



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.

(This
rare)

Architect of ^{the} U.S. Capitol
at Wash. DC.

City of Wash. 3^d Nov^r 1848

Also 1st Supt of Patents

Botanist
Member Amer. Phil. Soc.

My dear Sir

I heard this morning that the Comet from
N. York is coming up to George Town, and I immediately
put up a small box containing some plants of the *Ophrys*
or *Cymbidium hyemale*, and some also of the *Pyrola*
maculata - I have sent them on board - & inclose the Bill of Lading.

4th - Since writing the above I have received your letter, &
shall set off immediately to the Capitol Hill to try to find
the *Convolvulus* that you mention. - I am sorry I did not
know that you have the *Pyrola* of every species before I sent them.

I have been out & I found some Plants of a *Convolv-*
-ulus, but not the *Convolvulus Jalapa* - It does not grow
in this District as I am informed by the best Botanists here
but the *Convolvulus Batata*, which I suppose you saw
grows here. I could not find it, but have sent two plants
of the only species I could find on the ground you mentioned;
& I sought in person and with great attention every bush I
believe that grows in the ground where you directed me. These

I have put into the smaller Box; & I beg if I can get
any thing else for you, that you will command me freely. —

In return you will please to send me any Fruit Trees
that you think good, and particularly fine apples & pears — with
some early Newington Peaches — or any early peaches of a
good kind. — We shall be very glad to see you here. —

I am dear Sir very respectfully Yrs &c

William Thornton

Architect of the Capitol
at Washington

William R. Prince Esq^r }