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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.

TELEPHONE REGENT 6400.
TELEGRAMS: 50 HELLERIST (PICCY)

THE ATHENÆUM,

PALL MALL, S.W.1.

12 June 1923

My dear Prain,

Many thanks for your letter of
4th June - I have been away in France
with student for the past 2½ months
& have not just returned.

I sent you last copy of my vol
II because I needed the quality
in remarks you made about
vol I. When you finish at a
lecture or address I have lost
you.

I think the book should prove very
useful.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
~~Unpublished manuscript~~, a
thought so, under a mistake
in the last Chapter, which I shall
like to explain to you. In the
Chapter I give an appreciation
of the three I.S.F.s. I wrote to
the Librarian for the I.S.F. for.

will not print. The official
reply I got enclosed was that
on Boudier & Ribes but
stated categorically that as Schlich
had left him to start Comps!
Will be his definite return
till several years later as
not printed and apparently be-
cause on his return. This
official statement, which I had
no reason for doubting, I in-
corporated in the book. But it
has been corrected. I have explained
the facts to Schlich but he is
junior. I am having a revised
chapter issued but I am afraid
it will not appease Schlich. I
can do no more, because I
cannot & will not do any

TELEPHONE REGENT 6400.
TELEGRAMS: 50 HELLINIST (PICCY.)

THE ATHENÆUM,

PALL MALL, S.W. 1.

My office friends in - they
have been waiting - their
efforts to help me & so
I shall let the matter rest
there -

But it is rather sickening
after all the work I have
put in on the book.

I hope you will not mind
this long explanation but
I wish to tell you to know
the true facts of the case.

I met Holbrooke here
& he agrees with my
proposed steps.

Yours sincerely
E. D. Stirling.

and
R.F. 24

STATION, HAWTHORNDEN,
TELEGRAMS, LASSWADE.



HAWTHORNDEN CASTLE,
LASSWADE, MIDLOTHIAN.

27 XII 1923

My dear Fanny,

This is to send you the Season's greetings
and my best wishes for a Happy New Year.
We are having up here real old-fashioned
Christmas weather, sun and frost and
a curious complete absence of wind the
last 3 days accompanied by a dull over-cast
sky. I do not remember this type of
weather during my thirteen years up here.
One wonders whether it is the forerunner
of a long hard period -

You will remember our conversation about
the R.S. I shall have no luck this year
anyway - Cassan Ewart received an invitation
to visit New Zealand so proceeded there from
Australia and will not be back - this

country before February at the earliest.
I like Bowen though and believe him to
be favourably disposed towards me. But
even with proper & sincere I do not forget
your remark that, with the large number
of candidates now-a-days, getting selected
for this great honour is very far from
easy.

Justice is in a most absorbing position
just at present, both in India, in this
country & in the Colonies; but it is going
to require very delicate handling & my
view if we are not to perpetuate much
that has been done built up in the past.

And what the future may hold in the
present position of politics appears to be
outside all conjecture.

Yours sincerely
E. F. Stirling

X

Calluna, Roskeliffe.

Dalbeattie, near Dumfries, Scotland.
August 2nd, 1923.

Dear Sir David Brainer,

Illness is my excuse, and I am
sincerely hearted to yourself, a sufficient
one for the long delay in acknowledging
your most kind reply, last June to my
request. Weakness and recurring faintness
refused to leave me until quite recently,
and my society had to be content with
— well promises to "hope to do better another
time."

For myself I am glad to know I shall
see your address in the Reports.

With most grateful thanks for your
courtesy in writing to me in the midst of your
busy life I remain, Yours sincerely

(Miss) Grace Etobing

P.S. Not above out of the world until I am due to leave
Sep. 10th for Liverpool.

Accepted
Weard
or



Telephone, Grosvenor 2600, 6 Lines.
Telegrams, Hotel Curzon, London.

July 21 - 1923

Sir, Being charged by the Swiss
Society of Naturalists and by the U.S. National
Research Council to reorganize the Concilium Botanicum
founded in 1896 in Zurich for scientific
biological bibliography I would be very glad to
arrange, if possible, a cooperation between this
Institute and similar institutions established
in England.

Going with Mrs. Stahl to Edinburgh
to assist the International Botanical Congress
I should like to profit of this opportunity by get-
ting a personal contact with prominent British
scientific men and I was very happy when my

friend professor Hans Sinding, who is one of
the members of the Central Committee of the Swiss
Society suggested that I may try to see you.

