



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.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 27, 1936

Dr. Mildred E. Mathias
New York Botanical Gardens
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.)
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Mathias:

At the Pittsburg Meeting we had a conversation concerning the feasibility of your examination and criticism of my treatment of the Pacific States Umbelliferae. As usual at those general meetings, our conversation was interrupted so that I wasn't quite sure whether you could have time to do this or not.

Recently I have been going over my manuscript again, trying to put it in final form, and if you are so inclined and can possibly find time I would like very much to have your criticisms. I think I can have it about ready by the time I hear from you.

I hope you will be able to help me out.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Brown

LRA:J

2

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

March 14, 1936

Dr. Mildred E. Mathias
Shingletown
State College
Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Mathias:

I am very grateful to you for being willing to look over my manuscript of the Umbelliferae. This will be ready to send you in a few days with the exception of the key to the genera, which I may hold out for the present. I will write you again about some of my problems when I mail the manuscript; in the meantime, wouldn't you like to have us send our collections of the Umbelliferae to the New York Botanical Garden? We would be very glad to have your determinations on the material and I hope that the collections contain material that would be useful to you in your studies.

Sincerely yours,

L.R. Abraham

LRA:J

3

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

March 26, 1936

Dr. Mildred Mathias
State College
Shingletown, Pa.

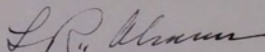
Dear Dr. Mathias:

I am forwarding my manuscript to you today. You will find queries scattered through it. When I first began this, it was understood that Dr. Rose would criticize it and appear as contributor or joint author, depending upon his preference. For that reason you will find I have followed his monograph fairly closely. Now if you are willing to take Dr. Rose's place, I would like to have you criticize, change or completely re-write the treatment, and appear as copublisher or contributor. I should like to have the manuscript back within a couple of months.

You will see I have not constructed a key and have not written up one or two of the genera. One of these is Ligustrum.

I will be most grateful to you for any help that you can give.

Yours sincerely,



LRA:J

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#4

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

April 16, 1936

Dr. Mildred E. Mathias
Shingletown
State College
Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Mathias:

I am very grateful to you for your willingness to criticize the manuscript and I hope you will feel free to make what changes you think advisable.

In my letter of March 26 I told you that I have not written up the genus *Ligusticum*, nor any of the genera after *Lomatium*. I think there may be, in addition, one or two introduced genera that I have not included. I have not checked these carefully. Above all, I would appreciate a key to the genera; made, so far as possible, to show the phylogeny—in other words, using fundamental rather than superficial characters, and following the dichotomous plan.

Whenever you are ready to study our collections we will be glad to send them on, but wouldn't it be nicer if the Gardens would send you out here? I think you could persuade them that this is Umbellifer-Land, and that there are lots of specimens in the Pacific Coast herbaria that you should see.

In order to handle the printing and make a decent looking page we have found it necessary to have fairly uniform species descriptions. In the Umbelliferae, some of my descriptions are shorter than they need to be, and I am afraid a little too short to make a good page—it takes approximately 100 words of description and distribution to fill the space left by the ordinary figure, allowing for three or four synonyms, *much over that amount causes trouble.*

Sincerely yours,

L.R. Abrams.

LRA:J

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

March 31, 1938.

Dr. Mildred E. Mathias
The Herbarium
Life Sciences Building
University of California
Berkeley, California

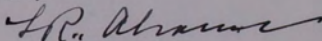
Dear Dr. Mathias:

Believe it or not, I am about to turn the manuscript of the second volume over to the printers. There are still a few adds and ends to pick up, the biggest one being the Umbellifers. When would it be convenient for you to have a consultation about them? I have classes Monday through Wednesday, but could come to Berkeley on almost any other day. You still have, I believe, my manuscript for a number of the genera. I hope you have felt free to make such changes in these as you saw fit.

I have caught a glimpse of your revision of Lomatium but for some reason the garden has not yet sent the Dudley Herbarium a copy, so I have not had an opportunity to study it in detail. I assume we will want to substitute your treatment for the one I had tentatively written up.

I am glad your are continuing your monograph of the family, and we will all look forward to the completed work on this difficult group when published in the North American Flora.

Most sincerely yours,



LRA:HB

Digitized by the University and Jepson Herbaria Archives, University of California, Berkeley

#6

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA
April 14, 1938.

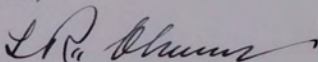
Dr. Mildred E. Mathias
1156 Keeler Ave.
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. Mathias:

I could come up tomorrow, but it is rather short notice and I might miss you, so suppose I come to the herbarium Thursday afternoon, April 21st. I am especially anxious to get some help on Ligustrum as well as Lomatium. I have not checked over my manuscript recently, but as I remember my Ligustrum notes have not been put in manuscript form, so that entire genus needs to be written up. I assure you that I greatly appreciate your help with this difficult family and if I can be of any assistance to you in any way I hope you will feel free to ask for it.

This should be a good season for collecting and I trust you found plenty of material on your recent trip. Apparently you found more than you could do or at any rate that you worked too hard or ate the wrong things, but I hope your illness has passed.

Sincerely yours,



LRA:HB

I am needing help on a key to the genus. As I remember you are planning to use other characters in place of oil-tubes.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
DUDLEY HERBARIUM

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

February 2, 1939.

