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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.

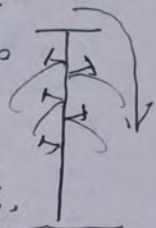
Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the 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.

17 July 46.

Dear Miss Curtis,

Enclosed is the third seed, omitted from the previous sending, viz. Caesalpinia Gilliesii (as I suppose) yellow-flowered racemes with long exserted scarlet stamens. It has been grown in pretty full sunshine with a green background for its proper display.

Also a few seeds of Helianthus annuus strain "Golden Pigeon". The type flowers as in fig. - terminal capitulum first - then others centrifugally. The seeds are taken for a ^{unique} specimen. It produced the term! cap. only - no laterals, not even buds.



This seed from the first a deliberate act, i.e. the plant built up an enormous primary cepⁿ & refused entry for any attempt at after-disposition of the plant. When atomic bombs got properly placed "out of bounds" perhaps people with their "hormones, auxinones & what not, & we may get control of what Wells crudely dreamt of in his "Foot of the Gods". I send the Sunflower so you can grow it & see if it comes "true". The capⁿ was standard in here & a whole lot of many flowers were pollinated from the same head.

I had from E. V. S. Clayton, Soil Conservⁿ Service (Sydney, N.S.W.) an article on "Soil Erosion". Australia has been too long seceding on this matter & has its ^{numerous} ~~stake~~ up. The point is, if things are allowed to continue ^{falling} the continent will be unable to feed & carry a population adequate to defend it from its potential enemies. Japan, from this crisis - angle unstable, is so carefully cultivated

most, with far, standfirst in the world's
control of soil.

Apart from W. Europe & a few favored spots,
all the continents seem involved in this
"Dégringolade" & to arrest which a vast ^{world-wide} service of
reclamation must arise wherein botany, agric.,
forestry, soil treatment & engineering must have
a principal share. The engineering will include
both the civil branch that deals with ^{damning} ~~damming~~
sources of water (bundling, canals, irrigation) &
the mechanical side wh. handles pumps & devices
for shifting rocks & soil. This s.d. deals with
a fine preparation for the propagation of the best gene-
ration, & of propagandized agriculture, s.d., interest
can the more or less inert & stupid mass of the
populations & strive to distract them from preying
on one another. The original "Creation" of the world
must have been child's play compared with what
confronts it today. Indeed the world looks
like somebody else's bad joke.

I thought Chaston's scared quite good up to a
point, but I think it unwise to over-frighten
people. A strain of optimism is necessary.

"SAVE AUSTRALIA - You're just in Time."

Too much attention is given to "saving human life" - all
the new drugs, &c. only prolong the agony.
In a world fast night there s.d. be little employment
for "doctors" as we know them today - they're "the cart
before the horse"! Yours sincerely

J.W. Sholto