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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.

Royal Gardens, & New.

Jan 5. 1857.

L110

My dear Sir

By your kind & interesting letter to my friend Mr. Yates, relating to your projected scientific voyage round the World, you seem to invite our & us who are devoted to every particular branch of Nat. History to communicate with you. More than half a ^{century} devoted to botanical pursuits may give me a claim to offer a few words in behalf of that department of Science. But that I may not weary you, instead of offering our advice which I am sure you can better obtain from the distinguished Botanists at Vienna, especially from Döngl & Schott (I wish I could add the name of Endlicher), I shall do little more on the present occasion, than send you a small Brochure containing such instructions as I am in the habit of put-

ting into the hands of Voyagers &
Farmers who have any taste for
Botany, where they visit distant
parts. I have made it as brief as
possible that it may be the
sooner read & understood.

In a day or two I will take
the liberty to send you a little
"Guide Book" to our "Museum of
Economic Botany" formed in our
Royal Gardens. I cannot doubt
but your Government & especially
His Imperial Highness the Arch-
duke Ferdinand Max., will see
the importance of combining
what is practically useful,
with Science, in all that con-
cerns the botanical part of this
great undertaking, — a Voyage
that will redound as much to
the honor of Country as of all
who are Officers in the Expe-
dition.

I am quite sure that a very
great additional impulse has been

general to the study of Botany in
this country, be the formation
here of a great National Museum
(within the Gardens) of Useful
Vegetable Products, where are de-
posited samples of all the raw
materials & every manner of the
prepared ones derived from the
Vegetable Kingdom, & are always
open to the instruction of the
Public of every grade.

Such a Voyage as you are
about to command is capable
of furnishing prodigious ma-
terials for such a Museum.
at Sierra.

I presume you are provi-
ded with a suitable Bota-
nical Collector. If not, & you
should be making enquiry
for one, I think I know of
a person well suited for
that duty. We have been

in search of a botanical collec-
tor for a new Voyage up the
Niger this year: & no sooner
had we appointed one, than
another presented himself,
equally well qualified, & desir-
ous to distinguish him-
self in some exploring Expe-
dition of the kind.

With assurances of my
very high consideration, &
that I shall be happy to
render to you our assistance
in my power,

I have the honor to be,
my dear Sir

Faithfully

Yours,

W. Hooker.