Dr. Mildred Mathias
1156 Keeler Ave.
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Dr. Mathias:

I am forwarding to you a specimen of Ligusticum sent among others to me for identification by Mr. J. W. Eastham, Court House, Vancouver, B. C. It looks like ample material, with flowers, fruit and basal leaves, in addition to field notes. I hope the specimen may be of interest to you.

How is the work on the Umbelliferae getting along? I suppose you have heard that my Flora is temporarily held up for lack of funds, but I hope this is not for long. The Stanford Press has been making some rather careful studies of different methods of publishing, and has been able to cut its earlier estimates materially, so that I feel that the publication may be undertaken before long. There are still some things hanging fire about the Umbelliferae, so I will get in touch with you just as soon as some action is taken on publication.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Abrams
L. R. Abrams

LRA:HB

Lig. Leibergii C. & R.
Other B.C. records -
Rogers Pass, Petersen
& Lamentable - Columbia
Rivers, Macoun

*Pl. up to 15 dm.
+ tall.*

Calif. Inst. of Technology
Pasadena, Calif., Feb 28, 1930

Dear Miss Mathias,

Our Institute, starting as it did as an engineering school, still holds to its old tradition of being a one hundred percent σ institution. This prevents us from considering women for staff positions of any kind. We have provided facilities for research work for two women Mrs Morgan, and Mrs Schultz (Helen Redfield), but they draw no salary from the Institute. Also we are growing material for Mrs. E. W. Erlanson, and expect to provide working facilities for her also for a short time. These mild breaks with the long established tradition caused some little consternation in other departments, but they have gotten used to it now. But the payment of any salary to women for either teaching, or independent research is not permitted; that is, at present. No doubt it will become much more liberal in the future, but progress in that direction is likely to be slow.

The two large schools in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A. and U.S.C. both have great masses of students and large teaching staffs and are on the increase. But neither one is easily accessible from Pasadena. Occidental is fairly close but is a small school and may have no botanical work at all. Pasadena Junior College (= a 2yr extension added on to the high school system) is very close to our campus and has quite a fair enrollment of

students but presumably ^{they} give only very elementary work in botany.

I am sorry we have nothing to offer here, and also that I am so little acquainted with botanical work in our neighboring institutions. If I can in any way help you to get oriented here I shall be glad to do so. And if you can find nothing better, our department might perhaps be persuaded to hire you as laboratory technician in cytology.

Very sincerely yours

E. J. Anderson

#9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Medford, Oregon, May 17, 1937.

Mrs. Mildred E. Mathias,
Herbarium, Botany Dept.,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mrs. Mathias:

Under separate cover I am mailing you a sample of an umbellifer which, for all I know, may be your Leptotaenia Bradshawii. If it is that species, I should be pleased to send you more of it. I collected plenty of material. Later I can send you fruit.

A few days ago I collected in the Lava Beds good flowering specimens of Lomatium nevadensis, the only species out.

I shall be collecting in the Oregon Caves region soon. I'll keep an eye open for Umbelliferae.

Very sincerely,

Edward S. Applegate

#10

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 11, 1937.

Mrs. Mildred E. Mathias,
1156 Keeler Avenue,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mrs. Mathias:

I am glad to know from you that the Eugene plant sent you is Leptotaenia Bradshawii. It is rather common about the type locality, and doubtless, as you suggest, not so local as has appeared. On the block where I collected it, there is a colony of it perhaps as large as a city lot, the area yellow with it. Mr. Henderson was quite excited about it, and thought it quite a joke that I should find a plant in his back yard not known to him. The following morning we went out together and got more material. He (at 84) entered into the thing with boyish enthusiasm. He graduated from Cornell 65 years ago, a classmate of David Starr Jordan, Dr. Branner and Prof. Dudley. He promised to get fruiting specimens of the Leptotaenia for us.

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I hope that I shall be able to get for you Cogswellia Nelsonii and C. Hallii; although the type locality of the first is well down in the deepest part of the Rogue River canyon, perhaps 20 miles by trail from the end of the road below Grants Pass. Do you know just where the Hall plant was collected on Silver Creek? Solverton, out from Salem, is on that stream.

Some big snow-drifts lingering here. 6 inches of new on the rim last night. I shall be working in the Oregon Caves region soon.

Very sincerely,

Elmer Sappleton

11

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
ESTES PARK, COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

November 8, 1929.

Miss Mildred Mathias,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, Missouri:

Dear Miss Mathias;

This is to thank you for your determination of the specimens which I sent to the Missouri Botanical Garden for identification. I appreciate very much your kindness in working on them.

I have two or three more yellow castillejas which are rather puzzling and which I think I will send you at a later date if I may. I had thought one of them was *C. occidentalis* Torr., but it is quite different from the one which you determined as that species.

I have quite a collection of composites which I have not had time to work on yet but I expect to do so this winter. When I finish I have no doubt there will be some upon which I shall want expert advice, and I will send the castillejas in with them at that time, and trust that you will have time to look them over.

Very truly yours,

Ruth E. Ashton

Ruth E. Ashton,
National Park Service.

Kenwood, Calif.
Oct. 25, 1938.

#12

Dr. Mildred Mathias
W.C. Herbarium.

My dear Mrs. Mathias,

About a week ago I sent you

by Express all the sheets we have of the Umbelliferae.

There is no hurry about them at all. I merely
want to make sure they arrived all right.

Thank you for the copy of genus *Lomatium* -
I found it at my desk in the Herbarium when I
was down last time

Cordially

Milo S. Baker

DR. JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK, NEW YORK CITY

April 28, 1927.

Dr. J. M. Greenman
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Doctor Greenman:-

We have at least one copy of Bentham and Hooker's Genera Plantarum in the original parts as issued, in publisher's green cloth. I have seen several sets in this form and do not know whether they were ever issued with paper covers. If they were, the paper cover might have given some date of publication that does not appear on the cloth cover.

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The third part of volume 1, which completed the volume, began on page 721, not 725 as seems to be implied in your letter of the 15th inst. This part contained the volume title-page with its inclusive dates, and the preface, at the end of which is given the month-dates of the first and second parts, but the month-date of the third part appears nowhere and even the year-date only as implied by the general title-page.

I think, however, that it is an easy matter to decide the exact month of issue, for this was an important work the appearance of which would be noted at once in contemporary periodical literature. It was reviewed in the Journal of Botany for 1 October, 1867 (5:313) and there referred to as "having just appeared". It was noted in the Gardeners' Chronicle for 12 October, 1867 (1867:1050). The Gardeners' Chronicle usually reviewed books about three or six weeks after their appearance and would probably have given preference to a work of this kind. It seems to me, therefore, safe to assume that this part of the Genera Plantarum appeared in September 1867, and probably during the second half of that month.

Very sincerely yours,
John Hendley Barnhart,

JHB:JS

Bibliographer.

#14

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park
New York City

October 6, 1927.

Miss Mildred Mathias
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Miss Mathias:-

As we discovered when you were here,
I think, we have here both Miquel's Prolusio and the Leyden
annals; so I was able, upon receipt of your letter of the
third instant, to place them side by side for comparison.

The result was as you evidently
suspected; page 249 of the Prolusio is identical with page
61 of volume 3 of *Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat.* — except, of
course, the page-number at top and the signature-number at
bottom.

Cordially yours,

John Hendley Barnhart.

JHB:AGR

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DR. JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK, NEW YORK CITY

February 15, 1928.

Miss Mildred E. Mathias,
The Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Miss Mathias:

Your letter of the 10th is my first hint of the existence of a man by the name of Thomas J. Howell. I knew of the two brothers: Thomas, who was interested in plants most of his life, and Joseph, who was a collector for a few years and then retired from active botanical work; but I had not heard of the third brother, John, mentioned in your letter. I would think that your "Thomas J. Howell" was an error for Thomas and J. Howell, if it were not for the fact that you mention the name as occurring both on letters and on plant labels. The only suggestion I can make is, that at some period in his life Thomas Howell used a middle initial, "J", thinking perhaps that "Thomas" was not sufficiently distinctive, and that later he gave it up. This would agree perfectly well with statements of Prof. Henderson and H. H. Smith, that Thomas Howell had no middle name. He may never have had any middle name, other than the initial, and that, as I have suggested, may have been assumed and dropped.

A few years ago there was one man who could probably have solved your riddle; but Martin W. Gorman, of Portland, died more than a year ago, and I have no idea who to refer you to now. Joseph Howell is said to have had a number of children, but I have no idea of their names, or where they live. Thomas Howell had only one child, a son, who was only seven years old at the time of his father's death and would probably not be able to shed any light on your problem, even if you could locate him.

I am sorry that I can do no better by you.

Sincerely yours,

John Hendley Barnhart.

JHB/T

#16

EDWIN B. BARTRAM
BUSHKILL
PIKE COUNTY
PA.

Oct. 2, 1932.

Dr. M. E. Mathias,
Pittsburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with a request from
Mr. F. R. Fosberg I am enclosing a list of
determinations for some mosses from Colorado and
New Mexico as I understand them.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin B. Bartram

#17

Rochester N.Y.

Miss W. E. Methies

Nov 14 1932

5754 Macburn Rd

Pittsburg Pa

Dear Miss Methies

The plants of *H. Fetherstonia*
which were growing in my garden have not survived, and I am sorry to say that I have no specimens in my Herbarium. Next summer if possible I intend to visit the Washington Hunt region - about forty miles distant and search

for it in the type locality.

I have already looked for it without success nearer Rochester

If I remember correctly Dr Jennings describes it as having a peltate leaf. This will at once distinguish

it from ^{only reported} our local species. If this is not a stable character will you kindly advise.

H. americana in which the leaves are not peltate. I shall, however

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search for the pubescent petiole.

It would interest me to know if the species has been found in any other locality.

Sincerely yours

Milton S Baxter

(Mr.) H. C. Benke,
4034 Montrose Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. - MAR-18-1939.

Mildred E. Mathias
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Doctor Mathias:

I have something for your
work table - a rare specimen
in *Daucus Carota* L., my
number 5897.

On a walk, Sept. 2nd of last
year from Mount Prospect to Cum-
berland, in north-west part of
Cook County, Illinois, for some
four miles, there was one pro-
cession, field, after field of this
species - all uniformly typical.
But I came upon two conspic-
uous colonies, one of some half-
dozen plants, the other several times
larger that appeared to have green
flowers from a distance, and very
striking in the landscape. In fact
the petals were green with white
margins!

I am presenting you a spec-
imen as enclosed - I have dupli-
cates of the plants here, and will
await with interest your report
on this number (5897) as to
determination.

I travel much, but expect to be
at home a week or two more, so
would appreciate early reply.
Most truly
M. H. M. M. C. Benke



Walla Walla College
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
COLLEGE PLACE, WASHINGTON

March 28

Dr. Mildred Hassler
University of California
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Dr. Hassler:

Dr. C. L. Hitchcock has referred me to you as being a most likely person to determine some specimens of *Lomatium* which we have collected in our immediate vicinity here in eastern Washington.

For years I have been trying to learn the species of *Lomatium* in this area so that I can at least show my systematic botany students the different ones, but it seemsthat every time we think we have them figured out, we find something else that throws us off again.

Now, one of my students has made a special problem of this genus, and has collected a number of specimens from several localities nearby, and at different times during the year, so that we hope we have adequate material for someone to look over. If you can spare the time to go over these I would be very glad to send you what specimens we have. You are welcome to keep some of them in case you desire any of them, but if these specimens are not prepared to your liking, we will collect others for you this season. I will not send any specimens until I hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest S. Barth

CONSERVATOIRE
ET
JARDIN BOTANIKES
HERBIER DELESSERT
HERBIER DE CANDOLLE
HERBIER BURNAT
LA CONSOLE
Route de Lausanne, 192

VILLE DE



GENÈVE

Genève (Suisse) le 3 mars 1927.

Le Directeur du Conservatoire
et du Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève à
Monsieur le Dr. J.M. Greenman, Curator of Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint-Louis.

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Dear Dr. Greenman,

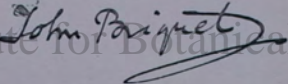
I send you by this mail, in answer to your letter of february 16th, the copy of Rafinesque's article which you wish. The paper in which it is contained is entitled : "Extrait d'une lettre de M. C.S. Rafinesque, professeur à Philadelphie, adressée à M. le professeur de Candolle. (mai 1830)", and is owed to Seringe who, at that time, was curator of the de Candolle Herbarium. As you see from the text, Rafinesque states that the four genera in question have been established in his Flora Mandanensis. I have not been able to find out if this belongs to one of the papers of Rafinesque which have never been published. You will make that out easily with the help of one of the two more or less complete bibliographies of Rafinesque's writings which have been published in your country and which, till now, I have not succeeded to get for our

library. If the statement of Rafinesque is true, the original description of Oreoxis would be previous to 1830 .

I regret very much that you could not avail yourself of the opportunity to purchase Stuckert's Argentinian Herbarium. I write to this botanist to have indications for sending back the whole collection to Buenos-Aires.

I hear with very great interest that you are assembling a series of duplicates for our herbarium. On our side we will send you a set, as complete as possible, of the classical collection of Savoy plants of Ferrier de la Bâthie.

With kind regards, I am yours sincerely.

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(Note. — Les parties du texte en caractères de belle écriture
ou en caractères plus gros et sont évidemment révisés par Seringe.)
Bulletin botanique ou collection de notices originales et d'ex-
traits des ouvrages botaniques, par N.C. Seringe. Genève, 1830.

(Page 216 à 217.). (fait partie du n° 8, août 1830)

- p. 216 « 1. LOMATIUM pubescens (Rafin.) Involucrum nullum. Semina latere
alata, dorso laevi.
2. CYMOPTERUS (Rafin.) Umbella involucrata ; umbellula invo=
lucellata. Calyx integer. Ovarium 5-gonum. Corolla petalis
inaequalibus inflexis. Semina elliptica glabra, alis 3-4
dorsalibus undulatis membranaceis.

C'est le Selinum acaule Pursh, ou Thapsia glomerata
Nuttall., mais un nouveau genre polygame.

- p. 217 3. ADORIUM crassifolium (Rafin.) hermaphroditum. Involucrum
nullum. Calyx 5-dentatus. Petala obcordata. Semina ovata
gibbosa angulata glabra.

Ce genre avait d'abord été nommé Marathrum par M. Rafi=
nesque ; mais il l'abandonna lorsqu'il vit que M. Brown en avait
établi un du même nom.

4. OREOXIS humilis (Rafin.) Polygama. Involucrum nullum. Invo=
lucellum 3-6-phyllum, phyllis linearibus. Calyx 5-dentatus, den=
tibus subulatis. Petala lutea inaequalia acuta apice incurvo.
Stamina divaricata. Styli divaricati. Semina ovata dorso tricos=
tata.

M. Rafinesque ajoute que c'est le genre Anonymus, n. 179,
de Torrey, plantes du Missouri (1827). — Ces quatre genres sont
établis dans sa Flora Mandanensis. — »

The paper continues as follows :

« Ses autres genres, établis depuis cette époque, sont
les suivants :

Dicranopus of Sperandopus, Phylimnium, Oxypholis,
Strebanthus and Orimaria. Kind of Umbelliferat.

#21

Board of Governors

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Los Angeles Museum

OF HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ART

AND THE

Otis Art Institute

Office of the Director

WM. ALANSON BRYAN
THE MUSEUM, EXPOSITION PARK
LOS ANGELES, CALIF., U. S. A.
CABLE ADDRESS "LANUSEO"

March 20, 1930

Mr. Willard E. Mathias, Research Assistant
Missouri Botanical Gardens,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

I am replying to your letter of March 14th in which you inquire as to the possibility of employment in the Los Angeles Museum during the coming year.

At the present time we are not in a position to offer any very great encouragement in this connection, but I hope during the next few months to arrange for a civil service examination for the selection of an assistant botanist. As these examinations are open and competitive it might be that you would be interested in considering it if you are in Pasadena at that time. In any event I should be glad to have a call from you on your arrival and suggest that you fill in the enclosed preliminary application in order that I may have the proper information with reference to your qualifications in the event that an opportunity presents itself in the museum or elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Bryan
Director.

WAB/T.

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Education

Experience

positions held

Salary

cause of leaving

references

foreign languages

spoken
& written

Membership in Soc.

NOV 20 1930

THE GRAFENBERG MUSEUM
MUNICH, GERMANY

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Los Angeles Museum
OF HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ART
AND THE
Otis Art Institute

Office of the Director

WM. ALANSON BRYAN
THE MUSEUM, EXPOSITION PARK
LOS ANGELES, CALIF., U.S.A.
TELEPHONE HUMBOLT 0693
CABLE ADDRESS "LAMUSEO"

April 9th
1 9 3 0

Miss Mildred E. Mathias,
The Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Miss Mathias:

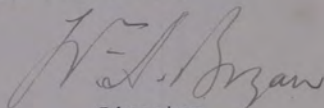
I am acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 26th enclosing our "preliminary application," also three separates of papers published by you at the Botanical Garden. I have also received letters from Dr. Geo. T. Moore, Director; Dr. E.S.Reynolds, Plant Physiologist; Dr. Greenman, in Charge of Graduate Work at the Shaw School of Botany; and Miss Homer, Librarian and Editor of Publications; all of whom speak of you and your work and qualifications in the most favorable terms.

As indicated by my previous letter, it is a source of satisfaction to have available this data in the event an opportunity develops where we can pass on this information to others if we are not able to avail ourselves of your services.

I should be glad to have you write us definitely, recalling your application, when you have definitely made up your mind to come to California as you indicate that September is probably the date you would come.

I may add, in conclusion, that you appear to have many of the qualifications that would be requisite in the filling of a Museum position.

Very truly yours,



Director

WAB/blc

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TELEPHONE HUMBOLT 0693
CABLE ADDRESS "LAMUSEO"

May 8, 1930

Miss Mildred Mathias, Research Assistant
Missouri Botanical Gardens,
St. Louis, Missouri.

My dear Miss Mathias:

I am taking time before leaving for Boston this evening to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 3rd and to say that I shall bear in mind the date of your proposed arrival- October first.

It is rather difficult to intimate the character of work that we may be able to find for you in California. What is really desired in the museum is one who is skilled in the preparation of museum exhibit material similar to the collections on display in the Field Museum.

I would suggest that if it is possible for you to do so, that before coming west, if you could spend a day or to in that institution, you would have in mind the things that I should like very much to be able to do here and have an opportunity to judge your ability and preparation for that character of work.

In any event we shall have you in mind and certainly expect to have you visit us soon after your arrival in Los Angeles.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Bryan
Director

WAB/T.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.PRESIDENT
HENRY W. DE FORESTDIRECTOR
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWETREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL

Nov 20, 1936

Dear Mildred:

Thanks for the specimens. You know that I'm not one to gush, so when I say they are good specimens - you'll just have to fill in the equivalent of two pages of gushing as best you can. The least I can say is that they fill up certain holes in the distribution of the species represented.

I'm really glad for you that you're going West, for I have a feeling that you like it there a bit better than the East.

Maybe I'm wrong - I might even hope so, but it's my opinion - and I guess I'm stuck with it. But you'll be a helluva long ways away - and you can smile all you want to - but I'll miss you.

Red.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 6, 1937.

Dr. Mildred Mathias Hassler
1156 Keeler Avenue
Berkeley, California

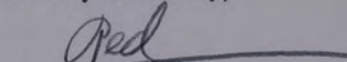
My dear Mildred:

I know you will be tremendously surprised to know that I am alive and kicking — well anyway alive, because when I am, I'm mostly kicking.

There is little of news except that Al is planning a six months jaunt into British Guiana and even I am beginning to get the itch again. We are yet unable to report the new director. It seems, however, that the field has now narrowed to not less than 743, one or two of which are botanists.

I know you are terribly busy and this does not come in the form of a request, or anything like it, and I have said nothing about it, but Uncle Charlie Deam's health is failing rapidly and he is doing his best to get out his flora of Indiana this year. I have been doing my best to straighten out his Ericaceae and Vaccinaceae; Moldenke has been taking the Verbenaceae, etc., etc., and, knowing that there might be a few changes in nomenclature in the Umbellifers of the mid-west, I thought you might like to drop him a line just so that his book will be a little more correct. Some folks do not like Uncle Charlie or think much of his botany — that has nothing to do with the case. He is a great old soldier and is going down swinging with both fists and if we can help him I am sure he will be more than grateful.

Yours very sincerely,


J. H. Camp
Assistant Curator

Mr. C. C. Deam
Bluffton
Indiana

WHC:AGR

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 19, 1937.

Dr. Mildred Mathias
1156 Keeler Avenue
Berkeley, California

Dear Mildred:-

I was indeed glad that you could drop Uncle Charlie a note concerning the Indiana Umbels.

Yes, I found a few of your pets in Oaxaca. They have recently been mounted and just as soon as I get the labels prepared will send them to you.

I have heard from ^{Miss Carter?} ~~her~~ (I have forgotten what her name is but she is in the herbarium at Berkeley and was through here the other week) that you had been doing a lot of very important collecting. I warn you, however, you can't really claim to be good until you can spot the rare ones at fifty miles per hour.

