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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

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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.

Telephones:—
No. 1347 Central.—Regius Keeper.
No. 8558 Central.—Accounts Office.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

17th Oct. 1923

Dear Sir David,

It has taken some
little time to get the
information regarding
Sir Isaac's grandparents, so
you will forgive the delay
in reply, I trust.

The grandfather was easy
— his name was Andrew
Baefour, a surgeon. You
will find a brief reference
to him in Oliver's History
of British Botany p. 293.

For the grandmother
we had to go to the

Myrtle House - her
maiden surname was
Goldie & her Christian
name Magdalene.

I trust you are well

Sincerely yours
William Lloyd Smith

Telephones —
No. 1347 Central.—Regius Keeper.
No. 8538 Central.—Accounts Office.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

Nov. 19th 1923

Dear Sir David,

Your of the 18th has just arrived by 5 p.m. mail & as I am leaving for London tonight I am sending you what is perhaps a hurried reply.

As regards Q.1. please see enclosed guide on last page next the map. The figures are interesting, showing the large number of visitors on Sunday as compared with the rest of the week.

Q.2. You will find the complete record in Vol II of the "Index of the R. H. G. Edin".

The other two points will need looking into. Prof. Bailey

Koefer's 'Notes on Bellish plants'
were of different dates - I am
not at all sure that they are
dated. But this I will find out.

3) Mr. Mac was in China
twice - in successive years.
I believe in 1909 & 1910. It
was while here & I was at
Canton as we expected
him to return by India
- instead of by Szechuan Railway.

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But I will confirm the
dates for you & write again.

I will probably see you
in London or Long before I
have a neatly reworked
the special volume of the
B.N. Mac.

Very ever yours
Wm. Wright Smith

Yours sincerely
Wm. Wright Smith.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

24th Nov. 1923

Dear Mr David,

I cannot be quite sure of the date when Sir Isaac set on type trial sheets of his "Notes on Sikkim Plants". The genera were taken up very irregularly but *Atriplex* was one of the early ones. Amongst my papers I find by good fortune a dated proof - 29th June 1904. I enclose it as you may not have seen any of the sheets. I think you may take 1903-4 as near the beginning of the venture.

I am practically certain that the two years of his visits to China were 1909 & 1910. I was in India at the time & have no details. In 1909 he visited Japan ^{as well} & we have records in the red-book of seeds handed over by

In France, in Oct 1909 collected at
Kobe. In the herbarium are a
few sheets of Clematis specimens
collected at Pe-tā-ho etc in 1910.

Lady Malfour or Lady Aglen could
easily give further details if you
would like them. (Lady Aglen has
gone back to Pekin this autumn
however.) I will write Lady Malfour
if you would like me to do so.

It was a great pleasure
to see you again at the Forrester
lecture & at his Corijn lunch
party. I had an hour or so

had at Kew on the Thursday
& made acquaintance with
Major Clipp whom I liked
very much.

Sincerely yours
William Tompat Smith

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

25 th May 1923

Dear Sir David,

I am sending you a flower or
two of *Alcea grandis* & *Urena lobata* var.
brevistyla. The flowers have been
showing for the last three weeks & are
beginning to reach their term. One or
two buds are also enclosed which shd.
open well in water. Some of our
brevistylas had very large flowers.

U. aculeata ^{open up spread}
here as 'latifolia' & 'Trattus' do.

The letter of application &
statement of Sir Isaac J. E. E. &
Chair are enclosed. You will
find the 'round robin' at the
beginning of the short series of
testimonials with kind regards

Yours sincerely
William Compton

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

May 5th 1923

Dear Sir David,

I do not believe the enclosed list is exhaustive but it gives all that I can at present get references to.

Lady Macfarquhar tells me that she remembers Sir Isaac being visited by Horway in Sweden once on some commission which we had from him a knight hood in that country; that when forced in Edin he used to travel extensively in Scotland giving lectures; that he took up voluntarily very rigorous for a few years as Sir Wm Turner (late Principal) visited on Sir Isaac taking his place as Capt of the University Cadets Company. Sir Isaac ^{obtains} received for his Company a Maxim

Gun - It was early days for that - & his
Company presented him with a beautiful
Silver model of a Maxim Gun -
the presentation being made in the Quad.
of the Old University.

Some of these little remembrances
may be of service.

Please do not hesitate if there are
any other points where I can
be of any assistance

Truly yours
William Wright Smith

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

May 1st 1923

Dear Sir David,

I have now obtained most of the information you desired about Sir Isaac & it is attached to this letter. I have failed as yet to supplement the list of Societies with which he was connected - including possibly Glasgow ones. But I have written Lady Macfar & she promises to give me any additions to my previous list as far as she can get them.

