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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.

TO THE TAXONOMIST -- WHOSE FIGHT IS PRESERVATION?

by Hugh H. Iltis
Department of Botany
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

An Address given at the 11th Missouri Botanical Garden Symposium on Systematic Biology, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, at Washington University, St. Louis on October 16, 1966.

I am very pleased and honored to be here tonight, pleased for very personal reasons, because Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden are my old student stomping grounds.

As the blackest sheep of the class of 1952, to be asked back to the scene of my crimes, and furthermore, to be furnished with such a fine captive audience of eager taxonomists and conservationists is a delightful twist of fate.

I am honored also, and for deeper reasons. My schooling here, excellent as it was, included hardly a word about conservation. Surely, we had the use of Dr. Anderson's barn in Gray Summit, to study ecology, to listen to "Andy's" inspired teachings of man's effect on land, and to go camping and courting. But botany in those days was hardly touched by arguments of preservation. After all, in 1950, the net population increase ^{in the world} was only 600,000/week; today in 1966, it is 1,300,000/week; by 1980, 2,000,000 additional human souls ^{will see the light of day} each week--our problems are more acute and are becoming more urgent each day. Thus your presence here is, hopefully, then, a reflection that at long last we botanists are willing to work and fight for the living

ILTIS

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Whose Fight Is the Fight for Nature?

»» HUGH H. ILTIS

Frank Meyer

ILTIS

To George BVS
I dedicate this to you
and our friends who -
thanks for all the ^{encouraging} ^{meat}
must
your Hugh

To the Taxonomist and Ecologist - Whose Fight Is the Preservation of Nature?

Hugh H. Iltis
Associate Professor of Botany
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

It is a very great pleasure and honor to be here tonight, a pleasure for personal reasons, because Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden are my old student stamping grounds. As the blackest sheep of the class of 1952, being asked back to the scene of my crimes and, furthermore, being furnished with such a fine captive audience of eager taxonomists and ecologists is a delightful twist of fate.

It is an honor also, and for deeper reasons. My schooling here, excellent as it was, included hardly a word about conservation. Surely, we had the use of Dr. Anderson's barn at the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum, far out in Gray Summit on the Ozark plateau, to study ecology, to listen to "Andy's" inspired teachings of man's disruptive effects on natural habitats and the consequent introgressive hybridization in many groups of plants, and to go hiking, camping, and courting. But academic biology in those days was untouched by arguments of nature preservation, and unless a student here happened to overhear an A.J. Sharp or a Julian Steyermark, he might have gone through graduate school without knowing that there was indeed a very serious problem. After all, in 1950 the weekly net population increase in the world was only 700,000 individuals. Today, in 1966, it is around 1,300,000! And by 1980, only 13 fateful years away, it will be close to 2,000,000 individuals per week -- each week, two million additional souls will see the light of day, will need food and space, will forcefully bend nature to

* Presented at a symposium on SYSTEMATICS AND NATURAL AREAS, 13th Annual Symposium of the Missouri Botanical Garden on Systematic Biology, Rebstock Hall Auditorium, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, October 15, 1966.

To the Taxonomist
Whose Fight Is
the Preservation

TO THE TAXONOMIST AND ECOLOGIST:

WHOSE FIGHT IS THE PRESERVATION OF NATURE ?

Hugh H. Iltis
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