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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 Oaks, Maymyo
Upper Burma

7.1.20

Here your letter found me, Nephew dear, ensconced for two months (before I set out again at the beginning of March) in a tiny Bungalow, with sweet peas & violets & roses all a-blowing about me, in a winter climate so perfect that of course I've gone & got a little Chill with the joy of it all, & the sheer delight of living, & being at rest. I am glad with what you say of the Magnum Opus, & long to see what you said in print. From someone who did not know its author I'd already heard that the review in the Garden was very good: Bartholomew & others have also written. He indeed, wants me, or himself, to bring out a synopsized list of shortened notes: but I am all against this, & temporised coldly with the proposal, as I'm sure it would be unfair to Jack & me & the Book, to go and cut the throat of its market immediately, by bringing out so promptly what would really be a cheapened edition. I myself found the Book an agreeable surprise: after 6 years I had got very sore & depressed about it, & thought it would be valueless. My first awakening, oddly enough, came from C. B.'s review in the Times, where it struck me that the quotations by no means came up to, or justified, the ^{but almost reluctant} ~~partial~~ hostility of the criticism. And then, when the Book actually came into my hands, I found it, after all, quite readable & helpful, with ^{only a} very few over-luscious passages that I could have wished eliminated. And so, good luck to it: evidently it does serve its need to the knowing, & in just the way I intended, without being too unpalatable for the unknowing. Do you remember snarling at me, about the impossibility of selection; & do you now, after all, find that it's not quite unhelpful to be able to turn up *Anthemis aethiops*, & find out what it really is? This time, I hope, I don't so much deserve being shoved up aloft,

check by foot with Verdin, to inside his sense! In fact, under all its quips & quibbles, I now do hope that the Book may be found appreciable, even by the learned.

So you're not taking on the R.H.S. & Bykes, apparently, is? Will this be well? I confess my mind had always foreseen you as the only fitting successor to Wilks. However, what does anything matter in this "wef"? My own year's work has ended gloriously, & now I want to hear how Ward's & my collections compare. He says he sent home 50 spp., & I am pretty certain of 250; so I hope the Best. Of course it is a blow that so very few of these are botanically new. But this was only to be expected. With Forrest having vicariously peeled all the hills for years; and of course there's high hope that many a thing numbered 7.863.941 among F's dried specimens, will be new introductions to horticulture as F. 1024 or whatever it may be. After all, that is my pride & purpose. None the less, it is a nasty knock to have toiled my guts out in all sorts of weathers, getting seeds that I now know to have been growing in my garden for years, as *Rh. theiochromum*, *Rh. rubiginosum* & *Rh. Z. leucum*! Almost the first thing too, that I did with the Book, was to look up *Sax. purpurascens*, with which I.B.B. identifies my F. 976. And there it all was, miles of it, damn it, - known for years! A very odd & glorious compensation, though, is that that lovely *Nomocharis*, which Ward & Forrest & Clerk & I had all accepted unquestioningly as *N. panderthina*, now buzz out a new species, - *N. Farreri*. And ~~next~~ ^{this} year I shall really be on also lately new ground.

All the same, I am at present fussed about next year. Financially fussed. Like you & every one else. It is going to be a partic-

- Early expensive season, as this time I shall have to buy, & take with me, every scrap of food for me & all my staff, for eight months. This means a convoy of at least 40 mules for a 6 weeks journey up to the head of the Akhyang, with another convoy to fetch me away again in November. What it'll all cost I don't imagine! And to meet this, Gault's remittance seems to show a shortage of subscribers somewhere, & Berick Milner has defected, so that I shall have neither his company nor his contribution, & meanwhile, not only have prices lowered (as everywhere), but the Rupee has also lowered so that one has more to pay than ever, & ^{has} less to do it with, & £800 this year will go about as far as £500 last year! So I lie abed & sweat: if you could rake up a share or so for me from among profiteering enthusiasts, you would not only be helping science & horticulture, but also preserving your venerable relative from what might be so literally a standing on the rocks that he would have to take refuge at the portals of his uncle, false teeth in hand! As it is, I just might scrape through, but I do feel it fair to myself that I should do a little more than that, & emerge with a little of that hire which the labourer is proverbially worth. K. Ward wanted to come with me, & assumed he was going to do so. But, rather to my relief in some ways, the Burmese Govt. at last made it plain to him that he was persona ingratis, & would be allowed nowhere, on account of previous infelicities. I fancy, with naive fair ones. In addition to this, he is a wild-eyed little haggard unrestful little shrimp of a man, alternately pathetic & overbearing: & a Xian Scientist, too, of the wrong, sham, materialistic sort, such as always gets my goat.

Yours Uncle ./.