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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.

4-29-98

Armstrong, Iowa.
April 24, '98.

My dear Prof. Ball,

Your favor regarding our willows received.

I will be glad to collect what I can for you in that line. When I get a little leisure I will send you specimens of such as I already have - Can send complete specimens of *S. myrtilloides* L. I collected some of our willows a good many years ago, and sent a few to Mr. Bebb but it is one genus of the flowering plants of our

(See over)

region which I have not
yet worked up satisfactorily.
This is owing partly to the
fact that the flowering and
fruiting time occurs when
I am too busy with farm
work to attend to it, as
there are almost none near
my home, but more along
the river - 3 miles south &
at Estherville.

The following species occur
here: *S. longifolia* Muell.

S. discolor Marsh

S. humilis Marsh.

S. myrtilloides L. and

probably *nigra* & *amygdalodes*

I used to call *S. longifolia*,
nigra, & have not yet
straightened myself out.

I feel like going to Cuba
myself, but I fear botanizing
~~be~~ would be a secondary con-
sideration! Sincerely,
R. D. Crath.

from R. L.
Cratty

Armstrong, Iowa

Oct. 10, 1888

My dear Ball, -

After considerable unavoidable delay I have sent you to-day (Oct 11.) by Ex. not prepaid a package containing the most of my willows there are a couple of Iowa specimens and ~~for Botanical Documentation~~ species scattered among my unmounted plants which I can not at present look up as it would take much time as it would be necessary to
(see over)

2
look over several thousand
specimens. I am sorry my
plants are unmounted, mostly
which makes it a little
troublesome not to miss
labels. I fear my sending
may not benefit you much
except in giving you
better idea of the Euro-
pean allies of our plants.
The species of the two hem-
ispheres are almost entirely
distinct specifically.

The Salix arvensis
Muhl. collected by Prof.
Shumacher is from a tree
bears perfect flowers!
You will find a note and
figure respecting this in
last year's report of the
Acad. of Sci. (97 or forse
6th '96).

I have somewhere a specimen, if I have not sent it to some correspondent, of Salix humilis Marsh. I used to find it here quite common on high prairies, but it has almost disappeared. I hope to run across it again so as to lay in some specimens. Prof. Fitch sent me a var. of some species new to this state, but I can not put my hands on it just now. Hope to look up some of these others for you, but you may have the willows from his locality (Payette). When you study up my specimens send your

(See over)

last summer, I would like to receive your criticisms. I hope sometime to get my herbarium in better shape, for it contains much very valuable material. Were botany my profession as I wish it were instead of farming I might be able to have things in better shape.

As it is I have been able to do but a very limited amount of field work this year.

I shall be pleased to see for ~~Botanical~~ any sedges or aquatics you may have collected, which send at my expense at any time.

Very cordially
R. J. Cratty.

12-11-05

from R. I.
Cratty

Armstrong, Iowa,
Dec. 7, 1905.

My dear Ball,-

I was much
pleased with your
paper on the willows,
and am glad that you
are tussling with them.

I collected the leaves
of two or three spe-
cies here the past
year, and would
like to send them
to you for examina-
tion. I call them

S. hebbiana, sericea,
discolor, and perhaps
petiolaris. I would

have sent them to
you before this, but
I had rather lost
sight of you, and
am now too sure
just where to locate
you, so won't you
kindly drop me a
line if this reaches
you.

I trust you are still
in congenial botanical
work. I am still a
stranger, and too
busy summers to give
much attention to
collecting.

With best wishes
for you and yours,
I remain, sincerely
R. I. Cratty.

L. H. PAMMEL, PH. D., PROFESSOR
J. N. MARTIN, PH. D., PROFESSOR
I. E. MELHUS, PH. D., PROFESSOR
A. L. BAKKE, PH. D., ASST. PROF.
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H. I. FEATHERLY, B. S., FELLOW
STUART J. DUNN, B. S., FELLOW
R. I. CRATTY, CURATOR
MARJORIE HANSON, OFFICE ASST.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

AMES, IOWA, Oct. 12, 1926,

Dr. C. R. Ball-
Washington, D. C.

My dear Ball-

I never supposed that the sight of a Lord Bishop would have such a bad effect on my vision! My blunder is inexcusable.

However I am doing my best to reform, and trust I may be successful.

I got a friend of mine to drive up into Minnesota nine or ten miles northwest of Estherville and get what we at least call Salix nigra and I am sending your specimens under separate cover.

Now will you be good till next summer, and

(See over)

I may be able to explore
that region more carefully.

Petersburg is only 3 miles
north of the Iowa line in
Jackson Co., Minn. I also
inclose some leaves col-
lected by Mr. Molden at
Estherville. I surely hope
these will pass. If not
then I surely don't know
the species.

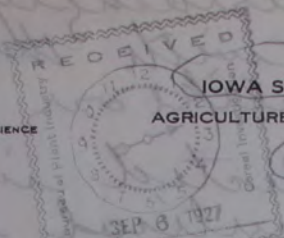
Had a fine meeting
last evening of our
Osburn Research Club.
Hope you can talk to
us some time.

Sincerely

R. J. Crath



DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE



IOWA STATE COLLEGE
AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
L. H. PAMMEL, PH. D. HEAD

Sept. 1, 1927.

Dr. C. R. Ball.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Ball-

In separate package I am sending you some *Salix* for examination. With Mr. Holden I paid a visit to Petersburg, Martin Co., Minn., and surely think some of these must be *S. nigra*. There are at least a hundred of these trees along the river in one locality - from 10 to 30 ft high, - the color and general appearance of all, so very unlike *S. amygdaloides* as I know it from Little Lake, and here at Ames. I could find no trees with leaves glaucous underneath either there or at F in Emmet Tp. 2 miles S. of Minn. line. All these trees - even the wide-leaved

forms were strikingly alike
at a distance with their bright
green leaves - alike on both
surfaces.

Those collected in Emerald
Sp. Ia. are identical with
those from Petersburg,

Dr. P. and I were sure
that many years ago we
saw S. nigra at Tuttle
Lake, but careful searching
both there and at Silver
Lake - about 8 miles east
failed to find any, so we
were probably mistaken.

Will you kindly report
by number and oblige
yours very truly.

P. J. Cratty

Dep. Botany, Ames, Ia

Ames; Iowa. Sept. 26, '29

My dear Dr. Ball-

I am surely grateful to you for bringing order out of that chaotic lot of willows! If I were a profane man I would be tempted to make use of the art whenever I get hold of some of these puzzling specimens. at least I now have something for comparison.

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School has begun again, and will soon be in full swing. I wonder if you knew Dr. Bakke was married last August in Sweden to a Miss Arngvist who has had charge of the foreign H. girls for some time here. Dr. B. was in Europe on leave of absence for 6 mos. They will be here soon now!

Dr. Martin's had the misfortune to lose a daughter

this week by infantile paralysis,
Dr. J. E. Melhus is now acting
head of the Bot. Dept. Dr. P. is
only active part of the time.
They have made him some
sort of Prof. Emeritus I under-
stand.

I am looking forward to
seeing you and Dr. Hitchcock
at Dr. Morris during the hol-
idays. Hope the weather
now is not too severe on

our old codgers -

Again thank you for

your help, I am as ever
Yours truly
R. I. Cratty

