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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.

5780 Chandler ct, SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Jan. 17, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Your letter arrived just as I was going to write you to inform you that the move is in full swing and you should soon see the reprints and journals arrive in Boulder. I have packed all the journals and a few other things of interest (A complete series of Material!) for you in particular in some 45 boxes. The movers (Bekins) come in on the 22th, to pack the reprints and I hope they will do it carefully. Be sure I will supervise them whether they like it or not. Then on Friday 25th they load and start to move the whole chebang. I hope that they will not meet with any difficulties weather- or road-wise. I was happy to hear that you have not had the snow we see on TV as in Denver. (We did get about 1/2" rain, but S. Cal. got the majority this time. They, too, needed it.)

Concerning *Oreophylax*. We found the name in Egler and made the transfer in Taxon (the chromosome lists as far as I remeber) but Askill cannot remember whether we referred to the original by Kutznetsov which was done sometime late last century or early this one. I think we did not find out exactly where. But when you get Taxon and our reprints you can probably find out more about it. The file cabinets with the card index of the reprints (acc. to the Swedish alphabet!) comes along with the rest of the stuff.

If you think this is all I have had to think of this week, you are mistaken. Our insurance carrier refused to prolong our contract unless we made a major repair on our sidewalk which had been lifted by a tree the city planted. The city no longer pays half of such repairs as they used to and makes the home owner responsible for all to the center of the street! So this had to be arranged and tomorrow they pour the concrete. I hope the tree will not topple now that several colossal roots have been removed and chewed down to 12" below the surface. But we do not have "Boulder winds" here, fortunately, although it can blow hard at times.

Áskell also needs new dentures, and I have to take him to the dentist as well as to two of his doctors, all, - of course - just next week. In addition I have a very difficult translation to do for my firm, but fortunately the deadline is liberal in that case. On top of it all Áskell has been under the weather all day today, refused to eat and has whistled for me umpteens times so I have got a lot of exercise climbing stairs. That is probably good for my heart, but very disruptive. Hope he will be O.K. tomorrow because then I leave him with Lóa while I attend our reading club. I need badly to get a bit of relaxation now.

Sorry to hear about your viruses. It can take out a lot of you and if you are not in a good shape already, it can be very difficult for a long time. But I hope you will soon be back to your normal again.

I include a special card for Sammie on the occasion of her birthday! Yes, none of us are getting younger and old age takes out most of your pep. I am glad I can work and think properly still (I just turned 74 myself) because it is important that somebody can do all the work. The children are really not very much of a help.

So Erica want to go and live in Sweden! Good luck, but has she contemplated the fact that the taxes there are very high and working conditions are not very good right now. There, like here, there is a down-turn in the economy and "foreigners" are no longer very welcome.

The daughter of a Russian friend of mine wants to come here to California and teach children here to speak Russian! I wonder if there is a real interest for this around here, but there is not much I can do to find it out for her. I had a letter from Eugenia today and she complains bitterly about the hard living conditions and lack of food in St. Petersburg now. It is not easy for them, poor souls. She included some (bad) pictures taken by her at Lake Baikal, where her father established the first Nat. Sci. station once upon a time. Then Lenin caught him and he died in prison. Now she is writing his biography,

Áskell suddenly "revived" when he got a botanical problem to think of so now he is down here, trying to find information. He refers you to Taxon 32, 1983, p. 511 where there are some transfers to Oreophylax. (in the chr. list). At least there is some life in him; thank you! Hope this helps your friend.

Best regards to Sammie, and let me hear when the stuff has arrived, always

Chris

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Febr. 9, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very much for letting us know that the reprints, etc., had arrived safely. That was a big stone off our chests. I had expected a call or some kind of message from Tom about it, but so far nothing to acknowledge what they have got. Either they are completely overwhelmed by it or they do not understand what they have got. I hope the former (one must try to be charitable).

Now it is only left to get the pay for it, which should come within a reasonable future. I hope before we have to pay taxes and insurances, etc. The first couple of months of a new year are dreadfully expensive even without extra expenses like we have had this year. But we still somehow manage to stay afloat and not touch the savings to any major extent. We made a Living Trust for the heirs, which is a very good thing to have. If you do not have one, do not hesitate to look into it; it is a good thing to cheat Uncle Sam out of inheritance taxes and to secure ones property for the survivors. We also have made "living wills" so they do not unnecessarily keep us alive when it comes to that. One has to plan for both life and death nowadays.

By the way: what happened to Bonde and Shushan? Was their cases settled? I think U. of C. treats their people very rudely and unfairly.

Otherwise nothing in particular of news. We got a sprinkle of rain the last couple of days, so we see some green in the lawns and my tarçetta-daffodils are in full bloom. They have kept warning us of a major storm all day, but so far only black and ominous skies and a fierce wind but not yet a drop of rain. Hope it comes. They say, if it does, it could amount to an inch or so and we can hardly wait for it to begin. The palms sway rather wildly just now, so perhaps something is brewing after all.

Áskell send his regards, he is in a fairly good form today but yesterday was a "down-day" when he refused to eat, complained a lot, etc. etc. It is ups and downs all the time. I think he is very bothered by his condition and

considering who he was, it must be terrible to feel so completely unable to do anything or to perceive cause and reason. I try to be patient and understanding, but I am human and sometimes I get irritated. I suppose you know how it is better than most.

Murrah, the first drops are falling! That deserves to be celebrated with a warm cup of coffee!

Best regards to Sammie and yourself
from your old friends

Agnes & Adelle

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Febr. 22, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 15. Since you called me after that was mailed, I suppose you have now had occasion to have a look at the reprints and the files. I do not know how you could have difficulties putting the drawers back into the stacks, we have never had any trouble. I suppose you have to tilt them slightly up in order to get the catch to take hold when you put them back in if you had completely removed them. However, as I told you, there are two sizes of cabinets, one slightly lower than the other stack. So all drawers do not fit into any stack but just in their own. Hope, however, that any problems have been worked out by now.

I finally got a letter from Tom Ranker, signed also by Tim Hogan, to acknowledge the acceptance of the collection and thanking us for it. The same mail also brought the check, paying for it, so now the deal is closed and we are happy to have it all over. Hopefully all will now soon be properly arranged and available to those who want to use it.

The empty shelves left do look deserted and sometimes I miss the opportunity to look up some information I need. The sale has definitely left an empty space here both in reality and in spirit. But if it can be better used than just standing here for my pleasure, so it be.

Yes, we got some rain. Today is the first day the sun is shining again after almost two weeks of continuous precipitation. We are now up in 128 % of normal for the date! The lawn is green again and the almond has started to blossom and the city is full of flowering plums, Grappples and other kinds. It is beautiful. The hills are wonderfully green again but the reservoirs are still below normal and it will take a lot more for making up for 6 years of drought. But every drop counts and just now we feel happy.

"When it rains, it pours" it used to say on some brand of salt, and this is the way I personally feel just now. I have got two offers to translate more Russian books and it is flattering. The only dilemma is that I have to keep my job for the sake of the insurance which we badly need, and to take on two extra job of a rather big volume is too much at the same time when I also have to care for Askell.

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I know I am capable to do both from the point of view of linguistics and science ~~work~~ and that there are few others who can do it. One job is a book by Vavilov, "FiveContinents" (about his travels and botanical-agricultural observations), which looks fascinating and should be done for USDA. The other is to translate all what is out of Flora Arctica USSR for U. of Alberta (John Packer), which could also be profitable. It is a hard choice, not least because of my age. What do you say if I take on Vavilov, decline Fl. Arct.USSR and ask them to contact you about the latter. You are the only other person I know who both knows Russian and is a capable botanist, who could do a job like that?? Do you think you would be interested? It could be a spare time job with a fair payment (the going rate is about 60-80 dollars per 1000 words, which is not much, but what is acceptable. I get much less than that in my regular job.) Think it over!

Otherwise nothing new. Askill, too, has his ups and downs, we just have to live with it.

