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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.

Ans'd
18.9.22

TELEGRAPH-COLESBORNE.
STATION--
CHICHESTER OR CHELTENHAM.

4. Sept 22

from Elwes

COLESBORNE, S.O.,

GLOS.

My dear Sir David
This long since I heard from you
as my feeble state of body & inability to speak
which is my greatest trial makes it impossible to
Eave home, and if my hand becomes too shaky
to write, I may not be able even to have that means
of communication. The garden is however in a bath
chair still a source of great pleasure & interest
& when staff sent me the complete list of the
volume of Bot Mag for this year I find to my surprise
& joy enough of my plants in it to complete the
century, which commenced with my snowdrop
as long ago as 1816. Whether such a collection is
worth the trouble or not I have it, as I believe it is
unique for a private gardener. And I hope that
you are as satisfied as I am with the way in which
the B. M. is being carried on at Kew.

Now you have often given me good advice, which I
believe I have always followed. & I will ask it again
you remember my asking you whether you would
for a sufficient honorarium be willing to
undertake the editing of the journals, reminiscences
of travel, & numerous publications on

Ornithology, Lepidoptera, & horticulture,
collections from which, my friends & relations
have long begged me to publish
Up to me that for 3 years you would be too
much occupied, with other work. Even if it
was published in my lifetime which is now
obviously impossible - & probably not desirable -
It would have been a troublesome task because
I have dabbled in so many different pursuits
& few people know how hard it is for a man
who for all the best years of his life has been
~~compelled~~ compelled to give a great deal of time
& energy to the superintendence of one of the most
difficult & unprofitable estates in England
to pick up the rudiments of knowledge which
were necessary for scientific work. After
20 years of this, I realised in about the beginning
of the century, that forestry was the only form
of industry, which combined with sheep breeding,
might be carried on without such heavy
financial loss as my father, & my son have both
incurred in trying to do what I believe now to be
impossible. All I can say is that it is the only
estate for miles round, which owing to similar
causes has not changed hands - in most cases

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to Sir David 9-IX-1922

TELEGRAM-COLESBORNE.
STATIONS--
GIRENGESTER OR CHELTENHAM.

more than once, in some case
4 or 5 times and since

COLESBORNE, S.O.,

GLOS.

the agricultural depression

which began in the seventies came about
through causes entirely beyond our control.
I am convinced that what E. S. Smith told me
a year ago - and who is a better judge than he
that "Land owning as we have known it is dead
in England" is true, & that no amount of science
skill, energy & industry, will enable crops
to be raised at a profit on such land as I inherited
and as for the time being the economic basis
of forestry has completely disappeared in England
at least. (I exclude Scotland from this disability)
the future is very gloomy for Coleborne.
You will say rightly that you cannot blame me on
this. What I want to know is, can you suggest
any man who would undertake what
Sir Redenck more ^{told me you} undertakes when I asked
him to do what you could not do. He has always
been sympathetic to my work & accepted as I
thought willingly, to ^{complete} ~~complete~~ & do the horticulture
& forestry side of the work only. I have
another friend Sluchland by name, a
member of our club, & a good man who
undertook the rest. I then set apart a sum
of £2000 which my speculators should

words as a guarantee to publishers for
printing, plates & expenses & to pay for their own
work & expenses, and I thought I deemed
all satisfactory. Now whether the trouble,
in Dublin are making Moore unsettled,
or whether as I fear, I begin to realise the
difficulties of his task, increased by his
own difficulties of a very shaky hand; he
seems to be inclined to change his mind,
if I can find someone to take his place.
And as such a job unless more really congenial
is not likely to be what we hoped for.
I am considering whether to ask
someone else. Pitchard, Dawson, & Henry
have all volunteered assistance in the way
of details. so far as the forestry part goes
and as that is really I think the only part
of my life's work, which has any permanent
& economic value, as my friends say it will have
it may be that Moore feels himself too
weak in position to form correct judgements.
Now I have told you, as much as I am up to
to say, and as I don't know your address
must send it to be forwarded from New. I hope
that you & Lady Probyn are both enjoying
your freedom. & that if ever you come to come
here you will say so. believe me
Yours very sincerely W. H. W.