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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.

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you, some time since, in answer to your request concerning the supposed *Labelia*. At the same time, I wrote to Mr. Van Vleet. I have not received a letter since. I hope, mine did not miscarry. They were put into the hands of Mr. J. Hager.

I have read much concerning a plant called, by the Jersey-Indians, Mockschaut. It is said to have a blue flower. The Indians eat the root, having previously sliced it, and baked it upon little stone-pavements heated by fire. I do not know, for certain, what plant this is. I have conjectured it is *Contaderia cordata*. Can you give me any information concerning this plant? It is said to be very common in Jersey, where many of the pavements, for baking the root, are still to be seen.

I am, with real esteem,

Dear Sir,
Your obliged & affectionate friend &c.

A. B. Wilson

Philadelphia, October 29th, 1795