



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss.,
23 August 1962

Mr. Jan de Graaf,
Box #12
Gresham, Oregon

Dear Mr. de Graaf:

This is what I call a "nuisance letter" so be warned!

Since moving to the Deep South to live I have had to alter my interest in narcissus to those sorts that thrive here with a minimum of difficulty. This means that I have had not only a new opportunity to study and grow the true tazettas but their progenies as well. Few if any of the true tazettas would persist with me in the North.

Among those that I have found in trade is the excellent Matador, registered as from Oregon Bulb Farms. In the RHS list there are two other such registered from Oregon Bulb Farms but as yet I have not found them offered anywhere, namely ~~the two other registered ones~~ and there are plans for introducing these and if so, through whom?

In the same registration book, are many kinds from Netherlands introducers, that I have never heard of in this country.

Is there any one person or firm in the Netherlands to whom I might write and with whom I might make any sort of arrangement to buy stock (for growing, not for sale) of any and all the things originating in their country? And is there, by any miracle, any one who has maintained a collection of the infinite variety of true tazettas that once seem to have been numerous? I should particularly like to have and know, such things as Bazelman Major, Gloriosus, Staten General, Queen of the Netherlands and many many more!

If all of this is ridiculous and not at all practicable, please do not hesitate to say so, and accept my apologies in advance.

With best personal wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

B. Y. Morrison

m

OREGON BULB FARMS

An Oregon Corporation

Mr. B. Y. Morrison
Route 1 Box 24
Pass Christian,
Mississippi



GRESHAM, OREGON

Mail: BOX 512, GRESHAM, OREGON

Telephone: GRESHAM, MOHAWK 5-4498

Telegrams: PORTLAND, OREGON

Jan de Graaff
President

Dear Mr. Morrison,

Delighted to have your "nuisance" letter. It is always good to hear from old friends and especially if a letter is about something both of us are interested in. The old Tazetta varieties have been something of a hobby for me for years and it was only with great reluctance that I gave them up, when I sold all my daffodils to other growers. As to who has some of these novelties of mine now, I really do not know. The Puget Sound Bulb Exchange (Mr. Ted Sabelis) of Summer, Washington might know, or Mr. Hatch, at the same address.

No doubt you are aware of the work of Mrs. J. B. Evans of Haphazard Plantation, Ferriday, La., who has collected and named quite a few Tazetta. There have been other publications in the A. D. S. Yearbooks and Bulletins. I believe there has been an article, in recent years, in the R. H. S. Bulletins or Daffodil Yearbook.

As to writing to someone in Holland, you must remember that this is harvest and shipping season over there and that nobody has time for leisurely correspondence. Mr. Thomas Hoog, of van Tubergen, Inc., Zwanenburg Nurseries, Haarlem, Holland, is the best informed man. He may know of one or two amateur-botanists who have collected old varieties. There is a little "bulb museum" in Limmen, Holland and the manager there has preserved some very old varieties.

Why not write to Mr. Hoog and write also to the Dutch Bulb growers Association at Wilhelmina Straat 45, Haarlem, Holland. Finally, you could write to Mr. J. F. Ch. Dix at the same address and ask him for help. He was, for many years, the right-hand man and farm manager for E. H. Krelage and has a store of information. Then you can write to Matthew Zandbergen, Terwegen, Sassenheim, Holland. He is a grower and dealer and was a great friend of Guy Wilson's....

When I am again in Holland, probably next January, I will make some inquiries. Having been away from all that for so many years (forty years) I do not know the best sources of information any more.

With best wishes and thanks for writing,
Sincerely yours,

Jan de Graaff

August 27th 1962

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

We give no warranty, express or implied, as to the purity, description, quality, production, or any other matter of all bulbs we send out, and will accept no responsibility for the crop. Deliveries on contracts and orders not guaranteed against crop failure, fire, flood or other conditions beyond our control.

OREGON BULB FARMS

AN OREGON CORPORATION



Mail Box 512 GRESHAM, OREGON

Telephone: GRESHAM, NUMBER 3-4431

Telephone: PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. B.Y. Morrison
Route 1 Box 23
Pass Christian, Miss.

GRESHAM, OREGON

Jan de Graaff
PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Morrison,

Thanks for your letter of August 29th. A couple of other names of interested people came to me in the meantime. One is Mrs. Polly Anderson of Arcadia, California. She knows quite a bit about Polyanthus Daffodils. The other is L.S. Hannibal of 4008 Villa Court, Fair Oaks, California. He has Tazetta aureus and is looking for the true Grand Monarque. He is a serious worker and you may find there just what you need.

When I get to Holland I surely will talk with some of my friends there and see what I can find out for you. The pity is that none of these commercial growers will realize that it pays, in their own terms, to devote a little time to the historical and botanical aspects of the "merchandize" they produce. They run so fast after the dollar, and the German mark now, that they forget the promotional and publicity value of a well documented offer. Short of going over there and seeing their bulb museum you may never get the truth or the true varieties. Maybe the people who used to know and cherish those old things are all gone. The younger generation does not even know that they should care.

At least without lilies we are still at the very beginning of things and the "original" varieties are still at hand - as are the species.

With best regards,

September 4th 1962

Jan de Graaff

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss.,
7 September 1962

Dear Mr. deGnaaff:

Here you get more of my miserable typing!

Thank you for your air mail of September 4th and the two names. I know each of them. Mrs. Anderson is very active and has shared her bulbs of "Bathurst" with me, one of the few mentioned in A.M. Kirby's 1914 book on Narcissus. How I wish some one had maintained his collection! Mrs. Anderson, however, continues to call her bulbs of tazetta italicus, Scilly Isles, a name with no standing! But assigned locally in California.

Mr. Hannibal is another matter. As I am no geneticist or cytologist and got through the University too early to have had any training, I am in no position to quarrel with Hannibal, and some how I cannot feel that he really has "aureus" by merely selfing, or allowing self set seed on an aberrant "Soliel d'Or" to produce it. He has never reported to my knowledge on all the other individuals of that same progeny for surely there were more than one? He has sent me single bulbs of two, and said in his letter that he hoped ~~of~~ one of them would be the right thing!!!! They would have bloomed for me last January but our ~~first~~ first bulb, no substitute for Bertoloni's took care of them and many others, most of which I had seen before. I am looking forward to them this coming January.

All the book references that I have had, suggest, merely suggest, that N. Bertoloni is the probable parent of Soliel d'Or and so what would not that reappear if one selfed it? I would expect it from my experience with other plants. The worst of all is, that he is a little "touchy" about any questionings!

If it will not be a burden to you, I would like to send you later on, copies of all my records of breeders in Holland, and let you know how my progress if I dare call it that, comes on. I recognize the importance of your reminder that this is the bulb digging and merchandizing time, over there and will send no letters now. But later!!!!

In writing of Mrs. Evans I did not mean to appear too critical, but she has named some of the nameless tazettas without apparently making much search to find proper names and the names she has maintained on some of the "odorus" things floating through all this south, are the local names only. I did not hear her in Dallas, but my friends told me, they got nothing from her talk on old daffodils! Too bad as she is important and active and delightful.

Wish we could grow your lilies here, but nothing I have done has kept them happy, beyond the first year. And it was not for lack of water, and deeply prepared soil of the right sort, plus excellent drainage. They are lovely and my heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely,