



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.



St. Martin's Church,

St. Martinville, La., 7th March 1895

M^r. L. H. Dewey Assist. Botanist

Dear Sir

Yes I think the plant in question is the *Eichornia crassipes* (*Pontederia crassipes* Mart. or *Eichornia speciosa* K.). I send you a specimen here enclosed.

This plant, to my private knowledge, has escaped very lately from cultivation and multiplied with great rapidity. In my botanical rambles from 1878 through many parts of Lower Louisiana, I never met it, or heard of it until 1887. But since then I am told in La it has multiplied in many bayous; and to my great astonishment I have seen since two years ago in large quantity, in small bayous

from Lafourche to Berwick's Bay

However I read in the
Dictionnaire Botanique of Henri Baillon
(2^d Vol. article Eichornia. p. 303 1886.)
" Il y a dans l'Amérique du Nord
" des Eichornia qui envahissent les cours
" d'eau au point d'empêcher la
" navigation".

That beats me. Where Henri
Baillon got his information?
What part of North America has he
in view? . . . It is a wonder to me.

It is only by your letter that I hear
navigation being obstructed in Louisiana
by this plant. Skiff or small
fisher boats may be obstructed by it
in small and narrow streams; but the
larger ones, as Bayou Beche, Bayou
Lafourche, Beliffonte river etc are
not so far, and I scarcely believe
they will ever be obstructed by this
beautiful plants

I have heard of no methods, and I
know of none, to eradicate it. I
suppose that the heavy and extraordinary
freeze we experienced last month
shall have killed most of the said
plant

This is all I can say on the subject.

Respectfully yours

A. B. Langhri