



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.

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dec. 20.

1886.

My dear Bessey

Thanks for your letter 22^d
to which I reply promptly,
and open up my mind about the
matter. For what you
write comes germane to ideas
which I had formed & about
which I left a sketch in
Gardner's hands when I went
west about.

I was waiting for a chance
to get it - what is much needed
a new ed. of my Manual, or
a new book to take in part its
place, and I feel that it can-
not wait long. My idea
was, ~~to~~ if Chapman did
not get out a new ed. - or
even if he does. if I could do it
without being in his way - to
expand the area over the S.
Atlantic States & over the States

bordering the Mississippi & Missouri.

I see, if you extend out on to
the Plains, it will not add very
much. I meant, as some of
had printed the Compositae (part
11 vol. 1.) for Dr. Fernald
to put this through.

If I rightly understand, you
ask whether the Manual in
five types, might not be extended
to Atlantic U. S. Botany -
which was my idea. Only
I thought of a Plain &
Mountain Botany, as well
as a Pacific Botany, to
come one of these days - after me,
But I see the thing had
better be 1, Atlantic & 2,
Pacific, giving the latter a
wide range in longitude.

Well, the Plains Manual,
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which Coulter has been
thinking of, would not pay at
all. One could hardly get a
publisher for it. - The Comps.
of Atlantic Botany aimed in a
certain degree. W Coulter
will fall in to my suggestion
we will take it up, with Mr.
Watson's help, & all the
help we can get.

We must manage to work
all together on it

Cordially

Arbuthnot

P.S. I find Chapman wants
only to set out a Supplement -
keeping the old stereotype
plates, for the body of his
new ed. So I shall not
be trenching on his ground.

"An early revision of your Manual is contemplated, the geographical range ~~to be~~ enlarged so as to include the country from the Atlantic to the Plains (thus including the prairie proper), and a condensed volume is to be made to include the remainder of the Country."

In new editions an attempt will be made by the use of thin paper, narrow margins etc to supply the want of a pocket manual, a part of the edition to be so prepared."