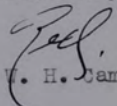
Mr. Stacey of the California Academy of Science, working on Carex, has been here for a week and said that in his experiences one could not trust the locality label on a Jones specimen. I have had certain misgivings myself and wonder if you have bumped into the same thing. We also suspect J. W. Thompson of having some bum labels.

It is downright mean to speak of coal and furnace fires in sunny California, particularly when the official temperature in New York has been hitting over 95 for the last week.

I am still at the Angell's and managing to hold my belt line within reason — my own reason;— however some of my friends maintain that it is getting unreasonable.

Al said that he would possibly not get around to writing and so that I should tell you that he is leaving the last of August as botanist with the Museum of Natural History Expedition and that they plan to ascend the Essequibo and cross over into Brazil. With Al's characteristic manner he looked at me and said "maybe".

Sincerely,


W. H. Camp.

WHC/BP

Aug. 19, 1937.

My dear Mildred:

It is a steamy hot night with the water slowly trickling down my back in little rivulets - and outside the crickets are humming as if they too have worked up a sweat . Somehow I just don't feel like being a taxonomist tonight, even if there is as much unfinished work as usual stacked up around my desk. It is so much better at times just to pretend that all the little chores have been done and that one has been brilliant and swept all the little perplexing things away in one swipe of genius and --- aw hell, what I want to do is sit down somewhere this evening and listen to the wind singing in the spruce and fir and the far away drum of a cataract --- somehow the Bronx- even with the umbra of a host of unmarked Smallian and Rydbergian types, fails somehow to be entirely satisfying -- particularly with the light of an almost full moon swimming over the mists that lie in wispy strands along the valley of the mighty torrent of that rushing stream called in the common vernacular El Rio Bronco - or is it the Bronx River --- who knows who cares and who gives a damn.

---- Carol just paused at my desk --- working tonight so that she can go up to Connecticut over her week end --- but I have no Connecticut and don't want any Connecticut or anything else --- or am I a liar? At least I don't want Connecticut because the mountains are not mountains, only little bumps that are not even bumps when you stack them up against a real mountain.

Anyway, could I ask a favor of you? Sometime when you are going to the high Sierras and happen to be in Sequoia N.P. and don't have another thing to do, take the trail up to Panther Gap and snitch me a little piece of Uva Ursi (Arctostaphylos) nevadensis --- one of those nice plants growing right in the pass. I don't need it --- have no use for it, but if it is a little fresh when it gets here, I can take my hair down and have a damn good cry all by myself -- I'm that homesick for the mountains.

Just back this week from a two week's stay in the land of the bean and the cod. There I made my first real visit with that most delectable old scoundrel, that defender of the purity and virginal endemism of the New England flora, Pappy Fernald. Somehow, I fell in a big way for the salty old cuss. And we had some merry chats together. The staff up there couldn't get over the way he took me under his wing. One afternoon he spent almost three hours with me talking the phytogeography of the N.E. Provinces. And almost every

day he would come up to my desk and sit down. Frankly, altho I cherish those talks, he took up a lot of time. I do feel, however, that he will never get his flora done. He is now very busy revamping those portions which were done some years ago. And I looks to me as if he will finish out his allotted span --- just revising. There are still some terribly large holes that he has not tackled, even in the first draft. His health is not any too good for he was out a long time this spring with his heart and is not too strong now and apparently failed a great deal.

And speaking of tickers -- Dr. Small is and has been out for some time. His Dr. is scarcely able to promise that he can keep him going to finish out the summer. But then Old J. Kunkel has been fooling the medicos for years.

Al leaves for Br. Guiana about the 27th of the month. Nina is going to return to that poky little college in Ohio to teach. Al's plans are to spend about two months in the upper reaches after the main expedition cashes in. This will keep him about 8 months and with luck, it is my hunch that he will not be in any hurry even then to return. He got some extra money and will be able to do that. It's a swell thing and I'm all for it because Al can do that sort of thing in a swell manner. Wish I had half the brains and taxonomic ability that boy has.

Ed Alex. has been in N.C. this summer finishing up his A.B. degree. Claims he is going to get an M.S. and Ph.D. from Columbia. He has been fourteen years on the A.B. so we still have hopes.

No director has been appointed as yet and frankly, Dr. G. is beginning to wear under the strain, for, without complete authority, his decisions are necessarily hampered.

George Goodman and his wife are here for a month. I like them. Old Bill Steere, the old moose, was here last spring and swore that he would be tied down in Mich. for at least a year - damn the luck. If there is one guy in the world I'm fond of, it's Bill. Adriance Foster and Old Carex Stacey passed through. Had a swell time with Adriance and Stacey is another salty old fellow of whom I am fond.

The great god Moldenke has been stricken by the weather and only goes around the herbarium on a lope rather than the customary gallop. Personally, his red headed fraustill seems to be wishing he would spend a little less time on his biography! But ho hum, who am I to cast aspersions. It seems that I am no great shakes myself at supplying the world with a new generation of biologists. How about you? By the grape-vine, I hear that you are now setting up housekeeping in a swell sort of a cabin on the shores of the peaceful Pacific.

And does life continue to treat you -- or do you have to take what you get from life. I, personally, haven't found anybody that is treating. I guess it is like a cow and her milk --- you've got to take it away from her -- only life at times seems to be sort of a dry-bag. And damn -- there I go revealing my past and my basic agricultural backgrounds here in this cosmopolitan atmosphere where all is so sophisticated that when a cow moos they wonder which horn she blew out of.

