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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.

But please don't be embarrassed ... I am all at your services.
Here is [the ticket!] for G ... Z ... You will listen Duprez really.

Thousand thanks for your flowers. They are going to decorate
my ... It is really the case to say this evening: like father, like
daughter.

All yours,

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Dear Sister:

You want me to write you a little note, here it is. You know well that I think of you all the time and that I am devoted to you. Please try not to abandon yourself to your legitimate sorrow. A stay at Fleury in this weather could be very bad for your health. There are so many cruel memories that you must be very strong to stand them such a long time. I suggest you do whatever you have to do, cut the trees and wood but not too many and then come back very fast to your home in Paris near your mother. Alas, if all the tears of our body and soul could give back those we love, even only for 15 minutes, we should cry all life, but death does not give back her prey, she takes away every day our loved ones one after another and leaves us alone without considering our sorrow. But we have courage and we reconcile ourselves; after having cried a lot we look around and from the depth of this unfortunate loneliness we ask if, in fact, it is not better to be alone as we are rather than being exposed to betrayals, inconveniences, worries and all domestic miseries. The Bible says: unfortunate is the lonely one and really it is very austere and cruel, but also it is unfortunate for the one who lives in bad company, unfortunate for the wife of a severe and rough husband, unfortunate for the man whose wife is adulterous, unfortunate for the father and mother whose children are full of vices and selfishness. It is better to be alone rather than being exposed day and night to domestic sorrows.

We live alone and die alone but as long as we live we are free, when we are dead no one can curse our memory or dishonor our name.

And also, thank God, life goes on fast. All these beautiful arrangements made by birth and wealth can disappear with one blow and

return to the void from where they came. As soon as you have said yes, signed or changed a paragraph of an agreement, death arrives who tears it, and if death does not come another great unhappiness destroys it.

When in the wishes you kindly made for me to find a wife and start a family, you don't know, dear sister, what you wish me. My life is so happy and quiet and I find myself so strong since I returned to a quiet life, since I broke this undignified chain, since I ran away from this abominable life that I would now be afraid to get myself chained again even if it were made of gold or silk. There are some days when I feel very discouraged, bored and lonely, when I would be very happy and proud to warm myself with the happy atmosphere of a family, but also there are days of poetry, enthusiasm and elation when I am untamable. During these moments I am only 20 years old, I jump like a young kid, I become again a real vagabond. As far as the betrayals of my mistress you mentioned to me, I must tell you that I have no mistress; I don't want to have one anymore and if by any chance I had one who betrayed me, she would be right and I would be capable of reciprocating it. This is life, and then the study of books, the poets and the kind, helpful, divine friendship . . . well, really life is not always so unhappy.

Again, good day, I am writing to you on a very beautiful sunny day of winter which proves to you that there are sun rays every day.

I hold your hands with all my heart.

I am very busy. I will do your letter Monday if it is agreeable to you.

I have announced your father's painting. Sunday, come to ... Here are some books.

I ... to the lady you said who is willing to rent your ..., but be careful and ask her to pay 10 months in advance if not nothing is ...

Thousand good days.

I have already talked with C ... about it. I will discuss it again with him. He is well disposed, but yet when you know more about it write him a letter.

Thousand good compliments from your devoted.

J. J.

P.S. I found Jacob ainsi ... better not come to my house, ...

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Delaunay is recommending these ladies and I recommend Delaunay.
Write to the ... Delaunay will have your letter this evening.

Once more nobody ... you could not let more reliable or more
careful people have your home.

Thousand compliments and ...

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Would you like to go today to the "Variétés"? Sunday is a good day.

Here is the box (theatre).

I will go tomorrow or later to talk to you about the famous books and to see you.

You know that I am all yours.

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Yes, certainly, I will go Sunday to wish you a little good evening, provided that you feel better. I intended to see you this evening at the Sylphe d'Or at the Gaité.

I understand why you did not take the little dog but I am sorry because he is very pretty and charming and you would have made of him the prettiest ... in the world.

Here are two unhappy bits of news - nothing goes well today.

A thousand good days.

Your devoted

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Here is your box. I am acquainted with the letter written to your father; he was most worthy of its contents!

I hope to decorate some beautiful ...

A thousand good days!

J. J.

I think that there was in the artist of last Sunday a little ...
Be honest about the young Mrs. B ...

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Here is the prettiest dog in the world. I have the honor of knowing the father and the mother. I wish so much that you arrange a nice place for them ...

