



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.

Columbia University in the City of New York

Department of Botany

Sept. 20, 1912.

Mr. George L. Peltier,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, Ill.

My dear Peltier:

I received your letter describing your new position in the University of Illinois. It sounds as if you were very favorably located and would have a chance to go on with full freedom in the investigation of important problems.

As to the subject for your thesis, I should think the work on the paracitism of Botrytis or Rhizoctonia would be most promising, although of course I am extremely anxious to have someone go on with the study of the cytological changes which take place in the cells in such a disease as the false blossoms. This latter, though, is evidently a very difficult matter. On the other problem I should think you would be certain of very interesting results, especially along the line of determining conditions of the host plant which are most favorable to the paracitism of these moulds. You may get at some of the fundamental facts as to the nature of immunity. I should grow the hosts under all possible conditions of temperature, light, moisture, food supply, etc., and try to determine which are most favorable to the attacks of the fungus.

I have your name on my mailing list and will be glad to send you reprints of everything I get out. You have my best wishes for your new work and I am sure you will like the place.

Very sincerely yours,

R A Harper