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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.

12 Sept. 48

Dear Miss Curtis, (Egypt)

Recently I posted you a Commission volume to the former furniture book, & hope it may reach by Xmas. It may appeal also to your tastes. Perhaps to with taste on a side-board or dresser - it has the magnificent in histopagnis - like the fragment you see ^{in this box}. There is a plate with 2 designs: ~~the~~ 3rd one with 2 side-cupboards above (period Queen Anne?), I modified, for whitit purposes, by introducing drawers (as in the adjacent fig.) - except that I had round, turned, knob handles instead of brass - Prior to putting the job into carpenter's hands, I ripped up a dummy in place of laths, so as to get the proportions appropriate to a position in the room in the section. Beech was the timber used, with wood staining. Total charge (i.e. in 1935) was £7. - it was the miserable double today. Personally, I detest brass handles & lock-plates on this type of furniture, & believe it to be an error in taste. Doubtless metal-works distanced early that furniture was a part outlet for their craft & established some species of mutual trade with the cabinet makers.

I have on the side-board, without
 upper works - only drawers - wh.
 I got from Prof. Overberry when he left
 Capt. It has been made at the Eng-
 school of Arts & Crafts some 30 yrs. ago
 (melodrama) & is definitely a good piece
 - but spoilt by brass work (as above)
 on all the drawers. Now the lid is
 rectified later, owing to the many screw holes.

A mad idea prevails throughout Gt. Brit
 - perhaps in other countries - that every
 door & every door must have a lock,
 & each lock a different key. Still
 any burglar will enter, such fastenings are
 useless. Also, when the house is
 re-decorated all the pictures & pictures
 & heard somewhere, high ledgers, etc., & it
 wd. take you a week to sort them out
 again. This town-folkery is O.K. for trade.
 When I built Belle's Room - wh. has
 the effectation of being in the "cottage" manner
 - we had latches throughout (apart from
 outside doors): & with latches (if privacy
 is desired, there is always a wedge in the
 lock).

By this species of fastenings
 the price of a medium-sized house can
 be reduced by quite £50 - Also in
 choosing latches, I found that art-

P.S.

Recently, I went through
some hundreds of letters received
over 50 years for W.H. Scott.
The reading of them in 2 suc-
cessive evenings makes a
marvellous impression, not to
mention so many matters of
first rate botanical (& personal)
importance - now clean gone out
of memory - on which I
had a booklet by extracts, comparable
to Crick's - Browne's "What the
Doctor Thought", & "The Doctor Remem-
bers". But that's not the

point that stressed.

Under date 23 July, 1901, Scott
wrote - "I am afraid the Larmerian
wood must be left for some one
else. I cannot afford to buy
specimens at such a high price."
* Evidently B.B. Le Tell
or the correspondent in Tarmen
must have given me the option of
acquiring a collect. of Larmerian
ch. I had passed on to Scott (he
being an anatomist) thinking he
might incline to acquire it.
Where, I wonder, is that collect.
now!

* Scott in 1901
for 8 years & that which he means by this
"price" is

metal-workers were charging 18/- each.
 So I took a suitable ^(sample) and he turned
 them out at 18/- per dozen. I remem-
 ber how pleased he was when I told him
 to stamp his initials on the scatcher
 below the handle!

His logis for all this yarn abt. 
 my personal affairs —

Your trip on the Smithsonian-Innervash
 bus recalls prehistoric exposures at
 New in the early 1870's. There was
 a "carrier" who had one cab wh.
 went into London 3 days a week.
 My mother trained him to do most of
 her London shopping. There was
 also a bus, too from Richmond, of
 primitive construction - fare 6d.
 Going to Richmond then was almost
 like entering another world, about wearing
 gloves. I let her win, being a good
 son. In revenge, in more than 75 yrs.
 I have only worn gloves at my wedding;
 a blk. pair also reserved for other people's
 funerals, & bloodies for cycling in winter.
 I always bought at Perf
 who must, in uniform, always come
 (photo enclosed)
 gloves - skin & moccasins for feet rank.
 The officer on the R. is a Capt. & wears gloves.

