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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.

Royal Botanic Garden,

Seebpore,

near Calcutta.

Sep 23

1891.

Dear Mr Risley,

I have answered the endorsement no 254 P. F. by yesterday's mail. I also answer it more fully here. The Fund in question consists of Rs1000/- from the Govt. of India & of Rs500/- from each of the provinces, Assam & Burma.

So far I have only drawn Rs200/- of this Rs2000/- from Assam collectors but I have entered into arrangements in Assam and in Burma that will involve the expenditure of Rs250/- more in Assam and Rs350/- in Burma.

Thus I leave Dr King on his return pledged to a total expenditure of Rs800/- out of the whole grant of Rs2000/-, and there is left for this special purpose Rs1200/- available.

It was to save this Rs1200/- which otherwise must have gone to defray my deputation allowance that I proposed the arrangement which you so kindly

permitted me to make whereby
my deputation allowance was to
come from the Foreign Dept: of account
of my looking after the health of Lt
Colomb's party and dispensing medicines
among the inhabitants of the country,
based though with a view to facilitate
the progress of the expedition.

I consulted with Do King before he
left how best to economise our small
grant with a view to this contin-
gency and thus it happens that I have
managed to keep down the expenditure
as I have done.

After receiving your letter convey-
ing His Honor's permission that I
should accompany Lt. Colomb I wrote
to that officer requesting him kindly
to apply for permission to let me take
another native collector (he had already
made provision for one). This would involve
the employment of 2 more permanent
coolies (he already has provided for 12)

and further the employment of 4 or 5 extra ration-carriers for these 3 extra men of mine.

The cost of the extra collector's rations, of the pay and rations of the two extra permanent coolies and of the extra hired ration carriers that the addition of these three extra men to the party must involve I undertook on my own responsibility as acting Director of Botanical Surveys to charge against the Govt of India explanation grant.

I felt sure you would approve of this step but as the whole correspondence has hitherto been conducted confidentially I naturally deferred asking you to approve of it till I could learn that my proposal would be accepted by the Military authorities. You will thus see that the wishes of the Govt. of India

in the Dept. of Revenue and Agriculture
have been ^{in anticipation} carried out to the
letter. I have not yet heard that
my request has been granted by
the Quarter Master General's Dept.
but I have now advised S. L. Clark
of your instructions to me and
this will doubtless ensure, what
I had so far only hoped might
occur, the acceptance of my pro-
posal.

I cannot understand a telegram
that appears in today's Register. I
have been throughout impressed with
the necessity for secrecy and have
striven to comply with this most care-
-fully.

I have heard nothing of an escort
of 60 rifles: on the contrary I have been
requested to provide an indent for
medicines, and have done so, for a
party of 3 Europeans with 16 natives
together with 25 ration-bearing hired
men to be with us till we reached
the supply yielding Khampti country
Yours sincerely
David Prain.