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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.

11 Oct. 48

from Oliver

Dear Miss Curtis,

Egypt

Your letter on Boomer's health reached here since last I wrote. It is clear of you to attack a projected botanico-ecological survey to an important historical event - the destruction of your antipodal paradise. Today nobody is interested in Götting, or the Götting; but your strategy will provoke controversy, & may be, the botanical evidence will be decisive. I was amused at your citation of "Some remarks on Blechnum". I didn't recall its existence - though I suppose in the early days one committed many indiscretions - odd enough my first notice of dust here, unconscious repeats the same title - "Some remarks on Zeland dust" - 20 years later.

The world being how it is today, you are fortunate in having no aboriginal population to make further trouble & unstable equilibrium - and should you be admitting emigrants, let them be hand picked - because of communist infiltration; what was is more devilish even than "hot" -

Here perfect peace reigns in a beautiful cloudless summer now

merging into an even more beautiful
antenna. From 1 Oct. a few clouds
appeared, with presence of clear pro-
viding screen for the display of
sundered clouds.

Some 60 years ago I had a
girl friend, Ruth Spencer-Watson, of
a well known Sydney family of that
name. Somewhere she had her way to
Tasmania & married — I must have
discussed her married name, which may still
be known in Tasmania. She had
a few years of married life out there,
but died young, so far as I recollect.
My sister may have more accurate
information.

My younger son is now Commander
of the U.S.A. & W. Indies in the British
Army. He has taken over the
Presidency of the R.A. Army, Grenada, for 2 yrs. 2 years ago he acted
in a similar position at the U.S. School
(which is the I.T.C. for training the Fleet Air
arm) & learned the art of entertaining
on a large scale. At Grenada, just
after his appointment, he had a visit
from The Commonwealth Prime Ministers
& was in England — so if a Tasmanian
high-up was among the group

He might tell you all about it
on his return.

This sh^d. reach you
approaching Christmas, & ~~it~~
may carry my son with
the family - Thud, in the absence
of snow & robins, perhaps you
don't make much of Christmas
down under - Yours sincerely

J. W. Oliver