



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.

Kansas city Kansas Oct. 17. 1897.
a few days

My Dear Professor Coville, On reaching home ago from a Botanical tour of six years in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, S. Dakota, and Western Ark. I found in an accumulation of books, letters ^{and} a note from you stating that I could not more Botanical from you without ^{than} unless I can show connection with some college or am in some way an attaché of your Div. of the Dept. of Agriculture.

I am not connected with any college though I might have been. It is no fault of mine, that I am not assisting directly in your Div. But you will perceive by this letter, that ^{I am} ~~am~~ Professor of Botany at large. During the last twelve years I have probably taught Botany to as many men and women and in as ^{many} ~~as~~ schools and as colleges as any other Botanist in the country. Lecturing in colleges, Normal Schools and high Schools, and to general audiences on "The Philosophy of Botany." The lectures have been heard by men fresh from the best colleges and Universities of the land and have uniformly been pronounced good.

I have seen more of the Plants between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mts, where they grow, and how they grow, and have collected more of them with my own hands, than any other man in the world. If you do not believe, send on the letter man with his plants. I have the largest collection of Kansas plants that any other one man has made. Ten years ago I could have told you more about the plants of Kansas, than Hitchcock, Sheldon, Carlton, Muhlberg, Smyth, and all of them together can now tell you, why did you not ask me. I have probably collected more Texas plants than any other one man has done. And have prepared a Catalogue of its plants, collected by myself and others, more than three thousand species. As many as any man in New Mexico, many in Wyoming, more in the Black Hills, than Snyder, and his predecessor. Probably a thousand species in western Nebraska, and many in Missouri, in Arkansas, and in Louisiana. And have had two or three thousand species given to me, by Reveschon, Sheldon, Cleburne and others. I have a collection of probably ten thousand species, spec-

means from far apart stations, and specimens in vegetable literature.

I was the first man to learn and tell the people that the ^{flora} of Kansas is essentially south western in its character.

I am the first man to discover and publish the true Botanical character of the Common Buffalo Grass, Boutelou's See paper in Bulletin of Torrey Bot. Club. And I was glad to learn from my friend A.S. Hitchcock that his experiments with seed and stolons fully sustained my position. I have not yet looked over my collections and do not yet know how many new species I have found. I have always pursued ~~pursued~~ my Botanical studies in accordance with strictest rules of intellectual and scientific rectitude. Whatever I have published has been scientifically correct. That you and others may not have believed me, is none of my business. Walter and I have had a good time together, and she has few more enthusiastic lovers.

Every species of Plants that I have collected has cost me more than a half dollar each. Yet you thought that I was so simple minded, that I would travel thousands of miles over mountains, in the deepest ravines and the darkest woods, and send my collections to ^{you} without remuneration, while you paid salaries to men, whom I could doubtless teach more than they could teach me.

For more than forty years I have written more or less for scientific journals, The Country Gentleman, Agriculturist, The Horticulturist, and thirty letters on the Botany of Texas for the "Garden and Forest." I am an honorary member of the Kansas State Horticultural Society.

And Mus. Reports contain several papers which I read before them.

I intend to remain ⁱⁿ Kansas City during the coming year, and ^{am} writing a "Botany of Kansas" for the schools. I have also been requested to prepare a Botany for the schools of Texas.

My collection of the plants growing in Montgomery County, Kansas, have been kept separate from others of the state. If you would to publish a list of them, six or seven hundred species in your Contributions, with notes, I will prepare it for you during the winter. So I shall prepare and publish somewhere a special Catalogue of the plants growing in this, Wyandotte County. It is the smallest county in the state, but great in the number of plants.

If you should conclude to shun my supply of botanical literature, I hope that you will at least allow me to keep up my botanical studies in my own time and way, even if such an emergency does occur I shall not then be without some resources.

I have a few botanical friends, that do not scold, nor impose unreasonable obstructions to my pursuit of knowledge. As I write casting my eyes on my book cases, Old Micheli in a good dress appears to smile upon, I see then too, the Correspondence of Linne, Correspondence of Ray, Ray's Catalogue of the Plants of Britain Edited by Dillenius 1724, Milner's Bot. Dictionary, Marlton's Language of Botany, Elements of Bot. Linnaeus, translated by Hugh Rose, Jacquin, La Mart and Decaisne, Leuker's Rel. Corbel

Ex. Mrs. Masey, Stanbury, Sitegreaves, Pursh,
 Elliott, ~~Martin~~ Barton, both Editions, Chapman
 both Editions, Hall, Botany of Pennsylvania, Darby
 two copies, Botany of Mex. Bound, Suervey, 2 copies
 Flora of New York, Owen's, Suervey, with Plants by Parry,
 Tournefort's Voyage to the Levant English Ed. Sargent.
 Catalogue of the Trees of North America 2 Copies, Wright
 Plants of Texas and New Mexico, Plants of Fremont
 Plants of Fendler, Plants of Hall, Bot. Remains of Engel
 Mann, Lindley's Veg. Kingdom, Grasses, Sinclair,
 Flint, Gould, Vasey, Botany of ^{the} Death Valley County,
 Britton's Cat. of Plants of N.Y. Upham, Plants of Minnesota
 Bessey and Webber Plants of Neb. Geological Survey of
 Arkansas from my friend Prof. G.C. Branner, with partial
 list of Plants of Ark. by Coville and Branner, Porter and
 Coulter Flora of Colorado, Coulter, Plants of Texas west of 99
 Merriam, Watson Plants of Palmer, Howard Plants of South
 and West Texas, and most of the Bot. works published
 the Dept. of Agriculture, &c. &c.

So I am of the Opinion, it may be wrong, that I am
 as ~~well~~ entitled to receive all that ^{the} Government ^{publishes} on Bot.

2019. ^{Written}

I have somewhat in full that you may some-
 thing of what I am doing. Books or no books I think
 that I have saved for you a good specimen of *Berberis*
saussurei, if my plant does prove to be a new species.
 If I have duplicates of an occasionally rare plant they are at
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