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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.

Telex
OXFORD 3131 & 3132.



IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

March 4th., 1929.

Dear Professor Eames,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st., advising me that Mr. Hutchinson has been elected a member ~~of~~ the Botanical Society of America. He is at the present time on an extended collecting trip in South Africa, but I think he is likely to be back next month, when I shall be glad to notify him of his election.

I do not recall anything else about which you were to write me unless probably in connection with Salix; I think you were to send me a reprint of the Salix paper. I am very much interested in the question of the phylogeny of the Amentiferae.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to come over to the Congress next year.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

J. Boult Davy

Prof. A. J. Eames,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, N.Y.,
U.S.A.

*sent
Apr. 11*

Telex
OXFORD 3131 & 3132.



IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Oct. 4, 1932

Dear Professor Eames,

Dr. Bancroft has been discussing with me a paper by Miss Dixon on the floral anatomy of the Rhoeodales, which has been illustrated by an excellent set of diagrams.

I am very favourably impressed by this work which is of considerable assistance in clearing up certain points in the phylogenetic relationships of the group, and I think you will be interested in it.

I feel the great need for more work of this character, in order

that we may have a good
foundation for the faith that is
in us! At present we are working
too much on empirical lines, in
the absence of adequate anatomical
study of the floral structure.

I should much like to hear
your opinion of Miss Dixon's work.

I am accumulating material for
a paper on phylogeny, but am
not ready for publication, having
too much other work on my hands
at present. I shall be grateful
for reprints of any of your papers,
or more of your students.

With kindest regards

Very sincerely yours
J. R. D. Dwyer

Telex
OXFORD 3131 & 3132.



IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

REF. AS/3/E.

7th. November, 1932.

Prof. A.J. Eames,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, N.Y.,
U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Eames,

I have been very much interested in a series of diagrams prepared by Dr. Bancroft's assistant, Miss Dickson, on the floral anatomy of the Rhoeadales. This work seems to me worthy of encouragement as it ought to help us, materially, to arrive at a sound conclusion with regard to the phylogeny of this and some other groups.

There seems to be some difficulty about publication in this country as the work runs rather counter to the views of certain anatomists who rather hold the field at present, and who are inclined to monopolize the avenues for publication.

As a member of the Botanical Society of America and as a subscriber for the American Journal of Botany, I should like to recommend that Miss Dickson's work be considered by the Committee for publication in the Journal.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

J. Hunt Davis
Lecturer in Tropical Forest Botany.

Telex
OXFORD 3131 & 3132.



IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

REF. _____

December 2nd, 1932.

Dear Professor Eames,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th ult.

I am laying the matter before Dr. Bancroft, and shall be glad to propose her for membership in the Botanical Society if she agrees.

I am very glad that you agree with us as to the value of this line of work. It has been brought home to me very forcibly during the last seven years, during which period my teaching has been confined to the training of Forest Officers in Taxonomy. In order to make Systematic Botany a live subject, and in order to deal with it intelligently and intelligibly, one must have a sound knowledge of the development of the flower; given this, one can explain rationally the manifold variations that one meets with. Then one is in a position to consider a flowering structure as a mechanism in process of evolution instead of (as heretofore) treating each type of flower as ^a more or less isolated pebble on the beach.

^(you and I)
We are both very busy people, and I hesitate to suggest troubling you, but it occurs to me that we might make progress if we could co-operate on pieces of work by

constructive criticism before publication instead of always waiting till things are in cold print. If you were on this side of the water, I should be able to meet you from time to time at the meetings of the Linnean Society, or elsewhere, and we could discuss points verbally. As it is, the only way would be by correspondence, and I wondered whether you would agree to consider certain points that occur to me from time to time. I feel that the day for isolated efforts is passing, and that the more we can combine and share our work the better will be the result.

But I know how very busy you must be, and if you feel that you have not time to do anything in this direction I hope you will let me know quite frankly.

I have been working a good deal with Hutchinson's Families of Flowering Plants in my classes, but I find much in it with which I cannot wholly agree. It has been very helpful ~~is~~ stimulating thought, but I cannot help feeling that there is still too much that is empirical; not that any of us have got very far beyond the empirical stage! I should be glad to know, strictly entre nous, whether you have a similar feeling about it.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. Hunt Davis

Professor A.J. Eames,
New York State College of Agriculture,
Department of Botany,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, N.Y.

TELETYPE
OXFORD 3151 & 3152.



IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

REF. A3/3/E.

6th. March, 1933.

Prof. A.J. Eames,
New York State College of Agriculture,
at Cornell University,
Ithaca,
New York, U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Eames,

Thank you for your very full letter of the 23rd. ult.,
and for so kindly agreeing to co-operate by constructive criticism,
on papers before publication.

I shall be very glad to have your criticisms and suggestions from time to time, though how soon I shall have anything ready for you seems problematical. We are very much over-worked and understaffed.

In the meantime I should be glad to know whether you have given any consideration to the floral structure in Cactaceae, and if not, whether you would be able to put one of your people on to the subject. It has, for a long time, seemed to me that the Cactaceae were out of place as we find them in most of the treatises. The multi-seriate perianth or bracteate inflorescence, plus polystemony, seem to suggest the approach backwards towards Nymphaeales and Annonales, in which forms syncarpy sometimes occurs. This may be nothing more, perhaps, than a case of analogy rather than affinity, but it seems to me that it is worth investigation from the anatomical point of view, and



if you can put someone on to it, the results might be interesting and instructive. Can you find anyone who could work on this at the Desert Laboratory at Tucson? Obviously it would be desirable to have a number of genera examined and this could be done much more satisfactorily on your side of the Atlantic, than here.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. B. Durr

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