



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.

Dear Professor James

Your letter arrived a fortnight ago just as I was at the beginning of a very bad attack of laryngitis - The most painful thing I have ever experienced! I ought to have answered before but I really have not been able. Thank you so much for so very kindly looking after my paper. "Tomeya" is just the publication for it; & of course I agree to the omission of the 2 figures. I am used to the request that I should either cut out - or pay extra for figures I'm afraid! It would be most kind if you would read the proofs for me; there are just two points of revision, namely, that it would be better to say that the outer covering of the capsule "Splits" & falls away, instead of "rots away"; & also I have discovered that another popular African name of the creature is "Devil's Claw", which is very expressive, & ought to be noted.

We are much looking forward to the blooming of Sanguinaria; it will probably do better in Miss Dickson's garden than at the School, because

TELEPHONE: OXFORD 3322.

SCHOOL OF RURAL ECONOMY.
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

it is very sheltered & sunny here, under the
old City wall. The School Garden is rather
open & exposed.

I am very interested to hear of your book
on the Morphology of Vascular Plants. I am
sorry it will not be an advanced text, but
at the same time, there is need for an intro-
ductory text along the new lines of morphological
treatment. There undoubtedly has been too much
tendency on the part of teachers to deal with
Morphology as a subject apart, to neglect
the fact that it affects, & is affected by, Physiology.
A very good elementary Zoology text has
comparatively recently been written by Dakin,
of Liverpool, along the lines of Casane
Morphology; & there is no doubt that
botany wants treating in the same way, from
its earliest introduction. I have, these last
two years modified my elementary course very
considerably, making a great point of the
interdependence of form & function - & also making

TELEPHONE: OXFORD 3322.

SCHOOL OF RURAL ECONOMY,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

much more of practical out-door observation
of such interdependence. I have found that
an elementary course on those lines lays
a much better foundation for an understanding
of crop & grassland problems, ecology &
genetics. It is just possible that, in
the future, I may be taking Biology for the
Geography School, as well as for the
Agriculture School; it will be possible to have
exactly the same elementary treatment for
the two groups, & specialise later. I shall
certainly very much welcome your text-book.

Miss Dickson's thesis is nearing completion,
for we must set a limit to its scope, owing to
the time-limit for the degree. But the work
of course, is interminable, & will last to both
a life-time. She will be showing a most
beautiful evolutionary series of gynaecea at
the British Association this year - from Ranallan
types, such as Aquilegia, through the Papaveroidae

TELEPHONE: OXFORD 3322.

SCHOOL OF RURAL ECONOMY,
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Hypecoideae, Fumariaceae, Capparidaceae to
 the Cruciferae. We have dreams - which
 unfortunately will not materialise in our
 time, owing to the financial situation - of
 setting up a School of Systematic Anatomy in
 combination with Dr. Barth Dary (Systematist)
 & Dr. Chalk (Wood technologist) of the Forestry
 School. We have material & workers, but
 neither money nor accommodation - if you
 could help they are the holes & corners in which
 we work! - I took an American last term
 to see our laboratory - he was aghast!
 If we were not a good-tempered & cheerful &
 friendly collection of people, on the whole, our
 conditions would be impossible; fortunately, we
 fit on excellently, meeting & discussing our
 Systematic Anatomy whenever we can!
 In the meantime, Miss Dickson is working
 splendidly at her group; & the British
 Museum keeps me supplied with fossil timbers;

TELEPHONE: OXFORD 3322.

SCHOOL OF RURAL ECONOMY.
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Dr. Burt Davy & Dr. Chalk are swamped
with material, from Africa & India in
particular — Perhaps our work will
be co-ordinated some day! I hope so.

I hope to have some reprints to send
you shortly. Thank you so much for
helping me with my hantia notes.

Yours sincerely,
Allen Bancroft