



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.

1788

Manuscript by Romford
Oct^r 20th 1788.

Sir

Yesterday rec^d from Mr Guise your elegant present of Mr
Kerschfeld's Work on the subject of my Profession — & I confess myself at a loss
for words to express my sense of the obligation — such a compliment from
~~a former~~
~~an old~~ friend or acquaintance must have been highly pleasing to me,
but when I reflect that I had scarce the honour to know the name of the
Donor, such a testimony of liberality & good opinion of my profes-
sional abilities cannot fail to gratify in the highest degree both my
conscience & my Vanity. — & I hope that the pride I feel on the
occasion is so far laudable. — I have of course not yet
had time to peruse the Volumes: yet I have not the presumption
to suppose that in 2 thousand Quarto pages, there may not be many
things new to me, however well I may fancy that I have studied
the subject — on this account your Present is highly valuable —

besides it is a Work of price & its value is increased by the Difficulty
of obtaining it in England. — but thus obtain'd to me it becomes
inestimable — for I have written on the title page your Name with
the Circumstances of the Donation which will remain to my Children an
honourable Testimony of their Father's Gratitude & of the Donor's elegant
manner of conferring favours — I expect to be in Norfolk
the latter end of this month when I mean to call on my friend
Mr. Guise & to beg that he will introduce me at Barton where I
hope you will permit me to cultivate the honour of your Acquain-
tance — I have inclosed one of my Tickets, which if you have
not before seen, may perhaps please you by the Delicacy of the
Engraving. & till I have the pleasure to pay my respects to you
in person I hope you will believe that I have the honour to be
with the greatest esteem & Gratitude

Sir Your obliged & very humble Servant
Whepton