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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.

Hpinaw Fort, Upper Burma

25 / VII / 19

And how does my dear Nephew worry along through these turbulent and trying times, - as I judge them to be, from my secure little corner of peace out here? For in these parts there is no question but of peace though this remote No. Man's Land has neither name nor history nor nationality, yet its Blue-clad aborigines are so peacefully free under British rule that one is a good deal safer & quieter here than one would be anywhere in Europe just now. If there is nothing here, of the antiquity, the mystery, the charm, of China or Tibet, there is also none of life's precarious tenure there, what with White Wolves & Squint-eyed Abbots & their likes. This is my centre, - a military outpost, within 3 hours, over the pass, of China, but now we are within a few hours too of Mongolia, but on the ^{15 miles} ^{is the Sun} for a month's camping up in a high, cold, fine valley. If the month allows us an hour or two of fine weather, - or, at all events, not too flagrant deluges for the Rains are new on: there are none in this region, it is said: which means that it usually pours more or less solidly every day, for not more than 23 hours out of the 24. This opens me a cheery prospect for next season, where the country does confessedly have Rains. Anyhow, any plant from these parts will certainly look on Ingleborough as Sahara, - a point of view I've never taken yet! - I don't know the new G. Chron: Editor, nor who he is, nor how much he'll use of the articles I've sent him. But they are already twelve in number, & to them I refer you for impressions & pictures of the country & the plants. In number & variety the letter

handsomely make up for the comparative dullness & jumpulosity
& lamboöcity of the former. Five & thirty Rhodod are no ill haul
with about 11 Primulas, & many another beauty by the way of which
perhaps, *Nomecharis bardanthina* is Queen. I hope to send Bucketsful
of this: and to you too. because I want you to establish it by hundreds
like *Saffedils* in your meadow. We are lucky here too, I think, in that
we are just too far north for the rather 'soft' untrustworthy Bell-
Primulas, such as *Beesiana* & *helodoxa*, which abound 3 days journey
South: I have great hopes that all my plants (of the hills) will
prove dependable. The lack of open bare high-alpine slopes & glens &
stretches is the great drawback of this over-forested country: however
the valley to which I now intend really does meet all my require-
ments in the matter, though it is the only one that does. At first I had
awful fears, with Forrest's collectors actually sprawling over here: but
I have now bargained with him for three or four days on the Chinese side
- no wonder he sends Cales of bilge: these good people ransack all
the easier country, & get every seed they see: the while he sits in easy
glory at Tempüich all the time! Then came E. Ward, whose principles
are much more mine: but he is now safely encamped on the far side
of an adjacent mountain chain, where he is very much fed up with
solitude & the Rains, I gather. I have asked him to come with me
next year: what about the RHS then taking a share? I think it should.
Edinburgh is doing all the distribution this time. Will you also cause it to
elect, as a 2-guinea member, Mr. E. H. M. Cox, Glendoick, Glencairn, Perth-
shire, N.B. - Being my young man out here, who is really growing keen on
plants, & much desires the privilege. - I see old Crisp is gathered: & that awful
place is to be sold. Does this mean that your Bernard is now to be a munificent
patron of horticulture? Perhaps he 'd also like a next year's share? the more
the member! Ever your loving uncle.