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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.

CURTIS, J. T.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN, U. S. A.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BIOLOGY BUILDING

February 24, 1941

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Fogg:

The work of the Committee on Education in Science of the American Philosophical Society under your direction has recently come to my attention. If phenological data from Wisconsin would be of value to you, I should be glad to cooperate in any way I can.

I trust the Flora of Pennsylvania is coming along satisfactorily.

Please give my regards to Pohl.

Sincerely yours,

*J. T. Curtis*

J. T. Curtis

JTC:K

March 23, 1941

Dr. J. T. Curtis,  
Dept. of Botany,  
Univ. of Wisconsin,  
Madison, Wisc.

Dear Dr. Curtis:

Thanks a lot for your letter concerning my phenological projects. I have delayed my reply until now because we have just completed the mimeographed sheets which we are distributing to our volunteer observers. Under separate cover I am forwarding you a sample of the type of thing we have prepared this year. If you wish extra copies of it let me know.

Last year we got out a log on native spring plants and another one for summer-flowering species. This year we have amplified the spring list and I have added a list of about 151 cultivated plants in an effort to get some work out of the garden club people. It would certainly be interesting to have someone in your area fill in these data to compare with the dates which our observers establish here.

The Penna. Flora work is advancing well. We are looking forward to a busy season in the field. Pohl, who sends you his best, has abandoned Andropogon and is going to work on the genus Panicum in Penna. for his Dr's problem.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON 6, WISCONSIN, U. S. A.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BIRGE HALL

November 19, 1954

Dr. John M. Fogg  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Fogg:

The recent death of Professor N. C. Fassett has created a vacancy in the field of taxonomy in the department. It is our present plan to fill this vacancy with a younger man at the rank of Assistant Professor although a higher rank is possible if an outstanding candidate is available. We would like to enlist your aid in suggesting the names of promising young taxonomists of your acquaintance who might be interested in the position.

In addition to the Assistant Professorship, the appointee would also become the Curator of the Herbarium. Most of the teaching duties would involve courses in advanced taxonomy, although participation in some elementary courses would also be expected. The salary range would be \$4500 to \$5500, depending upon experience, for 10 months. Frequent opportunities for summer school teaching or for summer research grants could be expected. In addition, funds for use in travel and for graduate student research assistantships are available from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation through the Research Committee of the Graduate School.

The herbarium at present contains over 300,000 specimens with emphasis upon the flora of Wisconsin. Additional space is to be provided by a new wing to the Biology Building, now about ready to begin construction.

While we are interested in any exceptional candidates, we would be especially attracted by those with an interest in the temperate zone flora or who would at least be willing to guide graduate students in the study of such plants. The candidate could expect support from the staff in plant ecology, plant evolution, field zoology and such departments in the Agricultural School as agronomy, wild life management and genetics.

We would be very grateful for any names you may suggest and for such comments on them as you care to make.

Sincerely yours,

*J. T. Curtis*

J. T. Curtis  
Professor of Botany

from Fagg

December 3, 1954

Dr. J. T. Curtis  
Department of Botany  
Birge Hall  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Curtis:

Upon my return a few days ago from a couple of weeks spent in Mexico and Central America, I found here your letter of November 19th informing me of your plans with respect to filling the vacancy created by the recent tragic death of Norman Fassett.

I have given this matter a great deal of thought and am writing at this time to suggest that serious consideration be given to my former student, Dr. Richard W. Pohl, who is at present Associate Professor of Botany at Iowa State.

Dick Pohl is one of the most brilliant graduate students ever to work under my supervision. He is not only an excellent taxonomist but he has broad knowledge and appreciation of other fields of the plant sciences, especially as they relate to the problems of systematic botany. Since he assisted me in laboratory on a number of occasions I can also testify that he is a conscientious, stimulating and able teacher.

There was a time when I would have had to admit that Pohl had certain personality traits which might have militated against his success in the teaching profession. This took the form primarily of a certain bluntness and lack of tact. I was, however, always aware of the fact that these emanated from the boy's basic honesty and frankness and his unwillingness to accept any opinion which he had not thoroughly examined and agreed with. I believe you will admit that these are admirable characteristics and I am happy to say that during my recent contacts with Pohl, although he has in no sense wavered from his basic intellectual integrity, he has become definitely less aggressive in stating contrary opinions to the extent of occasionally appearing discourteous. In other words, a somewhat brash youth has matured into a young man with mature judgment and a greater respect for the opinions of others.

It must be admitted that Pohl's list of publications is not a lengthy one, but I feel that his work is eminently sound and scientifically significant. The doctoral dissertation which he did with me on the Gramineae of Pennsylvania was so well executed that I shall incorporate it, with only minor changes, in my forthcoming publication on the Flora of Pennsylvania. His recent semi-popular book on Grasses is, I feel, the best contribution of its kind in its field. This took a number of years to complete owing to the fact that Pohl has been carrying a very heavy burden of teaching.

Let me add (for I think it is not unimportant) that Mrs. Pohl is a delightful and agreeable girl and that we always enjoy seeing her and her interesting children when they are in Philadelphia.

I do not, of course, know whether Pohl would leave Iowa for an Assistant Professorship, but I feel that the advantages of working at Wisconsin might induce him to move to a position at a lower rank. I know nothing of his salary at present but I would strongly urge that you make every effort to secure a man who is, in my opinion, so endowed with a capacity for original work that he is bound to reflect credit upon your Department.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.  
Professor of Botany  
and Director, Morris Arboretum

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON 6, WISCONSIN, U. S. A.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BIRGE HALL

May 13, 1955

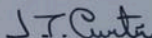
John M. Fogg, Jr.  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Fogg:

I am writing to thank you for your advice concerning the appointment of a taxonomist to our department and to inform you, if you have not already heard, that the position has been filled by Dr. Hugh Iltis, formerly of the University of Arkansas. He will begin work here July 1, 1955 as Curator of the Herbarium and Assistant Professor of Botany. Our field botany group in taxonomy and ecology feels that the addition of Dr. Iltis will enable us to develop a sound program in the study of natural plant populations.

I would like to thank you personally and on behalf of the committee (Dr. Thomson and Dr. Sauer) for your interest and help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



J. T. Curtis  
Professor of Botany