



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.

Esteemed Friend

Worcester 13th of 5th Month 1804

May I not stile thee Brother as we
have been each engaged in somewhat the same line,
thou to produce fine Fruit, & my self to preserve it.
I think each is entitled to some Merit

Thou must see sensible what destruction the
Wasps make among the Fruit in Gardens when
they abound & that a Discovery to preserve the Fruit
by destroying them was much wanting. I was
several years making a variety of Experiments to
obtain ^{what was} so desirable, about 3 years ago I succeeded
to my Wish & have each year since preserved my
all Fruit & making further improvements in the
application of it, last Summer I sent some of the
Innovation to several wishing to have it proved by
a friend of mine at Nottingham sent a Battle
axe to that Vicar Garden to E. M. Mundy Minister
for Derbyshire, he wrote in answer he was much
obliged to him for it that he might depend upon
it to be an excellent thing to destroy Wasps, that he
had not lost one bunch of Grapes & hoped he shd
not again. His Testimony was very different to what
the Marg^r of Hertford's Garden informed me some time
since that he thought the Wasps had spoiled or destroyed
on 100th of their Fruit last Season, which I am confident,
if not the whole, the greatest part might have been
saved, at the trifling Expence of 20^s. or less, even in their
large Gardens & extensive Hot houses &c. they were
very numerous in this part of the County, but by beginning
with them in time at a month before the ripening of the
Fruit & attending to it daily I do not know I had a single

Black Nuttall's Plum or Grape in the least eat by them. I
have one Jarganel Pear wth grains high, & I think there was
before. I showed it 2 or 3 of them eat a little but it was
very trifling, it was any different in grains at some distance
from me, where I was informed they made sad havoc &
I had an opportunity of seeing a little of it myself.

I have hitherto made it up in a Liquid, Pints 2/6
Quarts 3/ which will be found, considering what it will
effect a very cheap Remedy, — I was advised to apply
to a Wholesale Vendor of Medicines to sell it for me
tho' the Thingdam, I accordingly wrote to Dicey & Co
Baw Church yard but they declined it, they did not give a
reason but I have since thought their objection was the
Bulk of Pints & Quarts, the danger of Breakage, which I
acknowledge is an objection & which may easily be
remedy'd by putting it up in powder in 2 & 4 oz Vials for
Pints & Quarts. It will be very easy for those who use it
to put the Quantity into a pint or Quart Bottle & fill it
with Water wth will soon dissolve it, so as to be ready for
use, The Wasps & Flies prefer it to any Fruit & it
attracts them, I have often thought it an agree-
able reflection when I have seen them feeding that I
be certain not to pay a second visit, I was in the matter
of catching some of them while feeding, confining them
under a Glass to prove how long they w^{ld} live, if they had
eat a full Quan^t they w^{ld} dye in an hour sometimes two
& if they had not eat their fill by putting a drop or
two under the Glass, at tho' they were confined they w^{ld}
soon be feeding at it, & as sure to kill them, I was afraid
this might be an objection to it on acct of the Working
Bee but I never observed one feeding at it, tho' frequently
the Humble Bee, & they often dy'd near it, but the Wasps
generally fly off with it, suppose to feed their young
wth if they do must destroy them also,

my View in writing this is to query how far those
think it w^{ld} answer my purpose to be concerned in it the
selling of it, I think one of the extensive Acquaintance

may dispose of a considerable quantity even within the
circle of 10 Miles round London I do allow the one third
or if that was not thought suff. more for what I have used
sell, but think there it was sent to sh. not have less
than the amount of a pound note w^h is a very ready
remittance, than may rest assured there is no deception
in it - but that it will certainly answer very fully the
end proposed, If the thing knew of it & who was the
Discoverer of it, I do not doubt but he w^d wish to have
it on average, he has a slight knowledge of me and is
well acquainted with my Brother who he has conversed
with frequently & my Brother has said him many
years with I have far his own care, my only reason for
mentioning this circumstance is to give thee a due
confidence in what I have wrote

I had entertained an Idea that the Wasps would not ^{feed}
at this time of the year but I find I was mistaken, one
came into my House a few days ago, I put it under a glass
& gave it a little of the Mixture w^h it fed on freely &
as may be supposed was soon Dead, but Interest w^d
prevent me not to encourage the destroying them so early in
the Season as every single Wasp killed now is supposed
to prevent a Nest w^h if generally wd. leave very few
for the time when they swarm & consequently lessan
the sale of the Siquid

I make use of Troughs to hold the Mixture the best
I have had made out of Deal free from Nails & laid at each
end with a 5/8 Lunter bit if it do not quite meet may be
finished with an auger same size, an opening made
in one of the sides w^h I call the spout at 3/8 wide near
the whole length the hole at the end to be closed with
a cork or wood to fit tight & dip in some cement to make
secure from leaking, these are placed against the Walls
near the Street, they are most convenient left square
it being a good plan I have found to place some of them
in the Walls to attract the Wasps & Flies either

Please to direct David Buckingham
New Hillman Worcester

single

Canada

Amersham

Charles

W. L. G.

Two of the 23rd St. 2nd St. C.

Burlington.

15 Mar 1887

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