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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.

ans. Apr. 16."

Germantown, Feb. 11 "1898

Dear Mr. Coville,

I received the final signature of my paper a few days ago, and suppose the whole will be ready for this tribulation in a day or two. The first copy I mail to any one shall be addressed to you. In the mean time, ~~the~~ I send you a seed on the bark of trees to keep you in good time till the Lewis & Clark plant paper reaches you.

I have partly gone over Pursh's Virginia and North Carolina plants, and those which he collected on his tour to the Great Lakes, and found them of interest.

but little less than the
Semi-Elack plants. I hoped
to make a paper on them
similar to that of L. H.
But as I proceeded I found
that the Am. Philosophical
Society, in whose dust
bin they had been concealed
for a century almost,
absolutely forbid that they
should go into our
collections. They are to
be kept for all time, - to
be kept in separate cases,
as theirs, - and to be
ready to be taken back
to the Phil. Society at any
moment, whenever some
Crank pushes through
a resolution in the Phil.
Society to demand them.
That I should

Spend my few years of life
on identifying these plants,
getting them pressed, provide
card board sheets, and have
them all fastened down,
to be placed in a hole
where no one will look
at them (as for instance
Shots here, Durand in
Paris, and Elsewhere)
and then risk their
being called away — no,
not if I know it!

I feel that I would
hardly have spent the
time and money on the
Semi Bolack's plants, had
I understood at the time
that the result ^{would} be the
tying them up in another
bundle, and shunting
them into some new
dark bin. Very truly

Frederick M. Peckham