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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.

POST CARD  
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Dr. Agnes Arber, F.R.S.  
52, Huntingdon Rd.  
Cambridge.

48, Harrington Green  
18 Feb. 1950.

Dear Dr. Arber,

I shall be very  
pleased to hear from Mr. Strauffacher  
about his work and to give him  
any information he may think  
useful.

Yours sincerely,  
R.D. Gray.

53 Huntingdon Road

Cambridge

England

June 11, 1950

Jack Werner Stauffacher Esq.  
The Greenwood Press  
San Francisco

Dear Mr Stauffacher,

It is indeed far too generous of you to send me your exquisite ~~GOETHE~~ tribute! It gives one an acute shock of pleasure, in such days as these, to handle a book with such beautiful and harmonious binding, and with this wire-drawn paper, after becoming accustomed to the wretched mechanical effects one has to accept now.

The contents surprised me very much, as I had not before realised that Goethe was a disciple - though at a far remove - of Sterne.

The sentence that appeals most strongly to me is :-  
"I had rather have a man scoff instructively than praise unfruitfully"  
With many congratulations on the work of your Press,  
and the warmest thanks for your kindness,

yours very sincerely

*Agnes Arber*



52 Huntingdon Road

Cambridge, Cambs.  
England

Dear Jack Stauffacher,

Thank you very much for your letter of Feb.

4.

Alas, I fear I cannot tell you of ~~such~~ a history of botany as you need. Sachs' History of Botany, to which you refer, was a colossal undertaking even for those days, and no one, now that so much specialised knowledge has accumulated, could, I think repeat the attempt. Of course Sachs' book is now far out-of-date - the English translation is apparently from the 1875 version (See the preface to the translation by Sachs). Unluckily also Sachs - though to my thinking one of the greatest botanists there have ever been - had no sympathy (at least at the time he wrote his history) with Goethe or with nature-philosophy. Sachs' views altogether became much modified later in life.

I have a little book now in the press, called The Natural Philosophy of Plant Form, which might (It begins with Theophrastus, and goes on to Goethe, etc.) possibly give you something of what you want/- it should be out some time this year, as I have passed all the proofs, but, as no doubt you know, publication is a very slow matter here now. Perhaps the book might be accessible to you later, if you have access to libraries which would be likely to take Cambridge University Press books.

As regards the study of botany in general - I think your best plan would be to call at the Department of Botany of whatever

University or College is most convenient for you, and ask for advice both about books and about opportunities of seeing and handling the plants themselves.

There is a young man here - a pupil of Humphrey Trevelyan's - Dr R.D. Gray, 48 Hartington Grove, Cambridge, Cambs., England - who is working at Goethe, and takes a great interest in his <sup>Soeth's</sup> relations to botany and their significance; possibly you might find it repaying to get into touch with him.

with best wishes,

yours very sincerely

Agnes Arber

P.S. I do not think any of Troll's work has been translated. His address is:-

Prof. Dr. W. Troll  
Universität Mainz  
Am Rosengarten 12  
Mainz  
Germany.

Jan. 1950