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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.

BROOKS, MAURICE

October 28, 1960

Dr. Maurice Brooks  
Division of Forestry  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, West Virginia

Dear Maurice:

A good many of us here were profoundly shocked when we read your comment in the New York Times of Sunday, October 16, that *Franklinia* had been rediscovered in 1929 by G. A. Schultze. I suppose that by this time you have received at least a thousand letters protesting against this statement, but I venture to add one more because it embodies an incident which may be unknown to you.

Last night, at a well attended meeting of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, the subject of your statement was raised from the floor. I read from the clipping of your article which I had in my pocket, said that unfortunately it was based upon an error, and called upon Edgar Wherry for a first-hand account of this situation. Wherry told of his years of association with Schultze and said that what had happened was that Schultze had told a Rotary Club that he dreamed that he had rediscovered *Franklinia*. The newspapers picked up this story, left out the word "dreamed", and perpetuated a myth which is most unfortunate, to say the least. So here we are once again having to answer phone-calls and personal queries as to the status of the Franklin-tree.

High on my own list of "lost plants" is the pink-flowered Fringe-tree, described by Barton in his *Flora Virginica* in 1812. In my article on *Chionanthus* in our Bulletin for March, 1960, I have ventured the statement that we have no information today concerning the existence of such a form. If you can come up with it all will be forgiven!

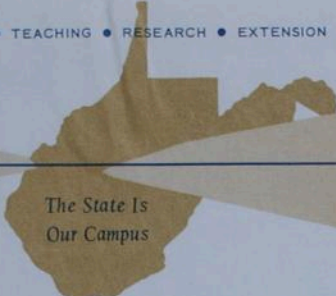
Best wishes and warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,  
Director

JMF:am

Brooks, Maurice



The State Is  
Our Campus

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,  
AND HOME ECONOMICS

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

November 1, 1960

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Director  
The Morris Arboretum  
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia 18, Pennsylvania

Dear Jack,

Thanks very much for your letter of October 28. If you were shocked at my story in the Times, you can imagine how I have felt. The Schultze account, as you probably know, was very widely published in 1929. I myself have three clippings from reputable sources telling about it. I can not remember seeing any retractions and I accepted it in good faith, particularly as it came from the source it did. Apparently a lot of other people accepted it also.

I can scarcely imagine a reputable scientist allowing such a story to go out. I know that refutations never catch up to an original story and so I assume that he made this without ever even seeing them. This is surely a classic example of the deathlessness of an error which once gets into print. Personally, I wish the man hadn't dreamed.

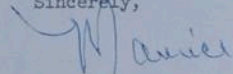
Concerning a pink-flowered fringe-tree, I am completely ignorant and am not sure I would publish it if I found one. This is one I'll leave for you. My quest has been for a bright yellow rhododendron concerning which I've been told by a dozen mountaineers. One old woman told me that it had big evergreen leaves and flowers "as yellow as a cow-punkin."

Last summer I again taught at Mt. Lake, Virginia, and this last weekend I was on the University of Virginia campus for some lectures. I had dinner with our mutual friend, Ivey C. Lewis, who is as alert and about as active as he ever was.

It's been a long time since I've seen you, I trust that things are going well.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Maurice Brooks  
Professor of Wildlife Management

MB:epo