I've been sort of stalling around trying to figure out just why I am writing to you - and FLASH - just like that, it came to me. Would you in the near future have time to look over a few specimens of Mex. Ammiaceae for me and bring your most careful perception to bear upon said, sundry and other details. The reason for this sudden mental and physical activity is that I finally got the labels for the things the other day. If I haven't yet, let me here and now doff my hat and thank you for your kind ministrations to those which I garnered in the southern Appalachians the other summer. Oh, and by the way -- just as a matter of record

Yes, just as a matter of record, if I hadn't interrupted, you would have six more pages in this letter. Glad --- or sorry?

Carol.

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Just as a matter of record, :---- were those specimens adequate? By that I mean - since I am trying to learn how to collect certain groups so they will be acceptable - did they have the sort of stuff on the sheets that you needed ?

Carol came by again and I had her put in her word, but she was in a hurry - driving up to Van's and so that was all she had time for. --- Except to give me a copy of this Mo. Jour on Krubi. You'll get yours. I guess I was just a booby over krubi - but then the jungle gal was fun, even if she did have a , --- well -- er, sort of a smell-- or is the word stink?.

Well, when you have the tempus and a fidget, how about sitting down to the old Underwood and pecking out something about yourself? Mom and Pop speak often of you and Pop, just the other day, was wondering when you were going to come back and make him a sponge cake. Sorry I missed that cake, for it seemed to have been something of a cross between Pop's lifelong ambition and the realization of the only real thrill his New English Puritan soul would permit. In short, it must have been a wowser!

A light rain is pattering on the casement, it is now nearly 11 P.M. and so I think I'll close ---- but it has been nice, just sitting down with you and having an old chin-wiggle.

Red.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 6, 1937.

Dr. Mildred Mathias Hassler
1156 Keeler Avenue
Berkeley, California

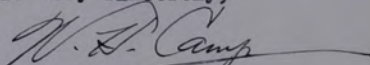
My dear Mrs. Hassler:

Under separate cover I am at last getting around to sending you the mess of parsnips which I mentioned some time ago. I do not know whether you are attempting to keep up an Umbellifer collection of your own or not. If so, I would be more than glad to send you duplicates. The thing which angers me as much as anything else, is the fact that I made two collections of the genus *Hydrocotyle*, which I remember specifically putting out in a special bundle while in Mexico. Some place between Oaxaca and New York this bundle became lost. I hope, however, to stumble on it some day among the duplicates, where I strongly suspect it is hiding.

If there should happen to be any new species among the lot of which you would care to see the rest of the collection before describing, I would be more than glad to make this material available to you so that you, as a specialist, could select what you consider should be the type sheet.

If it is convenient to you, the specimens, when you have finished your determinations, may be returned either express collect, or by parcel post, in which case I will send you the equivalent postage.

Yours very sincerely,



W. H. Camp
Assistant Curator

WHC:AGR

Feb 10, 1938

My dear Mildred:

It is now well after 10:00 P.M. and I think about time to close up work for the day. These have been hectic times around the old NYBG - at least for me.

Dr. Small died last month - and I will miss the old fellow. Dr. G. turned over the reins to the new Chief on Feb 1., and packed up for a much needed rest in Florida. Mc.Lain was fired (poddon pliz, resigned) last November, and I was given his courses in plant physiology and morphology at the "garden" school. Somehow I can't bull my way through them and they do take a helluva lot of work -- getting it all boiled down and made understandable (?) to the students.

Then too, I have been made an "editor" - but that's a surprise. But getting a new venture started does take a lot of time.

---I'll be darn glad to get your reaction to the "thing" when it breaks. --- Ho hum, lets see. O yes. Ten lectures in the last thirteen days from the American Museum of Natural History to Ohio State University and on topics ranging from Oaxaca to Alaskan Plants, from the Physiology of the translocation of minerals to How to collect and preserve herbarium specimens. Also one on Continental Drift and Plant Distribution. Do you suppose that ther is any correlation between the big wind you folks have been experiencing on the west coast and what the folks here have been having? --- Yes, and as Dr. G. left the other day he called out to me " Say, I forgot to tell you - Please take my museum lecture next Saturday on the Romance of Plant names". But what time does that leave in my life for "romance" let alone that elusive and little seen thing called research.

Now for personalia ---- Krukoff has about taken over Al's office. I have about ~~xxx~~ 3000 specimens of blueberries "stored" there. I go in about once a month and do a little work on them --- but next week --- ah "next week". No real news from Al for the last few weeks. Held a two way conversation with him Xmas eve. Portable wireless outfit talking to base-camp, then relayed to Georgetown, amplified and sent to NY, changed to long wave and broadcast. A note from Nina the other ~~day~~ week saying that the rest of the crew were returning and that Al was (according to his previous plans) staying on in order to get some "real collecting" done.

The Harlows are now out of the library and a real library staff - for which much thanx. Ed has moved into DR. Small's office - sort of inherited it. Moldenke still encouched in the herbarium - my old desk. (And by the way, Mrs. M. is now in Florida awaiting the usual 90 day period. Rene would have been quicker - but Florida was warmer. Blessings and happiness to the both of them!) Carol is much her usual self. Dr. G. almost a nervous wreck by the time he left for Florida. Margaret just passed and said "Howchewdoee"---- still the same Maggie. The new director apparently a close mouthed man who has a mind of his own. Hasn't been up to the top floor yet since coming on duty. It has been suggested that he be given a personal tour - if only to meet a few of the staff who have not yet seen him.

Must close and go home and get some sleep - it was after midnight last night when I left the building----- Sooooo - My love to you and Gerald.

Colorado.

It is the year of the Nativity
 One thousand nine hundred and thirty eight.
 The month is December, the day; the third.
 The hour is A.M.

My dear Mildred:

Yea, 'tis the sabbath, verily, and will I then take
 the Corona in hand, strike across its strings a lusty stroke or
 two for sweet tunings sake and then the tinkle of the lyre.

Forsooth, and how the Broad Pacific rolls? We trust it
 stays within boundaries proscribed both by Nature and by man.
 Thus, to equanimity it doth contribute much. And weather? Yea,
 and whether not, that be more pertinent a question. With us,
 'tis more likely we be knowing ~~the~~ the state of mind of Jupiter
 come the change of moon. Now one day fair - another foul. A day
 of snow and bitter cold - or rain and slush - mayhap, of sunny
 weather. Today, beseeching more like April. Snow be melting on
 the hill, the brooklet full, the cawing of the crows, bespeaking
 of the swelling bud and tender greenery of Spring. And looking
 from my window I see love - Young Love - a-swinging past and hand
 in hand. O, to be once more young and full of phizzle.

This be, by all imports, a day of much travail for me.
 Later, forsooth, a band led by one H.K.Svenson will descend upon
 these peaceful corridors. Now they be more like cloisters, for
 the scurrying and scratching of noises, much like a hen's when
 hunting worms, doth emanate from Alexanders office. 'Tis but
 an ebullience of Spring or Youth within his veins. He being
 occupied with readying of his desk and other office accoutrements.
 Yet abulia doth tax me sorely, else I would do the same. This,

as I have but given hint, being the day wherein the Local Flora Committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, doth convene within these sacred walls. Lo and there may be much contention, for Henry - he whose surname be Svenson - and leader of the band, doth have ideas which be plainly nuts. Lead us, O Zeus, into the paths of rightfulness and taxonomic peace.

O there be many things transpire within these walls. Some which do cause the gods on fair Olympus to be rocked with laughter. Others do but give them pain. Still others make them hide in shame. Lo, 'tis sometimes more like Delphic scenes: the lesser priests awaiting on the fringe listening to the rumbled fulminations from the pit of Oracle; low mutterings of troubled waters. 'Tis perhaps a wiser thing to be done with kneeling to the gods who know no more than I of tomorrow's morrows. But it is funny as all hell watching a man who knows only the functioning of plants give grave pronouncements anent the naming of them. Damn the omniscient didacticism of former schoolmasters who know neither the whence nor thence of things; damn the philosophy which, all too often, falls upon their shoulders like a cloak to hide their ignorances: the doctrine that rank makes rightness-- that position is power and power is perfection. As Bill Steere would say: "Peace on them." Only Bill uses an inflection which makes it sound like an Italian immigrant - and thus gives it a different meaning.

So to the end of the page, or near it, and before me the grim reality of poor corpses of specimens pasted to the sheet. Ah, speed the day when these be done and put away. There be long high trails and laughter in the wind on mountain tops. I would be walking knee-deep in fern, in the dew-drenched mistiness of dawn.

R.S.

Jan 30 1939

Dear Mildred:

Yes, there is one person in the whole of California about whom I would like to get some news. But it seems that I am destined to pine away until the lady breaks down and tells me herself. Now of course it was very interesting about all the rest - and I do like the low-down. That Foster case was interesting. It can all be put at the door of one Louis C. Wheeler. Wheeler told me with great glee how he sicked Foster onto doing it and publishing it that way. Louis is a boy that will have to be watched. He is a damned pharisee who lives within the letter of the law but without its spirit. I instinctively distrust him. Foster I have not met, although I was up to Gray the other week - just a few hours.

Yes, Bud got off to S.A. Just a week ago. Came through - after sending a telegram to Al that he would be in town for three days - with the bland announcement that he was staying over at Svensons in Brooklyn. Al and I had made our arrangements for dinners, etc. Finally we got sore and laid down the LAW. So he did stay for a dinner at Al's and spent one night at my house. Somehow I feel that it was sort of a snide trick to wire and say he was going to be in town three days - implying that he would be around - and then walk out. But then E.P. is E.P. Ho Hum.

Your letter somehow cheered me, in seeing that we so often see eye to eye - for it proves that we have a lot in common: our contempt for people based on purely personal grounds and mainly because they weary us. Someday I'm gonna tell you something.

But then this note is not to be an answer to your letter. I have a lot of Gaultherias from Mexico - the Schultes and Balls collections and they need looking into. What this really is, is a query on your query. Lomatium? Who in hell ever heard of Lomatium? What is it, a mouthwash? Sounds more like some of this personal hygiene stuff. But really, I am at a loss. Something must have happened for there is absolutely no record in my files of any paper on the genus having come to my desk. Furthermore, there is no Torrey Card, - which doesn't mean anything nowadays. But please -pulleese - won't you give me more than a spanking? Won't you give me just a clue, just a hint as to the citation as well as the chapter and verse? And is my face red - or isn't it? As soon as I get the citation I'll be able to tell. And again, if you know of anything else I have missed, please let me know.

And lastly, it would have scarcely been necessary to caution me about keeping my puss shut about some of the things you wrote. Some things, my dear, don't go in the files, - except those at the back of my head - and that isn't too good a place, except for forgetting.

Red.