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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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Edward Jesse

Hampton Court

Bayswater Dec. 4th 1838.

Dear Sir,

Though I have not the pleasure
of being personally acquainted with
you (a pleasure which I have for
some years past anticipated through
our mutual friend Mr. Milford) yet I
cannot help writing to you on the
present occasion, to congratulate you
on the triumphal manner in
which you have refuted the assertions
of the Quarterly Reviewer, respecting
Richard Jefferies Esq.

Turner's Oak. You have doubtless done
my work just as well as you can
by coming forward in the manner
you have done. In the year
1804, when I visited Windsor for the
first time, I think I was shown
an old stump of a tree, not above
ten or twelve feet high, ~~as~~ ^{then} stand-
ing by itself far out on the lawn,
which I was told was Turner's Oak.
When I saw the engraving of your
tree in the "Gleanings", I was con-
vinced, either that you were "wrong",
or that I had been misinformed.
But I never for a moment doubted
that the latter was the case till I saw
the assertion of the Reviewer, You

may judge there how much I was gratified by the appearance of your letter, which convinced me, that I had acted wisely in taking you as an authority, rather than trusting to the very imperfect recollection that I had of my first visit to Windsor.

The person that showed me

the tree, was a Scotch ~~book~~ -

book binder, of the name of Sauter, whom I ^{thought} lately settled in Windsor, & no doubt he ^{had been} ~~was~~ misinformed. I believe he soon after left Windsor, and I have not heard of him since. I was lately at Fiddington Grove, where Mr. Strachan was mentioning to me the Flower Garden which you had laid out for the Queen Dowager at Bushy. Would there be any difficulty in seeing this garden in the spring? I intend coming to see Hitchcock's walls at Hampton Court at any rate. Trusting you will excuse me for troubling you at such length,

Yours