Best regards from us both, always yours

Adwell & Jones

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5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

March 6, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter. Askell still claims that he got the Kutznezov info from Engler, but since we no longer have it, I am unable to help you find it. Do they have Engler in Norlin? If so, you may try there.

Just for the fun of it, I am including a photo I took of the shipment being loaded for Boulder. I am glad that it seems to already be of some help to you. I am glad you found more ^{drawers for} ~~skrixxxxx~~ the file cabinet so it is not so hard to look for the cards farthest in in the drawers. And thank you very much for rearranging what was necessary for the conversion to the English alphabet.

I had very little work for my firm lately, so I am working almost full time on the new Russian book by Vavilov, "Five Continents". It is very similar to the first, which is not at the printers in England, being typeset (for Cambridge U. Press). They hope to have it out around September this fall. It has taken almost three years to get it this far. Not my fault but they had difficulties getting original graphics from St. Petersburg and the Vavilov institute. The poor institute is in financial trouble and risks big cuts, not unlike educational institutions here. It is sad that governments do not realize how important good education is if they want to be on top. You can cut down on lots of luxury and militarism if you only see to that education and health have full support.

I have just done my taxes. It was hard this year, but next it will be even harder. My tax assistant tells me that I will have to report the sale to the U. of Colo. in full, which I understand. But if I cannot come up with a reasonable figure on the real value of the things, it cannot be considered a financial loss, which I hoped for. The reprints etc. were of course worth a lot more than the price we agreed upon but how can I prove it??? Do you think the library in Colo. can give me an estimate of what a collection like that is actually worth? That might help. Otherwise it will be taxed in full and result in a "fine" for underestimating next years taxes!!! IRs has no heart or understanding of poor old people. I think it was worth at least 40 or 50 grand. What do you think? But without a proof....???

For some time during our life Ernst Mayr and Askell corresponded and he always got copies of Askell's reprints. But after some time he stopped referring to them in his papers, why, I do not know. Perhaps it was all the negative remarks about Askell from other, "more respected" botanists who made Mayr ignore him. But certainly Askell was the first here to promote the BSC and to give logical and correct reasons for a biological species concept. He ought to be remembered for that, if not anything else. The only good thing is that his ideas are slowly penetrating into agricultural domains, where they find ~~ix~~ them correct and a help in plant breeding. So at least somewhere all is of some use, although the originator is not given due honor. I am glad you call Mayr's attention to this, it may help.

We have had a lot of rain by now and love every drop of it, although it causes a lot of trouble in the traffic and houses slide down hills and roads are closed by landslides. But I saw in TV that you, too, have problems in Colorado with snowslides. It is tragic when it results in loss of lives. Here it has been mostly material damages, 15 cars colliding here, trucks overturning there, and so on. People here have no idea how to drive in inclement weather. They seem unaware of risks for hydroplaning and sliding around on bare tires when it rains. We are spoiled by good weather. And little children tell with awe, "I saw rain for the second time in my life today!" I overheard a tot say so to a lady in the grocery the other day.

Otherwise all the same. Best regards to both Sammie and yourself
from us both here, always

Jois

P.S. Just as I signed this, the mail-man came and brought us your Catalogue! It looks grand and very impressive. Thank you indeed very much for it and for Mayr's paper included. Now we have to study this well and enjoy it before we feel we can pass it on to some worthy institution. Askell was proud to see the many references to our works. Nobody can say we did nothing of value. Thank you again. More commentaries will have to wait til next letter.

J.

5780 Chandler ct, SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

March 20, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Excuse me for not earlier having responded to your last and very interesting letter. I am sorry that "Oreophylax" has to go, but it seems as it has no firm footing. I am surprised that Áskell did not discover it, he was usually so meticulous. But sometimes even Homer slept. I am returning the review since it looks like an original (it is hard now-adays to see what is a copy and what not).

I agree heartily with you on the "circumpolar" concept and even more about "Arctotertiary", etc. Those terms in particular are terribly misleading, not least because during the Tertiary the now "arctic" areas were far to the south and their climate certainly not at all "arctic". Taxonomists and ecologists seem not yet to have discovered continental drift, but that is a fact of enormous importance for plant distribution. I have been fighting for that for a long time, but nobody seems to listen. Except you, i.e., if you heard me talk about it. I gave several lectures to that point to INSTAAR in my time and I have written letters to several authors, who seem to have misused these terms but, believe me, not one of them has ever answered! And the "surprise" about a glaciation on the equator or near it is also pure bosch. Those lands were not there when glaciated but much further south, but who seems to take that into consideration? But I am glad you also harp on this because it is of great importance and has to be hammered home. Oreoarctic is a better term. "Eoreal", "subarctic", etc. are also terribly misused just like "subalpine", of which I have written. For a while it made an impact, but old habits die reluctantly and much misinformation is still spread.

Your catalogue is fascinating. I have glanced through it but Áskell has read it more thoroughly and is very impressed. He found a few misprints and has marked them, but as he said, nothing of consequence and hardly worth making a fuss about. I would like to look more at it and hope to be able to do so but my time seems so occupied that it is hard to find a niche for it. I got a bunch of difficult papers, ranging from the behaviour of electrons in inter-metallic compounds, to the effect of space stations on the arrangement of pay-loads (no lack of variation) to translate as fast as possible. Apparently

somebody else tried and could not do it, so my "boss" always trusts that I can since I am a scientist. But I learn a lot also. I would also like to have more time for the new translation of Vavilov's "Five Continents". I have finished some 30 pages, mostly forewords, etc., but also a chapter on his expedition to the Pamirs in 1916. It was fascinating. But I think he makes light of the difficulties involved with travelling in those areas at that time although he mentions uproars among the Kirghizians, uncooperative governmental authorities and guides, impassible roads (tracks?) and bolting horses when taken over those precarious "shelves on the side of cliffs" that apparently were common then. I suppose you have passed some of them, too, although not pulling a horse over them at the same time. Next he will describe travelling in Europe and finally in Central and South America, all done before 1939. The man had an inexhaustible energy and apparently a very good health although it did not help him in the long run. He was starved to death in prison, courtesy of Stalin and the infamous colleague of his, Lysenko.

It is late, so I have better stop and try to get some sleep. A pity that you have to recharge the batteries every 24 hours or so, but so it is.

Best regards from us both, always

Yuri & Anne

Doris Love born Jan. 2, 1918 at ~~Alaska~~ Kristianstad

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

April 29, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Yesterday I completed the proof-reading of my Russian translation of Vavilov's: Origin and Geography of the Cultivated Plants. It was over 500 pages plus 8 sheets newsprint of index of Latin plants. It was a gruelling job, but now it is done. Deadline was April 29, but with the help of DHL they should have it tomorrow.

And since I was proofreading anyhow, I went over the list of Áskell's papers, doing the same. As you can see, there are some misprints and I have done my best to spot them all and correct them correspondingly. I include a list of Icelandic names of journals and news papers, hopefully correctly spelled (using Áskell's Icelandic type-head where everything is in a different place, of course. My computer does not have all the Icelandic letters, unfortunately.) I hope the translations will tell you something about the scope of his interests.

The list is, of course, impressive. I did really not remember all the papers I myself have participated in, but we usually did everything together. In Lund they called us "Ler and lánghalm" which means something like "Clay and straw" (as for adobe), a typical Scanian expression for something inseparable, when you make "klinehus", houses built of something like adobe.

In Iceland Áskell was a very popular radio-lecturer to the extent that once when we were in the field and he had to send a telegram but did not have enough money to pay for it. The man in charge said: I give you credit, I know who you are from your voice in the radio, I always listen to your programs!

He was also an Eagle Scout and continued to be interested in it as long as we were in Iceland.

And in school he was the class-poet. People in his class still recite some to me that I have never heard. Apparently there is a collection of his poems (most very good) but none of us know where or who compiled it but we have been told of it.

I am sorry I cannot help with some of the obscure review subjects, but you may find them in the reprint collection. I think most are there.

