



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.

Copy to
Dr. A. W. Chapman
Jan 28-1837.

Dr. A. W. Chapman

West Chester, Penn^a Jan 28. 1837.
Dear Sir *Wm. Townsend*

Our mutual friend Dr. C. W. Short of Kentucky has informed me of your partiality for Botany and of your skill in preserving plants and liberality in distributing them. I have long desired the opportunity of being introduced to some gentleman who could furnish me with the plants of your interesting region, and if it would be agreeable to you, should be pleased to have a correspondence of the kind with you. I could only promise you in return, a portion of the plants of this state, and of New Jersey, as I have but few duplicates at present from other quarters, if you have not been well supplied with the plants of our state, perhaps I could furnish you some that would be interesting, and it would give me pleasure to do so.

Within a few days I have put up for Dr. Short upwards of 600 species which will be forwarded to him as soon as the Navigation opens.

Since the commencement of the year 1833 I have forwarded to Sir Wm. Hooker of Glasgow and Doctor Boott & Lehman of London several packages of our plants, and have had highly complimentary acknowledgements of the manner in which they were prepared and packed up &c. And as there is no person of your acquaintance known to me to whom I could refer

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you for evidence of my being able to furnish you good specimens, must content myself with copying an extract from Sir M^r. Hooker's letter to me of March 17. 1833, in which he says (speaking of a parcel I had sent him) "the collection is a very beautiful and a very interesting one as well as a very extensive one, and such as I shall have much pleasure in studying with attention: numerous as have been the collections I have received from various parts of the world, I have never received one more fully nor more correctly named than the present. Then as to preservation, nothing can be better, and I am sure you must have taken uncommon pains not only to select the finest specimens but to dry them with the utmost skill." I should not have intruded this upon you, but for the want of reference as before mentioned. Even Dr. Short has not yet seen any of my specimens and could not therefore say any thing on the subject, otherwise I should have requested a letter from him to you with his opinion.

If it shall be agreeable to you to enter into the correspondence, I will be much pleased to hear from you as early as your leisure will permit.

I am,

very respectfully
yours &c.

David Townsend

Dr. A. W. Chapman.