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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.

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From the boat between
Leyden & the Hague.
Wednesday. 3^d Sept. 1749.

Dear Miller,

I have pass'd four hours this morning
in the Plinck garden at Leyden with the Botanical
professor Van-Royen, a most ingenious man, &
I have also pass'd three hours this afternoon
with him in Dr. Boerhave's garden. In the first
there is a most glorious collection particularly of
the African plants, most of them from the
Cape of Good hope, severall of them in the ^{open air} ~~sun~~
& most of them only green house, not hot house
plants. As for the American tribe tis nothing
comparable to what you or even I have.
enclosed are some curious specimens which I desire
you to keep for me till my return, & let me
know if you have them. ~~one~~ amongst them
is what Van Royen calls the broad leaved bay,
^{already} but I have this list, & am sure it is not the right.

There is also among the specimens a most
curious dark broad leaved tree, of Boerhaave's
garden, & there is but that one single tree of
the sort, ^{& no more up at it.} I have also a few seeds but ~~but~~ they
^{most of them} take up too much room to send in a letter
however I send you the Cotinus glaber nigricans
C. B. & I have besides the following plants
that I shall have in the spring.

Vit; *Platanus alba* Des. Ruis.

Euphorbia N^o. 4. Roj. that is of Van Royen
himself.

The above are hot house plants & ~~but~~ very extraordi-
-nary. The following are most of them
hardy, Vit;

Ramulus frangula Dodonii.

Linum elegans asplenii foliis. Tourm.

Mespilus, foliis ovatis, integerrimis. Roj.

Cotinus floribus capitatis ramis decumbentibus. Roj.

Aloe africana, folio frangulo, longissimo, et
angustissimo. Herman.

Terebinthus seu Pistachia bifolia. Just.

Allaterrus, foliis lanceolatis, serratis, Roj.

Ammi peregrine. - Tournefort.

Then in Boerhaave's garden I had indeed the
pleasure of seeing a most magnificent

Collection of Trees, particularly the oaks tho there
are not near the number you mention in your
dictionary, for I do not believe there are fifty
oaks in the garden. severall of them have acorns
particularly those with the echinated cups. of
which I have seen a great many.

on. Friday I am to pass the whole day with
Mr. Clifford at his garden, but it will be too late
to give you any account of it by that post.

I find the Collection of pines & firs here, far
short of ours. there are a few of the Weymouth
pine at Borehaves, but they grow sadly as well
as the other pines, which shews that all sandy
grounds do not agree with them. What I saw
at Leyden has put me upon ^{thinking} ~~making~~ of an
affrican plantation somewhere hereafter, however
I will go on with the generall scheme at
molecomb first; so I desire you would think it
that by the time I return home, which ^{will} be
only for the Kings birth day.

Yours sincerely

Richmond: &c.

4.

Saturday 6th Sept^r 1749. N.S.

I have passed a whole day at Clifford, & a great collection there is there, but saw most of what I expected, for since Kew has carry'd off his gardens, it is all gone to ruin, & the old man seems to know but little of it himself. he has a pretty wood in a sandy ground, & some thing of a hill, & pines & pinasters grow well upon it, so I intend to send him of ² *Weymouth* pines, & other sorts that will do well there. to pray put me in mind of it in the Spring. his Green house Collection is still fine, but few things in his hot house, a few trees in the open ground, but nothing like what I have. The Duke of Arville, Lad Isre, & Mr. Hamilton. & his plants & shrubs in the open ground are most of them gone off, so it fell very short of what I expected.

Enclosed is a list of things that Mr. Van Royen desires from England, so I beg you will keep it, & when I come to England I will send him as many of them as we can get. but I am sure there are some we have not, such as *Larix orientalis finetii* & *Platanus orientalis acris folio*. we have the *Orientalis obtusa*. *Platanus orientalis acris folio*. but not both in England. ~~but~~ & the *Platanus acris folio*. but not both in