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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.

Sir

About 12 months ago I did myself the honor of writing to you at the request of Dr. William Wright, at the same time sent you a Specimen, Description, a few seeds & a small quantity of the Bark of a tree which I considered as an undescribed Species of *Cinchona*. I requested that a few of the seeds might be given to my friend Mr. Lee at Hammer-smith & a few to Mr. Norton at New - I sent also a Specimen of the Breadnut a well known & useful tree in this part of the Island, but I think not described by Linnæus; neither the Specimen, Description nor Drawing were any thing like so complete as I could have wished them, but I thought ^{they} ^{might} be data to determine whether this very useful & elegant tree is described by Linnæus or not, & in what place of his System it most readily arranges itself in. I have been informed by Capt. Brownson of the Ship *Earl of Carmarthen* by whom I sent them, that they were delivered up to you, I learnt also by a Gentleman who had his information from Dr. Wright, that the *Cinchona* has been considered as a new Species, but this is all the information I have yet obtained. I would have been particularly glad to have known if any trials had been made of the Bark in fever & what had been the results, if any of the seeds had been given to my friends & if they had succeeded. I would have been happy to have heard if the fruitification of the Breadnut has been generally known & what name it is distinguished by -

I intended to have sent you finer Specimens of the *Cinchona* & more complete ones of the Breadnut, but the Specimens of the first I lost in the unfortunate Storm last October & have not got them replaced again & the Breadnuts with the other trees have suffered so severely that they are only but recovering yet a few blossoms to be seen - I will still, however attend to them.

I took the liberty of writing you 14th July last by William Hythson, who went to England in the Ship *Nancy*, Capt. Hammond & sent you Specimens of 3 species of *Ipomoea* & descriptions of 2 of the Species,

The other species I have not seen sufficiently in blossom to enable me to describe it properly, but have seen enough to assure me that it is an *Hippomane*. I sent also a specimen & description of what I consider as a species of *Guettarda* & undescribed, it is a pretty large shrub & plenty on rocky grounds here; there is another species grows often in the rocky woods to a pretty large hard timber tree, it was not then in blossom to send a specimen of it. I sent a *Croton*, which is commonly called the Wild Rosemary here, to enquire if it is the *Croton Cavacilla* of Linnaeus & *Cavacilla* of the Shops. It is always dioecious, which is not taken notice of by Linnaeus. If in the *Melicocca bijuga* or *Gerris* tree is sometimes Polygamious. I have seen more than one tree purely male, that is having only male blossoms; but I do not know if they are general or not having even many trees in blossom. I should think that trees purely male have been seldom met with or Linnaeus would have been informed of it.

I still flatter myself with the hope of hearing that you had some trials made of the *Book* & that it has been useful. I found it so in a few cases here. I am very sorry it is so scarce hereabouts that I am not able to procure any quantity to give our friends for experiments though often solicited.

I have but little time to spare in the prosecution of Botany & it is hardly possible to travel in the woods here since these frequent Hurricanes, but as I often make that branch of Natural history the amusement of a leisure hour & often meet with plants undescribed by Linnaeus, nothing would give me more pleasure & encourage me to more industry in these kind of pursuits than the honor of ^{being} permitted now & then to transmit ^{to you} a few specimens & descriptions of what may appear to me new or otherwise worth taking notice of.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect
your most humble & obed. Serv^t

Sammond Lodge
near Savanna La Mar
Westmoreland Jamaica
27th Augt 1787

John Lindsay