



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.

1. Sept. 15th

Glenn E. Allen, Illinois,
Aug 28/1897.

Dr. Cass Mearns,
Chief of Biological Survey,
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Although the writer is not so fortunate as to possess a personal acquaintance with you, my correspondence with the Division of Ornithology & Mammalogy, of yours as well, for a period of several years back, is really the means as the present time of causing me to claim a rather slight acquaintance with you, but which I trust may in the course of time result in something of a more tangible character.

For years I have entertained a desire to visit the East, & Washington in particular, but such trips have always been delayed, abandoned or postponed to the indefinite future. I think that heretofore I have always addressed you in connection
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with bird matters & it is possible
that the following may strike you
as being slightly out of order in as
much as it may be referable to another
division of the Dept. of Agriculture.

It does bear reference to botany but,
never having passed any correspondence
with Prof. Corvill, whom I believe is
the botanist in charge, I would hardly
feel well enough at home to address
him in the same capacity I do you
at present. Still if you think well
enough of it you may refer this letter
to him which act on your part, allow
me to say, I would deem a special
favor. In little over a month hence
(about Oct 5th) my good friends Dr. Wm
Geo. K. Chornie - the former of the Field Museum
of Chicago, & whom you doubtless have
met - will start for South America, going to
Quezuela in connection with the British
& other foreign museum interests.

They go chiefly to collect ornithological
material & to be gone from one year half
to three years.

Both have repeatedly asked me to join
them on this expedition, for companionship
& for nothing more, which by the way I would

My desire in this instance is to see a portion of the tropical world under conditions which I think quite favorable. Mr. Chom's years of experience in Cent. America, together with his knowledge of the Spanish tongue & ways, fit him admirably for such an undertaking & which I feel sure cannot but result in success.

Concerning me personally I have not so much to say, yet I feel that in my case the necessary satisfaction will be forthcoming. With good success the plant collector should collect & prepare in the neighborhood of 100 plants daily. Especially during the rainy season, the expenses for the 18 months would not go over \$1200.00 all told.

From New York City to Bolson, Yucatan the steamship fare is \$80.00 & Mr. Chom estimates the daily expenses in that country @ \$1.25 for each member of the party.

In conclusion let me say that while considering this question your name presented itself to me, hence this letter, though I trust that I have not under-

taken to burden you with a too
lengthy document, for it has really
run out to a much greater length
than was at first anticipated.

It is to be hoped though that I have
not presumed too much in this case. I
kindly allow even to offer an apology
at least. But, having gone so far
may I ask for your opinion on
this matter? Do you think the
U.S. Dep't. of Agt., or the U.S. Nat'l
Museum, or any other institution of
like character, with which you are
acquainted, would consider this
proposition?

Hoping to hear from you soon
I remain

Yours very truly
Prof. T. G. Bailey