I would be very thankful if you would
have the kindness to arrange for me a possibility
of conversation with you. I hope to be back
in London from Scotland in the last days of
July. My address in Edinburgh from tomorrow
until the 27th of July will be

Queen's Hotel

I remain, Sir, very respectfully and
sincerely yours J. Small
prof. Univ. of Zürich

and
14. 8. 23
Prof. Dr. J. Strohl

Zoologisches Institut
der Universität Zürich

Zürich Dec. 16 1923

Dear Sir David

Since our return from England we often thought with sincere gratitude of the kind reception in your home.

Permit me to send for Lady Prayne and yourself a small zoological paper on a journey and stay in an oasis at the northern confines of the Sahara.

I have now, since I know you, Sir David, been reading different of your papers and have been regretting after the lecture not to have been able to speak English to you without difficulty, for this would have given me the opportunity to discuss with you problems which I meant to treat to both of you and this regret especially after having read your presidential addresses to the Linnean Society and most particularly after the one of the year 1917. Just because I am belonging rather to the Laborator-workers I felt the truth of what you say at this place and approved it greatly.

I was very sorry indeed not having known this address before, as I was publishing last year a discourse on the "History of Biology". The contents of your address would have given me several times the opportunity to confirm the points I mentioned in this discourse and to render them still more prominent. There is a very distinct resemblance f.i. between what you call on p. 33 "a fool experiment" and what I tried to characterize on p. 3 by using a term of Paracelsus speaking a "Geratwohlerarbeit", a work done at random. By the by, is this expression; "a fool experiment" generally used, as you put it in quotation marks?

Following your hint I began to read the Natural History
Selbourne by Gilbert White with greatest interest and should like
very much to know if those two associations which are taking care of
W's memory have published something on this matter, for I should like
to write about him here if ever the opportunity is presented to me.

It is a good thing for the healthy state of science that from
time to time such warning comes from England against a modern tendency
to discourage amateur work and effort. And such warnings are parti-
cularly precious if they come from proved scientific men as you are,
Sir David. Arguments are touched by this question concerning the
science in general and its qualification of existence. The modern
laboratory-worker forgets ~~very~~ too often that there is no rule and
no necessity, by using accomplished and more refined apparatus and
methods to get by those means also more essential and distinguished
notions.

I join to those 2 papers another publication on "sécrétion
interne" which Sir William has put in the "Nature" vol. 11, p. 538
being all the same of a different opinion. But I hope to give
proofs by documents to ascertain the thesis.

Mrs. Strohl and I pray Lady Pray and yourself to accept
our respectfull and very sincere hommages.

J. Strohl.

The contents of your address would have been no doubt a
opportunity to explain the points I mentioned in this discourse
and to render them still more precise. There is a very distinct
representation of the "ball of the eye" as a "ball of the eye".
and that I tried to illustrate on p. 13. I used a term of "ball of the eye".
speaking a "ball of the eye" as a word of "ball of the eye".
is this expression; "a ball of the eye" as a word of "ball of the eye".
in relation to the

11/x/24

11, INVERLEITH ROW,
EDINBURGH.

Dear Mr David,

Since writing it
has just occurred to me
to ask (1) whether you
think I might be worthy
of membership of the
Athenaeum Club & if so
at the amount of the
subscriptions & entrance
dues - I have for years
inhabited the old
stationer's shop at
12 Queen Anne's Gate
which is very comfortable
& which I have no

thought of abandoning
but sometimes I
would be glad of the
quiet which prevails
at your Club - do not
hesitate to tell me
candidly what you
think. I never object
to the truth even if it
is unpleasant!

Yours sincerely
Miss Sutherland

11/X/24

11, INVERLEITH ROW,
EDINBURGH.

Dearest David,

Very many thanks
for sending the Mss
of her book. It is indeed
a pleasing record of
a good and distinguished
life. We must have
another next summer
although well at
Elmhurst -

Yours sincerely
Mrs. Sutherland

to David Bain

over

41 The Willows

Norbrook.

Blackpool

Mar. 25. 24.

Lt Col Sir David Brin C.M.G. C.B.
London.

Dear Sir,

There is a possibility
of my taking up a position with the
"Société Anonyme des Etudes du Congo
Belge", returning to my old work and
studying amongst the oil palms in Congo,
should they write you respecting the matter,
perhaps you will be so kind as to inform
them of my research, with its connection
with same.

Thanking you for your
kindness.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

A Swainson-Hall

5 Thatchers 14
Belgrave Rd.
Oldham.

April 29. 24.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of April 25th,
has been sent on to me here, where I am
interested in the spinning of certain varietal
forms of cotton.

It is very kind of you to
be so far interested in me, for which I
am grateful, unfortunately, I have been
advised by the doctor, that it would be
better for me to secure a home position,
if possible.

Seeing the notice, respecting
the appointment of Asst. Secy to the
Linnæan Society, and possessing the necessary
qualifications, I have decided to apply
for the position.

Thanking you for your kindness.

Trusting you are well, kind-
est regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

R. Swainson-Hall

St. Bol Sir David Prain cma. cte.

12 Heathview Gardens.

Putney Heath

S. W. 15.

RTO

P.S.

I am away from home for a
short time, at the above address.

R.L.H.

"Walden"

Norbreck.

Blackpool.

Dec 11. 23.

troubling you.

I am

Louis Parth/Tully.

R. S. Lusk - Hall

FLS, FCS.

Dear Sir

Perhaps you will
pardon my asking the following.
The position of research botanist
in cotton, for the Punjab is vacant,
and I am anxious to submit my-
self as a candidate for the position.

Seeing that you have
known my research work for some
years in either in Congo etc. etc.

I wonder if you would kindly permit me to refer to you in the matter.

Liint. Pol. pin David Prain cm q. 16.

12 Heathview Gardens

Putney Hall.

P. W.

"Walden"

Nabreck.

Blackpool.

Dec 14 -23.

Dear Lie

I am very much
obliged for your letter received
this morning.

allow me to thank
you for your kindness.

Trusting you are well.

Yours faithfully

L. O. Wainwright

Lt Col. Lie David Prain F.R.S.

End on

20-21-25

Nov. 18th / 23.

81, HIGH STREET,
OLD ABERDEEN.

My dear Sir David,

I was calling on Prof. Grant yesterday & he told me you were coming to unveil the Memorial to James on Dec. 7th. I am so very glad you can manage this, & am so grateful to you for coming North at such a cold time. Of course there is no one, who could do it as well nor whom James would have liked so much. I hope very much you will be able to spend the night with us. Longer, of course, if you can.

Brenda & I had a very happy summer; we were in the Lake Country for about a fortnight and were very lucky in the weather we had. Helen & her family of 4 were with us in

September and we had a very nice time
which, unfortunately, was spoiled at the end
by a horrid accident I had. I fell down our
granite stairs & landed heavily on my head
causing pretty severe concussion. It has taken
weeks to get well again & even now I have
to go slow. Brenda keeps very well. She is taking
a Secretarial training and is very keen indeed.
We have heard nothing of Lady Prain or you for
long. I wonder so much whether Miss Thomson
is any better and if you have been able to
get a holiday. It will be delightful to see
you again - like a breath of the past.

I am, dear Sir David,

Yours very sincerely,

K. E. Trail.

17. XII. 23.

81, HIGH STREET,
OLD ABERDEEN.

My dear Sir David,

Thank you so very much for
coming North & speaking as you did at
the Unveiling Ceremony. It was all so very
nice so plain & simple, just what he
would have liked. I am very pleased with
the plaque; it grows on one more & more -
The whole department is beautiful. I know
how proud he would be of it.

With very best & Mrs. wishes to you
and Lady Prain,

I am, yours very sincerely,

K. E. Trail.

Believe me dear Lady Prain
yours affectionately
Dorothea Wyman.

Nov. 28. 1921.

Oldham
Richmond
Natal.

My dear Lady Prain

This is just to wish
you & Sir David a happy
Christmas & New Year &
send you my love.

I hope you will find a
peace after your own heart
& that you won't miss the

God does very much when
you have to leave. I have
not been able to go up
to the Drakensberg yet
to look for that Cycad
but I hope to do so some
time next winter. It
will be impossible to get
to the place where it
grows now as we have
had the wettest season
for 25 years so the old

farmers say. The rivers
are all so quite impassable.
but I mean to go there some
day.

