



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

and
H. 6. 25



University of Aberdeen.

Department of Botany.

1/5/23

Dear Sir David,

Many thanks for prompt reply re D. Kerr as prospective F.D.S. My attempt to save time has proved of no avail as in the form it says Christian name in full and it seems odd that my search here always lands me at D. A. F. Kerr. If I put in Alex. (which I think it is) it may prove eventually to be Archibald! And I don't expect the New archives would lead me any further. I have therefore written to Kerr for full name and will keep form here until I receive that. I could have sent you the blank form in the meantime but I should not care to have that lying about with your signature on it for about 12 weeks. So I will write you again when I have the first name in full.

You are perfectly right in your query. There is a glut of graduates here really. B.Sc. (Agr.) has many unplaced & B.Sc. (Pure Science) graduates are qualifying for Chap. V. at the Training Centre but I know of several who are qualified under Chap. V. a year ago who have got found nothing beyond a temporary post here & there. But so far I have only one good man here - Mr. A. B.Sc., B.Sc. (Agr.), B.Sc. (For.). I tell him he should be for short M.A. B.Sc. ³! But I think he will probably soon get in as an Inspector. Of those who should finish just now I have really no one whom I could recommend for any good post, some are mediocre and some are decidedly poor.

! (1) Any prospect of your coming north this year?

Yours sincerely,
D. G. Craig



University of Aberdeen.

 J. J. Craik
 61a Aberdeen

Department of Botany.

21/X/22

Dear Sir David.

Very many thanks for yours of 12th inst. re
 Dr. Graham. I knew him only by name and hearing and
 had no idea that he was an Aberdeen graduate. I have no doubt
 but that on Sir D. Tennant's recommendation that Dr. Graham's
 will bring forward the name and as I believe I am a member of
 the selection Committee this year I will support. Professor Macdonald
 has been off duty lately but now I hear he is back so I will
 hope to see him before the date of submitting names. Dr. Graham is
 certainly the type of man Aberdeen requires. I agree with what you
 say re the report & I think the Aberdeen and my proposals are
 not with the Edinburgh method.

Now with regard to Professor F. D. Davis. As I said I
 hope to be a member of the Committee this winter and I had been
 looking about for names to submit and I found but 3 all of which
 I discarded: - Professor Long discarded because he is at present my
 external examiner; Sir Fage - postponed because I thought it
 would be more suitable & also the nomination would have more chance
 of success on his definite retirement and Dr. Hill postponed until he
 had been a few years Director. I need scarcely add that this is private



university of Toronto

and that I hope to bring here forward later on.

Professor F. A. Davis name had not occurred to me for one main person I suppose - he is one of the few whom I never meet at the Museum &c. and I am very grateful for the suggestion. And I think his name is one that would appeal here - there is just one drawback, in the recommendation we have to give counsel in both Aberdeen and one or two do lay stress on that.

I can of course get his main life history details from this etc. but I was so pleased with your brief reference to him that I am going to ask you to give me a recommendation somewhat of him that I could base mine on - making it as intimate and strong as you can. "Intimate" and "strong" is explained by my having put forward only one name since I came here - I lost and he was buried on Friday at the age of 91. If you can give me this then you have time within the next few weeks. I will certainly write a letter asking for the addition of such a name to our list.

I had put off replying earlier because everything is in a muddle here. I was ordered to shift in the vacation to the new quarters - removal was finished in September - term began on 10th Oct. - I gave the students a week's holiday - were now there in not a single room ready! I am working all endeavour to start to-morrow but we can't possibly have heat on for a week or 10 days & the workmen will be with us for at least a fortnight even allowing for the painting being put off until the Xmas vacation!



University of Aberdeen.

Department of Botany.

And on top of this worry there is the Trail Memorial volume. I am now receiving the page proofs of Flora and as no one else does systematic work I have to do the whole lot. And it looks as if I may have to call for another proof as the spacing between species & between families is so far from uniform.

The memorial tablet has arrived & we are now arranging for the site - it will be put on the wall of Lecture room and it remains but to select exact position and height.

There is here any possibility of your coming north to take part in the unveiling & handing over? I know your time is pretty well occupied but I am just as certain of your willingness to come if possible as I am of the pleasure your presence would give to all of us here. Of course I have no authority from the Committee to ask this as yet but we will be having a meeting soon to settle the timing & then also we would discuss the final ceremony at least tentatively. I should think the ceremony would not take place till end of November or December. But I'm certain if you could come that the date would as far as possible be fixed to suit you.

The Principal would also be taking part and he is not yet back from America. His son who was with him has to have an operation for appendicitis. He is progressing favourably & I hear that they hope to be back about the end of this month.

Mr Trail had a nasty fall on the stairs at home the other

Craib, William Grant (1882-1933)
Scot. Bot.

week resulting in slight concussion. He is progressing favourably
though he was doing no work last week yet.

Kind regards for

Yours sincerely,
Wm. G. Craib

15th Dec
15th Dec

Tillydrone House,
Old Aberdeen.

14/11/23

Dear Sir David,

I have just come from a rather long meeting of the local execution Committee of the Trail Memorial. We had long discussions on finances, binding, &c. &c. but on one point there was no discussion. It was agreed unanimously that I should in the name of the Committee write you to ascertain whether you could possibly come north to hand the memorial tablet over to the University and Rontier. The Principal accepting on behalf of the Court. The date of the ceremony was left open with the suggestion that if it took place this year then 12th to 15th Dec. would be the latest date for the ceremony. If that is impossible then as soon after the Xmas vacation as can be arranged.

I know we are asking much but I am also certain we are asking no more than

Craib, William Grant (1882-1933)
Scot. Bot.

That you will readily join us if at all possible. Personally I shall be delighted to have your acceptance and provide dates.

With regard to progress. The printer now has the final page proof back & printing & binding should now go ahead.

The tables is all ready for filing & I hope to have it fixed up soon.

Financially we will be about £12-£15 short but I hope to get something from the Library Committee and the Nat. Hist. Society. We ran further into debt with the binding - I would not have the volume go out as a memorial volume to Professor Trail in the cheaper binding. It was decided to have the same binding as the Quatercentenary volumes.

Kind regards from

Wm G. Craib

19. XI. 23

Tillydrone House,
Old Aberdeen.

16/XI/23

Dear Sir David,

Yours to hand to-day. I am
very pleased indeed to think you can come and
I am certain all the subscribers will be deeply
indebted to you.

I put things in hand immediately
& saw the clerk of works and the various
tradesmen and have got a guarantee that all
will be ready for you. I have also just seen
the Principal and he is free on that date so that
everything will fit. The tables itself I saw fixed
this afternoon before leaving the laboratory.

There remains but the fixing of the
tables and that will depend on your arrangements.
How long can you stay with us? - I am taking
for granted that Tillydrone will be your
headquarters for the visit. The only suggestion made
by the Principal was that the ceremony should be as

Craib, William Grant (1882-1933)
Scot. Bot.

late as possible in the afternoon say about 5 p.m.

Sorry I thought nomination for L.D. would
be in January but I have just received an intimation
that they must be in by 1st Dec. Could you manage
to send on particulars so that I can send them
in by that date?

To report to meeting - academic dress
will be worn. I asked Sir George about this and he
asked me to say we can get on out here as there is
no use carrying unnecessary luggage - in fact he said
his own gown & hood would be available as he would
be wearing his blue gown.

Yours hasty note.

Yours sincerely,
Wm G. Craib



University of Aberdeen.

Lillydene House

La Aberdeen

14/12/23.

Department of Botany.

Dear Sir David,

Just a line to say I have come from first L.D. committee meeting. You will be pleased to hear Graham passed first stage easily and if I am any use as a prophet I should say he will get through the final easily. Oliver also got through the first stage with a little to spare but I am very doubtful if Lewis manage the next stage. However I'm going to try. I cannot say this is quite private - the final result be known till about the last week in January.

Hope you have been recommended to leave from your fatiguing journey. Mrs. Smith told Sir C. the other day that she was delighted with the ceremony. That opinion is fairly unanimous & I have had no criticism of the tablet. The Gard. Curator. wired for a photo of the tablet & I have had one sent.

Kind regards from
Yours sincerely
Wm. G. Craib