A thousand good days.

Yours with all my heart,

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But how could I have known that you were sick? Had I known it, I certainly would have gone to see you, because you know well that I regard you most tenderly.

Sunday I will go to have a cup of tea. Next Monday you will have a box somewhere.

I am keeping 10 of your tickets; I would have bought more if it were not the end of the month.

A thousand good days.

Yours devoted,

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Here is your box for the Porte St. Martin - good luck!

It was impossible for me to go and wish you a good day yesterday; Louis is sick and I returned home early. He will therefore not be able to accompany Marie tomorrow.

Give me a good handshake; we are still good friends.

All yours,

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Please thank your friend for me and say to him/her how happy I am with his/her good souvenir. I will probably send you an answer tomorrow, because if I have a box [in the theatre] for this performance, you will definitely have your seat; however, I don't have a good relationship with the Benefactor, as you may have noticed this morning.

A thousand good days!

Your devoted friend,

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You must be nice to me; I kindly ask you to give me back the
[ticket for the] box for the "Sylphe d'Or"; I have a great need for it;
I will give you ten others instead!

I will see you Sunday ... I hope you will feel a bit better.
Thousands of good compliments.

J. J.

Saturday

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I am going to the country very soon, but tomorrow at about one
o'clock I will come to see you.

You know that I am all yours.

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Well! Give me 200 blows with a stick but do not talk of coming.

Moreover, next Sunday I will be extremely busy. I will have dinner far away from here; I promised to go to the ball of ... and at midnight I have my serial - forgive me!

As to the other matter I am at your service. I will do everything you wish to be agreeable to you. You know that to please you I would throw myself in the fire, provided that ...

A thousand tenderesses.

Yours devoted

I think that Miss M ... will be right in joining the Renaissance, but it does not prevent her from being ugly!

I cannot give her a letter for ... since he has ... the day of Debates without even sending a little note to me, in spite of the fact that I had sponsored his admission there!

I admit that the recommendation to your father is strange, but bah!

Here are my books. I've wanted to bring them to you myself but you are in such a hurry to see them!

To you forever,

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I am going to exhibit the poster. I don't know if this visit to Paris would be very useful.

Unfortunately Mr. ... and I are a little miffed at each other for the time being. However, the tone of our fights is of those which do not last for long. We will reconcile ...

Thousand good days, I am in bed since the hours of ...

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I am, in fact, a bad villain, but you know that I like you well and you should not be upset when the whim, the fantasy, the indolence, or who knows what, keeps me from going to greet you myself.

I sincerely hope that I will be able to accept your invitation. However, I have worked very hard and I feel like going to some cold baths.

Don't ever thank me when I speak about your father; he has always spoken good ...

A thousand devoted good days.

Jacques, the immolated ...

I will leave in two months only.

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Long live the King! I had saved these tickets for myself but since it is the King's wish, here they are! -

Certainly I would be very happy to see R ... and his wife and they will be very welcome.

I will certainly ask your father's pardon, but I am busy with so many people! And my good will is ... You know how I like you especially.

A thousand good days - I promise you, and this time for sure, a box at the opera next week!

All yours,

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Would you like to rent your castle for two months? The tenant is a well educated, respectable woman and wealthy, but with a little lung ailment. She wants to pay only 500 francs. It is very little; however, the season is advanced ...

I am telling you the thing as I know it and I would like it to be somewhat agreeable because I really feel like being agreeable, you know it.

A thousand compliments from your devoted,

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I will go tomorrow, today, later on - I have just sent someone to get a box at the Huguenots for these provincial ones who take all my boxes and all my time.

A thousand good days to the three of you.

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Miss,

I am all at your service; you know well that your least desires always command my obedience and my respects. Therefore please send me your young protégé. He will be very welcome and I will give him my best advice. I am very happy to know you are back and I will go to see you.

All my devotion to you and your father,

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You are right. Go to the opera. Go to the ... if it pleases
you!

And me too, I have cursed Mr. Demidorff.

All my respects,

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Yes indeed it is me, but I did not want a drawing of an album. I wanted this large oil painting which would be a work of art and which would bring a dignified sum of money to this great artist, whom I love with all my heart.

If I get some tickets for ... you will have them.

I am waiting for my admission to the exhibition, I will let you use it.

A thousand best compliments.

Yours devoted,

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A thousand good days to you - Here is approximately what we should write.

