



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.

Now, my dear Sir, I will wish you good night. They
 have filled me so full of asparagus, sweetbreads & ale, that I
 may be wishing you stronger thanp still. One wish more - the thing I
 (recollect the black pudding) - that you will think me
 gratefully & devotedly yours
 Edward Smith.

Mrs. Butler. Sandgate
 May 28. 1824.

His devotion looks pleasing upon letters; but seldom grates one. I thought
 otherwise when at Hunting.



For.

Seaborn Blaine Esq.
 Newport.
 Isle of Wight.

The hand with which the above is written is
 the hand of the author of the "Pencil and the Pen"
 written for those who wish to know the
 how the hand above each word.

Ms. A

My dear Sir.

We are seldom rejoiced when reminded of our negligence, but in this case, when your kind letter arrived. I was surprised, and regretted much you had not yet received the shells for which you so anxiously ask. I did not impute anything to my negligence, having really forgotten that in the last days of the hurried move from Pockham, your little box was crowded with the J. of W. fossils into a larger receptacle to travel with me to Hastings, & to be there dispatched to you with a better grace. The remove from Hastings to this place proved your disappointment to have arisen from my forgetfulness; I had not opened the box, and now opened it only to be surrounded with regret, self-reproach, & shame. Hope sat at the bottom however, in the shape of a small chip-box directed for "J. Blaine Esq.". I retain the box but send you the images: it may awaken by its power fresh ideas & new associations, and thus be the hope upon which I depend for your merciful forgiveness of the past.

What have I been writing? I have opened and inspected the box; from its contents I am assured at once that a parcel was made for you, and is either lost or hid away through the bustle of the move, or has miscarried! Here are no Potamides, no Pleurotoma, no Corbula (two species only), every one of which was packed & labelled separately. The box

indeed contained shells, but these were part of the "doubtful," with a few duplicates, which I send you. The impression on my mind is that they are really lost, between Pictou and Newport; stolen, strayed, or mislaid. My Sister, upon the question, recollected the dispatching the parcel. - As it contained the general species only, which was the case with those few I sent to you from Graves's, I never thought that the contents had been removed from the box bearing your name; and what recollections I had of the latter package, were referred to the former. It is most unlucky that those I have with me are the few single & new species, with the minute shells; and it will be long before the rest are re-opened. But what do I regret; you will find no difficulties presently.

The Catalogue, in a very unfinished state, I send to you: you will smile at the rude attempts at sketching; I trust only, you will find the characters intelligible.

The date of this letter will prove to you, that I am yet further distant. To shirk rocks is denied me by weakness & consequences; a short walk is sufficient; I am now about to take fresh advice: the evil is stationary, but I get weaker. All the long indulged hopes of revisiting that loved spot and uniting you there, with whom I promised myself no common pleasure, and unitedly, of inspecting to general advantage what has been so censoriously & idly treated; of witnessing the foundation of another scientific Institution; & viewing the prosperity of individuals to whom I am so much indebted: all these hopes are fled; I am denied the very hills & shores around me; to be taught cheerful patience, and to become more seriously attached to the studies of my destined profession.

It has struck me as very fortunate that the Catalogue of Shells, such as it is, was not enclosed in the lost package. I reserved it for additions, few of which it has received. I possess the Terrestrial of the Green Sand from Shanklin but my varieties are so many, & my attention to them has been

so slight, that I can hazard nothing upon identity. I have by my side a beautiful specimen of *Pecten guenguecostata* from Colchester. It is in calcedony which has replaced the shell in sphaeres. At Hastings I was lucky enough to obtain for a trifle a perfect fossil Elephant's tooth from alluvium above the Iron Sand in excellent preservation.

If so happy, I will not forget you, in a visit to the productive Folkestone Marls, should my state allow it. We remain here some time. By the bye, I will go in about the stratum is on the shore. Will specimens of the series of rocks from thence to Hastings be acceptable?

Will you not forget me, should any rarity appear upon the chalk-hills or elsewhere? botanical rarities I mean. You, of course, understand pressing plants; and with a few, the process is not tedious. Dissecting plants is now my principal enjoyment; - with reading. our botanical collection has 8 to 10 species. Entomology also is ardently pursued by my Sister naturalist. We obtained a living mole-cricket at Hastings.

I wish you all success & taste in completing the new domicile. architectural conceiving seldom forms part of our lives, and calls forth ideas, which like poetry when first written appear chaste & consistent; but often exist only in perfection for a time; ~~and~~ When the novelty & interest of design have passed by, the correct eye condemns & would obliterate images which once appeared the fairest fruits & the most refined efforts of imagination. Such is my reason for wishing you taste. We do not usually talk such nonsense as to wish endowments, except upon hearing of poor Institutions; but my wish arises to an expectation when I recollect the excellence of designs for which you are distinguished.