



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

Greenport Iowa Jan 16th 1880

Prof C. E. Beechey

My Dear Sir:

Circumstances
Do not seem to favor our meeting. Though I have
long wished to make your personal acquaintance
It will not be practicable for me to attend the
near meeting of Iowa State Horticultural Society at
Des Moines where I suppose you will be. but
Mr J. J. Putnam goes out with his mother & hopes
to meet you there - Has any move ever been made
to establish the office of State Entomologist in this
State as in most of the adjoining states? Should
not something be done in this direction?

You may have some personal views of your own
on this matter. I will merely state that in any of us

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Mr Putnam himself, he is young, zealous, and
has shown no little ability as an original investigator.
If placed in such a position he would spare no
efforts to fill it creditably to himself & for the
benefit of the State; he has already an extensive
correspondence in this country & Europe, and
could command any amount of testimonials
as to his qualifications and special fitness for the
work. Perhaps his greatest fault? would be too
much thoroughness, but this would hardly be a
fault in our eyes - I beg to comment this

Subject to your attention and if not incompatible
with your ideas or plans to lend it your efficient
assistance.

I am now busy with my too long neglected herbarium
there is a large mass of valuable material which
needs arrangement and division, I wish it were
practicable for you to secure a special appropriation
for the College Herbarium, and come on with me
to select some of my surplus, before it is scattered.
I would like that this my adopted State should secure
some of the results of my life long work, and it is
rich enough to pay a reasonable price for what
has cost me labor time & money. If you think
well of this please write me on the subject, and
make such suggestions as you think best.

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I am now contemplating a trip to the
Season in company with Dr Engelmann, with the
special view to study up our Western forests,
and try & settle some disputed points, the only
fear is whether Dr E. at his advanced age (now 71)
can endure the necessary fatigue but his services
in this direction would be invaluable, and especially
opportune at the present time.

Wishing to hear from you at your convenience

I am very truly yours

Chas. C. Parry