It is raining in torrent.
It has been all day. I shall
expect to see quite 8 inches
in the rain gauge tomorrow.
I have hardly been off the farm
since I came back. I have
been unconsciously lazy, but
I think the work has done
me a bit of good - Tomorrow
is the last day one can work

To arrive in England by Christmas
Christmas coming on a Sunday
is just wrong for the mail.

I felt I had to write &
tell you that I often think
of you & how kind you
were to me. The two looked

the smallest blue bell stood
so much that she insisted
of having it framed for her
room - the other shall go
to my study when it is
finished building. So I have
constant reminders of her.

September 24, 1924.
Urbana, Illinois.

Sir David Prain,
12 Heathview Garden
Putney Heath, London,
England.

Dear Prain:

Thank you for letting me know that my poor little effort at expressing my very great esteem for the de Candollas stirred some pleasant memories of your own. Before I had seen it I had a long letter from a man, now living in California, who had worked with A.D.C. on Smilax in the seventies and for whom the sketch did the same. To do such a thing is rather presumptuous - even at my point in life; but General de Candolle and Madame Augustin did me the kindness to look the manuscript over, so that I feel that no serious mistakes have crept in.

I wish that I might have written of Madame Casimir and of Madame Augustin, - the earlier generations of course I never knew. The former took more care than I did myself to keep me from suffering from cold floors one winter when I worked in the Com. (San Pierre: and Madame Augustin is a perfectly superb creature as you know. She, too, seems to feel that I got the perspective of the sketch about right, - so it is worth having done.

You tell me nothing of your work but I suppose that you are still enjoying the relaxation of hard new tasks into which you had retired just before we were in England last. I hope that you and Lady Prain are keeping well, and I am confident that you are of a temperament to enjoy the good gifts of today even though you cannot forget the joys of yesterday.

I still am in the harness - but of course am long over-ripe. Some day we shall develop a service-limit system here! Meantime, as I am somewhat younger than when I came here, eleven years ago, I do - and thoroughly enjoy - the work of a man twenty years my junior.

Cordially yours, and with our warmest greetings to
Lady Prain.

Wm. Trelease,

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TELEGRAMS—"GRAMPIANS," ABERDEEN.

TELEPHONE No. 933.



52 UNION STREET,

Aberdeen, 3rd Sep. 23.

ALEX. WALKER,
W. J. KESKINE.

Curs et Industri.

Sir David Pring
London

Dear Sir,

In acknowledging your receipt,
I enclose with many thanks, we take
the liberty of putting the
following before you for your
kind consideration.

Owing to increasing scarcity
of material & salt water, we
have to re-arrange our plans.

We send you samples of a finer
older Bond but it will cost

12. to. d. more; but we shall
pay C. or L. d. quantities.
At your convenience we shall
be glad to hear from you
what you think of it. &
we are Dear Sir.

Yours very truly
William Walcott

May 25th 1923

WESTON LODGE,
32, GROVE END ROAD, N.W.8.

Dear Sir David,

I am writing to
ask you if you will join the
Committee which is being
formed in connection with the
Memorial to my parents.

You are one of their old
friends and it will be so

my wish if you are on the
Committee. It will not mean

much work as there will
have to be a small

Executive Committee found out
of the larger one.

I enclose a notice of the
Meeting which will be held
on June 1st to inaugurate the
Memorial. ~~It~~ has been
promised already and I think
that a Research Fund is the
kind of Memorial my parents
would approve of.

Please give my love to
Lady, Priscilla and Jan hoping
to come see her when all
my affairs are straightened out.

We are leaving Weston Lodge
on June 24th.

Lamy,

Yours very sincerely,
May D. Waller.

ms. 7. 23
5.7.

14^a Torrington Place
W.C.1.

WESTON LODGE
32, GROVE END ROAD, N.W.8.

July 4. 1923.

Dear Sir David,

I should be very
glad if you would let me
know what the subjects
of the double appeal you spoke
to me of were.

I feel that if St. Mary's
Hospital have really got
some keen people to get up
a scheme is definite, it may
well be that the Memorial

Committee should extend its
appeal - N. Deane have any
details of your appeal they might
be valuable at the next
Executive Appeal Committee
Lam.

Yours sincerely
Mary D. Walker

and
25-3-24



10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

17th March, 1924.

