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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.

Charles City Iowa.
June 10th 1874

Prof. Bessey;
Dear Sir;

I send you
by mail a small set of plants
and inclose the labels in
this envelope. The species
from the White Mts I thought
you might not have the
same in the College Herbarium.
Those from this place I believe
are such as are not found
at Ames. Should you wish
duplicates of any of these I
probably could furnish as
many as you want of such
as I have marked with a X,

provided you send the number
wanted immediately, as they
will soon be out of blossom.
I have also in the press and
of which I can collect specimens
for you, if you desire, *Asclepias*
ovalifolia, L.; *Valeriana edulis*, Wats.
and one or two others. I find
new species every time I go out.
I wish to have you verify all
my determinations. I wish to
call your attention to some
variations in the plants I
send you. *Bathyrus venosus* does
not have the "stipules very small
and slender". In *Corydalis* ^(?)
the spur equals the rest of the corolla,
etc. Now what is the correct name
of this species? I am not sure
whether I have named "*Alnus*
incana" correctly or not. The
leaves of these species are not

"whitened and downy underneath."

In *Cerastium nutans* the stems are not conspicuously "grooved".

Hyssopus officinalis I found growing on a rocky hillside, quite covering it and appearing like a native plant.

The people living near call it "teap", and do not remember when it did not grow there.

They consider it an excellent remedy for headache. By the way, while in Ill. last winter

I met an old gentleman of considerable learning, who has quite a number of valuable books on botany most of which are now out of print. He

assured me, on the veracity of a practicing physician in good standing, that a decoction made from a teacup-full of the

heads of *Parthenium integrifolium*
(Prairie Quinine, he called it)
were equal in every respect
to fifteen grains of Quinine.

I have seen no traces of the
Violet - you mention nor of the
Taxus. I have not bought my
Cryptogamic Botany yet, but as
I have more books on botany than
I can master for some time I do
not intend to buy one for a few
months at least. I will gladly
take yours when I do if you do not
before dispose of it. I have not
yet collected but a few mosses from
this locality but hope to find more
time for the work soon. I enclose
one moss from the White Mts. which
I would like to have you return me
the name of if not too much
trouble. I had enough for several
specimens for you but through some accident
it has been lost.

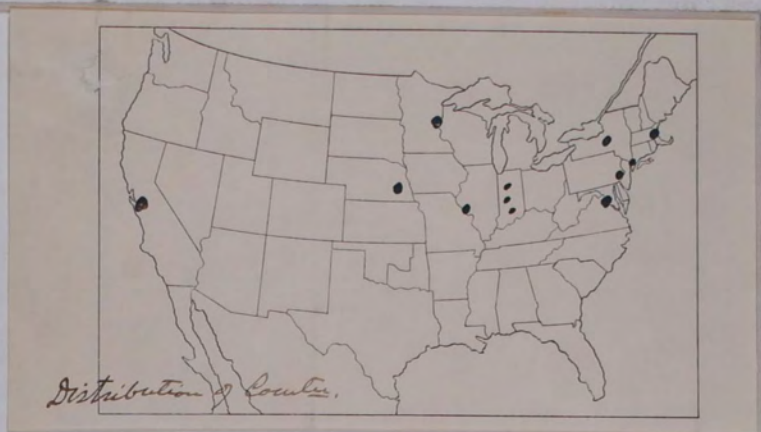
Yours Truly J. C. Arthur

La Fayette, Ind.
October 13, 1892

It would give me the
greatest-pleasure to accept,
were it possible, your thought-
ful invitation to be present
at the presentation ceremonies
on Oct. 15th. It can not
fail to be a notable, pleasant
and profitable occasion, and
one of more than local
interest.

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Very sincerely
J. C. Arthur
To Prof. C. E. Bessey
Lincoln, Neb.



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 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 Agricultural Experiment Station of Indiana.

LAFAYETTE, IND.

Dec. 1, 1892

Dear Professor Bessey:

I am glad to know that the committee are working upon the program for the Madison meeting. In view of the several other botanical gatherings which are contemplated for about the same time, I think the program should be very carefully arranged.

