



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.

October 30, 1924.
Urbana, Illinois.

Mr. C. R. Ball
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ball:

I am very much obliged for
your remembrance with your Salix papers. I've
not forgotten the pleasure with which I saw
your first venture into the difficult genus de-
velop; and there are few classification projects
with economic plants that I watch with as much
interest as your own with the cereals.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. T. Steud



January 14, 1925.
Urbana, Illinois.

Mr. C. R. Ball
Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ball:

Thank you very much for your recently sent
separates. As the years slide along, I am
particularly pleased always when I see a man
sticking to his early interests as larger and
more immediately urgent fields open up. I
don't believe you ever will forget willows.

Very truly,

Wm. J. Reelase,



August 12, 1926.

Dr. William Trelease,
Dept. of Botany,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Doctor Trelease:

I have had it in mind from my last visit to you that you would be retiring from your university position this summer. Recently Dr. Pammel has reminded me of this fact.

Allow me to congratulate you on the achievements of your long and useful career in botany. Looking at the matter from the position of an outsider, so to speak, it seems to me that you have made noteworthy and lasting contributions in several different lines of activity.

Among taxonomist botanists you will be remembered with gratitude for your monographic work on yuccas, oaks and other difficult groups. Among horticulturists your name will remain associated with the promotion of important and helpful studies of various groups of cultivated plants. Among those who have been fortunate enough to have been associated with you for longer or shorter periods of time, you will be remembered as a tireless worker and an inspiring teacher, a broad-minded and far-seeing adviser, and a helpful and sympathetic friend. What more can life give? My own association with you was brief but inspiring. I was more immature in mind than in years. Your energy, clear-thinking and vision helped me greatly. Your ideal of service I have tried to make my own thus far through a rather busy career.

I know that you will not stop working. Doubtless you have many things to do for which time has heretofore been lacking. You will find great joy in the opportunity to do them.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am as ever

Very sincerely yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Senior Agronomist in Charge.

CRB/AJM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Urbana, Illinois

August 16, 1926

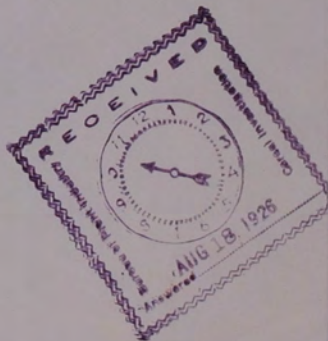
Mr. C. R. Ball
Bureau Plant Industry
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ball:

Thank you for your very kind note of the
twelfth. So far, life has proved a rather interesting
game; and it promises to end up that way though I shall
not again have the pleasant association with young people,
finding themselves, that has been so stimulating to me
and that enables me now to count so many friends like you
who look back on it with equal pleasure.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Ball



September 16, 1942

Dr. William Trellease,
Department of Botany,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, Illinois.

My dear Dr. Trellease:

In some recent correspondence with your son, Dr. Sam, I remarked that I had not seen you for some three years or more (probably more). He replied that you were past 85 but still keeping fairly well. So I looked you up in Am. Men of Sci. and, sure enough, you were 85 on last Washington's Birthday.

What a wonderful sweep of our national history has unfolded before your eyes: Civil War, westward migration and settlement, rise of invention and industry, waning of the frontier, wars and still more wars, agricultural and national depression, and finally the present world upheaval. Through it all, science has labored to give mankind health, comfort, and security, and it would not. If you have not written in the field of botanical history, there still is time and I hope you go to it.

My first acquaintance with you was at the Mo. Botanical Garden in the winter of 1898-99, when I came down to work in the Herbarium on willows. I was amazed at the speed with which you shot me into a chair at a table in the herbarium, showed me the willow cases, and departed at a trot. That trot still intrigues me. I had never seen a renowned scientist trot. Perhaps the influence on me still lingers, for, as I approach 70 and retirement next June, I still run when in a hurry, climb mountains for fun and willows, and seldom use an elevator in the Federal buildings.

But what I remember most happily is your unfailing patience, interest, and helpfulness. What I did that winter is of no importance, for that first publication, Notes on Western Willows, published in the Academy Transactions, looks pretty punk in the light of 45 years of study. But what I learned consciously and by subconscious impression has helped me through all these years. I take off my hat to you.

With all good wishes, and the hope that I may see you again when the "duration" is over, I am,

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

*You can see by the errors
that this was typed by
my own hand*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
URBANA, ILLINOIS

September 22, 1942

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

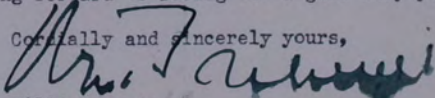
Dear Dr. Ball:

Your kindly letter opens up another line of happy memories for I remember well when you came to St. Louis to study on Willows. I once had a walking-stick commemorative of your study, -- a diamond-willow that somebody said came from the place where the ducks go to breed. I believe that somebody thought he wanted that oddity more than I and it walked away with him. I have another pleasant connection with you for many years ago when I was visiting the University of Arizona, I went out on the cactus desert with your brother and whittled out about six feet of a splint of the big cactus lying on the ground. This I had given a ferrule and head after having it properly shortened and I carry it pretty constantly day after day now.

I have long had a rather close interest in your work although the fates have not brought us together of recent years and your letter gives another elbow contact,--so reminiscent that I think you will be interested in the accompanying little memento of a sixty years anniversary that we celebrated last spring.

I toddle around and do a little every day, but I seem to have stirred up collectors to such an extent that, like Dr. Gray by the end of his life, I am swamped with highly instructive collections so that though I get a great deal of fun out of it I have given up any expectations of living to see the completion of a monograph that I have been looking forward to seeing for a good many years.

Cordially and sincerely yours,


William Trelease