I am very distressed with all of this and I understand nothing about it.

I am all yours,

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A thousand thanks -- The flowers are beautiful and a perfect compliment to Fleury.

Please don't be upset if I do not see you as I would like to, but I am busy on all sides.

My life is passing like a flash and I have time only to think of my friends, but I think of them always, and dream of them.

My valet has received the order from your chambermaid that he should take her wherever she needs.

Many tender good days. Yours devoted,

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Here is a box for tonight.

Many regards from your devoted.

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I am entirely of the opinion that I should write to the King - I will write this letter for you whenever you like, but I am not of a high enough rank to write to His Majesty in my own name. You know that I am completely yours with all my heart.

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At 2:30 -- at Pally Grande Rue no. 8 -- We shall be there --
The carriage will be at Place du Carousel and will take you right in
front of the house.

Obediently yours,

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It has been impossible to get a ticket for this sad comedy and besides, it will be shown this morning at 10:00.

Would you like us to decide that next week you will see B...?

A thousand good days.

Your devoted,

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Here is, Miss ... I could not get 600 francs but the balance has been cut in half -- 550 -- These ladies would like to get into your house next Saturday. They beg you not to ... with oil. They are asking if there is some kitchen equipment at Fleury? They will take the best care of your house, that they will keep as long as the weather is fine this year. I would have liked to go to see you Friday in your castle but I am still too depressed. I cannot find a less ridiculous expression.

My most sincere and deepest feelings.

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I could have beaten you yesterday when I saw that you were talking seriously to this kind of monster. My God! But I should be totally abandoned from women and God to reach that point.

I saw him yesterday in a house which made me leave it as if the devil were taking me away.

Thursday is my hard working day and this is why I will not go to pick you up for a walk but, however, I hope to decorate ... happier than a king.

I am waiting for a little box for the Vaudeville. If it comes I will send it to you.

My most tender respects,

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A thousand thanks! What a beautiful bouquet and your good father has made me happy.

You can be sure that this time no one will take these flowers from me again.

Tomorrow, Marie will go to the show with D . . . I am at your service a thousand times.

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...

...

Here is a little note for the opera. Go and get the tickets
immediately.

I am all at your service.

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The first performance I will get will be for you.

No more books are made and this is why you don't receive any.
I don't know the name of these ladies, they are happy at your home.
The one who was sick is recovering. Your house will be well kept,
you can be sure of it.

Sincerely yours,

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Here are some books -- Here is a small letter to ... your
morning.

Thousand devoted good days.

Would you like to have a cup of tea with me on Sunday?

Yours sincerely,

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... today but here is a small box for tonight.

My best regards,

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Here is the copy of my letter to the king. A little word for
this ...

Tomorrow, unfortunately, I am invited for dinner to the Demidoff's.
This is the reason why I will not go to your home, which annoys me.

Sincerely yours,

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See how you are always complaining!

I have had so few loges for the opera that I have torn in front of the usher the tickets for the orchestra which had been granted to me.

This play from Bouffé ... is a real success and I would request a ticket in vain.

Would you send a messenger to my home at 4 o'clock, maybe there will be a loge for the Renaissance; I say maybe because I am going out early and I am never sure to get a loge before I have it in my hands.

You know well that I am all yours,

You are not lucky with the opera. I will compensate it another time. Here are 2 tickets for the concert of Mr. Lafonds. I have written for your rehearsal but so far have not received an answer. If I get one I will let you know it.

My regards to your father ... so that he does not feel sad and you must not be sick.

I will bring you my books this week.

Please accept my compliments.

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Good Morning!

Please accept this heavy book and all my most sincere regards.

My respects to your mother.

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It seems to me that before writing these two letters, we should await the installation of the ministry. At the end of the month it will not be too late to write these two letters and I will do it.

I have talked about J ... to my friend C ... and he promised to think about it.

Therefore do not go to ... but rather have a walk in the sun, that would be better.

Yours tenderly devoted,

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It is this evening that I see or that I see again Cuvilhier. I had dinner with him the day before yesterday. He seemed in good disposition but can we rely on these people?

I am going to speak very loud and if I get some good news you will know it.

Please send me your poster. However, we shall not have too many amateurs in this small area.

Thousand times all yours,

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I was going to send you this little loge which is here. It
concerns a farce. Enjoy yourself a little bit.

I will come this week to bring you my book.

My best compliments,

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