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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.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK : SAN FRANCISCO 18, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE BAYVIEW 1-5100

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

THE MORRISON PLANETARIUM

THE STEINHART AQUARIUM

Sept. 6, 1961

Dr. Baki Kasapligil
Mills College, California

Dear Baki:

As you may know, I conduct a perennial botany class known as the California Botanical Club and occasionally I like the members to see other centers of learning besides the academy. Do you think that might be arranged for us to visit Mills College this fall? I have visited Mills only briefly on one or two occasions, so even I would like to have a visit; but I feel the need of guidance, at least for part of the time. (Perhaps one of your students could guide us around the grounds if we should come.)

On this kind of an "expedition" we like to arrive in the middle morning and take a walk before lunch. We bring our lunches which we eat picnic style. After lunch we might stroll about some more or perhaps look in on a botanical laboratory. We want to be on our way home by 3 p.m.

Our calendar calls for an outing such as this on Thursday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day), but it could be Oct. 19--or possibly it could be arranged for some other day of the week. Do you think a visit by us to Mills is feasible? I hope so. Or if not this fall, perhaps at some other time. Please let me know.

Our group generally numbers between 20 or 30, mostly ladies middle age or older. If we should come, is there a picnic area on the campus (with picnic tables, rest rooms, etc.)?----or should we plan to eat lunch somewhere else and arrive at 1 p.m.?

Did you have an interesting summer? I hope you got farther away from your desk than I have. I was tied down until the end of July by the Lassen Park Flora; and about the middle of August Elizabeth McClintock went to Honolulu to attend the Pacific Science Congress. When she gets back I hope to get away for a few days.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely

Tom Howell

Sept. 14, 1961

Dr. John Thomas Howell
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco 18, Calif.

Digitized by the University of California Institute for Botanical Documentation

Dear Tom,

Thank you very much for your letter of Sept. 6, 1961. I shall be happy to welcome you and the members of the California Botanical Club on our campus on Thursday, Oct. 12. I can meet you in front of our Life Sciences Building at 10:00 A.M. and guide your group through the Botanical Garden until 11:00 A.M. I have enough copies of a mimeographed bulletin "Some drought-tolerant California native plants for the garden" to distribute among the members of your club.

I have a class from 11:00 to 11:50 A.M. and I regret that I shall not be able to be with you during this period. Perhaps you can show the trees of the campus until lunch time. I arranged a permission for the use of the Reinhardt House from 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. (marked on the map). This building belongs to our Alumnae Association, it has a comfortable lounge and restroom facilities. The kitchen may be used for preparation of coffee during your picnic lunch. I am sure that the ladies would leave the building in good order after lunch break. Please borrow the key to the Reinhardt House from me upon your arrival.

I shall be in the Botany Lab, Room 201 Life Sciences Building from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M., during which you may visit the laboratory and observe the class at work.

We had a quiet summer in Oakland. A short visit to Monterey Peninsula with our two small boys was the biggest event of our summer. Otherwise I was at my desk most of the time, to complete a manuscript. Please give my regards to Elisabeth and to Mr. Rose. I look forward to see you soon.

With regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Baki Kaspilogil

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THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

THE ALEXANDER F. MORRISON PLANETARIUM

THE STEINHART AQUARIUM

Sept. 21, 1961

Dr. Baki Kasapligil
Mills College, California

Dear Baki:

How very good of you to arrange for a visit of the California Botanical Club to Mills College on Thursday, October 12. It will be wonderful to meet with you at 10 am. and to be shown around the botanical garden. I hope it was not too inconvenient to arrange for our picnic lunch at the Reinhardt House--certainly that will be a happy and memorable luncheon spot.

I realize now that I was somewhat ambiguous when I suggested that we might visit a laboratory. What I had in mind was a lab not in use. I think it is most disturbing to students to look in on them at work. I am sure that the club members would like to see students at work but certainly this part of our visit to Mills should be bypassed if you think it better not to disturb your class.

One detail I omitted from my letter--the omnipresent ~~x~~ problem of parking automobiles. There will be about five or six cars. I would gather from your map that we are to drive to the Life Sciences Building and to a place to park. If we should have further instructions, please let me know.

Certainly I am grateful to you for letting us in on Botany at Mills!

Today I am off for five days in the northern Sierra Nevada. I am hoping it will re-vitalize my long-delayed "Sierra Flora" project.

Sincerely and gratefully

Tom Howell