



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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 Macfarlane

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

10th November, 1923

My dear Mr David

After all your extremely kind effort on behalf of my two packages, I am sure you must regard me as a huge ingrate for not writing you, or sending some tangible indication that work was proceeding. The time too, I remember full well, is now "up" during which they were to rest.

Well! my only apology is that I have been working continuously - summer and autumn, day and night - to get my results out. And I am heartily glad to say that the later-written, and so second, volume is now ready. A copy of it I send you with this, and you will probably find it decidedly the more interesting of the two. But the first-written one, though now being printed off, has lagged for several reasons. Thus it is larger - about 580 pages - it has

required more proof-correction, and printers, as well as publishers have gone slowly in getting all details to work harmoniously. But it should be ready in about a month, when I will at once send you a copy.

Now as to trend of these studies, and contents of the two volumes! I fear most will view me as a crazed lunatic who is plunging afield and that widely. But ^{all} has developed quite naturally and gradually through long years as part of my general evolutionary studies.

But, I have had to go very tenderly and so-to-say secretly, till free from my beloved university duties. For had not a few here known of my "leisure time studies" they would have striven mightily to "have him removed". For the last phrase has been widely used and as widely acted on in College circles on this side, till within very recent years.

You will see in time then that

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

one of the volumes is entitled "The Evolution and Distribution of Fishes", and is a detailed examination of evidences for the trend of fish life, as briefly outlined already in my "Causes and Courses". I think and hope too that the whole study will truly hold water.

That now sent was started, or if one may so put it, started me, nearly 50 years ago when as student and instructor in Edinburgh I spent days amongst the Carboniferous rocks of the Edinburgh fields and over a period of several years. I encountered many puzzles, not least also when I looked into the oil-shales of this wide country. But light seemed gradually to dawn, and will I trust, light others along similar lines. For much remains to be accomplished.

I had fully hoped that both volumes could have been pushed through

the press during the quiet slack time of summer here. But needed and needless delays have come up. So instead of seeing both volumes out by Sept^r, I am only now closing up the first, that will be second in appearing.

As I told you I had expected to be in the Old Country by October, and by now to have been working quietly at New, but "the best laid schemes" etc. I do not expect therefore to get away till early April, as several unexpected matters have come up that will detain me. I had intended also to have presented at some one of the London Societies during the winter, a remarkable extension of the "fish-oil" question, that may be of great value to the Old Country. I only have the skeleton results in drawings and papers worked out however. But when I am quite free of the present two volumes, I may try to clothe the skeleton tolerably, and send you it. It is concerned with the entire and enormous stretch of Oligo-Miocene oil shales that extend from

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Persia, Baluchistan, N. India (or more truly Turkestan-Tibet), Assam, Burma etc. But I hope to send you fuller details later.

Now don't think, please, that I have dropped BOTANY. It was and is my first love. But there are many questions of interest in this world, while variety is one of the Species of Life.

As to the two packages that I sent you, these could either be kept by you, or kept or destroyed by the Societies you placed them with as is thought best. But from the priority stand point, if they can be held for a few months longer, such might be desirable. For when some mailing of the Petrolium volume escaped here, marvellous efforts were made to capture the main results. It is effrighted however now, and therefore so far is safe.

As I write, the evening papers seem to indicate that France, Germany and the world generally are inclining to see eye to eye rather more willingly.

than in the past few months. Everything might have gone smoothly long since, had not a miserable group here, for their own selfish interests, held up the entire peace proceedings. But even they are beginning to see that the "Poles" are against them.

My youngest boy, Archie, left in August for a teaching position in the International College at Smyrna, and has since written us some most informing letters as to the unrest, want, dire straits of the people, etc over that region. The Principal, Dr. Macaulay, is evidently a Scotchman with both tact and grit, qualities much needed, I doubt not, at the present time.

I trust that you and Lady Prain are both in good health, and enjoying your freedom from cares of office. Dr. Hill and all of the New men are doubtless very busy as usual. I must write one or two Christmas letters to them soon. Letter writing has rather gone by default with me of late, I fear. But it is never too late to mend. Give my kindest remembrances to all, please, and with warmest thanks for your kind efforts on my behalf,
Very sincerely yours
Edm^d. Macfarlane