



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

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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.

7. Incl. eggs -

from Oliver

Dear Miss Curtis

9th

A little while ago I wrote asking if you get dust from Australia falling in Tasmania, I shd. like a small sample - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. wt. sufficient.

This can be collected either indoors as it falls on any horizontal surface, or outside, in a more or less sheltered place, using a rough textile to collect - e.g. a Turkey Towel -

I'm not interested especially in the rate of fall, i.e. weight per unit area in unit time - $\sqrt{15}$ whether there is differential precipitation: en route but I am after ^{there} there is contrast of dust surface from the nearest localities right up to my doorstep. With the ocean intervening makes this possible. For comparison I shall get a genuine Australian sample from Prof. Baskin at Sydney, & a N. Zealand sample from H. H. Allan at Palmerston N. It is an intention

gmine to work out the dust-job in Australasia — I am only hoping to use the chance of comparing the several dusts after travelling various distances overseas.

My reason for troubling you with the second letter is that I am uncertain whether the previous one was explicit enough. We need ^{to} synchronize these little collections — that is, need no end of pre-organization.

I realize that dust storms may be out of season for the moment; if so I can wait patiently till they inevitably renew.

— Last week I was cruising with my ~~close~~ ^{close} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~vicinity~~ ^{vicinity} of cruisers, destroyers, aircraft-carriers & oddments. They are refitting hereabouts for future ops. All most interesting esp. the deck landings of aircraft on the carriers.

Yours very sincerely

F.W. Oliver

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 Oliver to Burdick
 7-III-1945

P.S. - Dad & I and you & Jane King
 is remembered in Robert J. B.B.
 Le Tall who went out in the 1880's as
 headmaster of Indian School.
 He was a great character & sent me
 several letters at the time alt. Tashiro
 wh. middle inst. Gen. H. I can describe
 them when I get home. I will send them
 along. He had, I remember, to shoot
 down fruiting trees of some of your
 indigenous *Gynostegia* - *Microcorys*
Baer I think, perhaps. To reach the
 forests where they grew was, I remember,
 quite an adventure at the time. He
 once sent me a well-remembered crate
 of apples. I remember I sent out a crate
 of apples, too.
 We were some I wonder, with a class
 excursion to Baerham Beaches
 during that time. We all sat on the
 rim of a depression with a particularly fine
 beach tray on its distant edge. We had a
Sesuvium (12 each) across its width at
 4 ft. from land. The *Sesuvium* was
 from 16 to over 60 ft. But when
 I added up all the guesses & divided by
 the no. of entrants it worked out within
 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the measured girth, wh. I think
 was of the order of 37 ft. I was reminded
 of the method by seeing in a little propagandist
 pamphlet of Baer's ("Men of the Trees") a
 photograph of the selfsame tree. At home

with the boys, as an ⁶ objection for
cycling excursions, we often made for
some famous tree, & then ind. only
measure it. Trees of such
were rather found to have been
singled out for the honour, &
generally offered hospitality on such
occasions. One when I was
still quite young, did an early
wood-cut of a famous ash tree
- near Godstone & ~~which~~ illustrating the
technique of taking true-girths.

One of the lectures published in
"Treasures of British Botany" 1913
was on Red Brown. by J.B. Hume
- very good indeed. Alas! He died
last year. We were about of an
age, & ~~both~~ laid down our sceptres
in London together in 1929.