



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

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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.

Southampton December  
1803  
Mr. J. Smith  
The Kensington Palace  
Willford Middlesex

John Baskford

14 Dec: 1803

For the Rev.

Sir.

I have had the Pleasure of seeing  
Lord & Lady Cavan in their Return to the Isle of <sup>Wight</sup>  
who kindly inform'd me of your obliging Message  
respecting a Gardener. The sort of Man I want  
is one who will not expect to stand by and give  
his Orders to others but a working Gardener  
who will not be above taking a Spade in Hand  
when it is necessary. I particularly wish him  
to follow your Mode of pruning & training Trees.

My Kitchen Garden is near two Acres & I mean  
to allow him a man & a <sup>stout & a woman occasionally</sup> Boy. ~~and a man~~ There  
are besides this Garden, Walks which must  
be kept clean, there is but little mowing. My  
last Gardener had only twenty Guineas a Year

but probably there are too little wages for  
the present Day. I should therefore be willing  
to give twenty five or even more if You think  
it necessary. I would rather have a single  
than a married Man, because not only the  
Man but his Family are usually kept from  
such a House as mine, but if a married Man  
that You could strongly recommend were to  
offer, I should perhaps waive my Objections.

I am ashamed of the Trouble I give You, but  
I know You will forgive me. My late Gardener  
having left me rather abruptly after having lived  
eighteen Years with me, for what Cause I declare  
I know not I am exceedingly distressed.

I beg my Compts to Mrs Forsyth and am  
Yr  
your obedient servant

Rich

Shirley House  
near Southampton  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 14. 1863