I am much interested in what you tell me regarding the candidature for the Aberdeen Chair which Trail secured. I had nothing to go on but a copy of the testimonials sent in by Macfar at the time. One was from Sir Joseph - in which he frankly says that he had also written in favour of Trail. From the general trend of the letters of those who been favourably inclined to both candidates, I got the impression that most support was given to Trail as the one with most experience

at the time. But no doubt the fact
of the Honour Degree wd be of
much weight.

I have just started my Summer
Course for Medicals - there is a
big falling off in numbers, a matter of
considerable concern to the University
in these days. Believe me

Yours sincerely
William Compton Smith

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH.

April 27th 1923.

Dear Sir David

I have answers to some of the
points you raised.

- (1) B.Sc. Edinburgh was received in 1875
I have written to the University office for
name of thesis
- (2) Sir Isaac was then 2nd of 4 sons.
But I am getting details.
- (3) L.S.D. Glasgow (I have written for date)
L.S.D. Edinburgh 1922. (This is the
normal honour given to a Professor
on retirement.)
- (4) Edin. Bot. Soc. Joined May 1872
President 1880-82
" 1904-6.
(never Secretary.)
- (5) F.R.S.E. Elected 1877
On Council 1888-91
- (6) Any Glasgow Society? I have not found
any record. Prof. Brauer may know.
- (7) I have a note of the following ^{list of} foreign

Societies

	<u>Elected</u>
Hon Memb. Camb. Phil. Soc.	1902
Hon " Pharm. Soc. Gt Brit.	1896
Corresp Memb. Deut. Bot. Gesell.	1883
" " Soc. Nat Sc. Nat. et Math. Clerbourg.	(? c. 1875)
" " Acad. Sc. New York	1898
Assoc. Memb. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belg.	Dec. 1895.

I may be able to add to the above.

I should have answered to my letters
concerning the other points by the end of the
week. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

William Wright

and
2.4.23

80 Bushwood Road,

Kew.

9 April 1923.

Dear Sir David,

I have had a long and somewhat confused letter from our friend Professor Kinzel. As you are interested in his work, I thought you might care to see what he says, but his letter being in very involved German and difficult to read, I send you herewith a translation of it. There is a good deal that has to be read between the lines. Whether I was successful in that respect I do not know. The main ~~of~~ points are apparently

- 1) he wants to publish,
- 2) he cannot find the necessary funds in his own country,
- 3) if he receives help from abroad he has to conceal the origin.

Nos. 1 and 2 are easy to understand, behind 3 there are evidently political reasons, possibly aggravated by differences between him and his chief or chiefs.

Now, I cannot give him the money. Nor will it be easy to find an anonymous donor with sufficient cash to spare and ready to part with it on the conditions stated, acting merely in the interest of the "cause", although the sum is moderate and it might pay in the end an enlightened seed-merchant or nurseryman. I am not sufficiently versed in the literature of the seed-control stations and cannot say exactly how far Kinzel's work presents really new facts and whether it is not already covered in part by other publications. It is, however, more than probable that the bulk is original. On the other hand there can be no doubt as to the theoretical and practical value of the work.

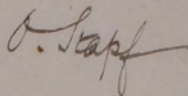
I have looked at the tables at the end of Kinzel's first volume, they are all right there, but published by themselves and accompanied only by an explanatory preface, they are not handy and convenient as he thinks and would not take on. There are far too many columns and data which are, from the practical stand-point, negligible. It seems to me that it would be far wiser to publish a third supplement with a good index, covering the whole work, and quite independently from that to bring out a small really handy pocket-book with an annotated or tabulated list of the seeds, stating in each case whether a seed is a "Lichtkeimer" or a "Dunkelkeimer" or "Frostkeimer", the optimum-temperature etc., in a word the final practical result of his experiments. The list would be alphabetical with the genera numbered, the columns would be few and there would be an index to the genera under their numbers. If he cannot find a publisher for the pocket-book in Germany, it might be translated and published here. It would popularize his work and he might find eventually means and ways for a new edition of the larger work. That is all I can advise him to

do. What do you think?

I should be glad if one could help him. He is a sincere enthusiast and a clever and unselfish worker. Will you let me have a line? I should like to write to him soon. By the way, do you know Sir Lawrence Weaver?

How are you both? My wife is going to Holland to stay for some weeks with our relations at Haarlem. It will do her good. With kindest regards to both of you

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Stapf". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Yours sincerely".

