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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.

was planted as a hedge-plant at Finkenston, Batznest
and Portalfred, but rovine did I found that it had spread,
although at the last named place it has been at least 20 years
(how much longer I cannot tell). There is even good evidence
to show that it gradually disappears in all these places
for which we are thankful as we have already caught many
bees.

I have been busy last year putting together a list of the plants of ^{the} Kazusa region. It is far from complete yet, but it abundantly proves that my impression was correct that this region is only an extension of the S.W. Coast Region, & that the forest patches are made up of

interlopers. It is an overwhelmingly rock & interesting region
& it seems strange that the literature has so neglected
by collectors. In my list are large additions even to the
most recent monographs, not to speak of the first 3 vols
of the H. Cap. which give quite a wrong impression of it.
There are also a number of new species which we should
only expect as so many S. Western species have only a
very local distribution.

Our Forest Department has now placed a research officer at the Kanyara, a Mr. Phillips who seems to be very keen and from whom we may expect good work.

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I have been a good deal lately in the Anatolia mts. There
 there are again a number of very important forest patches.
 I have been chiefly interested in a Heliosyrum (*H. argro-*
phyllum) which has taken possession of many sq. miles of
 good pasture land. It was originally described to me
 as a terrible weed, but I find it is really a blessing in
 disguise. The land is pastured by cattle, goats & sheep
 owned by natives & is simply overstocked, the grasses being
 largely been eaten out. Overstocking in many parts of
 S. Africa is responsible for a terrible amount of erosion
 and denudation, but in the Anatolians fortunately
 the Heliosyrum has stepped in and is covering all the
 bare patches. I am sure that if the grasses are left alone
 a few years they will get the upper hand again &
 the land can be regained as good pasture land. We have
 started experiments to prove this. I may add that
 not even a ^{hanger} goat will touch the Heliosyrum.

Our Government which for years has made considerable
 plantations in various parts of the country, has last
 year made a great forward ^{move} in afforestation, partly
 because they realize that it is a good thing, partly
 because they had to find work for the unemployed.
 As regards Forest Product Problems I am afraid

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I am only acquainted with them in a very superficial manner, but we have some really smart & keen forest-officers who would only be too pleased to give any desired information. Amongst those with whom I am personally acquainted I would especially mention Mr. Legat, the Chief Conservator, Pretoria — Mr. J. D. Keet, Conservator of forests, Pretoria (an exceptionally observant and able man with wide experience in various parts of S. Africa) — Mr. J. D. Stainer, District Forest Officer, Kerkdammahoek (originally trained at Kew). However if there are any particular points in which I can help or collect information upon, please let me know. I shall at all costs show which ways to turn on to get the desired results.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely
S. S. Shoen