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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.

Mr W. J. Hooker

Norwich

Barham Dec 7 10:1000

My Dear Sir

I must begin with returning you my best thanks for the valuable insects you were so good as to send me, what they wanted in tale they made up in weight - I have sent a specimen of Car. glabratus to Mr. Marsham, as well as of E. chalybeus - Some of each I gave to our friend Sheppard which I thought would be agreeable to you.

Pray give my best Compl^{ts} to Mr. Dillwyn when you write to him, & thank him for the fine specimen of Car. arenarius. N^o 1. N^o 2. Car. glabratus is a fine Addition to Brit. Entomology. N^o 3 seems to connect El. chalybeus with E. cupreus, & makes it a question whether, after all, they may not be varieties.

9. Dasytes - a most beautiful Insect, but I have some doubt whether it be D. coruleus Payk. I think so circumstantial & minute a describer would not have omitted the remarkable shape of the thorax, nearly obovate, & the elevated lines upon the Elytra. It is very likely D. coruleus. Fab. Syst. El. 73. 7. & Cicadula. 14 of Syst. No. 10. Aleochara angustata miki. I received it from Mr. Spence.

It is nearly related to sp^o 11. which is Al. polita of Grav. It comes near also to Al. nanus of Ph. & St. fasciatus of S. B. but is narrower.

Stenus corulescens is an addition to the British Steni with which I am particularly gratified - I hope next summer you will take more. Your Chrysomella festiva (which however varies a little from the Description of Fab.) is a charming insect - but is Mr. Backhouse clear that he took it in England? It has quite the look & air of a foreigner. You did not mean Carab. pilatus

when you said you took Car. auratus in the highlands; ^{did you?} if it be
the latter, it is quite new as British ^{or Swedish} - I have a specimen ~~the~~
which ~~was said to be~~ ^{was said to be} taken in Suffolk. C. arvensis is
very scarce, I have no British specimen. Cantharis abdomi-
halis is also quite new, Elymus coruleocinctus - when you come
here I will trouble to let me see it, as I am taking descriptions
of all new Engl. Insects. Gen. Psolophus is not Dresdenis, but
my ruficornis. I have Dreadenensis from Sweden.

Melolonth. Lullu was a grand find of Mr. Leathers, ^{establishing} ~~it was beyond~~
all question its claim to be considered an English Insect.

I am glad you like my Apium - in my copy at least, the figures
are coloured carefully - I took all the pains I could to have them
accurate, but unless one could be upon the spot, small parts
are neglected - no 2. The spot at the base of the Ely &c. is made
too distinct from the rest of the Ely &c. - no 11 - only the things should
be pale - in 20 the legs are too yellow - it should be more cupreous.

I put into the box a specimen of A. Limoni which I promised
Mr. Scrimshire of Takenham, & another for his Brother
the Entomologist at Wisbeach, which I will trouble to
send when there is an opportunity.

I will ^{also} ^{you} ^{me} ^{in your copy} ^{of Dr. Smith's or any other plan; Trans.} trouble to correct an error in Mr. Manham's paper
on Notoclea page 204 note x. line 5. for Labium read
Labrum - ^{vice versa} for Labrum read Labium. I do
not know how the mistake crept in - I suppose Mr. Manham
in copying for the printer read it wrong. I wrote a complete
Character naturalis for this Genus - but only the first
member of it - viz. Caput is inserted I see.

I am pleased to see Hooker's & your beautiful drawings,
the elaborate descriptions of your Musci Nepaleses - now
you have begun, I hope you will go on.

Spence & I talk of drawing up an Introduction to Entomology.
Should we add deeds to our words, perhaps you would assist
us with your pencil, or at least correct us: as it will
be necessary to delineate the parts of insects. I think
a scale of colours would not be amiss in such a work.

Spence in his last letter sent me specimens of a new
species of Elenis found in stagnant water - which he
calls lacustris, it is like the small one which your
brother & Mr Wilkin find, (which is E. tuberculatus
(Linnaeus) of Müller in Kluge's Mag.) only it is denser.
They my best Compl^{ts} to Mr & Mrs Hooker, & your
brother, likewise Mr Wilkin -

I am Dear Sir,

Yrs very faithfully

W. Shirby

P.S. Forficula gigantea has been taken in Hampshire
by Mr Bingley. Compl^{ts} to Dr. Smith. When you see him
To save trouble I have put Mr Scrimshire's Apion in a little
box - but if you should be sending a box there you may ~~put~~
undo the parcel & put them -
I have put a pair also into your box - I think you & your
brother are provided with them, but I forget whether Mr
Wilkin has it - if not - give him a specimen. I'll send it

Mr Shirby: - author of Introduction to the Study of Entomology.