



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

the visit was so it is England that there is not a doubt of putting them
my love to my sister should to whom I would have wrote had not my
brother's shoe blood with her already over the same country when
my brother leaves me my letter will be more frequent & I shall
I am sorry & leave to his sister then to finish what I can but
made by the 1st. You told me you wished me to stay in England & I shall
stay the month there as some moment. I shall spend in England that I shall
have written myself there - but I find as I may be of something shall I put

June 2. 1784

An 2 to Elizabeth June 8th

Dear Mr. Angell

Dr. Sibthorp.

Dear Mr. Angell

Received

MB



look forward that the whole of my journey shall be spent - in the
Academi yu Baccu Bannum. may I will find you there - and that
I want to ~~be~~ solicit my letter - for I am still young & shall
not return home soon when the health of you it is checked by
the same - you will find me with your letter
and the duplicate same 2. 1784.

I shall be affected to the
end of the Sibthorp.

Abord Sea

You are informed by my Brothers letters to my Sister. Swell, & my Sister
Sib. of our safe Arrival at Aix la Chapelle - we are here inishing Hygiene
& measuring our secundum Artem the full force & Virtue of its Waters. They have
received a Credit from Lucas which I much doubt that they can support
I fear - like the Cloth Cleaners Wash - these waters make the Spot disap-
pear for the present, by leaving a greater Disposition in the Matter
to receive new Stains - however, we shall attempt to give them a more
permanent Virtue, by fixing them with the Waters of Spa. My Brother
hears the Scouring much better than myself - Yesterday I found myself
so much relaxed that I discontinued the Waters. They are power-
fully possessed of a diuretic Quality - my Nose already begins
to distinguish the Smell of Violets - if we go on so - I shall soon
frighten myself with a Diabete - very little Company at present
arrived, except Gamblers & Filchers - the Jew Doctor De la Cour from
Bath - & a Col. Allen who lodges in the same House with us - and I think
the only English besides ourselves - The Season is indeed yet scarcely
begun - The Radoute opens next Week. when there will be Balls
&c. - there is no French Comedie - but German Plays by two different
Companies - I have already made some Progress in my German Alphe-
bet - & my Pass I hope will soon be tuned to German Sounds - I was
quite hoarse this Morning in playing the Muscles of my throat - to the
Words set to Music by my Language Master. German - Reading &
a solitary Walk pass the Day at Aix - The Town lays low, & is sur-
rounded by Noats - The negligence of the Police in not removing the Rubbish
& clearing the Streets is abominable - a Variety of bad Smells infect the

air & must occasion various Disorders. The People here in general
meagre with sallow Complexions - a most numerous poor that haunt
the Streets & tease us with their Importunity - many of them blighted
at their Birth & deformed beg from their Incapacity to work. Others
from Indolence, & long Customs. The Territory of Seige has been called
the Hell of Women - & it is the Women here who bear the Burthen of Fatigue
A Seigois smokes his Pipe at ease, while his Wife is saddled like a beast
of Burthen with a Parier of Coals, or a heavy Load of Bricks & Mortar
accustomed to hard Labour from an early Period. Their Features are hard
& strong - the Muscle coarse - & the Skin burnt. In short - you will
not discover in the Seigoise any of those soft Traits which charac-
terise the Sex. But if Seige has been cursed as the Hell of Women
it has been blessed as the Paradise of Priests. The Religious of all
Descriptions abound here. In our little Voyage down the Maese
we were struck with the Magnificence of the Convents. one happily
seated, on its banks, tempted us to leave our Boat & visit it. We easily
obtained Permission to see it, & the Prior in the Absence of the Abbe' received
us with much Civility - hospitably doing the Honors of his House in treating
us with an excellent Bottle of Burgundy. The Convent was placed in the
most chosen Spot, nothing was wanting to please the Eye in the most pictu-
resque Scenery - it was rich - it had the Liberty of the Chase & social
solace rather than monastick Solitude enlivened its Walls. The Hospitality
of the Religious was that Day further softened by a Party of
Ladies who had just left the Refectory as we entered. and retiring into
the Garden left the good Friars with charming Impressions to receive us.

In short was I to become Monk I should not hesitate a moment in my Choice - I would swear myself a Bernardine of the Vale of St. Lawrence, - This Paradise too is out of the Empress's Reach - These Monks undisturbed hear the thunder roar round them - & see the Edicts of Vienna annihilate their neighbouring Brothers - We had just seen at Tournay the Convent of the Croisiers - destroyed about a Twelve month since - their Chapel was now desolate and except a fine Picture by Rubens of crowning our Saviour with thorns it was entirely stripped of its Furniture - The venerable stained Glass that composed the arched Windows of the Cloister was broken or stolen - their Ports overgrown with Weeds. Every thing called back to us the Time of the Reformation when those immense Piles of Gothic Architecture which Superstition had raised with great Labour & Expence were laid waste by the bold Hand of the sacrilegious Henry ~~the~~^{the} Eighth. The Dissolution of Religious Houses has made the Emperor at present very popular in his Austrian Dominions - the Anathemas of Rome are now without force - & their Imprécations fall without Effect - the Solitude of the Clergy is disturbed - Society is encouraged & the Arts flourish - From this bold enterprising Spirit of the Emperor the Commerce of the Austrian Netherlands will receive a new force the Scheldt which has for several Years been idle or employed only by a few fishing Smacks will probably soon be covered with the rich Returns of Merchant Men - & Antwerp recovering its ancient Commerce rise another Storehouse on the Ruins of Antverdun. The Claim the Emperor has put forward of Maestricht & the Country beyond the Meuse seems a Cover only to his Design of working the Scheldt. The Dutch are terribly frightened & have marched a considerable Force of Troops into Maestricht. But they behaved so shabbily in