It was with great difficulty that he did the last chr.-reports for Taxon, but he had decided to go on to no. 100. You apparently missed the last 5 since the list ends on no. XC. Can you check that either in Taxon or in the reprints?

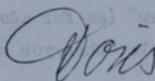
I will return the list to you but would very much like to have a copy of it when you have corrected it.

We have a heat-wave here just now, up to near 90 every day. After the rains the wildflora is fabulous, say Léa and Goy who have driven around in the countryside to see it while mamma sat home proof-reading almost day and night. One misses a good deal when one has to be there all the time and keep "company" with somebody who is afraid to be alone even for short periods of time. It is sad.

And we have had the water rationing reduced to 15 percents so today I watered the garden for the first time without feeling guilty! One learns to enjoy small things.

Best regards and thank you for doing this list! Hope others, too, will appreciate it.

Best regards, always



12 May, 1992

Dr. Peter Raven, Director
Missouri Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166-0299

Dear Peter:

I was on the phone with Peter Hoch this morning about the field trips, and mentioned something that I have on my mind that he suggested I talk to you about.

As you know, Askell and Doris Löve are living in San Jose, where Doris makes a small living translating. Right now she has finished a big work of Vavilov and has launched on the book of his travels. They are virtually forgotten by the botanical community, but as I was revising his bibliography for potential publication, perhaps in the eventual obituary, I found that he was very important in the origin and development of IOPB, in fact he was president of it; he also was very important in the development of the committees that finally produced the *Flora Europaea*. He wrote a classic paper in *Taxon* on the Biological Species Concept (Ernst Meyer revived the controversy recently but evidently was quite unaware of Askell's contribution, which covered the same ground).

Askell, for all of his personality quirks and unwitting tendency to alienate some people, was a great influence for good to many botanists; his contribution should be recognized. I would hope that this should happen before he dies. He is very severely afflicted with Parkinson's Syndrome, and Doris is trying to hold body and soul of both of them together. Askell is terribly bitter about the way he was treated (and I have a file an inch thick that documents the cloak-and-dagger game that was played on him by the funny money people at Smithsonian and the University of Colorado). I would hope that this IOPB meeting could find a way to honor Askell for his long service to the field of biosystematics.

I am not one of your group and cannot suggest ways and means of doing anything along this line, but if at all possible, I would like to see some kind of recognition given Askell by this group at its meeting. If you need a copy of his bibliography, and a good photograph, I can furnish the first and Doris can furnish the latter. Thanks for helping out, if you possibly can.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Weber, F.L.S.
Professor and Curator Emeritus
Herbarium COLO

Paskafon 1992

Dear Bill, -

It is always so nice to chat with you over the phone! It is like a breath of fresh air from the "outside" of our cloistered life.

I did not tell Askell about your idea concerning Taxon, it should come as a surprise for him, don't you think so? But I have already located a nice picture of him, taken 1945-50 sometime, when he looked his best, and I will try to have a copy (or two) made from it. I think it would be wonderful with some sort of "official" recognition of him and his work to have a Taxon devoted to him some way or another. He really deserves it because he had one way or another stimulated a lot of people, positively as well as negatively, but in the long run so that it has advanced taxonomy a great deal. He is now 76 and in relatively poor health and it would be nice for him to know that there are those who did appreciate him and his work. He often feels so bitter about what he has experienced, some of it unnecessarily, others not without reason. He has not been easy to deal with, still is not, and he has stroked many the wrong way. But some of it is actually caused by his inability to understand the subtleties of language; he never understood how insulting he could be without intending to. But others, who understood him: liked him in spite of that and I know that better than he does, or wants to acknowledge, himself. Thank you in any case for suggesting this to me. I am very grateful to you.

I am also pleased that you have so much pleasure of our books and papers. I know they are valuable, and you are one of the few who really understand it. When the IOPB meet, you could show them the "catch" you institute has made. It should impress some, irk others.

Considering Cronquist and his son; what a horrible time for his wife to miss both husband and son so suddenly. I really feel for her. We never met her, but I will try to write a few lines to tell her that we appreciated Art and condole her in her misery.

I am proof-reading the big Vavilov book now. It is a horrible work and my eyes are aching. After almost a year of waiting for the proofs, they give me two weeks to read 467 pages text, 30 pages forewards and such, plus long awful lists of names to be filled in with pagenumbers. I am doing it as fast as I can, and just only hope I have not let too many mistakes slip by me. I worry a bit

over the Latin names, it is so easy to overlook spelling-mistakes when it is a matter of names you are not very familiar with. There are so many tropical plant names and names of cultivated plants that are not my "usual" fare. So I just hope that reviewers will not be hard on me if there are mistakes here and there. I will suggest your name as a botanical reviewer, and I think, Jack Ives as a geographers since much of the book deals with biogeography and just the mountain areas he is interested in. He seems to be doing very well in Davis. USDA will see to that some agronomist gets it. The proofs look very good, actually; it will be nice to look at at least. I think also I can be proud of the work done, if I may say so myself.

I am also beginning to work on a second volume by Vavilov, this time more of a travelogue. But I think I already told you about it. Anyhow, at the side of my "regular" job translating and faking care of Askell, the household, the economy, the dogs and the garden, I actually have enough to do.

I forgot to say Happy Easter to you and to ask you to give my best regards to Sammie as well, but better late than never...

Bedtime long overdu! Best regards, always

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Worms

Later on, June 9, 1992

Dear Bill, -

By now you have got the FAX I hope. Since it costs \$3:- to send it (2 to receive one), I concentrated as much as I could.

However, to fill out a little. Áskell grew up in a poverty that it is hard to imagine in this country. He was born in R-vík, but grew up in Isafjordur, a small fishing village closed in between mountains on the NW peninsula of the country. The sun sets in mid-december behind the mountains and in the end of Jan. it peaks above it for a brief moment, when the whole village celebrates "sun-coffee". During his childhood the conditions were so poor that most children were served a daily meal by the Salvation army, among them Áskell and all his brothers and sisters. As the father was a fishing captain, they moved frequently, and when he retired he took on a job as lighthouse-keeper on Cape North, from where one can see the cliffs of Greenland on one of the exceptionally clear days. There Áskell spent two summers and made his first botanical collections in the bird-cliffs. He even took part in collecting birds eggs, hanging from a rope over the nesting sites high above the water.

When they moved back to R-vík he went to the gymnasium (college) there, where he among others was the school poet. He has written a lot of good poetry, which unfortunately cannot be translated due to the complicated rules for Icelandic poetry. He also won the "Golden Pen award" for his description of days on the bird cliffs.

After matriculation he had to decide between becoming a philosopher (in Paris) or taking plant breeding in Lund. It became the latter. There we met in 1937 and I was one of the few who understood him at first, and taught him to speak Swedish. We have been together ever since. We took zoology, botany and genetics together (I took geography as well). We lived mainly on what I earned as assistant and his meager stipend from Iceland. Later, when we started to publish, we got grants that

helped a bit. We married in 1940. When in 1943 he got his Dr. degree, he was the youngest in Sweden ever to earn it. I was the youngest female the next year. Later some mathematicians have beaten our records. We could do it because our research objects, Rumex, and Melandrium, resp., flowered at different times, so we could both work full time on them, when most effective. His "disputation" was an international affair, the 1st opponent a Swede, the second a Dane (Westergaard) and the third a Norwegian.

Since he could not return home due to the war, we continued to work in Sweden with the first chromosome list until the war stopped. Then he was called home and to the Research Institute of the U. there. Later in the summer, I and our oldest followed. We did as much research as possible while in Iceland, but had a hard time finding funding and support. The farmers are very conservative and reluctant to try new methods. We did get a research farm started and that has since developed into a rather big affair. But it was evident that we had no future there and so we started to look around. We found a job at the U. of Manitoba, Winnipeg, but it took a full year to clear up some political slander, before we could accept it. We stayed there 5 years and then were offered positions in Montréal at the French U. of Montréal, which we took. There we stayed until the chairman of that Dept., Pierre Dansereau, was fired due to some trouble, and all his staff with him. So we searched around again and after a year we landed in Boulder, much thanks to you. The rest you know as well and even better than I do.