München, Osterwald Strasse 9 F.
15 March 1923.

Dear Dr. Stapf,

Much has changed since you gave me the pleasure of your visit at the time, a happy time for me, when the 2nd supplement to my book "Frost und Licht" went through the press. As affairs turn out, it is hardly longer possible to carry through difficult and time-consuming work in my own time. In the circumstances it was fortunate that I have been able to complete and round off in a general way my researches. My excursion to the Funtensee Tauern which followed your visit of August the 5th 1920 and others during the same and the following two years gave me an opportunity to do so. Even an examination of the optimum conditions for Victoria regia has been possible. ^{experiments} The seeds of aquatic plants have proved to be particularly closely adapted and pretentious with respect to external conditions. Nuphar pumilum, for instance, requires, like Anemone blanda, Malus paradisiaca and certain Impatiens, a cooling down to 0° to -2°, whilst they may delay germination for years (also in light) at ordinary indoor-temperature or be killed if the temperature falls below -5° to -8°. Much hardier were many seeds from Japan (e.g. Cydonia japonica, an obligatory frost-germ) and Virginia etc. Nuphar and Victoria require, apart from the suitable "special temperature", light in order to germinate, and light of a definite intensity to develop quickly. Generally the seeds of northern plants of regions with a lower light-intensity are much more light-hungry than seeds (often of the same species) from the more sunny south. Cornus mas from North Bavaria, for instance, is a "Lichtkeimer", from Bozen a light-shy "Dunkelkeimer" (after 1 1/2 years 2:83 in D); similarly our Rhamnus Frangula (Munich) germinates in light or through "Dunkelfrost" already after 6 months, on the other hand R.F. from Bozen is a "Dunkelkeimer" (100% after 1 year, 0 after 1 1/2 year when exposed to light, whilst 2/3 perish if exposed to frost). The behaviour of R.F. from the south is easily understood—the summer heat and the intense light injure the seeds so much that as a rule one half of them fails to develop, sometimes even all as the early crop of 1921. It stands to reason that those southern seeds—if the develop at all perfectly—develop differently, as far as their internal constitution is concerned, from those of the Munich moors (100% perfect) with their more subdued light. I have proved this for seeds of Poa Bratensis from Canada to South Europe in 1908. Similarly it has turned out more recently that it is just the regions with light and short frosts, produce, in suitable localities, the most frost-hungry seeds, that is seeds of a much more exclusive need of frost than those of more northern latitudes. ^{Greenland} Greenland seeds often germinate habitually in the warm season and some from Spitzbergen are almost frost-tender. All these conditions might be illustratively tabulated in several series (as in the shorter tables of 1912). They tables would comprise the species already tabulated in 1912—some of these have since germinated, often after much more than 10 years—as well as those described in my supplements I and II, and also those studied since 1920. I owe the suggestion of such comprehensive tables, which would bring the whole (for the present to a conclusion), especially to Engler (my teacher in Breslau and Berlin) and to Tubœuf; a new edition of my 3 volumes ^{is being} ~~is~~ out of the question. Moreover such tables are

