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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.

Glasgow. Oct. 12th - 1837.

My dear Sir

On my return to Glasgow last week from the south I had the very great pleasure to find your esteemed letter of the 9th June accompanied by the Botle of "Palo de Vase" with the specimen of the Bark, the foliage & which I value above all your spirited sketch of the tree. For all which I very accept my best thanks. These materials will enable to publish a very interesting account of this tree & should you be able to procure me fruitifying specimens at any time they will form a good supplement to my present notice. The notice of your excursion is peculiarly interesting. I can well understand that the natives consider the plant to have no flower, that is no conspicuous blossom; nothing that they would call flower. They would say

the same of the Fig, because its minute flower
are completely concealed, lining the interior of
that fleshy part which is called the fruit.
Now there can be no doubt but the
Poda de Vasa is allied to the Fig-tribe &
to the Bread-fruit-tribe. A young or
small fruit would therefore contain
the flowers to a certainty.

The small branches with leaves are
perfectly well dried. I have prepared
drawings of them (for no part of the
plant has ever yet been figured) &
the Tree is already lithographed from
your drawing: - & the whole account
will appear in my Botanical Journal,
now about to be continued, of which
I have the pleasure to send you the
first volume. You shall not fail
to have the continuation with your
own observations on the Journal Cos-
tee, as soon as they are published.

I can quite see that your numerous & useful

to be public engagements must effectively
from devoting your time to exploring the
botanical riches of the elevated country
surrounding the valley of Caracas. But
you may meet with some one, resident
or an occasional visitor, who collects &
dries specimens of the Plants of the
country on a large scale. If so I
should be much pleased to be put in
correspondence with him, & I would
gladly send him plants of other coun-
tries or Books in exchange for well
dried Plants of the Caracas. M^r.

Fanning once opened a correspondence with
me & volunteered to send me specimens;
but though I gave him every encour-
agement to do so, I have heard nothing
from him lately. Perhaps he is no longer
in the country, or he may not now be
in the habit of collecting & preserving
for the *Herbarium*. I believe there
is not a park of the world that would
yield so productive a field to the Botanist
as the mountains of the northern
part of South America, & in this opinion

I am supported by Mr. Swainson who was
on a visit with me last week.

Pray believe me, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully &
obliged servant

H. J. Hooker.

To His Excellency

Sir Rob^t. Menzies

as as as.

Sir W. J. Hooker
a receipt of the
Mull of Tarr
Specimens
Glasgow Oct 12

— 1834 —
