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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.



University of Aberdeen.

 J. J. Craik
 61a Aberdeen

Department of Botany.

21/X/22

Dear Sir David,

Very many thanks for yours of 12th inst. re
 Dr. Graham. I knew him only by name and hearing and
 had no idea that he was an Aberdeen graduate. I have no doubt
 but that on Sir D. Tennant's recommendation that Dr. Graham's
 will bring forward the name and as I believe I am a member of
 the selection Committee this year I will support. Professor Macdonald
 has been off duty lately but now I hear he is back so I will
 hope to see him before the date of submitting names. Dr. Graham is
 certainly the type of man Aberdeen requires. I agree with what you
 say re the report & I think the Aberdeen and Glasgow reports are
 not with the Edinburgh method.

Now with regard to Professor F. D. Davis. As I said I
 hope to be a member of the Committee this winter and I had been
 looking about for names to submit and I found but 3 all of which
 I discarded: - Professor Long discarded because he is at present my
 external examiner; Mr. Fage - postponed because I thought it
 would be more suitable & also the nomination would have more chance
 of success on his definite retirement and Dr. Hill postponed until he
 had been a few years Director. I need scarcely add that this is private



university of Toronto

and that I hope to bring here forward later on.

Professor F. A. Davis name had not occurred to me for one main person I suppose - he is one of the few whom I never meet at the Museum &c. and I am very grateful for the suggestion. And I think his name is one that would appeal here - there is just one drawback, in the recommendation we have to give counsel in both Aberdeen and one or two do lay stress on that.

I can of course get his main life history details from this etc. but I was so pleased with your brief reference to him that I am going to ask you to give me a recommendation somewhat of him that I could base mine on - making it as intimate and strong as you can. "Intimate" and "strong" is explained by my having put forward only one name since I came here - I lost and he was buried on Friday at the age of 91. If you can give me this then you have time within the next few weeks. I will certainly write a letter not for the addition of such a name to our list.

I had put off replying earlier because everything is in a muddle here. I was ordered to shift in the vacation to the new quarters - removal was finished in September - term began on 10th Oct. - I gave the students a week's holiday - were now there in not a single room ready! I am working all endeavour to start to-morrow but we can't possibly have heat on for a week or 10 days & the workmen will be with us for at least a fortnight even allowing for the painting being put off until the Xmas vacation!



University of Aberdeen.

Department of Botany.

And on top of this worry there is the Trail Memorial volume. I am now receiving the page proofs of Flora and as no one else does systematic work I have to do the whole lot. And it looks as if I may have to call for another proof as the spacing between species & between families is so far from uniform.

The memorial tablet has arrived & we are now arranging for the site - it will be put on the wall of Lecture room and it remains but to select exact position and height.

There is here any possibility of your coming north to take part in the unveiling & handing over? I know your time is pretty well occupied but I am just as certain of your willingness to come if possible as I am of the pleasure your presence would give to all of us here. Of course I have no authority from the Committee to ask this as yet but we will be having a meeting soon to settle the timing & then also we would discuss the final ceremony at least tentatively. I should think the ceremony would not take place till end of November or December. But I'm certain if you could come that the date would as far as possible be fixed to suit you.

The Principal would also be taking part and he is not yet back from America. His son who was with him has to have an operation for appendicitis. He is progressing favourably & I hear that they hope to be back about the end of this month.

Mr Trail had a nasty fall on the stairs at home the other

Craib, William Grant (1882-1933)
Scot. Bot.

week resulting in slight concussion. He is progressing favourably
though he was doing no work last week yet.

Kind regards for

Yours sincerely,
Wm. G. Craib