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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.

BUELL, M.

from Fogg

July 10, 1950

Dr. Murray Buell,
Shelburn Falls,
Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Buell:

As you may know, the Barnes Arboretum in Merion maintains a School in which courses in Botany, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture are offered. This School was organized by the Director of the Arboretum, Mrs. Laura L. Barnes, some ten years ago and the classes in Botany have been conducted largely by members of the Department of Botany at the University of Pennsylvania. The enclosed Bulletin for 1948-49 will give you some idea of the character of the courses offered.

Most of us who teach at this School offer two courses in rotation. For example, Dr. Steckbeck gives his course on the Taxonomy of the Angiosperms one year, followed by a course on the Morphology of the Angiosperms the next year. Similarly, Dr. Wherry, who during 1949-50 lectured on Geology and Soils, would in the normal rotation offer work in Ecology or Physiology and Ecology during the forthcoming academic year. This brings me to my reason for writing you.

Because of poor health, Dr. Wherry has been ordered by his physician to curtail his activities and he feels that he must give up his one lecture a week at the Barnes Arboretum. I am therefore writing to inquire whether you would be interested in taking over his section of the work and offering next year either courses in Physiology and Ecology in the Fall and Spring Terms respectively, or, and this would seem to me preferable, a course in Ecology which would occupy both terms. As you see from the Bulletin, this would involve lecturing one hour a week on Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., from the middle of September to the middle of December, and again from the middle of February to the middle of May. In other words, there are two terms of fourteen weeks each and the stipend offered for this work would be \$50 a lecture, or \$1,400 in all.

I have just been talking with Dr. Johnson on the 'phone and he tells me that your Tuesday afternoons are free and that he would have no objection whatever to your accepting this offer, if you feel disposed to do so. I realize that it would kill an entire Tuesday afternoon for you, but in this connection I might point out that several

July 10, 1950

years ago the work in Landscape Architecture was given by a man whose office was in New York and who regularly made the trip to and from Merion once a week. He said that he greatly enjoyed this opportunity to organize his thoughts and prepare his material and in general catch up on his miscellaneous reading.

The grounds of the Arboretum offer a splendid opportunity for emphasizing in a practical way some of the theoretical instruction in the classroom and it is our practice during the Spring Term to take several field trips to nearby areas of botanical interest. Unfortunately, the situation calls for a rather immediate decision, for Mrs. Barnes is eager to get her Bulletin material to the printer early next week. I would therefore be grateful if you can let me have an early reply either by special delivery or, if there are additional questions which you care to raise, by calling me on the telephone and reversing the charges. If you feel that you are unable to take this assignment, we shall probably have to abandon entirely the lectures in Ecology, which, it seems to me, would seriously impair a fairly well rounded program of instruction.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

from Buell

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
The State University of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

July 12, 1950

Dr. John K. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Your letter came yesterday morning. Since it came I have given your invitation considerable thought. I am pleased that you have offered me this opportunity to teach a course in ecology at the Barnes Arboretum. The stipend I feel is generous. I am certain I should enjoy giving the course of lectures very much.

It has, however, been difficult for me to decide how to answer your letter. I know that Dr. Johnson, as chairman of our department, is most generous in not standing in the way of any of us who are under him when such an opportunity arises. In fact he wrote to me directly after you phoned him to reassure me that I am quite free to decide as I wish.

There is an angle to the situation in our department which I must explain to you so that you may clearly understand my answer. Through considerable effort Dr. Johnson has been able to obtain low teaching schedules for us. He has made this effort because he knew that we were all anxious to have time to carry on research. Needless to say we have been exceedingly grateful to him.

Now if I accept your offer to give this course at the Barnes Arboretum I am defeating in considerable part the purpose of his efforts. As you are aware, it would require at the very minimum a full day a week for preparation, travel and presentation of the proposed series of lectures. I just cannot accept your invitation under the circumstances, as much as I should like to.

There is, however, one possibility that seems rather remote, but I see no harm in suggesting it. If I were able to have a research assistant to help me at Rutgers to make up for the time I should have to devote to this other work, I would feel free to take the time necessary to giving the proposed course at the Barnes Arboretum. Our assistants receive \$900 stipend for the academic year, which is the minimum we can expect to pay. Hence it would be necessary to find some way to raise this amount. I wonder if the Barnes Arboretum might possibly have funds which could be devoted to this?

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.

-2-

July 12, 1950

If this sort of arrangement should appear possible to you and you wish to get in touch with me, you may reach me at Shelburne Falls, Mass. until Sunday morning in care of my mother, Mrs. Elinor F. Buell. On Sunday I shall start for Minnesota and shall be at the University of Minnesota Biological Station, Douglas Lodge, Minn. from July 24 to August 26. We plan to stop at the Botany Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, Monday morning to visit Drs. Petry and Clausen if they are in. Monday night and Tuesday morning I shall be with my sister, Miss Lois Buell, 9920 North Boulevard, Cleveland 8, Ohio. We stop Friday, July 21 at the Botany Department, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, for mail. This gives you my itinerary for the next ten days or so.

With very best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Murray Z. Buell

July 18, 1950

Dr. Murray F. Buell,
Biological Station,
Douglas Lodge, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Buell:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 12th. I am naturally very sorry that you do not feel that you can accept the invitation to lecture at the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation but I fully understand the factors which have entered into your decision.

I spoke yesterday with Mrs. Barnes, the Director of the Foundation, and she informs me that unfortunately there are no resources at present for putting into operation the alternative which you suggest which would enable you to pay the services of a research assistant.

My own feeling is that you could very easily do this work with a loss of no more than half a day, for the instruction is at a rather elementary level and would require no great amount of preparation. I realize that it is sometimes more difficult to teach elementary students than those who have a basic knowledge of the subject, but I still feel that with your long experience in ecology, this is the kind of course which you could teach with little effort and that such organization of your notes and outlines as might be necessary could readily be done in transit. Perhaps a year from now if Dr. Wherry still feels incapable of carrying on this work, you might be willing to reconsider your decision. In the meanwhile, it has been necessary to send the material for the Bulletin to the printer and Mrs. Barnes and I have reluctantly decided that ecology will have to be omitted from the curriculum for 1950-51.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany