



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.

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Botan Garden

Monday

My Dear Sir

I am sure you will have this morning a note from Mr. Agassiz accepting your invitation to dinner.

I saw him on Saturday afternoon - towards evening, in his work shop, skinning fish and opening clams.

He spoke at once of the pleasure he was to have in dining at Cambridge on Wednesday - then suddenly recollected that
your

Mr. Norton

Note was still unanswered,
and expressed much regret
for his forgetfulness. I offered
to be the bearer of his note,
but he said he could not
break off and go to his
lodgings till evening, since
he had as much as he could
do to keep his specimens
from spoiling before Sunday
arrived. He has doubtless
sent a note by Express
this morning. As a brother-
naturalist, in a small way,
and aware of the danger one
is liable to, when too much

absorbed with pressing occupa-
tion, I know I may ask,
and count upon, your
kind forgiveness of all
inadvertences of this sort.

It will give me
great pleasure to dine
at Shady Hill on
Wednesday.

Very truly, Yours

A. Gray

Professor Asa Gray, the
most distinguished American
botanist.