Dear Sir,

The Prime Minister desires me to request that he may have the pleasure of your presence at No. 10, Downing Street on Saturday the 12th April at 11 a.m. on the occasion of a private Recital of typical Scottish Music by the Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

Yours faithfully,

Paul D. Vernon

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Lieut-Colonel Sir David Prain C.M.G., C.I.E.

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COMBINED



WITH
ECONOMY.

29th May 1922.

Lieut Col Sir David Prain, C.I.E. C.M.G. I.M.S. F.R.S.

12 Heathview Gardens,

Putney Heath, S.W.15.

Dear Sir,

On 12th inst we had the pleasure of forwarding to you by Carter Paterson & Co 1 Package of Books received from The Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta which we trust reached you safely.

On the same date we forwarded a similar parcel to W.B. Hemsley Esq F.R.S. 24 Southfield Gardens, Strawberry Hill which has been returned to us with the remark that this gentleman left the address 5 Years ago.

We thought perhaps you may know of Mr Hemsley's present address, if so, we shall esteem it a favour if you will send us same to enable us to deliver the package of Books from Calcutta.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

Watson & Scull.

HILLSIDE,
LANGLEY PARK
SUTTON, SURREY.

June 28. 1924

Dear Sir David,

I am afraid there is
is dark fruit but it at least shows
the whiteness of the Cedar in contrast to
the Cyperus & Oives.

Please find herewith a return or
acknowledgment of your

Yours sincerely

W. W. Wootton

FF78 Watt, W.W. - 28.VI.24

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and
25.11.23

CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

21 Dec, 1923

Dear Sir David

We are venturing to
send you this book in the hope that
you and Lady Prain may find
something of amusement & interest in
it; will you please accept it with
our very best wishes for Christmas &
the new year?

We are hoping that you are both fairly
well, & that neither the rigours of the
winter nor the threats of a capital
levy have injured your health or
disturbed your peace of mind.

We have had a very busy Term and are both rather tired out - Clara especially has been anything but well, and I shall not feel at ease until I have got her away for a rest - and that cannot be till after Christmas.

We both hope that some new scientific celebration will bring you to Oxford before long & that we may not only hear you speak in public but may also have the pleasure of a talk in private.

Meanwhile with our very warmest wishes to you both, Believe me

Yours very truly

H. White.

from Wilton

BRITISH LEGATION

RIGA, March 7, 1922.

Dear Sir David,

You asked me a long time ago to try and ascertain the whereabouts of some of your former friends who had been left behind in Russia. I have at last been able to find out something about two of them:-

Mr. Boris Fedtschenko is quite well, and is still working at the Botanical Gardens at Petrograd. A letter addressed to him at the gardens would reach him all right.

Doctor Fischer von Waldheim has died.

There are several Madames Lunin. Please let me have her christian name and if possible

/her

Sir David Prain, F. R. S.

to Prain 7.III-1922

her father's christian name.

The same applies also as concerns M. Anatole Serebriakoff, which is a very common name.

If you will kindly let me have this additional information, I will communicate with Moscow and find out what I can about M-me Lunin and Mr. Serebriakoff.

I was very sorry indeed to see from the Times that you had resigned your post at Kew Gardens but I have no doubt that you require a rest after your strenuous work all these years.

With kindest regards to you and Lady Prain,

Yours sincerely,

R. E. Wilson

Royal Geographical Society
Kensington Gore,
London, S.W.7.

10. October. 1923.

My dear Prain,

I was just going to ask you to
support the candidature of two people for
this Society, when I found to my astonish-
ment that you do not yourself belong.

Ought not this to be altered?

Please allow me to propose your name
in time for it to come before the next
meeting of the Council on Nov. 5th. I am
afraid I shall not be there, as I sail

for S. America on Nov. 3rd. but I shall
feel I have done a good deed before I depart.
Really the Society cannot do without
you, so please let me do this.

I hope the National Trust is going to
take up the question of Lulworth Cove -
there ought to be a fierce agitation
about that.

Yours very sincerely

Alex F. Wollaston.

Dec. 23. 23.

My dear Prain.

I wish a line to wish you
and Lady Prain a happy Christmas
and every good thing for the
New Year. We do hope

Lady Prain is better and that
you, too, are keeping well. I

must close and look you up some
time for it is ages now since
we met. Eileen has now

quite recovered from her appendicitis
and my wife. I am thankful
to say, is very much better than
she was last Christmas.

With kindest remembrances
from us all

Yours affably
Francis Youngs and