



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

July 20. 1860.

My dear Sir

I have the great pleasure
to assure you that
your interesting aquatic is
 unquestionably a *Marsilea*
 leae, & probably *Marsilea*
 quadrifolia. — but that
 cannot be ascertained
 until the fructifications
 are examined: for there
 are several species, &
 their characters depend
 more on the fructifica-
 tion than on their fo-
 liage.

You are no doubt the
 first to have the good for:

times to find a Men-
silea in the United
States proper:—but
in N. America they have
been found. I have one
from Oregon Territory
from Mr. Geyer. Lindhe-
mer has sent me 2-3
kinds from Texas. From
2-3 places in California.
Nuttall sent me spe-
cimens from Arkansas.
But no one has found
it in so northern a la-
titude as you. In the
foliage it very much
resembles a species from
S. America, but it is

impossible with certainty
from the sterile plants. I
need tell you therefore how
glad I shall be to receive
good justified specimens
from you.

If I should hear of
any Botanist wishing
to enter into an ex-
change of plants with
an American Gentle-
man I will not fail
to bear you in mind: -
but those I do know are
generally well stored already
with U. S. Plants, from
the liberality of Ame-
rican Botanists.

Twenty years ago, & when

I was a younger man, &
should have been de-
lighted with such a
correspondent.

Most faithfully,
& with congratulations
on your discovery.

Yours,

W. J. Hooker

(1795-1865)

To
Doct. T. F. Allen