



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

1650 Fuller St.
Washington, D. C.
Feb. 22, 1933.

Dr. C. R. Ball,
University of California,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Some years ago you said you would be willing to look over the willows in my personal herbarium; probably you have forgotten all about it. I just procrastinated, and then you left us. In preparing for shipment to the Rochester Academy of Science the small part of my herbarium I still had here, I came across the willows, and am venturing to forward them to you for identification. From Maxon and others I learn that you still are giving special attention to this genus. Had hoped to speak with you about the matter when you were here last year but you never called at the Herbarium.

I won't apologize for the character of this material; you know what a kid herbarium is like. But if you can put names on the sheets and return them to me at your convenience, I shall be ever so much obliged.

Sincerely yours,

Ellsworth P. Kelip

March 20, 1933.

Mr. Ellsworth P. Killip,
1650 Fuller Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Killip:

Your letter of February 22 and the accompanying package were duly received but I had no opportunity to examine the material until Saturday night.

I have named all the specimens on determinavit labels which I have attached to the sheets. In one or two cases the determinations are somewhat doubtful, which I have indicated by a question mark. I am glad to have seen the material and have listed one or two specimens for citation in papers which are now in manuscript. I would like to know definitely, therefore, where the material is to be deposited. I gather from the letter that it is going to the Rochester Academy of Science. If so, I shall cite it there. Otherwise I shall cite it as your private herbarium. Please let me know about this.

Perhaps you will pardon a suggestion or two from an older man to a younger one with reference to the handling of herbarium material. The first principle in mounting plants is so to lay them out on the sheets that the pile remains level. This will require that the thick butts be placed at the top instead of the bottom of some of the sheets and sometimes in the corner and sometimes in the middle. When the specimen consists of a single shoot it should never be mounted in the middle of the sheet. This practice causes the pile to hump in the middle like a gable roof. This in turn causes severe strain on the branchlets and petioles. With handling they break off especially when the sheets are rearranged during examination. When the sheets are level a broken leaf remains on the sheet and can be detached and transferred to a packet. Where the sheet slopes down to the outside detached fragments slip out from the sheet and must be thrown away. In my own herbarium I have a ~~large~~ well-made packet on each sheet for the reception of detached material which is very useful for critical study.

I am glad to see that you number all collections. Many older and well-known botanists do not do this, which makes their material much more difficult to cite.

I am returning the package by express collect today...In repacking I have placed sheets of newspaper between each two herbarium sheets. This should insure their return with less damage. There was some breaking off of leaves in sending them to me. I trust they will come back with no further loss.

With personal regards I remain,
Very sincerely yours,

1650 Fuller St.
Washington, D. C.
April 8, 1933.

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
University of California,
Berkeley, Calif.,

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thank you ever so much for naming those willows. I have just gone over the specimens and have been most interested in seeing what they really were. It is a group to which I have never given much attention, and I suppose I named them partly by comparison with sheets in the herbarium of the Rochester Academy of Science.

This material will be sent at once to the Rochester Academy so if you wish to cite any numbers you may refer to that institution. There is really quite a fine herbarium there; recently it has been lodged at the University of Rochester, which has made ample provision for its maintenance. I don't know that you would find anything of special interest among their willows but I am sure that Mr. M. S. Baxter, the curator, would be only too glad to forward them to you should you so desire.

I appreciate the value of your suggestions about mounting and the putting on of pockets, having shared with Mr. Maxon for several years the responsibility of the mounting at the National Herbarium. Most of these willows were mounted before I became a professional but I admit I should have pasted pockets before sending them to you.

It is too bad the earlier botanists did not number their specimens. I have spent several months in study at European herbaria and have so often wished that the old historic collections were numbered.

I regret that you were bothered with a P. O. notice. There was no one at my apartment to receive the package in the daytime, so I arranged with the Smithsonian shipping clerk to have it called for; and then the usual delay!

Do you consider *Salix humboldtiana* and *S. chilensis* the same? I have collected them frequently in Colombia and Peru but have never been sure which name to use

Sincerely yours,

Ellsworth P. Killip

Carlton R. Ball
University of California
April 24, 1933.

Mr. Ellsworth P. Killip,
1650 Fuller Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Killip:

Your letter of April 6 was duly received and I thank you for the information given regarding your herbarium and that of the University of Rochester.

Salix humboldtiana and S. chilensis are regarded as synonymous. So far as I have seen material from Chile and Argentina it does not differ in any way from typical material of the northern part of South America and Central America. There are two recognized varieties of humboldtiana, one in the Amazon Valley and one in Mexico, but the Chilean material does not represent either of these.

Very sincerely yours,

Carlton R. Ball

Research Associate

CRB:CSB

Chilensis P. Killip

Mr. E. V. Killip,
Curator, U.S. Natl. Herbarium,
Smithsonian Institution,

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

1 June, 1949

Dear Mr. Killip:

I am now completing a ten-year sampling and study of all the cartoons published in the newspapers and magazines of the United States and Canada.

Samples are mounted on cards and larger numbers filed alphabetically for study. In mounting the larger cartoons from the Sunday papers, I have been using cards made from discarded herbarium covers, largely those wearing out in my own herbarium. A few years ago I obtained a lot from the U.S. Natl. Herbarium also.

Just now I can use more than my discards supply. If I could get some more old ones from the USNM, it would help greatly. If you are willing to bring this to the attention of the staff and they would save for me any that they are about to drop in the trash cans, I will gladly pick them up. They might be left on the table near the willow collections in the gallery, or at some other convenient point.

I am inclosing a few papers (not mine) which may interest some of the staff.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 3, 1949

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn Street, N.W.
Washington 15, D. C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thank you for the separates sent with your letter of June 1st.

I will see what we can do about letting you have some old genus covers. As a matter of fact, our supply of the old covers was nearly exhausted a couple of years ago for current use because of the fact that most of them were being used for tying up bundles. I am afraid that we cannot spare very many, but some time when you are in you can talk to me about it.

Sincerely,

E. P. Killip

E. P. Killip
Head Curator
Department of Botany

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(See over)

Dr. E. V. Killip,
Curator, U.S. National Herbarium,
Smithsonian Institution.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

24 July, 1949.

Dear Dr. Killip:

Many thanks for your letter of June 3 and the old worn-out herbarium covers given me since. They will be pit to sue shortly.

Just about finished is the write-up of the willows for the new edition of B. & E. Illustrated Flora. It has been a hard job, for I had first to determine what actually was represented by some 20 species credited to the mammal range but the identity of which was not certain. Some ten have turned out to be hybrids. Several were wrong identification of species which do occur, and one or two new species were synonyms of older species. So I end up with just forty species including 4 introduced ones which escape commonly enough to warrant numbering them.

The keys are only in rough draft stage but will soon be reduced to final form. Then I can get other things again.

Herewith my last two reprints for you, and like wise the last four for the U.S.N.H. library.

Cordially yours,

P.S. Also herewith a few reprints from
Duncan of Georgia, all non-Salix.

Carleton R. Ball