I do not know if this is of any help, but at least you know now a bit more about him. He is, as you know, in a way a very private person, when it comes to his early life. He has been accused of being a communist, but that is not true. He was a social democrat as long as he took part in politics, which ended when he left Iceland. Since then he has had no time for politics but is not afraid to criticize and condemn what he does not like, which has put him in a lot of trouble. His whole life has been devoted to research and science and he was good at it. It is a tragedy that the Parkinsonism has deprived him almost totally of the ability to reason.

Well, to get this into the mail, that will be all for this time. Best regards and thank you for your efforts on his behalf, always

Gron

Dr. W.A. Weber
Fax no. (303)-492-5105, ext. 6171
The Herbarium, University of Colorado
P.O.Box 350 Campus
BOULDER, CO 80309

Áskell Löve

Born Reykjavík, Iceland, Oct. 20, 1916.
Matriculated Reykjavík 1937, B. Sc. Lund University, Sweden, 1941, Ph.D. 1942,
Dr. Sc. 1943.(genetics).

Geneticist at the Research Institute of the University of Iceland, Reykjavík, 1942-45; Director of Inst. of Botany and Plant Breeding, U. of Icel., Reykjavík, 1945-51; Assoc. Prof. of Botany, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg., Man. Canada, 1951-56; Professeur de Recherches (biosystematics), Université de Montréal, Montréal, P. Q., Canada, 1956-1963, Professor of Botany, University of Colorado, 1964-1973 (chairman of Dept. of Biology, d:o, 1966-70), Chairman of the Dept. of Population Studies, d:o 1971-73; also Assoc. curator of Phanerogams, the U. of Colo. Nat. Hist. Mus, Assoc. of Research, Arctic and Alpine Institute, U. of Colo.)

Research Associate, University of Lund, Sweden, 1941-45; John Simon Guggenheim Meml. Found. fellow, 1963-64; Fellow of Icelandic Acad. Sci. & Letters, Honorary Foreign Member of Czech Botanical Society, 1960; konsultant to Flora Europaea, from 1958 on; president of International Organization of Plant Biosystematics, 1960-64; pres. Internat. Comm. of Chemotaxonomists, 1964; Visiting Prof. at Inst. of Biology, University of Ljubljana, 1971-72; etc., etc.

Member of numerous Scandinavian, European, American and International Scientific Associations, among others the Mendelian Society, Lund, Sweden, Genetic Socs. of Canada and of America, Intern. Soc. Of Plant Taxonomy, ~~XXXX.XXXXXXX~~ Bot. Soc. of Brit. Isles, etc.

Listed in Who's Who in America and in American Men and Women of Science.
Married Doris Löve, née Wahlén, in 1940; two daughters, Gunnlaug (Gayle) Swanson and Lóa Kaersvang, three granddaughters.

Dear Bill, -

Always a pleasure to talk to you. I have tried my best to piece together what is important in Áskell's career. Neither he nor I can clearly remember what year he "retired" from U. of Colo., 1973 or 1974. Do you remember it? It is something we have tried to forget about. All I know for sure is that we came here in 1976, so we have now been here longer than we were in Boulder; it is incredible.

Hope the above is helpful. He was intersted in science and botany from early on and had hoped to serve his country as a plant breeder but did not find enough support for his views and soon looked for more scientific outlets for his creative mind. He has travelled widely in all of Europe, worked in Spain and Yugoslavia as well as briefly in Taly, travelled in every province of Cahada and all the states of U.S. except Florida, and visited Japan twice.

Best regards in haste

W.A. Weber

5780 Chandler ct. SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

June 22, 1992

Dear Bill, -

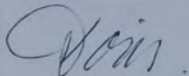
Just a few lines to thank you for your efforts in St. Louis on behalf of Áskell. I am so happy that they were successful and that people in general there seem to have liked the idea. Áskell still does not know of it, but I hope he will be pleased.

On Saturday I had a pleasant phone call from Shoiki Kawano when he passed through San Francisco on his way to Japan. He, too, was full of enthusiasm for this and so pleased that he could add his support. He is one of our best students ever and we continue to keep in touch. He visited us here a couple of years ago and hopes to come here next spring or the one after that again. When we were in Japan (both of us), he was our guide and an excellent one. We even visited with his family in Sapporo, where his mother presented us with a taxi-ride in the environments. I think that was such a nice gesture. The meal she gave for us was also out of this world and it was a rare pleasure to see a Japanese home from the inside. His family is far from rich, his father a simple laborer who was badly hurt in an accident (electric shock) so that one leg is almost useless. They lived in a small house inside a typical Japanese "block", where you have to walk through a maze of little lanes with beautiful gardens to find it. At the entrance to such a block, there is a list of the people living there, but how the mailman finds them is still a mystery to me. Shoi was with us in Montréal and his doctoral thesis in several volumes measured almost as tall as himself. He also came to see us in Boulder. Did you meet him there then? He has done very well and is now head of the Dept. of Botany in Kyoto, which seems to be one of the major positions in Japanese botany.

I am just wa-ering the front lawns. We have a bit more water this year and I am trying to restore some of the parched areas again. The paricots are just ripening and the blacberries are just finished. Were they ever good!

Best regards and again, many thanks, from
yours always

Don't forget to say hello to Sammie as well!



Royal Ontario Museum
Musée royal de l'Ontario

100 Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5S 2C6



Office of the Director
Bureau du directeur

Tel./Tél. (416) 586-5639
Fax/Télé. (416) 586-8044

17 June 1992

Dr. William A. Weber
Herbarium, Museum
University of Colorado
Campus Box 350
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0350
U.S.A.

Dear Bill:

Peter Raven brought to the Council of the International Organization of Plant Biosystematists your suggestion of IOPB recognizing Áskell Löve's accomplishments in the area of biosystematics. The Council was receptive and the attached represents some wording that I put together for the Council based on the material that you had provided. You will notice that we linked Doris closely with Áskell in our tribute.

An official scroll incorporating this text will be sent by Peter Raven, the new President of IOPB to Doris and Áskell, but I thought you might like to know about this ahead of time. Thank you for reminding us.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

John McNeill
Director

Áskell and Doris Löve

At its meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 11, 1992, the Council of the International Organization of Plant Biosystematists unanimously resolved to record its appreciation of the lifetime contributions to plant biosystematics of Drs. Áskell and Doris Löve.

An Icelander, Áskell Löve trained in Sweden (where he met Doris) and has been professionally active in Iceland, Canada and the United States, publishing prolifically over the period 1935-1988, principally on cytotaxonomy. In 1961, he chaired the organizing committee that led to the establishment of the International Organization of Plant Biosystematists; his enthusiasm for the subject and his dynamism as a teacher and leader were major factors in the growth and development of plant biosystematics.

Doris Löve gained her professional qualifications in her native Sweden, and, although her publications demonstrate her outstanding qualities as a biosystematist in her own right, she is best known for her collaboration with her husband in the very many "Á. & D. Löve" publications. In this, and in the support of other aspects of her husband's work, her contributions were very substantial.

Together, Áskell and Doris Löve, reflecting the Scanian description of them in their Lund years as "ler och långhalm", deserve the recognition of the international community of plant biosystematists for their unique role in the development of the discipline. For this we salute them.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123
June 27, 1992

Dear Bill, -

We really enjoyed the post card from the Rockies with all the signatures from your group and especially those of the Weimarck's. Áskell has met him since he grew up, but to me Gunnar is still the little curlyheaded blond boy who came to play with Goy. Well, she is now over 50 and he was a year or so older, so he is probably neither curly-haired or blond any more. Time flies. You must have had a wonderful time with such an international group. How many languages were spoken? I am sure they were all impressed with the flora and the landscapes. I have to confess that when I have a hard time falling asleep I sometimes see in front of me the wonderful routes we drove through Colorado, following every turn of the roads and admiring the beautiful mountains and the luxurious mountain meadows. It is a sort of wonderful relaxation. I miss very much travelling and do not much like to be caged up like now.

