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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.

Rome, 28 April, 1869

My Dear Mrs. Mann

"Bis dat qui cito dat," and
I will make a prompt response
to yours of the 7th inst, which
reached me not many hours
ago. I have thought of it
overnight, and as in travel-
ling generally, so in Rome
particularly, unless one
answers important letters
at once they are likely to
slip by a good while.

Mrs. Gray fell really ill in
consequence of voyage from
Egypt, remained so at Messina
and Naples, and now here
where we have had a first-
night, she is only able to see
a moderate amount of sights,
thru the Discretion Museum.

of course much hurried, The young ladies and myself working very hard & Mrs. G., what she can.

About the Hawaiian Flora of
Dear Strace, of course, if the Nat.
Hist. Society are ready to print it,
and will take from the Essex
Inst. the sheets already printed,
nothing could be better. I should
fear some difficulties and
hitches in the arrangement, -
but Mr. Brigham may be
able to arrange all. I trust
all can be done without your
taking pecuniary risk, & this
should be thought of.

I wish particularly to suggest
that, instead of referring the
question, of whether Brigham has
done his part of the work well
enough to me, it should be left

to Prof. Eaton & Prof. Tuckerman.
They would be competent judges,
(& I suppose Eaton will write
the Terms), and much more
lenient to unavoidable imper-
fections than it is my nature
to be. In all faults of ex-
pression in botanical descrip-
tion & to details of book making
as well as to botanical shortcomings
I am, as you know, excessively
sensitive. And I cannot see how
B. without the necessary long
training, could at all satisfy
my notions, & yet he may,
with help from Eaton &c. do it
reasonably well. Revision on
my part would be; I fear beyond
my power, though a look over
MS. would be easy, & I should
naturally wish to see & examine it.

but not to take the responsibility,

As to Mr. Braghams taking
plants out of the herb ~~in~~ especially
uniques, you know best, —

but nothing that I have ever
said to you would imply any
right to ~~them~~ of Mr. B. to do so,
and, in view of the value of the
herbarium, I think it ought not
to be done, unless Mr. B. can
claim them as a matter of
right. The value of the herb.
depends very much upon these
S. Id. collections, and if known
that it had been culled from, it
would bring much less.

I write with perfect frankness
what I think, off hand, —
You can on consideration judge
best, however.

In great haste Sincerely
Yours A Gray

. We are very sorry that
your son's health is not what
you could wish, — hope he will
do well now he is resting.