



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.

Oxford Mount Warrington
Feb 1st 1845

Esteemed Friend

Sylvanus Thompson

I have not been unmindful of your kind and prompt remittance of dried plants, which were duly received; but owing to a heavy arrear of previous engagements, which notwithstanding all my efforts to keep them down continued to accumulate, I have been unable to acknowledge the favour sooner and especially to make a return in kind - At length I have seized upon an interval of comparative leisure to make out a hasty list of such plants as I have in store as duplicates, which are likely to prove acceptable to you - Judging from what you have sent me, it is more than probable that many in the list may already have been placed in your Herbarium, and consequently are what you do not care to have from me - It will therefore be as well if you would just run over the list and mark with your initials such as you would like to have - You will perceive that I have included several which are not alpine, nor very local plants, but (except such as are marked with a + which I have ^{often} from correspondents, and only one or two duplicates of each) having several duplicates, good specimens of them, and as it may easily happen that neither yourself nor your correspondents may have been fortunate enough to secure them in a good state, you may perhaps find some of even the less rare species enumerated

concerning your desiderata if you reckon on such
those which you have only in poor condition -
Some alpinis I have omitted in the list, because I am
not sure until I turn over my bundles that I have
any duplicates remaining - Knowing already the
plants to which you want I have not entered my
list so as to include any of them -

I am too busy to make out a list of my own
wants in Phenogamers, Botany, but I know that
there are several plants growing within your reach
which have not yet reached me in proper condition
or in sufficient quantity to render me indifferent
about obtaining them from you -

I omitted in former letters to apprise you that
I have no fellowship with the Linnean Society
except so far as there is a coincidence of taste & of
pursuits - It is not convenient for me to obtain
a membership & I am not ambitious of such
a distinction - Therefore be pleased to consider
that my address is simply W. Wilson without any
prefix or addition in your future communications
I have ever approved of the Friends custom in such
cases & should be glad if it were universally
prevalent -

Believe me

Yours sincere friend
W. Wilson.