Thank you also for all the efforts at IOFB on behalf of Áskell. I sure appreciate it and I hope Áskell will be happy when he finally learns about it. Shoi phoned me a couple of days after I talked to you and told me a little more of it. He, too, did a good job for his old teacher. He is such a nice person. Hopefully he will come to see us next spring or that after it. He has some students working on Amer-Asiatic spring flora. He has popped in here a couple of times, and we always enjoy it. I am glad he has reached a very fine position in Japan, he deserved it.

Otherwise nothing new. I am still working on Vavilov papers, and have just translated some very interesting letters written from him when in prison. He seemed to be acquainted with Beria, who did what he could for him, especially to abolish the death sentence pronounced on him by a Military Board. The Supreme court finally agreed to this, but he was immediately sent back to Saratov, and the papers concerning his release did not follow him and he was left lingering in a cell on death row until starving to death. It is appalling how he was treated.

I was really taken aback when I learnt from these letters that one of those accusing him of "treason and sabotage of Soviet production as well as espionage" was none other than Avdulov! Could this be a reason why one does not hear more about him after his big grass works? We always assumed he had died young, perhaps in the war. Perhaps he was rather simply "frozen" out of botanical circles?? Who knows. Many things happen in Russia that we westerners are never informed about. This does not in any way reflect on his work as a grass taxonomist, but my opinions about him as a person have got a big dent.

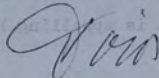
Otherwise nothing new. Askell is not in a good condition today, I had to dress him this morning, which he can usually do himself, even if with difficulty and taking his time for it. But I am trying to let him do it as long as possible in order that he does not ^{lay} come entirely dependent on being babied by others. We were to one of his doctors recently and he told him that as far as the Parkinsonism is concerned, he is really not in as bad a shape as he wants to believe. He did not like to hear that. But that is the truth, others are much worse off and do not complain half as much.

Now I have to can a couple of cans of apricots. They are ripening fast now and taste wonderfully good. Only one of the two trees we have fruited this year. Now I am trying to water a bit more liberally (our ration is down to 25 percents of "normal" whatever that is), so next year I hope I will see a bit better flowering and fruiting in the garden. The blackberries are just about over, but bore well this year and seem much healthier again. It is nice to have some produce you know is not full of pesticides. But it is hard to find time for gardening and I do not have enough strength for digging any more; I have a very sore shoulder and my right arm is not what it used to be any more. Old age I suppose.

Say hello to Sammie! Hope she is doing well and enjoys the summer. Can she be outdoors at all? Askell could, but refuses even to go out on the patio. Sometimes he is stupid.

Best regards as always and thanks for the card,

Always



5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, Ca 95123

July 10, 1992

Dear Bill, -

By now I hope your bad cough has abated, if not completely disappeared. The symptoms sounded almost like whooping cough! Are you sure it was not that? I know of people your age who got it, usually from grandchildren. Of course, the high altitude was not helpful either, you have so much less oxygen up there than we down here.

I also hope your acupuncture has proven beneficial. I had a relative who lived in China from age 17 to the communists took over when he was in his 60:s. He swore by acupuncture and was unhappy when he settled in the West again. In Nice. He disliked the hustle and bustle but lived a good life with a Russian mistress and when he died and his son went down to finish up his affairs, there was just enough left to pay for the burial! A very colorful person, looking more like a Buddah, each time he came to visit in Denmark. He worked at first for the Danish East-Indian Co., later for himself, selling silk and furs. He spoke and read Chinese and Russian, and was fun to listen to. He once crash-landed his small airplane in a remote Chinese rice-paddie. Fortunately, a Buddhist priest there spoke Latin, and they had a lovely time conversing in this language during the month it took to get a new propeller and build an airstrip for taking off.

I have just a few minutes free, after having read proofs until I feel cross-eyed. It was the lists of Latin and vernacular names for the big Vavilov's "Origin and Geography of Cultivated Plants." (I have recommended you as one of the reviewers, hope they respond). The book will be almost exactly 500 pages printed and should appear this fall (?In Sept.-Oct.)

You asked me for info about that Vavilov letter where I discovered that Avdulov was one of his adversaries. (The primus motor was, of course, Lysenko). There was no hint of where it was published, but page nos. (675-7) indicate that it was from a major work or in some journal. I include the letter in Question here, so you can see how he was treated in jail. Eventually he starved to death. It is one of the worst tragedies in the history of botany, I feel.

You realize, of course, that this is confidential and not for disclosing of origin. It may, or may not, eventually be included with the translation of the book by V. that I am working on now. I am about half way through but with the pace the copyright bureau in Moscow works, I may be done before USDA gets the right to publish it. But I have so little from my regular firm now so I use every free minute for it and enjoy it enormously.

Do not worry about my arms. I have already had a bout with carpal tunnel syndrom and learnt what to do to fight it. It was largely due to hand-writing in an uncomfortable height and typewriting too much. But my computer keyboard is at a very comfortable level, just above knee-height when I sit, and that is not affecting me. My "computer daughter" did not have hers at a reasonable level, so is now going through it all, but has listened to my advice and adjusted her work accordingly, so we hope it passes over.

What really bothers me is a sorright shoulder, where a nerve is pinched when I lift it at a certain level. It is called "supraspinatus syndrom" and there is not much to do against it, except cortison injections. I am trying to see how long I can stick it out before I need treatment. The arm is much weaker than the left one also, but that was due to a paralytic disease I had in Iceland, so it is slightly thinner than the left arm. But hurrah for being more or less ambidextrous, it is a blessing. So when Askell needs lifting in bed, tugging up from chairs, etc., etc., it is the left arm that does the heavy work. So I do not complain. For my age, I think I am in a good shape.

The weather this year is peculiar. Today it is 95°F and very humid thanks to a Mexican hurrican-now depression. The smog is at "dangerous levels" and people are told not to drive if not definitely necessary. But that is almost futile in car-happy Calif. The bus and rail-service here is abominable.

We had nothing of the earthquakes up here. Not a little shake even. And we have not had any for so long that now we worry about that. We actually felt comfortable with a small shaking now and then, thinking that it delayed the big one and diminished the stress on the faults. But now there has been nothing of that ~~kind~~ for so long that I do not remember when we had one last.

Slovenia is a much more "civilized" province than the rest, has an Austrian culture. Bosnia-Herzegovina is "oriental", Moslem and primitive. The Serbs are descended from Attila's huns and still behave like them. All speak their own languages and have their own religions; only Tito could hold them together. I do not know what will happen. Bush has no idea what goes on there or why, he only knows it is of no gain for U.S. to interact. It may contribute to his fall.

Nothing else of importance. Askell says hello, he is reading over my shoulder.

Best regards to both Sammie and you, always

John

Herbarium (KYO)

Department of Botany
Faculty of Science
Kyoto University
Sakyo-ku, Kitashirakawa
Kyoto 606
Japan
Phone: 075-753-4131
Fax: 075-753-4122

Kyoto, July 14, 1992

Dr. William Weber,
Museum: Herbarium, University of Colorado
at Boulder, Campus Box 350, Boulder,
Colorado 80309-0350, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Weber:

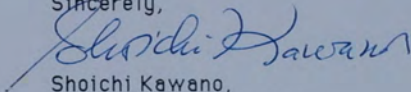
Please find enclosed copy of Löve commendation, which was introduced on the occasion of St. Louis IOPB Symposium last June.

As I have written you earlier, this was received warmly by all who attended in the Symposium. Once again, I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness on this matter. Just on the way back from the States, I could have a chance to talk with Doris on the phone from the San Francisco Airport, and she was very pleased to know that the commendation celebrating their contributions to Plant Biosystematics with your initiatives.