much handier and more convenient for practical work. I have selected 800 out of the 1220 species which I have tested under the most diverse conditions, some repeatedly; only a few typical genera are represented more fully, e.g. Carex with 20 species. By tabulating those suitably selected species and the courses of their germination and the addition of numerous short notes it will be possible to save the result of all my labour for future study. As the matter touches ^{chances} equally science and practice, these questions will never come to rest. I myself have worked at them for 28 years in spite of all obstacles and expenses - now I am almost exhausted. After all the fine new results of the last years it would revive my almost broken powers if I saw any change, this compressed summary available for the present, for the small circle of specialists and in the future for the author of a comprehensive Seed Biology. Meanwhile I have the pleasure of labour overcome; even the breaking up of many extensive experiments and the reduction of interesting remnants sometimes watched for many years, to a few dozen Petri-dishes becomes a source of joy. I don't regret the trouble and the work; however hopeless many a question appeared (for instance the germination of Pirola) and in a few cases still appears (e.g. Gentiana ciliata, a unique case among the gentians, already mentioned by Vilmorin as "queer"), the subject yielded again and again a stimulus for new efforts. Still it is only natural that so much labour presses for expression. The wealth of new problems which arise constantly and demand practical application renders future work difficult. Even new editions of textbooks on gardening are contented with a gesture where the problem of light and frost is concerned, as insufficient ripeness of the embryo at the time when the seeds are ripe for gathering. That may be fundamentally true; for instance we have just found that seeds of Bryonia alba which had been stored for a short time germinate readily and perfectly at 20° in the light and the dark. Other lots from other years of the same species do not reach this stage - they die off earlier. Similarly most alpine seeds do not lose their need for frost or light, ~~they~~ by storing, they die if stored at 10° - 20° already in February of the next year (e.g. Gentiana). I also found great differences in seeds of the same individual of Symphoricarpos racemosa; in contrast with the seeds of my 3 volumes (1/5 germinating at 20°, 1/3 in the 3rd year when kept in "Dunkelfrost"; almost 1 in the fourth year), those of 1918 have germinated copiously in the 5th year in "Lichtfrost", but not at all at 20°. What one buies is either fresh, may be, still in the berry, or it possesses a much lowered vitality for germination. Such is the practice. I became therefore in my experiments from year to year more particular in working only with seeds of well known origin and age. What I have published is only a modest beginning that had to remain ~~as~~ ^{as} one hand in order to retain its uniformity; it had if I may say so, it had to be seen ~~with~~ ^{with} one eye. In the future it would be a thankful task to continue the testing, the needs and fates of the reaped seeds and their various degrees of ripeness according to habitat and year of gathering. It would require a staff of enthusiasts, but it would be worth while. To hand over the Tables of larger size with a few pages of explanatory text to the Academy of Sciences and to deposit it in their bank depot (I discussed this with Goebel) ^{appears to be} like the ~~the~~ funeral of my own good will; however I may have to put up with it with philosophical resignation, but it would mean resignation for ever. However, I do not

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think that this a practical measure. As far as I myself am concerned I do not want to be considered- I have got over other things. But it seems to me a duty to leave, in this matter, nothing untried that is permissible. How difficult that duty is for me is evident from this unexcusably long letter. Anyhow I hope I have given you an idea of the case, perhaps also a useful hint, on mature consideration and frequent discussion with the Director of the Danish Seed Control Station Dorph-Petersen in Copenhagen it seems to me also in the interest of the new Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge and of the Seed Control Station connected with it that my 3 published volumes "Licht and Frost" be made more complete and accessible by the publication of the Tables. Sir Lawrence Weaver - Cambridge, Seed Control - paid ~~as~~ a visit last summer, but the fact that my work has throughout been done on the basis of private enterprise for cogent reasons, prevents me from appealing to that gentleman directly. Nor is it possible for other obvious reasons which would also render your intervention unpractical and futile. Any foreign Government subvention cannot be thought of, there is only the help of a private donor who is interested in the matter and satisfied with a reference in the preface without his name being mentioned.

If the work is to be sent to the press instantly, it would require a subvention of six (6) million Paper Mark (260) to produce the 1000 copies proposed. This sum of six million Mark would have to be paid ~~into~~ the credit of Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart - Wurttembergische Vereinsbank, Stuttgart - for the publication of Kinzel, "Licht und Frost". I being briefly informed of it in order that the ms. may be forwarded once more to Stuttgart. It would have been better if the publishers had agreed last July.

I leave it entirely to your tact and discretion to take suitable steps in a matter which, I am sorry to say, also concerns me personally. I must however, observe that ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~entirely~~ ^{entirely} in your personal discretion, the more so as the knowledge of my proceeding might injure the purely ideal cause in the eyes of some people. I have suffered much in the course of my work - in spite of all the pleasure of producing - also from ~~the~~ ^{the} apparently benevolent superior authorities. Truth and the conviction of a good deed need not fear anything, but I have learned to be cautious. Small obstacles advance work like mine, but very clever chefs... Still I have a free hand to publish whatever I have achieved. If the thing could be done with the minimum of friction which is under the present conditions desirable, I could breathe more freely. The work was not easy, but so far my powers have lasted.

One of the Maclura seeds of l. i. 1921 from La Mortala has not yet germinated.

Concerning my remark re *Gentiana* it comes to my mind, that there are exceptions. On a cycle tour through Bavaria in 1921 I collected perfectly ripe seed of *Gentiana cruciata* in a sheltered warm spot in a wood between Lech and Ammersee. They were so exceptionally well matured that they germinated at once for the greater part at 20° and without frost. Yet it was just that species (otherwise becoming germinable after dry frost) which taught me first the necessity of frost-treatment in *Gentiana*. How difficult it is to germinate others, as *Swertia carinthiaca*, *Gentiana nivalis*!

I ask you not to read anything personal into this letter. It is the cause alone which counts. Unfortunately I have not always been careful enough in my efforts concerning the publication of my 2nd supplement.

Yours

