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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.

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Sodnant Garden, Tal y Cafn, Colwyn Bay, LL28 SRE United Kingdom.

20th June, 1974

Dear Member,

I am sending this personal latter to tell you that I have resigned as Secretary-Editor of the International Camellia Society, and from all other official duties I may have conducted on behalf of the Society. As I have undertaken the work involved in forming the Society, its administration for the past twelve years, and the organisation of the European conferences, all on a completely honorary basis, I think that some explanation is necessary.

On the insistance of the President, Professor Waterhouse, and against advice, a meeting attended by less that forty members of the Society was held in Sydney during the Conference organised by the Australian Camellia Research Society. At this meeting the Constitution legally registered in America when the Society was formed was not recognised and a statement which I sent on the state of the Society and calling, amongst other things, for the election of Directors and Officials by members as laid down in the Constitution, was dismissed. In consequence my relationship with Professor Waterhouse has deteriorated and as I believe that the Society cannot prosper if the leading officials disagree, I have resigned.

The International Camellia Society has been well supported and served its purpose of bringing camellia lovers of all nations into one body. I am sure it will continue to prospor and I trust that whilst co-operating with all national camellia societies it will not become dominated by their officials. I believe it must be independent and lead the camellia world and it has the finances to do so.

I would like to thank all members for their kind support and friendly letters during the past twelve years. I have corresponded with every member and have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at our conferences and at Bodnant. To all of you I wish a most successful future.

Please address all future official communications to:-Professor E. G. Waterhouse, 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon, New South Wales 2072, Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Puddle.