The commendation, upon nicely framed, will be sent to them directly from Peter Hoch of Missouri Botanical Garden very soon.

With my sincere gratitude and very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Shoichi Kawano,
Professor and Director
of Herbarium



Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

The L&C reprints go to Boulder, Colo.
Jan. 1992

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

5780 chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Aug. 30, 1992

Dear Bill,-

We were very happy to hear that you are back and that the trip was so successful. We are on the other hand very sorry to learn about the accident with your arm but hope that the damage done is not permanent and that you will soon be back into full operation again. But worse could have happened. The good thing is, however, that you are so pleased with the trip. I suppose the other members were also delighted, not least over having such a good guide as you there. Some time in the future, I hope you will give us a more detailed description. One of my - by now vicarious - pleasures is to read travellogues of other, more fortunate people. It is part therefore I enjoy my present translation job so much. I sit there with maps at my side, read up on the different countries in our excellent Bonnier's Encyclopedia. We got the latter for free as students (were supposed to tell friends about how good it was, which we of course neglected). But the work, although published in the mid-1930s is still one of the best general sources of information we have.

Áskell has a very bad day today. This morning he was absolutely incapable of dressing himself, kept falling back into the bed all the time. Then when he finally got into the bathroom to brush his teeth, I had gone down into the kitchen when I heard him crash to the floor there, so rushed up and succeeded to get him on his feet again. Since he had fallen absolutely limp and hit nothing except the floor, he was fortunately not hurt. It was not so easy to get him down the stairs, but we managed. At lunch he refused to sit at the table, so I had to bring the food to his chair and there he has sat all day, saying he feels like falling backward all the time. I wonder what this means? Is it another set back? I do not know if I should consult with his doctor. He does not want me to do it and, as Lóa said the other day, "Why give him more pills and just prolong the misery"? It is not easy to let go after over 50 years together in good and bad, but I realize that the day will come. I only hope I can last til then. I do confess that at times I feel frustrated and helpless. It does not make it any better that Coy, our oldest, threatens to move to S. Carolina (to be out of the way or to escape having to help???) this fall. She has not got a job yet, but claims she could get one in October. We will see. This is not one of my good days either.

But the weather is good again. We had a very strange weather yesterday, even hail and lightning (that hit a golfer!) in a different part of town; just a few sprinkles here. We live in the driest part of town as far as I can see. It can pour down elsewhere but hardly ever here.

Your dream was interesting. There is still so much unknown about the human mind. Nothing surprises me anymore. I "experienced" the birth of a dear friend of mine, before I even knew she was pregnant (the baby was Rhegitive and a great worry to the mother). I also experienced my uncle's death from a ruptured aorta, felt the intense pain when it happened and the gradual fading out of his conscious. I did not die from it. Since he had never been ill, except for a broken leg in his youth, there was no reason for this. But I was prepared when they phoned in the morning to tell me. And I can also tell you that I said to Askell: "Now we will hear from Bill", the morning before your letter arrived. It is a bit shocking when things "come true" after a dream, but I suppose it is not so unusual. People may feel embarrassed to talk about it for fear of being ridiculed. But in a way, it is a gift. Askell's mother never waited for news from her children, she often told me about it before they wrote because she "dreamed it". In Iceland this sort of things is very common and nobody speculates over it but takes it for granted. They still believe in the "hidden people" and even write up experiences with them in the daily press. Roads have been relaid because some of them lived in a stone or a hill! And so on. Well, there is much left to learn.

There is nothing else to tell. Some reprints are piling up. I will send them to you when I feel there is enough for a parcel. Tell me if I should include the "Arctic-Alpine Journal" and the "Mountain Journal". I suppose the library gets them anyhow, so let me know if I should discard them. Thank you.

With the very best regards to Sammie
and yourself, always

Yours
(and Askell)

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Nov. 1, 1992

Dear Bill, -

It seems to me we have not heard from you for quite some time and it worries us a little. How is your arm? Has it healed properly? And how is Sammie? Nothing wrong we hope. But let us know so we can feel at ease.

Here things were a bit rough for a while, but now we seem to be back to more or less normal again. Goy, our oldest (also known as Gaye or, most recently Gayle) has left and in a manner that was extremely upsetting to Áskell. We had, as we believed, gradually introduced him to the idea that she might be leaving soon, but in spite of that it was apparently not understood.

So one Sunday she comes for dinner as she did fairly often and then she states that the movers will come to pick up her things next Thursday. Even I was taken by surprise since I had not realized that she was packing and ready to leave so soon. She had not said a word about any date before. Áskell still did not grasp that she meant it. She said goodbye in her usual manner, nothing special but I told her we wanted her to come back to say "properly" farewell before leaving. When we had not heard from her Wednesday, I phoned her and asked if she was coming to dinner and to say goodbye, but got the answer that she had said the good-bye necessary and was not coming to see us anymore. Áskell heard I got upset and took the telephone and then they had a heated exchange about her move and manners for almost half an hour. It was a sad way of saying goodbye to a parent she may never see again. I myself was very upset and Áskell was furious. She did not phone again and left Friday morning in her car with her youngest daughter, Dawn as relieve-driver. But she at least had the decency to phone us every night (after Áskell was in bed) to tell where they were.

They arrived in Charlotte N.C. five days later. She had apparently already this summer arranged to rent an apartment there and when she came there everything was in order, gas and el. installed and functioning and the telephone as well. Some friends of her had done that, said Dawn. Dawn also told me when she had come back by air, that the apartment is very nice, in a good neighborhood and that her friends were pleasant and hopeful that Goy would soon get a job.

I have phoned her twice after that and everything is all right.

But after she left Áskell had several days when he was totally confused, did not at all understand what had happened, did not know where he was or who was moving where. He asked me either to go and pack the car or to unpack it and could not understand whether we were coming or going or why we were in California. I tried my best to straighten him out but to no avail. It was particularly when he was sleepy, going to bed or just awakened that his confusion was worst. In the middle of the day he was more reasonable and gradually the change became clear to him and now, fortunately, he seems to have accepted it. He has talked to Goy once since, but none of them have apologized to the other for their behavior. So it is a little tense between them, but I hope that, too, will pass.

We still do not know what, if anything, is behind her move. The fact is that she has a good deal of the "Family genes" (schizophrenia or, in her case a certain cyclicality) that make her completely change everything every five or ten years. That was one of the reasons we moved out here: to be able to help out when necessary, and it has been necessary a couple of times since we came here.

Now I have, however, decided that at age 52 she has better learn to look after herself and we will not interfere anymore. What we have done for her before she has often thanked us for when she realized what was going on. But one can do only so much for people. One has to let go of the apron strings, and in that respect Áskell, the family "dictator", is much worse than I.

I only hope we will not have similar upsets too often. It takes me out. Enough about that, I only needed to speak out to somebody who understands.

The other day we got the enclosed moss-paper from Iceland. I know the text is not much good to you, but the maps and illustrations can perhaps be fun for you to look at.

My big Russian transl. of "Origin and Geography of Cultivated Plants" is out now and looks very nice. Hope the reviewers like it, too. I gave your name but do not know if you have gotten a copy. I get only two so cannot spare any but in the introd. I thank you among all others who helped out. It is horribly expensive, \$120! So ask the library to get one so you can see it. It is a Cambridge U. Press publication. - The second "Vavilov" is still in preparation but will, hopefully, be more affordable.

With the best regards in haste, always

Noel

Hello to
Sammie
also!

Dr. William A. Weber,
Curator of the Herbarium,
University of Colorado Museum,
Bolder, Colorado, U. S. A.

Herbarium (KYO)
Department of Botany
Faculty of Science
Kyoto University
Sakyo-ku, Kitashirakawa
Kyoto 606
Japan
Phone: 075-753-4131
Fax: 075-753-4122

Kyoto, July 1, 1992

Dear Dr. Weber:

Please forgive me for writing you suddenly.

