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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.

December 18, 1915.

Dr. Henry C. Cowles,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Cowles:-

I noted in Science of October 8 the proposed organization of an American Ecological Society and intended writing you concerning this matter at an earlier date. I am by no means sure that I would be classed as a working ecologist or even as an ecologist of leisure, but as an agronomist with some remnants of an old botanical garland still attached I heartily favor the organization of this society. To me it seems that the greatest botanical advance of the near future is to be made along physiological lines in a broad sense. In the case of wild plants our taxonomic knowledge, and in the case of domesticated plants our agronomic knowledge, has outrun our knowledge of the causes of plant response to environment. To interpret these responses is, in a large measure, a function of ecology. I am heartily in favor, therefore, of any movement or organization which will tend to correlate, systematize and stimulate ecological investigation. This view is wholly independent of whether or not I may be considered eligible to membership in the proposed organization.

(Dr. Henry C. Cowles -- 12/18/15 -- #2.)

I shall not be able to be present at the
Columbus meeting but shall be interested in what takes
place there.

With regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Agronomist in Charge of
Western Wheat Investigations.

CRB-f

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, December 20, 1915

A Proposed Ecological Society

Second Notice

There will be a conference of ecologists at the Hotel Hartman, Columbus, Ohio, Tuesday, December 28, at 8:00 P.M., to consider the advisability of forming an American Ecological Society. In response to the preliminary notice, a great many replies have been received. The majority of those replying are enthusiastically in favor of the organization of such a society, a number appear to be indifferent, and a few are opposed to the formation of the society. It is hoped that the attendance at this conference will be large and representative, including those who are indifferent or opposed to the movement, as well as those who favor it.

Professor R. F. Griggs of the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, whose important studies in the Sugar Grove region are well known to ecologists, has expressed a desire to conduct an excursion there in connection with the Columbus meeting, in case any wish to make the trip. The excursion will be made if any number, no matter how small, desire to go. It might be well for those wishing to make the trip to bring clothes suitable for tramping.

HENRY C. COWLES

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

We are grateful for your expression of interest; I plan to bring up the question of membership limits; personally I favor admitting any who may wish to join us, whether professed ecologists or not, but I may be in the minority. At any rate your interest in our endeavors is gratefully appreciated.
H.C.C.