



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

Wm. Smith Esq

C. Force Street

1805

To J. J. Smith

X

No 35

John Spence
May 14 1805

To Jos. Banks on the British Institutions

My Dear Sir

I am sorry I cannot attend the
meeting of subjects this morn, being obliged to go
into the country, another time I hope I shall be
more fortunate & I hope also that the next
meeting will be held at some place not ~~that~~ far from
Academy. Let us be supported & assisted with the
help & remembrance of the R. Acad.

Will it not be right to mention in our
Prospectus, that the three great schools of Painting were
each of them the produce of the money & prosperity of
the three Continents, which they enriched, the
Venetian school arose while that flourished, the
Empire of the East, the Flemish the outwards
was that of the western world & the Roman the
appeals & the Roman ~~land~~ Ecclesiastical Court made
their Lawyers almost as rich as our Clergy are now
& even Benefices held by Roman Priests as in foreign

Countries rendered this class almost as rich as our
merchants were. in this point of view the time is
come when England has the means, through her
Commercial prospects, & Foster a fourth school &
her every prospect of excellent frames were
effectual in Patronage the same can excel her
in ancient models of sculpture, if half of the
money that has of late years been lavished upon
repainted originals & lesser impudently pushed on
the public as originals had been divided among
our artists, the wealth would by this time have
been done & foreigners have become as anxious to
possess modern English ^{Painters} as Englishmen are to obtain
Counterfeit Critiques, He art discerns with Harriet
in proportion to the Patronage given them by the
Rich, we have the means which no other nation
proper of giving the Patronage but we have for
years past squandered away upon Moscow the bread
that we ought to have bestowed on our children
excuse this long Digression & allow me
only to add that we ought to think us no less & admit
a picture which has not previously been exhibited at
the R. Academy than appears to me a fine due now

rather for presents Enclaved from
Produce - School of Excellent Pictures of its own
the Grounds of old pictures petitions & Real that we
Picture as for ^{years} ~~the~~ & all Centuries & do so till we
give a due preference & merit of our own with
of the three old schools ~~was~~ pleased with foreign
Pictures & to the Love of their Centuries with
as we are

adieu my dear Sir

J. Banks

His Portrait hanging up in the Study