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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.

Sowerby has pleurotoma colon
& comma: to these you will
observe I have added, to render
the series more complete, ps. semicolon
& full-stop. This mode of specifying
by significant objects is ~~complete~~
convenient:

Pleurotoma;

The symbols of the Zodiac & many others
might be so employed.

N.B. my; is Sowerby's ; : my. his brevirostrum
I believe.

No 2

Mr Smith in a subsequent letter No 3
 hints that the detail here must not be
 depended on -

My dear Sir,

I must appear very ditatory in answering you, but I have laboured under ~~many~~ many impediments, and not the least of them, want of information. During the time Sowerby's Min. Conch. was with me, the troublesome Surgeons thought proper to drain me of strength, and I received your letter in that state; not having half satisfied my own enquiries and additionally frightened by yours: Sowerby was desirous his Botany was also sent home, both works being borrowed, and I confess that I allowed the *Melancolium* to be put away, and shut up my shells, from the painful weakness of both eyes & intellects. The minute Shells of the Bramble Chine sand remained to be identified, and a large portion of the sand to be examined. In this state of things I determined to send a reply to your delightful epistle, and Catalogue, & specimens, at once: but a hint from Dr. Maxwell induces me to write to you at once without the Addenda. The sand shells then will neither engage us now, ~~or~~ nor be noticed in the Catalogue: it will please you to hear, however, that that deposit affords *Chiton*, *Pentalisimus* (mamallid genus) & traces of a *Cancer*.

One part of your letter requires particular notice. You constitute me a universal conchologist, and in doing so ~~en~~ greatly, if I may so deal with your opinion. It is true I have bestowed some attention upon the remains exhibited by these Formations we are studying: beyond these, my conchological ideas are widely scattered; and, though sufficient general guides, are only thus far useful as to aid the detection of novelties. It is exactly thus with Entomology, and, ^{and so} before the last summer, with Botany. Mineralogy has, & will still, have a precedence before any of them; though I confess, Botany with the spirit of seclusion, and Zoology with *alumn Bary* & *M. Blane* are advancing no contemptible pretensions to the first ranks.

You will I know sympathize with me in my present occupation. In consequence of my Father's death, we leave this house and are removing of course all its contents. My collection of minerals must then be packed, and not be laid by, uselessly, for a few months or until another settlement is made, but be packed in the strongest & most impervious way possible, so to remain, a dark, ponderous, negative mass, until fresh prospects have dawned upon me and realized the hopes they raised, & I can again venture to unfold my wings and leave home & a household, and pitch my tent, once for all. I thus lose a most valuable source of reference, for it is incomplete in few departments; and this treasure, - which I have raised and nurtured and loved as a child, in the very infancy of my ideas & studies, - when those studies & ideas are more and more developed, and the pursuit begins to be systematic, is buried, if I may so call the act of consignment to dust & darkness, and I can neither avoid, nor abide the reflection, that denying myself its use once, ^{perhaps} I lose it for ever. Botany has an advantage. Even a large Herbarium is not ponderous; and in this case is the only collection which is to travel with us.

The period of my Examination at Oron will be the beginning of May; and it is, the fortnight immediately after that undertaking, which I at present intend, if able, to devote to the further study of the Bory & its environs. This plan will accord very ill with your ⁱⁿ attentions; & with that time which is best for deriving; thus, the earliest days of April will yield you fresh riches & supply you with fresh facts: I shall succeed you and profit by your progress. - Your good wishes, and the friendly offer of your pencil are not forgotten. I know not how I deserve them; and of the latter, it is each day a subject of regret that I did not earlier study drawing, and that I did not learn, or was not taught, to write with two fingers. It is true the second finger was long a sufferer from a splinter, and the office he was then performing was not a very requiring one. This added

to an incorrect eye deprives every sketch I make of that precise proportion so essential to this Genus *Pinguidia*. At the end of May I seriously intend, if possible, to visit the Bay and complete the materials I possess for a quasi Catalogue of its geology. You may imagine then I much I desire your society; but you must not notice my "if possible" & all those doubts concerning the accomplishment of any thing which I now feel.

