



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

Department of Botany

Thos. Meehan,

Botanist.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Board of Agriculture.

Germanstown, Pa. Jan. 29, 1884

Dr. Chas. M. Greene

My Dear Sir

I am glad you dropped
the statement about the Bay rum
if you had any doubt about it
whatever. I always adopt that
course in my editorial work.

My library is very large - I have
over a thousand volumes devoted
chiefly to the Sciences and their
history, and I was surprised
to find nothing whatever about
Bay rum anywhere among them -
nor in any thing I could find
at the Academy. It so happened
that while writing that chapter
I had a visit from Mr. Wm
Tarniers of London Canada,
who is one of the leading
pharmacists of the Dominion -
and is indeed the Government

Chemist and public Analyst.
He gave me the Myrica so
positively and unhesitatingly
as the plank, that I made a
note of it without feeling there
was any necessity for any
further inquiry. I am glad however
that you hesitated, as it will
lead me to look further into the
matter. I have found by long
experience how easy it is to be
mistaken, and how necessary is
extreme caution in regard to
matters of fact.

In regard to inferences
from names, I have been "through" that
also, - especially in connection with
the popular names of plants. It is one
of the easiest paths to getting on the
wrong track.

Sincerely yours