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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.

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Dear Professor Eames

Thank you so much for your letter - Yes, Miss Dickson & I are both safely members of the Botanical Society of America by now; but we neither of us have a paper in the hands of the editor yet; because, so far as I am concerned, I am trying to persuade the new *Phytologist* to continue with my *Elgon Fossil Plants* until they are finished; & so far as Miss Dickson is concerned, her thesis is so long that I am trying to steer it past Miss Saunders' watchful eye into the *Linnean*, because it is rather difficult to break it up into well-balanced sections. However, she has a good deal of material for a paper on *obdiplospermy* in various families, & we are going to try that on the Botanical Society when it is ready. The trouble

with all these floral anatomy papers is that to be convincing, they need much illustration, & the illustrations should be well arranged & spaced, not crammed together. I have a feeling that "Stages in the evolution of *Rhododendron Lyndeei*" can be kept for a while & added to; perhaps, if conditions improve, we might be able to publish it ourselves, in due course, as we really want it.

Miss Saunders is, indeed, curiously powerful. When I was a very young student I remember Prof. F. W. River telling me that botanists in this country were a sort of happy family & all hung together. That was when Dr. E.

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of Bedford College, & I thought they were right in their criticism of her. My seniors, however, indicated that I would damn myself at the outset of my career if I said such things. It seems to me now that English Botanists form a series of families, happy, perhaps, within themselves, but inclined to be warlike with the members of other families. And the new Phyt. is getting like that under the new editorship; I think the new editors are a little too young & un-

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perceived so far as lines of work other than
this one are concerned, to be fair judges.

Hamshaw Thomas has recently been
propagating his "New Morphology" views at
the Linnean - he is against the foliar
interpretations of floral organs in general,
sees in a carpel, for instance, not a leaf,
but a whole branch system.

Yes, you certainly are in a difficult
position with regard to the editorship
of the "Annals". But, after all, a journal
should be open to every genuine worker, not
only to Miss Saunders!

I am so sorry your economic conditions
are so bad - ours are awful, but we
read the newspapers with horror at the
conditions in America; they seem to be
so "worse even" with you - some people so
very wealthy, - just a few - many so desperately
poor. Here in England, everyone is more

or less fit but fortunately shoes, living & clothings
are comparatively cheap. Americans are here
at the moment we certainly scoting!
But I don't understand a word of economics.

The Sanguinaria has not yet appeared
above ground, but things of that description
have been late this year. Granthia usually
flowers at the beginning of January. It is
in full bloom only now, this season. Of
course, when the School of Rural Economy
turned us out we transferred the Sanguinaria
we had in the garden there to Miss Dickson's
garden, so that may have checked those
early flowering plants.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bancroft