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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 PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 4

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

January 23, 1963

Dear Professor Ray:

I have your letter of December 20 concerning the vacancy for a plant physiologist on your staff. Your letter came at Christmas time when we were not only short of help in the office but I had the A.A.A.S. meetings in town, and the President was out of the country, which meant that I also carried the leadership of the University.

I do not know if you could persuade Peter Ray to move from the University of Michigan, but he is one of the most brilliant and outstanding young physiologists in the country. Years ago we tried to move him from Michigan to Pennsylvania as assistant professor without success. There is no doubt in my mind that he is qualified for an associate professorship, and might well be ready for full professorship. Peter Ray has worked in several fields. Initially, as an undergraduate, he did very nice work in taxonomy which resulted in two papers. Among other problems he has been interested in are anthocyanin formations, water relations and problems of growth and differentiation.

Dr. James S. Craigie (National Research Council of Canada, Halifax, Nova Scotia) is a young man who spent one graduate year in my laboratory while on leave from the University of Queens, Kingston, Ontario. Craigie is an exceptionally able young plant physiologist with high technical competence and with good theoretical insight. He took his degree with Dr. Gleb Krotkov, then had a year in England and now holds a position with the Canadian government. I understand from Dr. Erickson that Craigie is prepared to leave his Canadian job. His field is not water relations but he would be certainly competent to teach in that area. We offered him a position when he returned from England but he had a moral commitment to serve two years in Canada, a commitment which he has now fulfilled. His name is now being informally considered for an appointment at Pennsylvania; however, he is a free agent.

A third man whom I think you might seriously consider, even though he does not meet your formal requirements is Maimon Nassiter, currently assistant professor at Brown.

January 23, 1963

Nassiter had his undergraduate work at the University of Chicago and took his Ph.D. with Professor Erickson and myself at Pennsylvania. He worked in the summers with Herbert Stern, then at London, Ontario. He has had two post-doctoral years before going to Brown, one with Braschet in Belgium, and the second with Herbert Stern in Illinois. Nassiter's field of research centers around cell physiology and the factors involved in cell division. He is excellent with students, particularly with small groups in the laboratory in independent research, whether graduate or undergraduate. He has a keen and original mind and is a creative and imaginative person. He would not be the showman before the class that Peter Ray would, and perhaps not the equivalent of Craigie as a lecturer, but in the long run he may surpass either of them as an original scholar.

Since I have not myself worked in the field of water relations I do not know the people in that area very well. In fact, I have felt that many of the people working in the area are not very critical and that the criteria that they have used as scientific evaluation have not been too high. I am sure that there are others in the field who could give you better advice than I can.

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Sincerely yours,

David R. Goddard

David R. Goddard

DRG:JP

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