



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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

February 4, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

It was called to my attention that Dr. J. E. Weaver will retire this summer. I am very interested in who will replace him. My interest stems from several reasons. The first is that I studied under Dr. Weaver and am very proud of this. I continue to consider him the best teacher I ever had, and also an outstanding research man. He has been a great inspiration to his students.

The University of Nebraska has become great in plant ecology, almost entirely due to Dr. Weaver. Students came to the Nebraska Botany Department from all over the world to study under this Professor. It would be a great thing for the University if it could maintain this outstanding reputation in plant ecology and could continue to attract graduate students in this field as it has in the past.

My second reason for interest in the position is that I am very anxious to see a good grassland ecologist go to the University. Someone to whom we can recommend that students go for graduate study and feel assured of outstanding training in this field. I believe that the person for this position should be selected largely on the basis of his particular interest in grassland ecology. It would be a mistake to select someone interested primarily in plant sociology, or forest ecology, or something else and expect him to be a grassland ecologist. It could turn out that a plant sociologist or forest ecologist would leave Lincoln during the summer to do his research. This would be unfortunate for graduate students who might come to the University for advanced study. I hope that the person selected will have enough interest in the grasslands to do his research in the prairie around Lincoln. This is almost an essential for research and training of graduate students in this field of work.

A third reason for my interest in the position is that I hope someone can be selected who will carry on with about the same sort of research and teaching that Dr. Weaver has done so successfully. He was excellent in combining fundamental training with practical application; and, by doing this, he has made a great contribution

Dr. W. W. Ray--2:

February 4, 1952

to agriculture and to the wise management of our wildlands through his training of many students who have gone into the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and other organizations concerned with land management. In addition, many of his students have become teachers and are expanding his influence in this way. Plant ecology is important in all phases of land management. It has gained in recognition in the past few years. But every little while someone mentions that we still need more plant ecology. I feel that a continuation of Dr. Weaver's approach will do much to further advance wise land management through the application of fundamental ecological principles.

My last, but not least important, reason for interest in the position is that I would like to see and urge that a Weaver trained man be secured for the replacement. No one else could fill the position quite as well as a Nebraska trained man. There are several men with this training who would be well suited for the position.

I hope that you will consider this letter in order. It is not my intention to try to dictate what should be done at Nebraska, but merely to let you know of my interest in the Botany Department, and particularly that part concerned with plant ecology.

Very sincerely,

H. H. Biswell

H. H. Biswell

Professor of Forestry

W