Besides the meetings of the botanical section, there will be the usual meetings of the Bot. Club, which should take all the informal and brief papers, as it was originally intended to do. Then I suppose that the new "American Botanical Society" will perfect its organization and be in readiness to hear papers; but of this I know nothing definitely, and ~~do not~~ ^{have} ~~known~~ ^{heard} what the committee contemplate. Although the botanists at Rochester decided to abandon the World's Congress matter, things have changed since then, and the committee are now working on a program for a World's Botanical Congress in Chicago next August. This, however, will be a briefer and less formidable affair than its name would indicate. Then apart from all these

Arthur to Bessey 1-XII-1892

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the necessity has arisen since the Genoa Congress for an International Congress next year, to hear the report of the nomenclature committee appointed there, and to further discuss and decide upon questions of international importance. When we also include the Agric. Society and others that meet about the same time and ~~include~~ ^{have some} botanical papers, it would look as if we were to have a down-pouring of botany next August, such as the country has never before seen.

Before I attempt any suggestions for the A.A.A.S. programme, I would like to present this "International Congress" matter, and have your opinion. As soon as Prof. Underwood returned I arranged with Prof. J. W. Coulter to meet him, and talk over the matters his trip may have suggested. Prof. Burrill was also invited, but could not come. We met at Prof. Underwood's home. I can not tell you in a letter the numerous things Prof. Underwood had to say, or the numerous reasons that led to a fixed conviction that an international congress in America next year was strongly demanded. I must content myself with briefly stating that a committee was

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appointed in Genoa, which is only empowered to report to a ~~similar~~ International Congress, which it was at the time generally understood would be in this ~~the~~ country next year. The Congress at Genoa did not make more than a beginning upon the nomenclature problems, not even touching upon several of those presented by the American botanists. And the nomenclature tangle is not the only one requiring authoritative consideration by the whole body of American botanists. The American Association is national in its character, and could not assume international authority, even if it were desirable. Prof. Underwood was positive that the only suitable thing to do was to have an International Congress in Madison, and that a committee should be formed to take the matter in charge. I have written Prof. Barnes essentially what I have written you, and he commends the movement. I have not time to explain the matter to others by letter. Now if you agree to all this, I would suggest that in order to start the matter, that, as there is to be no meeting of any representative body of botanists within the necessary time, you as vice-president of the

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botanical section of the A.A.S., appoint a committee to take the matter in hand. I would further suggest the following persons, L. M. Underwood, Geo. Vasey, F. B. Galloway, ^{J. M. Coulter,} Wm. Trelease, B. L. Robinson (of the Gray Herbarium), N. L. Britton, Conway MacMillan, D. H. Campbell, and upon the urgent request of Profs. Underwood and Coulter I have consented to act as chairman. I offer all this as a suggestion ^{names of the} that the committee should be announced through the botanical journals, and that a statement of the movement accompany the same.

Supposing now that this plan is carried out; the congress will have enough to fully occupy its time, if only subjects of international character be considered. I think it would be best to confine the program of the congress solely to discussion, having each topic introduced by some designated speaker. All technical papers relating to research or to subjects of limited interest should be excluded. Such papers as the latter can appropriately be presented before the Am. Assoc., whether by foreign visitors or our own botanists. The time for holding

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The International Congress, it seems to me, should be immediately after the close of the Amer. Assoc., or better yet, the time of the Botanical section could be shortened, and the Congress begin on Monday of the second week of the Association, and continue three days, or as long as may be needed.

I think you will want to know why there should be two general Congresses next year. It was originally contemplated to have but one, and when the ~~World's~~ ^{Chicago} Columbian Exposition took up the matter (without consulting any botanist) the place and time and much of the character of the gathering had to be made to conform to the great scheme of the Auxiliary. The Committee (J. W. Coulter, C. B. Atwell, H. Folman, T. J. Burritt, C. R. Barnes, and myself as chairman) found that the difficulties in the way of making suitable arrangements for such a Congress were almost insurmountable, even if they could be assured of a sufficient attendance from abroad to keep the term, "World's Congress," from being a misnomer. The Committee's idea of a Congress, and that of the Chicago management which controlled everything, did not at all coincide.

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The result as you know, although this was not the ostensible cause, was the abandonment of the whole thing. We have lately, however, started up again upon an entirely new basis, and I think the movement will meet with success. It is now proposed to hold a "World's ^{Botanical} Congress" in Chicago, either just before or just after the Amer. Association, to consist of but one or two sessions, say an afternoon and an evening. At each session one longer (30 min.) and three or four shorter (15 min.) papers will be presented. There will be no discussions after the papers. The subjects are to be treated in a way to interest a mixed audience, with the aid of charts, drawings or lantern views, and will only cover the scope, development and present status of the different departments of the science, and the relation of the science to the rest of the world of thought, its economic bearing, and general value to the world. This is the program now contemplated. It has not yet been made public. We shall wait till January before saying much about it, as we hope then to get the promise of some money from the Auxiliary in order

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that we may offer a small compensation to those whom we ask to fill the numbers of the program. If no money can finally be had, I am not sure but the whole thing will be again abandoned.

