



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.
Nov. 25, 1894.

My dear Doctor Palmer:

Your interesting letter was a great pleasure to us all and I have read it to so many people that I now know it by heart. Dr. Behr, of course, wished most fervently that you would hasten your departure to a land where butterflies were more abundant and I hoped and wished with all my heart that you wouldn't get ill in that awful place.

I had a letter from Miss Clark who manages the card index of species. She wants the academy to subscribe and I am working to that end. It will be a shame if I don't succeed but I know that I shall.

I carefully guard the money that you left and I will attend to anything that you want me to look after with the greatest pleasure. It is every day that Dr. Palmer comes around.

Miss Mc. Ilrath has been telling me about the nice times
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she had at noon when you and she and Dr. Behr had tea together. I feel so sorry that I had to leave and miss it all. However I made some very good collections of oaks, extremely interesting because of the great variation. I am sorry for Sargent when he tried to unravel the tangle. I sent him specimens from two hundred trees and all were different. I think that oaks are like human beings, each tree has an individuality. They are unlike human beings because they don't follow the fashions.

We have had perfect weather, but now the elements are preparing for a storm. *Quercus agrifolia*, *Ribes sanguineum* and some other spring flowers have been deceived by our Indian Summer and are now in bloom. I am sorry for the blighting disappointment that will soon fall upon them.

We keep on trying to clean up our Angean stable. Miss Mc. Illwack keeps on glueing and I arrange ahead of her and attend to all the accessions. We have had three or four thousand plants this year that have come in exchange or by gift and the expense to the academy has been very little. They haven't bought a plant this year; but I think that I shall get Brinkley's back sets and continue to subscribe. Yours are assured we.

Mrs. Brandegee surprised us all last week by a visit to the city. She has come up to buy things for their new house (or herbarium I should say) I think that she will be here about three weeks. She looks very well and has had her hair cut. She has it curled and it looks very nice. They must have a lovely place and I think that their garden will be a paradise.

She likes San Diego very much and says that now she feels settled. I'll leave a letter for Miss McIlmick and go to bed.

Yours sincerely Alice Eastwood.

Miss Eastwood thinks you need a cheering word from each and all of us, but as far as I see she has given you all the news of our world and leaves me nothing but good wishes to send.

But one thing she has neglected to add - that is, that our Mexican travellers have at last made up their minds to return to civilization.

From the letters that have reached us from Lepic I imagine they have seen little of it in that part of the world. Frank writes that the priest goes to the sick and dying, carrying holy water in one hand and a pistol in the other. I hope Acapulco is an improvement on that. With best wishes for your health and success. I am, Very Sincerely,
Wm. McIlmick