



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.

private

HARLOW
24

near

Will^m Smith Esq^r M.P.

~~Parndon house~~
~~Harlow Essex~~
London

private

1820

John Smith

N^o 33 Lowestoft Sept. 18. 1820.

My dear Sir

Your long, various & acceptable letter deserves my best thanks. I have not yet been able to see our good Bishop since it arrived, but shall write to him from hence today or tomorrow, & convey your message. —

I lament with you the folly, bigotry & total unchristianity, of so great a body of christians — but they are better than they once were — & we are all in this world pretty much like mites in a cheese. —

I think your advice of waiting till the bill in favour of the Catholics is brought in, is wise & of great importance. I hope it will be followed. —

What you tell me of S^r Joseph's will, & the censures it occasions, is mostly new to me, except what regards our friend Brown. — S^r Jos^{ph} had, doubtless, a leaden case of aristocracy about his heart, & yet

BANKS

he had originally noble sentiments in science — he had also friendly & generous dispositions, but they were now & then quashed by fits of envy & jealousy. I could elucidate this very amply. — His owing J. R. Rome 4000 £, & having no personal property, is wonderful to me. — Now could he spend £16,000 a year? — When we meet I can tell you much, & hope to hear more. —

I flatter myself poor W. Porter is rather mending — but his situation is very dangerous. —

As to the Queen, I do not doubt those who go abroad hear much — but the question is whether they hear what is true. — It is but just to wait for her defence before we form an opinion. —

Waiters & such people may be easily led, or bribed, to tell whatever is put into their mouths, to travelling ladies & their maids (so called) — & every body is ready

enough to believe what resembles their own conduct. —

Nevertheless I confess my bias is towards your own opinion, though I am not without hopes (in consequence of Denman's declared opinion) that my own may be corrected. —

We rejoice to hear Mrs. Smith is well, & does not forget us. — Will you be so kind as to frank the enclosed to an old & most worthy Welch botanist?

Rev.^d Hugh Davies
Beaumaris. —

I am very glad of the news from Portugal, & if Wellington or any other man, in the form of an englishman or german, goes to hinder the establishment of better governments than the old ones, may God & his good providence blast his councils & ~~the~~ confound his purpose!

Yrs. D. & ever J. E. Smith