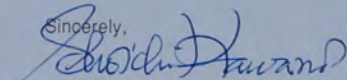
Today, I am writing this letter to thank you, not only on behalf of IOPB as past President but also as one of their students, for all your thoughtfulness and warm humanity of sending a letter of recommendation for both Åskell and Doris Löve, my dearest teachers in Montreal, to Dr. Peter Raven, Chairman of Steering Committee of the 5th IOPB held at St. Louis, for nominating them for IOPB award. As you may have heard already from Peter Hoch of Missouri Botanical Garden, the Council and Executive Committee of IOPB has unanimously resolved to adopt resolution for noting their great contributions for founding IOPB and also for their great scientific contributions made in the field of Plant Biosystematics. The resolution was introduced in the Congress Banquet by the President of IOPB, Shoichi Kawano, on that most highlighted and memorial occasion in the St. Louis meeting. They are people and scientists of warm humanity, courage and dignity. Perhaps you are the only person who can understand how much I was happy and proud to be able to do this as their student. I have long been concerned about their difficult life after all having troubles and retired from their positions some years ago. I have honestly no adequate words today to thank you for your initiatives and thoughtfulness you have given this time. I really wished to be able to express this word of gratitude directly to you upon seeing each other. But, I do hope you will excuse me writing such a humble letter to you today. Thanks to the efforts of a number of people, the memberships of IOPB are now well exceeding 200 plant scientists, and will be increasing more and more in coming years. Peter Raven is now new President, and I have to assist him as past President for coming three years, until 1995.

Perhaps you may know that the XV International Botanical Congress will be held in Yokohama next year in 1993. Would you think about coming to Japan on this occasion? I would be very happy if I could have an opportunity to be able to meet with you either in Yokohama or somewhere in the States. Since I am a Regents Fellow of Smithsonian Institution at present, I will definitely visit the States next year again, possibly in spring (March to May); thus I may be able to visit you at Colorado.

Once again, thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your warm and kind action.

With all my warmest wishes,

Sincerely,



Shoichi Kawano,
Director of Herbarium,
Professor of Systematic Botany

Sept. 14, 1992

Dear Bill, -

I do not know if you have *Flora Arctica USSR*, but if not, I translated what it says about *S. hirculus-proropans*. There must be some chromosome number difference that made Áskell transfer its status. See verso.

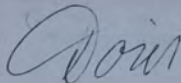
I have to admit that I miss our library, but we had to get rid of it when we could. Áskell was already so addled that he could not help out, but I did my best to get a fair price. It was of course still a "give-away". But not others can at least use it.

I am working hard on my Vavilov translation and find I could have used a lot of the floras we had. Now I do not know if the chestnut, common in the forests of Galicia (NW Spain) belong to *Castanea* or *Aesculus*, but since he mentions that the "nuts" are used both by people for food and for fodder to animals (esp. pigs), I assume that it is the former. I do not know that people eat *Aesculus*. At least we were told as children not to do so and I remember that the taste was awfully bitter. Do you have any possibilities to check if *Castanea sativa* is the correct forest-forming and cultivated tree in Spain? I always thought it was an Asiatic species, but may be mistaken. I believed it was introduced to Europe from, e.g., China, or such.

I am not in a good mode these days. Goy, our oldest, threatens to leave us for N. Carolina. She was so terribly upset by Áskell's behavior when she last "babysat" him, that she will do anything not to have to do so again. She says that she wants more opportunities and can easier find them away from California now, but I think she is terribly mistaken. I do not think Áskell realizes that she is dead set about this and I will not discuss it with him until things are settled. Otherwise he frets and harps on it incessantly. But it is not easy; it could mean that I cannot leave the house if Lóa cannot look after him, and go an evening with friends, since I can no longer see to drive alone in the dark. Life is complicated. But I still hope she takes reason before too long.

Otherwise nothing new. It is very late and I have to go to bed.

Best regards in haste, always



5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Sept. 16, 1992

Dear Bill, -

I cannot thank you enough for starting and putting through the resolution honoring Askell and me, too (! I did not expect that!). It arrived yesterday and Askell was visibly touched by it. He did not say much but I could see how pleased he was. He read and read the paper again and again and was in an unusually happy mood all day after that. It is wonderful to have a recognition like this while you are still alive and can enjoy it. So we do not really know how we can thank you and Shoi enough for what you have done for us.

The document (I will have it framed) was sent by a Peter C. Hoch, whom I must confess I do not know, and he said the resolution had been enthusiastically accepted by not only the IOPE council but also the general membership. It makes me very happy, since Askell does not generally believe that he has made any lasting impression by his research, although I am constantly telling him that he is becoming more and more accepted by people who really reflect on his ideas and see the efficiency of them. But now, perhaps, he believes me.

I phoned you yesterday evening, but you had already gone to bed so I got a nice little chat with Sammie instead and asked her to thank you from us. She sounded just like always, perhaps a little older, but it cannot be denied that we have all aged since we last saw each other. I was happy to hear that she feels well, although she can no longer walk. At least it seems she can think straight. Askell can still walk to a limited extent, but his thinking is getting increasingly addled.

I noticed in Hoch's letter that Peter Raven now has taken over from Shoi. I will write both of them and thank them, too, for their part in this honor to us. Shoi is such a nice person, he was one of our very best students and has remained faithful to us through the years. When he can he comes to see us on his trips to here or, if that is impossible, he phones to say hello. I hope that Peter will become as good a president as Shoi apparently has been. The biosystematics can never get too much support and Peter is a name to count with.

I have an awful translation job to do for my firm, a series of bits and pieces about intricate technical things relating to airplanes, space and finishing machinery, so I hope you excuse me for not writing more this time, but I wanted you to know that your action was much appreciated and well received by both of us. - By the way, how did you know about the "ler- and lãnghalm" (actually the mixture used for adobe!)? Did I tell you? It was heartwarming to remember it again.

So THANK YOU, and best regards to Sammie and yourself from yours always

Wheeler & Davis

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Sept. 22, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter (it must have crossed mine on the way) and thank you for that extra little note which tells me how much you care for Áskell. But you must not worry, I take good care of him and I see to that he gets safely down the stairs. He uses his cane, holds on to the handrail and I am right in front of him all the way just in case. But his vertigo is only occasional, I can usually tell in the morning when I or he dresses him (I frequently have to lend a hand, when he is unable to do it) and then I am extra wary. But the time I told you of, I had him sitting down in the bathroom and thought he was O.K. but he tried to stand up, and that when he fell. Fortunately the time when we need to put him into some rest home is still a long way off, but when it comes I think the best thing is to try to get him back to Iceland where he can speak the language and has his family. But I hope that will not have to be done.

Saturday we had another surprise when a beautifully framed picture with the citation you arranged arrived. It was totally unexpected but something I had planned to do with the copy we had already got. Now I can just hang it up on the wall and look at it and know that there are people who appreciate us. Áskell is really touched by this, too, and the family is very proud, so we thank you again for your part in it.

I see that you, too, found the ref. to Siplivinsky and, like you, I guess that Olle is unable to look up the literature and to use herbaria, which is a shame. What to me is even worse is that he bases his description on a specimen cultivated in Uppsala when the original material is from high altitude in Colorado. Is he not familiar with Bonniers transplantation research of plants from high altitude to low lands and vice versa? The morphological changes can be drastic and that is apparently what he got. Such plants can not be used as basis for description of a local species. But I am equally embarrassed by the mistake Áskell did with the *Hirculus*. He usually was careful but it has happened before with some Scandinavian material, where Lid sent him a sharp reprimand.

The survival of seeds in banks varies very much. This is why in the St. Petersburg Vavilov institute they always try to cultivate some seeds in order to produce new ones, so they do not lose their material to old age. I do not know

how well seeds of Phippsia store. Your suggestion that the Colorado material may be lost or diminished due to the drought is sensible. Arctic plants are in general very sensitive to drought and used to wet conditions. The name even implies a connection to snow, it seems to me. Is there already snow up on Mt. Evans or do they just close the road there at a certain date? Koenigia is very sensitive to drought, too.

