



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.

Mr Robert,

Durham, 20th May,
1836
J Murray

Tho' I have not the honor of
a personal acquaintance with you, I am no
stranger to your excellent works & distinguished
merits. I venture to write to you, on the common
grounds of Science & Philanthropy - myself en-
gaged in the republic of Science & community of
Literature, not doubting of your free & frank
graciousness. I am very anxious to obtain specimens
of the Corn-leaf w. a few particulars, if possible of
its natural history especially a specimen
wills for chemical analysis - I have presumed to
freedom therefore to solicit that if possible you
could forward a few and to me agreeable to the ad-
dress on the counterpane, the various items in the
unmixed package. - I shall gladly & gratefully bear
the amount (to any one) you may expend in forwarding
them for me - & be most happy to reciprocate in
any way in my power, your friendly exertions - I shall
be honored by your acceptance of Copies of ten of my
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

words if you will have the goodness to say to whom
I shall send them for you - I am particularly anxious
for these for illustrations for a work on Vegetable
Physiology and I shall acknowledge with sincere plea-
sure to whom I am indebted.

Paid 13/8

For

Mr Robert Kerr Porter

de la

(His Britannic Majesty's Consul General)

Caracas,

Columbia.

South America.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul

Caracas,

Columbia (Venezuela),
South America.

Believe me to be, with much respect,

Yrs Robert,

Your most humble &
very obedient servant
J. Murray (F.S.A. & F.L.S.)

P. 155
I am forwarding a second edition of my Remarks on
The Truth of Revelation demonstrated by an appeal
to existing monuments, Coins, Gems & medals, numerous
Plates & woodcuts - I am sure you will be
pleased to receive it, referring of course with due acknowledgments.
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GENERAL REMARKS ON MR. MURRAY'S WORKS.

MR. MURRAY,—"Whose philanthropy and ingenuity radiate over the world. The sphere of this gentleman's utility is well known to be large: but the variety of his philanthropic and scientific exertions is almost incalculable. The vegetable kingdom, it might have been supposed, was a new conquest, for he has not in previous works, laid claim to any part of its domains; but on looking into the preface of the "Physiology," it will be found that it has long been his favourite pursuit, and the chief source of his enjoyment. It might have been imagined that his genius chiefly revelled in Chemistry, for great have been his exploits therein, large and long his discussions, bright and lasting his discoveries. Still more naturally would it have been supposed that his peculiar passion was for the saving of human suffering by the application of the lights of science; for it is here assuredly that his chief efforts have been directed. Of this character are his lucubrations on "suspended animation," his "invention for saving from shipwreck," his new "lightning conductor," and generally his works on "aerial phenomena," but more especially, his treatise on the "disease called hydrophobia;" and his other treatise on "pulmonary consumption," wherein this dire disease is for the first time treated chemically, and the discoveries of modern chemistry applied to its relief with, at least, great plausibility, and wherein also, if the curative process be found to fail, at any rate much light is thrown on the true character of the disease, and a vast variety of facts brought to bear on the circumstances under which this sad malady is found to prevail. The distinctive character of these and all other of Mr. MURRAY's numerous writings, is, that he is an indefatigable collector of facts, which by their singularity, or other property, may assist the philosopher in spelling out the ways of Nature. By thus bringing to bear all the remarkable phenomena of Nature on the subject, he, as it were, pricks out its extreme boundaries, and so far aids in the completion of a general survey."—WESTMINSTER REVIEW, October, 1833.

"We never take up a book of Mr. JOHN MURRAY's, without a full assurance of an ample repast upon the most tasteful of all viands to our palates—curious facts to wit. He makes a treatise on conductors and anti-hailstone rods, a little encyclopædia of all the facts, experiments, and striking knowledge of the subject. He does this in a still more remarkable manner, as might be expected, in the larger field of the Physiology of Plants; which is a complete library of vegetable curiosities. It was the same with his work on Consumption—an unpromising subject, yet Mr. MURRAY blossomed with facts over the grave. So it was also with his little work on the Diamond—a jewel of a book, from which, if we are not mistaken, we made some curious extracts. But then Mr. MURRAY is not merely a fact collector, but an experimentalist; and not merely an experimentalist, but a theorist,—this, however, with all modesty, and the genuine humbleness of science. His invention is active, but always under the philosophical check of induction from a due number of facts, or the consciousness that the due number has not been obtained.

After reading one of Mr. MURRAY's books, it always occurs to us to ask, how is this man's usefulness turned to account in behalf of his fellow creatures? Have the Government availed themselves of his ingenuity, of his perpetual activity, of his philanthropy? His inventions are highly esteemed—they are adopted privately: are they adopted nationally? and has a man, who must have made great sacrifices, and conferred great benefits, has he had any reward or encouragement to proceed in his path of true honor? He does much to save: have the powers that are appointed to watch over our national interests done as much for him, or a tithe of what they do for those who destroy? We cannot answer these questions—we can only suppose how they might be answered."—SPECTATOR, September 7th, 1833.

"Mr. MURRAY has written much and often well; sacrificing largely his pecuniary means, and almost exclusively devoting himself to the advancement of science; he will maintain a creditable place in the galaxy of scientific names which adorn the present period."—ATLAS, September 8th, 1833.

"We have perused several of this gentleman's Scientific Works with much interest and advantage, and we know of no writer who with more success comprises the utile dulci."—LIVERPOOL MERCURY, February 7th, 1834.

I mention to the same whence I obtained it to copy
on one of my Plates that ~~part~~ portion of one of your beau-
tiful plates in your Travels in Georgia &c. &c. copied
from a sketch at Boston which seems to refer to the
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A portion of the Acacia a Candle made of its of
the 'Acacia-tree' }

A Slice of the milk of the 'Coco-tree' - Balsam of
Leaves - ditto - }

Benicargo a nut of - ditto - }

The Lid
2 seeds of } Seed Vessel of the Pot Tree - See this also
be. g. 1000? } Two Seed Vessels, or Capsules of Bigonia
grandiflora }

(now, I am informed by the
Ladies of Barcelona to have been imbedded)

The Calyptro, Stems of the Spindles of the
Palm - worn as Caps & used for Caskery.

Any curious Seeds & Seed Vessels especially
winged seed

Seed Vessel of Cassia fistula

- ditto - of the long & broad one like
a Scimitar in shape - }

A Sketch or Drawing of the Coco Tree.

A rant of the Arachaea as a portion of one
shaped & held in like a cow's horn
To be addressed

Mr. John Murray

(of Hull)
Care of
Messrs Wright, Simpson,
& Pinner's Hall
Broad Street,