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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 Oliphant



MADISON, WISCONSIN

7. vii. 1924.

My dear Sir David,

Today, being July 4th, is a holiday, which has given us some unaccustomed spare time! We have certainly had an intensive programme, our brains are beginning to resemble a well-used piece of blotting paper which needs changing! We have got together a mass of information & the time has been of the greatest value to us both. Everybody, I think we have been, has been kinder & more willing & we have made many valuable personal contacts. Winston, the Director here, has been especially kind, as indeed have all his staff. On Winston's advice we decided to cut

Bogalusa & the Southern Pine country out of our
programme & concentrate in this direction, & I
think the result has fully justified the
advice. After spending our fortnight, from
June 13th, at Madison, we went on to
Choquet for two days, then to Rich, to
your friend Mr. Gay Moxton from Saturday
afternoon to Sunday afternoon, thence to
Chicago for 2 days, & back here over the
holidays, which I am using to discuss
many details with Winston. On Sunday we
return to Chicago en route for Cadillac,
where we expect to spend 2 days. Then
to Toledo ^{if we fail to see a sleeper treating}
plant at Cadillac as well as other things
then, thence to Buffalo for 2 days,
Rochester 1 day, & on ^{Friday afternoon} Saturday I go to
Syracuse. Return to Montreal on Sunday,
13th. From Montreal we spend 2 days

with the Laurentide & I come back &
piled off various appointments in Montreal.
We sail from Montreal on July 19th by
the 'Regina' - a White Star boat - & hope
to arrive at Liverpool on Monday, July
28th, so that I hope to see you on
Tuesday, 29th.

The Laboratory at Montreal is most
disappointing. A thoroughly bad & black atmosphere.
Apart from Chapin's work, the only live thing
seemed to be the Paper & Path Section. I then
got full details & other points. If we embark
on that work we can get staff & equipment in
England. We shall have to do a good bit of
preliminary legwork in England first.

At Toronto we spent an interesting time at
the University with Dr. White & Hove. Likewise,
the British Columbia Lumber Commission there,
is a particularly good man. I visited two

with this letter in his company & got much
useful information, & got onto the track of a
new problem like, of which I have since got
much further information, which is being set up
in England by Sir James Calder on Lord Selkirk's
estate. I have put Madison onto it, & we shall
get still further expert information about it.

It is of the rotary type, something after the design
shown us by that bravo whose name I do not
remember - in the Governor Road. I think it is
probably that there will be difficulties with it -
but none about this when I return.

Madison exceeds all our expectations. It is a
most remarkable organization they have a
splendid staff. I am more than ever
convinced, however, that the side of the
Science does not hold anything like the
place that it should do. They themselves
agree. Circumstances are against them. I can
quite see also that the means for coordination

to Prain 4-VII-1924



MADISON, WISCONSIN

which we have made - with, for instance, Oxford
& New - & the body of expert scientific advice
that we have under the constitution of the
Department, puts us in a great deal
stronger position than that of Madison. If we
can now get the right backing, &
sympathetic backing - from the Department, I
think we could not have a better chance
of leading the field in this work.

In saying that "it is worth of putting
money" to send Chapin & me to America,
the Forestry Commission are condemning out of
their own mouth. For Winston tells me that
Troop only spent two days here, & that
a total, on business, of 5 hours, & that

Robinson did not show up at all!
We have found even the time we have been
here all too short. As to their opinions
& statements on timber-testing, Chapman's report
will show that the F.C. are under a complete
misapprehension as to both method & fact. We
have got a full story now both from the
laboratory representatives of industry.
I have got very full details of organization &
administration.

We have made a special study of timber-drying,
with much help from Timmerman & Nelson, &
I have got from Thelen the design of an
experimental kiln that can be used as any
of the types which is just what we want.
I have been quite unable to locate a man
who is suitable as chief of our timber-drying
section. Winslow says they will be only too
willing to train a man for us, if we

Send him out here. They think he should be
trained for a year - 3 months at Madison,
6 months in the field with industry, & the 3
final months at Madison. Contrary to Brown's
opinion, they are unanimous in saying that
this man should be an engineer.

I have been through all the other sections, though
not so intensively. Effort to extract the
important points.

Letter, Nov. 25, with the Indian Inst., says
that Pearson comes or leaves next summer.

Mr. Morton's objection has great probability.
No expense spared! We shall be able to give
you interesting details.

We have been all sorts of different kinds of
wood-using industries. The Chaguet work is
being the best, for they have several
different trades coordinated, then waste is
reduced to a minimum.

The most valuable thing has been the large

number of personal contacts we have made, as
for instance with Hogue of the West Coast Forest
Products Bureau, from whom we have got very
valuable information on grading. We met him in
Chicago & were lucky enough to be there when the
Hardwood Mfg. Assoc. were holding a 2 day
conference on the subject. This has saved a visit
to New York.

Everyone we have met has looked us over, either
personally or by letter, to some one else. I met
Wiss here & have seen a lot of him, with
corresponding advantage.

We both look with much more confidence to the
future work of establishing Fairbanks. We
cannot be too grateful to these people here
at Madison.

We have got a set of papers of the Kala-Doying
course.

[I am much ordering concerning the situation at
the Office, & Walter Brown has accepted the offer.]

This is a sketchy account of our work, & I
am much looking forward to being you again & giving
you the full account. I hope you are well.
Please remember us to Lloyd, David, & all interested.]

Yours sincerely
Phil V. B. [Signature]