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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.

My dear Sir

I am favored with your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant and last night. Mr. McLeay delivered to me the box of Insects you had so kindly sent me, & for which I return you my most sincere thanks, and shall be happy in a continuance of your Correspondence, I have been ill the whole Autumn with a Nervous headache attended with low fever and almost total debility, which prevented me from making the least exertion, I am now thank God much recovered, and have returned to my favorite pursuit with eagerness but the season is much against me, as I can only work by candle light, and therefore am prevented from doing much. I have been much interested with Kirby's paper on Aphids, And with his assistance, I now only want 10 of those he has described, & observing that he has been indebted to you for some of them, may I request that when you procure duplicates you will have the goodness to think of me - At the same time I must confess that my Modesty is put to the blush, when I make this request, not having yet had an opportunity of supplying any of your desiderata, but I can say with truth that I shall be exceedingly happy to do it, whenever you will give me an opportunity. I have not *Byrrhus ater* nor an English Specimen of *Casabus Arvensis*, *Dasytes Casalis*, or *Stenus caeruleus*, *Scarabaeus Fullo* is a great acquisition my specimens are both foreign - I have little that is new to communicate. The Rev. Mr Bingley has sent me *Fossicula Gigantea*, taken by him at Christ Church Wants, with a promise of more, which I have written for at the request of two friends, should he send sufficient I



reserve a pair for you, as it is a valuable addition to our British Coleoptera. We had a full Meeting of the Society last night, and two valuable Botanical papers were read, one on the Culture & Character of Cardamum, sent to us by the East India Company, & the other a drawing and description of the Male plant of the Columbo root, communicated by J<sup>r</sup>. Joseph Banks. and also a short acc<sup>t</sup>. of the *Tropaeolum giganteum* from Mr. Bingley. We are however still in want of papers & I hope to see something Entomological from you. I think our last Volume was a good one. With respect to your question respecting a Supplement to Ent. Brit. I can only say that I cannot afford to publish, for I have a large family, and am out of pocket by that Volume upwards of £100. for I have not yet sold 80 Copies, & it would be very imprudent to continue to sink money in that way. I however go on, & shall leave behind me sufficient matter for any more wealthy person to publish if any such should be found to undertake the task. For another Volume as well as a Supplement would require but little trouble to bring forward. I hear of many young entomologists but cannot learn at present, whether they take it up scientifically, & fear the Entomological Society will do more harm than good. It will give me great pleasure if I can assist you, & shall be happy at all times to hear from you, & hope when you next visit London, that you will favour me with a few hours conversation. And am

West India Dock House  
Billiter Square  
London 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1800

in haste  
your Oblig'd friend  
Thos<sup>s</sup> Marsham

I will thank you when you write to address to me at this Office as above by which means I shall receive it on any hour sooner.

The late Mr. Marsham, author of the *Entomologia Britannica*