Now I have written at such a tiresome length (and I fear not very connectedly, as I have been constantly interrupted by questions from workers in the laboratory and visitors), because if these two Congresses materialize, as I hope they may, certain subjects are at once eliminated from consideration.

What suggestions I have for you can be given in a few words, I think. Prepare an outline of the different departments and sub-departments of botany, to as fine divisions as you choose to make, then select persons to represent these several domains of the science, and learn by correspondence if they will act. But as most independent thinkers do not like to have their subjects selected for them, it would be well to send each person the outline of topics and ascertain if he thinks he can present a paper of a different character from the one selected by the committee more to his own satisfaction. When the persons you select are heard from, I should

to Bessey 1-XII-1892

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think a programme could be made out that would be of interest to all botanists. It seems to me that the character of papers desired is not that of a résumé, such as those given on physiological botany two years ago, of which mine on "Gases in plants" is a fair example, but the results of special research, which shall, so far as possible, touch upon some important generally known facts or received theories. The higher philosophical aspects of botany should have a share of attention. As I understand it, what is desired is an outline program, filled in with a few good names of persons whose presence will insure an interesting meeting in advance, and then a general invitation to all others to present papers, whether Americans or foreigners.

My suggestions may not be of much help to you, but I will promise to reconsider the matter if you wish and will again write me.

Now will you not do me the favor to reply in regard to the matter of an International Congress, although I will not insist upon so lengthy a communication as I have inflicted upon you.

Yours truly J. C. Arthur

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LAFAYETTE, IND.

Dec. 7, 1892

Dear Professor Bessey:

I am glad to find that you take up the subject of the next year's convention so rigorously. I believe we shall have a season of botanical enthusiasm long to be remembered.

My object in placing Mr. Galloway on the committee was to have the government work in veg. pathology represented, which it seems to me should be as much emphasized as the systematic side. But I should also like to see L. H. Bailey included, and suggest that he be added without dropping any of the others.

I think your second suggestion, that Dr. Wilson, representing the Bot. Club, act with you in appointing the committee, is a good one.

The Committee on a World's Bot. Congress at Chicago was appointed by the World's Auxiliary (Mr. C. C. Bowney, president) more than a year and a half ago. The Committee of the A.A.B.S. to which you refer was appointed by the Biological Section as an indication of good will, as I understand it; with no expectation that they would do anything, unless some difficulty might arise. In which case the Auxiliary and the A.A.B.S. could confer; Mr. Bowney representing the one and the Committee the biological part of the other.

Yours truly J. C. Arthur

Purdue University
Agricultural Experiment Station of Indiana

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W. C. LATTI, M. S., - Agriculturist

JAS. TROOP, M. S., - Horticulturist and Entomologist

J. C. ARTHUR, D. S., - Botanist

A. W. BITTING, D. V. M., M. D., - Veterinarian

H. E. VAN NORMAN, B. S., - Dairy Husbandryman

J. H. SKINNER, B. S., - Animal Husbandryman

A. T. WIANCKO, B. S. A., - Associate Agriculturist

W. J. JONES, Jr., M. S., A. C., - Assistant Chemist

M. L. FISHER, B. S., - Assistant Agriculturist

R. M. HAMES, - Stockman

NELLIE TRACY, - Clerk and Librarian

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,

LAFAYETTE, IND. April 13, 1905

Dear Professor Bessey

A long time ago I spoke to you about placing some money in the Intern. Assoc. of Botanists in order to be one among a number of Americans to assist the society in carrying its obligations. I believe you said that you would do so after a time. I neglected to write again after the proper interval. As another meeting of the society is near at hand, and as Americans we ought to make as good a showing as possible, I bring the matter to your attention again. I have four shares or bonds yet to place, each of the value of \$100.68, and I hope you will take one, and if possible more. I send herewith a circular of explanation, which I will be glad to have you return to me. I also inclose Receipt No. 38, on the supposition that you will transmit to me \$100.68 in a form payable to ~~D. P. Botany~~ at L. W. G. Goethart at Heiden, Holland. If you will make a larger investment, I will send additional receipts, or if you can not take any bond, this one may be returned. The investment pays $2\frac{1}{2}$ of interest, which is promptly transmitted, as I learn from Dr. Von Schrenk. Possibly you can suggest others who would be willing to invest. I sail on May 13th for Naples + Vienna. Yours truly J. C. Arthur