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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.

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Byamsford

Northwood

Middlesex.

Dec 14th/23.

Dear Sir David,

Dear

Many thanks for your letter
of the 10th inst, which was forwarded
on time from Farnborough.

I am glad everything went well
for your visit there last Monday
week, and I was very sorry that
I could not be there.

As a matter of fact I have been
doing too much, and this combined
with an extra amount of worry proved
to be the last straw. So I am away

at home doing absolutely nothing
until the New Year. The M.O. was
over to see me yesterday afternoon and
there are his orders. As I feel at
present I shrink the slightest inclination
to resume work there, for I realize it
would only lead to more and more
worry.

It seems strange that Head Quarters
cannot realize that an atmosphere
of endless turmoil, reorganization and
interference by the Secretariat is an
impossible one for research. If we
could only be left in peace for a year
or two, we might produce something.

and I should then be really happy in my job.
Again very many thanks, and with kindest
regards and best wishes for Xmas & the New Year.

Yours sincerely

W Sydney Smith