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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.

20.12.23

My dear David,

WESTER OGIL,
HEADINGTON HILL,
OXFORD.

Allow me to assure you and Lady
Prain that we are thinking of you both and
wishing you all good things for the New Year as
well as Christmas. My dear wife is deeply immersed
in the business of despatching some 150 parcels, cards,
letters & so on to innumerable friends & relatives -
It is good to remember them & better still to know that
many of them think of us and wish us well.

We are gradually settling down, but it has been
a long process, as we have had to buy a good deal
of furniture, a new carpet, new curtains & chair covers
& so on, and the wife has been away a good deal.
However, we are fairly straight now and are greatly
looking forward to the arrival of Hugh and Nan and
their babe on Saturday. Hugh has been enjoying
his term at Cheltenham, as he always does, and
they have made an excellent start with their new
house. I have had plenty to do in the College and
have hardly yet got into my stride with the work
there. But it is a privilege to be allowed to do it
and to live in Oxford!

The coming year seems likely to witness some strange developments. I wish I had more confidence in Lytton as the ruler of Bengal - but he did not impress me as a wise or statesmanlike person and is not of the calibre to deal with the very delicate and difficult position which has arisen there. But I fancy Lord Reading knows his measure - It seems to me that the usual compromise will be the outcome of the extravagant demands that are being made, and one can only hope that the terms of the compromise will not destroy the whole reform scheme.

At home it seems to me that the Liberals hold the balance, whatever the ~~strength~~ ^{strength} of the parties on each side of them may ~~be~~. We seem to be safe from a capital levy, for the time being, but if Labour cannot reach our pockets in that particular way, they must find a better one, for they cannot carry out any of their schemes without our money - But should they take office they will moderate a good deal of their boasting and will learn much.

I hope this will find you both well and that you are resting, in some measure, from your labours.

With our love & earnest wishes for health & content - I am, as always,

Your affectionate friend
Percy C. Lyon