It is really true I talked with you upon what has been done, more specifically. In my label of *Perita* are included two species *Perita aperta*, *Peritina concava*. In *Natica* - *N. depressa* L. t. 5 p. 67 & *N. Semilis* both I think found in the London clay also. In a very few days you will receive the Catalogue with a few shells, and I make no remarks upon *Dynaea* at present, requesting you only to detect fresh species which I am convinced occur but have not been noticed. - *Planorbis rotundatus* of my list wants the polished surface of *P. circumphalus* but is more even than *P. obtusus*. - The *Fissurella* never occurred; it was a *Balanus* with the appendages, which when the base was removed, and the sand extracted from the interior pictured to my imagination parts & appendages to *Fissurella* which it never possessed. I rejoice at the deception & for once laugh at a serious mistake, except for the values of these *Balani* I should not have searched the sand at all. - The *Pectunculids* are casts, but the stone is very similar to the Bognor Craig. I walked along the shore to trace the bed if possible - but alas! the rolled stone in my hand was my sole evidence. - Since you wrote, Grove has sent me a vertebra & part of a rib from Brook. Bones were found & broken up for pretty specimens largely about two years since. (I will request Dr. Buckland to obtain me a sketch or a cast of the bone I found at Sandown for the Institution); and I send you part of a mass of spar impregnating wood of singular character & from the same locality (Brook). I have not a doubt from a fragment from this found, that Mr. Janelle's specimen is *ascorus*. Am I not very positive? - There is surely some error about the courses of pebbles in n. of the position of the two series between the 1st & 2nd sets of courses of local. I have no doubt having seen them & possessing measurements. They (the lenses) would allow me to walk no further. By measuring from the 2nd, instead of the 1st, set of Coalbeds, Webster would make the position of his bed exactly what it is in his section. What a question to waste words upon? There are pebbles, & this is as much as the *Lapsarian* requires. I beg their pardons, they correctly call themselves *Supra-lapsarian*. - The fossil supposedly *Arithmum fennatum* is a novelty distinguished by its scanty beads upon the upper row, or by their continuity; it is also shorter than most others. *Sirena* Sp. Ch. as I have manufactured is in the Catalogue. It occurs on Reading Hill. - *Natica depressa* has a depressed ridge or carina at the suture of each whorl, above. - The Catalogue & your experience, together with Bowditch & Somersby will inform you well upon the many smaller shells common.

in the London Clay of Alum Bay. The only *Potamides* I have seen is *P. cinctus* ^{plicatus} which is not common. - *P. margaritaceus*, *duplex*, & *cinctus* I reduce at once to one species *P. cinctus* & 2 varieties; but there are Maiden Hill shells.



These three valves are assigned to a *Pentamerus*. I will procure figures of the valves of all the known species, for they agree exactly with none of the commoner species. For, formerly supposed they might belong to *Distotria* but there is no general resemblance. *Distotria* lives in a stone or in *Scalanis* that I have is a new species: the costae are reflected thro' whole length, and are prominent, the transverse striae resemble threads. The costae are much crowded on the upper whorls; and, irregularly, the third or fourth costa is larger. *Pholadomya* of the clay adjoining the shells demands attention; my specimens, the most perfect I have seen have traces of wings, which you will observe in a pencil sketch; and by procuring many you will have it in your power to ascertain if more than one species occurs there. do. if there are 2 *Penericardice*. In the Catalogue is a sketch of a *Murex* (provisionally named *M. nodosus*.) by Boxall, an Oxford artist of great promise. *Mya pinnata* (of the (A.B.)) may be at once distinguished by its numerous lines of minute projecting dots, especially about the middle. *Corbula cuspidata* of the London Clay (A.B.) is a small shining brown bivalve; if it be that species the *Impendulum* of the Plastic Clay (A.B.) is not made out. — Enough of this dry detail. I will carry the questionable shells with me to Hastings, whither we go on Friday, and write Chapter 2. when I think you recover from the first fit of apoplexia & impatience.

I should any chance in which you to write to me, a handful which I assure you is great, you will tell me of all your discoveries about the first fit. I am now a hermit, and what is happening around me, constitutes the world; except the best fit of a new paper in a paper, my habits are very like those of such things. When I next write to you, this paper will have ceased, and my ideas, I trust, have rejoined a tone; the inward battle and the fatigue of packing must lead for the moment to excess of this letter. I wish to assist your labor of care, as a variety as I can, I would like to see you again.

My remembrance to Mr. Mansell. I have been unable to show Mr. Mansell any attention from this moment, and my close confinement to the house.