



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.

HUNT, Mrs R.A.

October 28, 1949

Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt,
4875 Ellsworth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

My dear Mrs. Hunt:

My friend, Mrs. E. F. Rivinus, knowing of my great interest in the history of botany, recently lent me her copy of the August Bulletin of the Clements Library which describes fifty-five rare books from your famous collection. I have found this publication so valuable and fascinating that Mrs. Rivinus generously insisted that I keep it. Although naturally loath to do so, I confess that I have been unable to resist her offer since this volume will be of real benefit to me in a course which I teach on the History of Systematic Botany. I feel that I owe you a debt of gratitude for having made this publication possible and wanted you to know that this particular copy has come into the hands of someone who is keenly appreciative of its merits and who will use it in his teaching.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

Copy to: Mrs. E. F. Rivinus,
Corner Meadow Brook Lane and Whitmarsh Road,
Philadelphia 18, Penna.

MRS. ROY ARTHUR HUNT
4275 ELLSWORTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

November 7, 1949

Dear Professor Fogg,

Since the exhibition of some of my herbals at Ann Arbor and the publication of the catalogue, I have had several nice letters; but not one of them has pleased me more than your letter of October 28, which I found waiting for me when I returned from New York the end of last week. I cannot tell you how gratified and pleased I am that you feel it is a valuable contribution in botanical history, and that you should want to use this in your classes makes me very happy. Mrs. Rivinus told me that she had loaned her copy to you, and I am so pleased that she has given it to you. It is rapidly becoming a collectors' item. A week or more ago I was in Providence at the exhibition and reception given in honor of Mr. Wroth. I was surprised to see Mr. Colton Storm (who arranged for this catalogue at that meeting). He told me that he only had a few copies left and that many people were writing in asking for it.

I wonder if at any time your travels would bring you to Pittsburgh, because I should so love to have you come and see my botanical library and perhaps you know my friend, Dr. O. E. Jennings, who would also be happy to see you, I am sure here in Pittsburgh. Perhaps you could take a week end off and come and spend it with us here, where I think you would be interested in seeing a library of this kind. Mrs. Rivinus made us a visit last spring, and I think she was interested in seeing some of the books; but naturally she would not have as deep an interest as you would, so please consider this an invitation and accept it when you can.

Very sincerely yours,

Rachel Hunt

from Fogg

November 14, 1949

Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt,
4875 Ellsworth Avenue,
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hunt:

Thank you so much for your very gracious letter of November 7th with its kind invitation to visit your botanical library. I get to Pittsburgh from time to time and usually make it a point to see my old friend Dr. O. E. Jennings, who has cooperated with me so magnificently in my studies of the flora of Pennsylvania. I should consider it a privilege to see your splendid collection and you may rest assured that the next time I am in your vicinity I shall take advantage of this unusual offer. You may rely upon me also to let you know in advance of my visit in order to be sure that the time would be convenient for you.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

from Fogg

January 25, 1952

Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt,
4875 Ellsworth Avenue,
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Hunt:

There has recently reached me a copy of your annotated catalogue entitled "Botanical Books, Prints and Drawings," which I am delighted to have. This is indeed a useful and interesting compendium and will occupy an honored place on my shelves beside the catalogue of the exhibit of your botanical works which I received some years ago.

As I believe I told you before, I am keenly interested in the history of the plant sciences and especially in some of the earlier works. The present catalogue, therefore, constitutes a valued addition to my series of bibliographical references and will, I assure you, receive continued use.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

MRS. ROY ARTHUR HUNT
4875 ELLSWORTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

January 31, 1952

Dear Dr. Fogg,

I was confused about your proper address so sent the Catalogue in care of Mrs. Rivinus. I am happy that it reached you, and your kindly acknowledgment is much appreciated. I wish very much that you could see my Show here. If you can come here, my house is wide open to receive you, and I think you would like to see the Exhibition and see my library. I know you are a busy person, but if you could manage to come any time, a week day, or a weekend, I should be so pleased. The Exhibition closes February 17, but there is still time. I may sound importunate, but I would like so much to have you come here. Planes are 1-1/2 hours, and trains convenient.

Very sincerely,

Rachel Hunt

June 13, 1952

Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt,
4875 Ellsworth Avenue,
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Hunt:

A few days ago Mrs. Rivinus forwarded to me a copy of your catalogue of the books which you have exhibited at the University of Virginia. I find much of interest in this and am grateful to you for having made a copy available.

I had the pleasure of entertaining Dr. H. H. Bartlett in my home a few weeks ago and we talked at length about your marvelous library. I do hope that some time we can take advantage of your gracious invitation to visit you and inspect your treasures.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt

4875 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

June 16, 1952

Dear Dr. Fogg,

Thank you very much for your note of June 14. I am so happy to have my catalogues go where they are used and really appreciated. My own catalogue of the Carnegie Institute Show I know you have because I sent one to you in care of Mrs. Rivinus. I think Miss Byrd at the University of Virginia made a very charming thing for the collection there, and that was really no work for me, but the first one was.

The last letter I had from Dr. Bartlett said he had not been well, so I am glad he is about again and had a visit with you. I would be so happy to have you come to see the library. Just let me know any time it is convenient to you.

Very sincerely yours,

