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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.

from Coulter

BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

MUSEUM OF
WABASH COLLEGE.

Cromfordsville, Ind., Sept. 17 1881

Prof. C. E. Bessey:

My Dear Sir:

Several of us have had in mind for some time the publication of a manual of Botany to take the place of Gray's Manual in the western states. Dr. Gray is too much occupied with the whole of N. Am. to turn aside & publish a more local work, but still there are teachers of botany throughout the states west of the Mississippi to whom such a manual would be most acceptable. The idea is to have such a work follow exactly the plan of Gray's Manual, in fact be a companion to it. Then as to range there have been two plans. One is to take the Mississippi as the Eastern limit & run west to about the 104th Meridian & south to the limit of Gray's Manual extended west. That would ^{include} take in, beginning at the north, Dakota, Minn., Neb., Iowa, Kansas & Missouri. The other plan is to follow the Mississippi to the

BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

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MUSEUM OF
WABASH COLLEGE.

Crawfordsville, Ind., 1881

Gulf and continue south the same western line. That would add to the above list Ind. Terr., Ark., Texas & Louisiana. I am rather inclined to the former, though there are many reasons why it would be useful to include Ind. Terr. & Ark.

The work would be a composite affair, different orders being assigned to the most suitable & available botanists,

Some one of us of course to have general oversight & direction concerning the

make up, press work etc. - It would necessarily be largely a compilation, but a very useful one if taken up by some enterprising school firm would rapidly win its way. Of course

all such work would pass under the eyes of Drs. Gray & Watson that the systematic work of the whole country could go on uniformly. I write to you now to

ask a full and candid opinion of

to Bessey 17-IX-1881

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WABASH COLLEGE.

Crawfordsville, Ind., _____ 188

the whole scheme. You are in the field
with a capital text book & we all think
it is time for a capital ~~western~~ ~~western~~
I have scores of correspondents writing
~~constantly~~ for the best manuals to use in
all the states I have enumerated. What can
I answer them? Botanical work there is
most discouraging and any help that is
needed should be supplied. Please give
your opinion of the need & feasibility of
such a work & all you think about
it. This is of course inter nos -

Sincerely yrs
John M. Coulter.

P.S. Maybe you know of some one at work
upon just such a book.