



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON. W.

New May 19/78

My dear Dwyer

My wife tells me that
you do not quite understand the
Garden opening question. Let
me be plain.

Kew was founded purely as a
Scientific Institution, - to
promote Natural Science in Notes
by collections, & correspondence & to
advance Medicine & Agriculture &
Commerce. It includes the
Gardens, the Herbarium, the
Museum of Economic Botany &
the Library &c.

It contains a collection of some
30000 natural & prepared specimens
of living plants. Has three
Museums of Economic Botany &
the Herbarium & the Library

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON. W.

no time for their work even -
 Judge & H. Graham. -

What has been the consequence of
 turning the Hall into a garden, & then
 to an ^{grand} ~~public~~ ^{crowd} of
 Nuremaids & children - Hein -
 You might as well go back past
 manufactures to work with, &
 erect buildings to prop, with
 the same public allowed to
 swarm amongst the workmen.

Now is ^{gratin} open every day - 22-
Sundays & public holidays & divided
week for it is the only public

of the board after 6 P.M.
the men are the hardest worked
in the fort service, & no
additions to the staff with
relieve from labors. An
addition to the staff would be

The replacement of our good men
who work at the Garden in the
forenoon & ^{in forenoon} the day when there
are no visitors, by a staff
of 40 patrols who would be
absolutely idle for 2/3 of the year,
& introduce a complicated
system of administration, that
would entail intolerable
responsibility.

Furthermore, a public that
behaves well under restricted
admission, ^{granted infrequently} to see a speciality,
will not do so when admitted
to spend the day in public. The
benefit ^{of which} would be the appreciation of
the Garden as a Park. With Park
licenses would follow & good
keep ~~will~~ be abandoned.

Just consider what it is to keep

Clapfield &

wh. a collection of 30 000 ^l Manure
plants; always being added to,
always wanting horticulturists which
& scientific knowledge. & also
what it is to keep them so
arranged and as to be always
clean, well-cultivated &
decorative - & this over
300 acres of ground! - I suppose
that any ^{band} ~~body~~ of ~~scientific~~ scientific
men & skilful gardeners with 30
all this with swarms of
idlers about them, ^{they won't do it. was in the afternoon.} nothing that
in any way, is abroad, ^{all} what
cultivated gardeners would stay
with him on such terms!

As it is, this expenditure is
wholly got up of the neighbours
& favours of the nurses & children,
the former of whom are (in the
afternoon) the cause of the plants.

letting hold of the young men & men
then off their work. & letting them
into all sorts of scrapes. Admit
them & the great problem is the
Incom, & you will ^{disgrace} ~~disgrace~~
every office & garden. It
plain. You will alter the whole
character of the Institution.
& turn the ~~place~~ ^{it} into an ill
kept. ~~premises~~ or Rookery.

I wish you could see the state of the
ground next morning after a "foul
day": but trodden over, tallies kicked
away; hedges knocked out of the way,
valuable very trees to be seen,
blue bells & scattered say when,
birds next taken. & the ground white
with paper, orange peel, cigar lights &
knives & so on. - Is the public
to be admitted to all this next morning?
When it takes 6 good hours to sweep
up, to the whilst all other duties
are at a stand for the premises.
You say get on to the state of the premises.

Encouragement of artists, students
Gardner & the other interested
specialists: the special functions
of the Institution: - The other
half is the general public.

The question before us is, can you
educate the general public for
the other half of the day without
detraction -

Assuredly you cannot. &
Secretly I can do no work
in the relations with the public
about: & the Council & Foreman
& Gardner cannot give their
devotion to the Institution &
keep of the ground - & the
labor & your garden with
not work with the public
about; instead of with say
thing. Why do -
You cannot have your cake &

Let your cake" - you cannot
"make the brides without shoes" -
you cannot "hide your face &
get more golden eggs."

Harriet show my face & the
Garden - & afternoon without
being besieged ^{by visitors} with questions
& inquiries of all sorts. & so it
is with the Parrot & I am
famous. We consequently
devote our forenoon to the
Garden duties - & afternoon to
the correspondence, exchanges,
accounts & envelope the
Matters: during the whole afternoon
we are ^{constantly} visited & receive
an influx of visitors to our house
& offices.

It is a monstrous thing that
there is to be the only scientific &
unprofitable
establishment of its kind in
which the officers are to have

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON. W.

perhaps is to make them?
 & what are measures without
 resources (to wit H. Parker & etc.)
 & what can we do with them
 when that work is over? - Turn
 you back & you will find say
 on speaking.

And to the other the constant
 robbery, & the suppression of
 innovations which over-burden
 surface renders difficult of
 detection, the too drinking, bird-
 nesting & squirrel & bird catching.
 & you may imagine that we
 have enough to do to be
 advised to publish in the afternoon
 into an Institution unimpaired for
 beauty, interest, science, &
 utility. - In saying so
 W. S. Foster