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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.

29 October, 1990

Director
National Museums of Sri Lanka
POB 854, Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Dear Dr. Gunawardane,

I write seeking your assistance as to the origin of a specific epithet employed in the grass genus *Isachne*. The name *Isachne meneritana* was mentioned by Robert Brown in his Prod. Fl. Nov. Holl. Although it is a nomen nudum I would like to include it in my forthcoming "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses".

I suspect Menerite to be a place visited regularly by Europaeans in the 1700's but have no firm foundation for that view. A person or Deity is another possibility. I would be most grateful for your advice on this matter.

A page of the Dictionary is enclosed for your information.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany