



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.

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Department of Botany

April 2, 1951

Dr. W. Winfield Ray, Chairman
Dept. of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

At Columbus, Ohio, the Council of the Botanical Society of America authorized the establishment of a committee to aid plant scientists in their search for positions in commercial establishments and in educational institutions.

Dr. A. F. Blakeslee, Past President of the Botanical Society of America, has given me a free hand in the organization of a placement committee. Dr. Katherine Esau, President, has also shown great interest in this project. As a prominent scientist in your specialty and in your geographic area, President Esau and I are fully agreed that your service on this committee will be significant. You are one of eight botanists (in the broad sense) being approached simultaneously. We trust that you will indicate your willingness to serve by writing me in the near future so that President Esau can notify you promptly of your appointment. If you have questions on matters not answered in the following paragraphs do not hesitate to write me.

Unless the committee thinks otherwise, it is not planned to compete with the placement efforts of the American Institute of Biological Societies but to maintain liaison with it. For the present the services of our placement committee will be without charge.

Initially the exchange of information will be on an informal basis. I will be happy to act as the clearing agent unless the work of the committee expands unduly. Dr. Harriet B. Creighton, Secretary, has furnished me with sample enrollment cards and informational material currently used by the Placement Service of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. If you are interested in this material I will be glad to forward it to you. For a while it was hoped that we could petition the Editor of the American Journal of Botany for space on the last page of each issue of the Journal. However, printing difficulties have delayed the 1950 issues to the extent that placement information would not be current enough to have much value. We may want to mimeograph a monthly "List of Candidates" as the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology has done.

We are endeavoring to keep the membership of the placement committee relatively small and highly diversified as far as geographic distribution, special interests, and academic experiences are concerned. As a member of this committee you would be participating in an urgent experiment and it is more than probable that your activities will benefit not only our branches of science but will also open opportunities for your colleagues, friends, and for the department in which you have major responsibilities. I will be glad to hear from you, Dr. Ray.

Sincerely yours,

Paul D. Voth
Paul D. Voth
Professor of Botany

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 - ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

June 11, 1951

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Enclosed is a list of applicants for academic positions. These are the only ones for whom I have adequate data. The entire placement situation has so many ramifications that our committee must meet at Minneapolis at least once between September 9 and 13 to make major policy decisions. I am reluctant to advertise our activities too extensively for fear that all of us will be bogged down with correspondence. However, it is surprising that not more applicants have filed information with me. If you have information concerning other applicants, please place the information in the sequence observed on the list enclosed with this letter. If you are unable to send identical information to all members of our committee kindly send me the information. However, in the latter case, a delay of several months may result before the information is generally available since I will be at Point Barrow all summer.

Dr. Hylander proposes to organize a forum on placement problems at the Minneapolis meetings which would include all biologists. I trust that he will be successful in his efforts. Our activities will undoubtedly be governed in part by information made available at that forum. I hope to be in Minneapolis on the evening of September 9.

My summer address will be Arctic Research Laboratory, Box 1310, Fairbanks, Alaska. Use airmail only, please.

Sincerely yours,

Paul D. Voth
Paul D. Voth sc.

PDV/

Enroute from
Point Barrow, Alaska
August 28, 1951

Dear Dr. Ray

I am looking forward to a meeting of the Placement Committee of the Botanical Society of America during the Minneapolis sessions of the AIBS. I cannot foretell how convenient my suggestions will be but trust that all of you will find me.

The residence hall for men will probably be the best center of activity for us. I plan to be in Minneapolis on Sunday, September 9, and since several of you have expressed the desire to meet that evening, we will try to have a discussion of placement problems at eight o'clock that night. It will be a pleasure to meet you there.

Lloyd Hulbert, State College of Washington, who is writing his thesis on the autecology of Bromus tectorum is available for a teaching or research position. He is 32 years of age, has no dependents, and has also attended Michigan State College and Cornell University.

During the summer the positions at the University of Tennessee and at Oklahoma A & M evidently were filled. It has been reported that Dr. Werner C. Baum has accepted a position with the Carolina Biological Supply Company.

Undoubtedly many other additions and deletions to our list will be made in September.

Evidently the E. S. Johnson Wax Company, Racine, Wisconsin, wishes to engage a Plant Physiologist. What Mr. Lampton is doing at present I do not know.

Late in July I requested of Dr. Weatherwax, the chairman of the Budget, an appropriation of \$555.00 to cover expenses of our activities in the event we plan to circularize institutions and administrators. Items are:

Addressograph service	\$150.00
Printing of cards	110.00
Letterheads and envelopes	90.00
Postage	130.00
Communications	75.00

Your comments on this feature of our activities will also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Voth

Paul D. Voth, Chairman
Placement Committee
Botanical Society of America

Department of Botany
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

April 25, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 8

Dear Dr. Ray:

Several of you have written me during the past several months and a few have sent information cards concerning applicants. These were processed as rapidly as possible, but since I knew of no vacancies earlier in the year and was submerged in work, none of you heard from me. My sincerest apologies to you.

In September my hopes were high that the raw data which had accumulated during the Summer and previously could be assimilated rapidly. Owing to the illness of Professor Beal, our chairman, it was impossible for me to emerge from accumulated work until two weeks ago. I trust that I can make some amends for my negligence. I am happy to say that Dr. Beal has recovered completely.

Relations with the AIBS have been cordial, but almost fruitless. I was invited to submit the views of the placement committee to the section of the AIBS bulletin entitled "Letters to the Editors". A preliminary letter which I composed did not fit the rapidly changing conditions so that it is being reworked. Dr. Hylander is studying the placement systems of several agencies and while this phase of the placement problems of the biological sciences remains unsolved, we as a committee probably will have to continue to feel our way. The placement lists of the AIBS are ours for the asking and I assumed that Dr. Hylander would send the list to each of you. Evidently I must make another request. The enclosed list of applicants is in two sections owing to the last minute rush of applications which has practically overwhelmed me. I have interviewed R. Ruth Richards, Dorothy Day, and Evelyn Fernald and have written several letters bringing the names of applicants to the attention of interested parties.

The most tedious task from my point of view is the condensation of the information concerning each candidate. If we could prepare a model write-up rather than the 4 x 6 form cards which are now current, I would not waste so much time.

If you have additional names and/or vacant positions to report I will be very happy to have them and will help to circularize the committee.

Sincerely yours,

Paul D. Voth
Paul D. Voth, Chairman

PDV/s