



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.

Answered Sept. 12, 1896

Southington, Conn.

Sept. 9, 1896.

Mr. F. V. Coville,

My Dear Sir:

Since I have come here to Southington for my vacation, I have become acquainted with Mr. Luman Andrews, who is at work on some problems of plant distribution - the correlation of woods to soils and the distribution of forest trees.

My object in writing is to ascertain if I can do anything for you in that line. I am about to begin my third year of post graduate work at the University of Chicago and have been appointed to a fellowship in Botany there.

for the coming year. The special line that I have been intending to work in is Plant Geography, and I am at present endeavoring to strike some problem for my Ph. D. thesis. If I could get a subject suitable for a thesis and at the same time of practical value, I should be delighted.

As to my antecedents, I have been born and brought up on a farm - a market garden - on which I worked until I went to College, and since then I have returned during the Summer vacations. I was a member and officer in the Grange for some years and have always been interested in Agriculture, especially such phases as are the common property of Botany and Agriculture.

I took a College course at Berlin, during most of which I had charge of the Herbarium of the

College and was Assistant in the Botanical Laboratory. I also taught one class in Botany there. I was Professor of the Natural Sciences for one year at Gates College, Neligh Neb.

I have spent two years in graduate work at the University of Chicago, most of my work being in Geology. Last year I held a Fellowship in Geology and last Summer I had a special appointment in glacial work in Iowa.

I have made careful collections and have studied the flora here, in Lorain Co. Ohio and about Chicago and slightly at Neligh, Nebraska, and have decided upon work in Plant Geography because of its being a subject in which I can combine my former studies in both Geology and Botany.

I have been expecting to spend a third of my time next year in
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some Geographical Problem, and
have just now thought that
you might be able to help me
in my decision.

I can refer you to Dr.
John M. Coulter under whom my
work is to be done and to others
if you should wish them in
all the places where I have been.
It may be that you have made
disposition of such problems as
are of practical value about Chicago;
if so I should be glad of any sug-
gestions for my own private study.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Harry C. Cowles.