



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.

Paid - Box 10 -



PAID



Luther Tucker
Cultivator Office
Albany

Aug 12 1899

L. P. P.

Madison, Mo. 17, 1849.

Dear friend,

My favor of the 14th has just come to hand. I wrote day before yesterday from Auburn, stating that I had made an arrangement with Derby, Miller & Co. I did as well as I then knew, under the circumstances, I shall feel great regret if by doing so I have caused a snarl in the business, or involved them in any embarrassment.

Please allow me, by way of apology, to state the reasons I made this arrangement, without hearing from them. When Newman & Co. made their last proposition, so unfavorable, I then spoke of Derby & Co. as being the next (as I understood it) to apply to; & when they showed me thy letter to them, leaving the business entirely with me, I concluded I had nothing to do but go ahead with the arrangement. I also inferred from thy writing to them, that they had no other project in view, & would be glad if I relieved them from any further trouble in the case. At the same time, I already felt uneasy at the delay in publication, & hence did not think ~~then~~ ^{it} would be best to delay ^{further} by consulting them by letter. Derby showed me some late works he had published, which were so much better than Wiley's Downing, that I felt the more confidence in employing him. I stated to him distinctly that they wished to have the privilege of getting a quantity at cost of printing & binding (30 cts.) for premiums. — He told me they were connected with books in Geneva, Buffalo, & Cincinnati, & he thinks they can give the work a very extended sale.

I have stated these facts that thou may see that

I have not acted without consideration. I shall feel greatly chagrined if I have made a bad step. I knew not what else to do at the time.

Deby wished to secure the right to purchase the plates and copy after the lapse of some months - but I told him, that would be placing me at a disadvantage, for if the work succeeded well, he would get it at a moderate price - and if it failed, I incurred the loss - that if I run the risk of failure, I must also have the chance for profit - he therefore concluded to decide whether to purchase, before the work is published - which, then with pecunie, is more advantageous to me than Pharis' offer, which is like Deby's first offer.

If thou hast already made arrangements to print 1000 copies, I shall have to leave it to thy discretion what course to pursue. But if no such arrangement has been made, or if it can be easily altered, perhaps the best way would be for Deby & Co. to go immediately on with it - as they said they could get it out in less than two weeks. But please act as appears best under all the circumstances.

Very Respectfully Thy friend

J. J. Thomas