



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.

To
William Bartram

Dr Jno Fothergill to William Bartolomew
Respected Friend London 7/1774.

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at the request of my Friend

Jos. Banks Esq, I have sent him
the inclosed proposal, which I think
may be executed without difficulty, &
to some advantage to thy self. —

We find that Flowers, and all the parts
of Fructification may be preserved in
Spirits, Rum for instance, so well as to
be accurately examined. —

It therefore besides the dried Specimens
which he desires may be collected for
him, any curious perfect flower, was
tyed loosely in a bit of muslin or any
thin rag, and a bit of stick with the Rum
ver tyed to it, and put into wide mouthed
~~the~~ Bottle filled with rum, many
curious flowers & fruits might thus
be sent over. —

He has like wise ordered a Ream
of Cardstock paper to be sent over, to
place the plants in which he wishes to

recieve

and more of the same kind will be sent out
when it is wanted. — I have added two
small Tin boxes, which will serve to put
any small subjects in, plants, flowers
or the like, till it is convenient to take
more care of them. —

I could wish that a part of any curious seeds that occur might be sent to Dr. Walmsley in order to have them sown at the proper season in his own Garden! - by this means we might perhaps raise many rare plants which might be sent to Europe, if the seed should fail. —

I shall be in hopes this Spring to receive
 some little affairs — the produce of my
 excursions. — The fragrant, showy, useful
 plants will be particularly acceptable. —
 I hope Dr. Chalmers, renders me proper
 help; indeed I have no doubt of it. Perhaps
 this additional commendation from my Fr.
 Banks, will help to provide either a horse
 or a sow or both. — Could not one of
 the Cherokee Indians be occasionally engaged
 in my service; in looking out for new plants

or carrying them, when high up in that country. — Do not forget the Ferns, Polypodes & their claps. They require large clumps of earth with them. — When the spring advances I hope to see some of the plants I received last summer, make their appearance. They were well packed, and appeared to be living, even such as were passed the season for flowering — as the Cyperoidium, & other herbaceous early plants. —

If any further assistance from hence is necessary please to let me know. And do not forget to mark the places where any rare plants are found — so that after a time it may be in thy power to make a useful traffick, by sending to the curious in Europe the rare plants that are produced in that unsearched country.

I am thy Ld

J. M. S. —