for a few days. During the time I was there I had a thorough check-up and came out with the report that the ulcer I was supposed to have is non-existent, and that my heart & metabolism are ok. So if I don't get any work done, it will be laziness & not ill health.

I am sorry Dan & Betty were unable to
get up to visit you. However, I think
they did well to buy a house. This they
did at my suggestion. I felt it was time
they had a home if they were ever going
to - so far as I could see they had no
plans for the winter at all. Now I think
they are happily settled in a good, though
small, new house, just the size for them,
well located so that it is convenient
for Betty to get to the shore. I hope you
may be able to see it one day.

All for tonight. Please take good care of
Janney. We must love to you

Affectionately
George

Frank B. Hancock
Math. Department
Washington Univ.
St. Louis 5, Missouri



RECEIVED
OCT 27 1947
ST. LOUIS, MO.
MAIL ROOM CHECKED
RECEIVED
OCT 27 1947
ST. LOUIS, MO.
MAIL ROOM CHECKED

~~Mrs. Elizabeth L. Webb
29 High St.
Wiscasset
Maine~~