It is funny with the *Galium boreale*^x versus *septentrionale*^{xx}. It was actually I who reacted strongly to the latter, when we first saw it in Manitoba. As children we used to decorate our mud-cakes with the deliciously smelling plant, so I knew it well, and was sure that the Manitoba plants was different. Of course, the Chr. nos. turned out to be different but I cannot exactly remember now how I distinguished them. The *septentrionale* is also sturdier, that I remember. Sometimes in critical cases you have to go so far as to look for the dimensions of stomata in order to distinguish species with different chr. nos. I still have a hard time with *Empetrum nigrum* and *hermaphroditum* when they are not fruiting.

Other wise I continue to work on the translation of Vavilov's travelogue. Now I have come to Brazil and his first visit to a tropical rain forest. He is terribly impressed. He mentions a botanist, German, by the name XЭHЭ, from a Biological Institute in Sao Paulo in 1933. I guess it could be Schoene; what do you think? A trail in a tropical research reserve is named after Linneus, another after Lamarck, which both are easy to transliterate, but the third is named for X1003, and I guess it could be Jussieu. Does that make sense. In

most cases I can identify the names by pronouncing them according to the Cyrillic letters but sometimes I am not so sure I am right. However, it is a very interesting book, taking you back to the time between 1920 and 1940, which I still remember very well. It is fun to recall the coffee-crisis in Brazil. My father was in the 1920's a wholesaler of tropical goods and he used to say that the Brazilian coffee from Sao Paulo was the favorite of the old women in Småland but he himself thought it smelled like the hind end of a cat! He preferred the Columbian kind. Vavilov agrees that the Brazilian is not the best kind either. So I have fun. It will be fun to see what he says about U.S., but it is a rather short part, most of his text was lost.

Again, thank you for your friendship and best regards to Sammie, it was nice to speak to her, always yours

W. Cronin

P.S. It is my oldest, when worked out, fortunately not done.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123, USA

Nov. 21, 1992

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 10. I was pleased to know that things are O.K. on your side and that your hand is gradually recovering. Such a damage can take a long time to heal properly but do not give up on it, keep it working, that usually helps. We did not know you had cataract difficulties, but it was nice to know that you had a successful repair work. I suppose you have to wear the thick-lensed glasses, but with the new plastic lenses it is not so bothersome as with the old ones of glass.

We saw Áskell's "Parkinson"-doctor yesterday and he confirmed my suspicions that in addition to this dreadful disease Áskell is now showing definite signs of alzheimers, too. He is slowly going downhill. The doctor even advised me to start thinking of getting "power of attorney" over Áskell, but I have to think it over. It is getting very hard for him to sign checks in his name so that the bank will accept them. Why did he have to go through all this? He has not been the most pleasant or nice person in his life, I know, but he did not deserve this. But let us keep this information between us.

I really need your help and advice on some botanical matters. When Vavilov travelled around at high altitude in the Pamirs, etc., he encountered what he called "Buckthorn with red and yellow fruits" there, but does not give any Latin name of it. In another place he mentions "cotoneasters with red and yellow fruits". Now I do not know whether he means some kind of Rhamnus or Cotoneaster and I cannot check it either in the books we no longer have. (Do I miss them!) Do you have any suggestions?

He also mentions a "for-get-me-not" which grows in the alpine meadows at 4000 m. alt. *What can that be?*

Another problem is "sand-Covillea" in Spain. Without our Flora of Spain I am unable to check what the Latin name can be. I saw a lot of Covillea when we visited there, but do not know what the "sand- one" is. Can you find out? Otherwise I have just to call it Covillea sp. (Could it possibly be a Larrea?)

I am now working over the Latin and common names of the Five Continents and find the indices in the "Origin..." very helpful.

The other day I sent you the last proofs of the "Origin...", but by slow mail so I do not know if you have got it yet. I think you would enjoy seeing it, since the book is so terribly expensive that it is hardship for individuals to buy it. A review would be welcome. It deserves wider attention than just among plant breeders and agronomists. At least, you can tell me personally what you think of it.

I saw on TV that you have had some nasty snow in the Denver area. Be careful now when you walk around on slippery streets. I remember also how badly they cleaned off the stairs on the campus there. They were really dangerous at times.

We are promised rain this~~h~~ afternoon and night, but as usually the bulk of it will fall north of the bay. We down south here in the bananabelt hardly get more than a sprinkle. It is becoming more and more Saharan here. The long-range forecast is not promising either, so this may be the 7th year of drought.

Say hello to Sammie, and to yourself, the very best regards, too,

your old friends

Arnell & Lois



5780 Chandler et., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Xmas 1992

Dear Sammie and Bill, -

We all wish you and all of yours a really MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR 1993 with good health, good luck and all your best wishes fulfilled! I, in particular, also thank you for all help and encouragement during the year past. You have both always been very good friends.

I hope you continue to enjoy the big proofs, I sent you and that you have not found too many mistakes in it. I am sure that somebody will not like that I introduced Åskell's wheat-nomenclature in the index, but that I can take. I put down a lot of work on the book and I can only hope that it is well received and that it contributes to make Vavilov known in this country and by this generation as well. He deserved it.

Thank you for suggesting *Myosotis asiatica* as the Himalyan "forget-me-not" ~~xxxxxMxxxx~~ and *Helianthemum* for Spain. Now I only need to have the authors of the species and the genus, respectively. I do miss our books and not being able to look up things, especially for my present translation.

I have now got the list of the journals the American branch of Cambridge U. Press intends to send copies for review, It could have been better, but they did not take much account of the list I sent them. Anyhow: the journals are as follows:

Conservation Biology Journal,	American Scientist
Diversity (genebank paper)	Canadian Journal of Botany
Choice (what is that?)	Plant Science Bulletin
Science	RPINH-Botany (never heard of it!)
New Technical Books	Journal of Vegetation Science
Wilson Library Index	Science
Weekly record (?)	Systematic Botany
Agriculture	Geoscope
American Agriculturalist	Geographical Review
Annals of Botany	Journal of Geography
Bioscience	Issues in Science and Technology
Cell	Journal of the History of Ideas
Ecology	The Scientist.
Quarterly Review of Biology	
American Journal of Botany	If you should see reviews in these, please, send me a copy!

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I am working on a horrible chemical paper written in 1866 in an oldfashioned German for my firm. When that is done, I will enter the corrections on the English that Lóa has done for me and put the whole thing on a diskette to send to Schands in Beltsville. But I have also to take time off the do a little baking for Xmas. I usually make some 1500 cookies because there are so many to share them with. The neighbors get some (and we some from them; we have a nice and friendly neighborhood), the paper boy, postman, garbageman, etc.etc. as well as the family members, who always reply on "cookies from Grandma". I make the doughs in advance, they can rest a couple of days, and then Lóa and I share baking them out.

Xmas Eve we usually gather here for a Swedish celebration of Julafton with a mixture of Swedish, Danish and Icelandic food and customs and presents. Xmas Day we usually went to Goy for dinner, but I do not know what we will do this year. I will miss her very much. I just talked to her over the phone and learnt that she has, at least and at last, got a temporary job with a computer firm to write pamphlets about their programs. That is the kind of jobs she is looking for. Hope the "temporary" soon turns into something more permanent.

We had our reading club (Icelandic novels of Laxness) ^{here} on Saturday and on the joy of myself and all the guests, Askell this time decided to sit up all the evening with us and chat and listen to the reading and correcting us as he used to do. He usually goes to bed directly after the dinner and then he whistles for me repeatedly, but not this time. It was really good and the evening was a great success. When the guests had departed, he was, of course, very tired and a little confused, but he slept well and woke up as normally next morning. So he has a few good days inbetween, which are a blessing.

Again I want to thank you for your friendship (I am particularly thinking of the "honors" which hang framed on our wall; that was much thanks to you, Bill, and incredibly appreciated). And all the best wishes to both of you from yours
always

Veins & Askell