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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 JOSE, CA 95123

Jan. 5, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter, which arrived before Xmas with good wishes to us and the "latest" scandal at the U of C. Indeed, I have always had the feeling that sports mean more in this country than intellectual activities. Apparently learning French or other languages or any mental activities are not important and exams in such frivolities mean nothing as long as the sports idiots get to practice their games. It is true that Socrates recommended "mens sana in corpore sana", but not at the expense of intellectual activities. Sports is not of any major importance in any of the Scandinavian universities, as you know, and my attitude is no doubt shaped by that. But for a European it is hard to understand the American obsession with so-called "foot-ball, basketball and so on. I know you liked to go to the games and that is all right, but I doubt you would have tolerated to give up space for your exams to any team.

I am hard at work trying to revise my Russian translation. When doing so "I came to the mysterious "Covillea" in Spain and I again looked closely at the Russian text. Yes, it said (in transliteration): Kovilya. To be absolutely sure I looked into my multilanguage botanical names ^{dictionary} (an excellent Russian publication), and there I actually found it! And to my relief it solved the mystery: "kovilya" means nothing else than "Feathergrass, i.e., some Stipa species!!! Problem solved, but my face is slightly red. I should know better than jump to conclusions because a Russian words sounds like something familiar. But now the problem is solved, and a bad mistake has been corrected.

I have still to go over the lists of common and Latin names again to be sure I have them right.

We had a nice, quiet Xmas here. We missed Goy, of course, but she is happy where she is and her younger daughter joined her for the "mellan-dagarna" since she has anyhow to go to a wedding of a friend of hers in New Jersey. But Ingela, Lisa and Dawn were all here for Xmas Eve in good Scandinavian style. Askell was again able to be up all the time and was not even particularly tired Xmas Day. Sometimes I wonder if he really is so miserable as he claims to be every day. But it proves that when the will is there, you can do pleasant things.

Today we got the Fed. tax programs in the mail. It is one of my dreads. Fortunately I have so far had the assistance from am nice person who helps out stupid old women to fill the forms and sees to that they do not get into trouble with IRS. I still have a trauma from the auditing I had to go through when Askell had totally messed up the returns before I realized how sick his mind had become. It was awful and very costly, too. IRS does not have ~~any~~ mercy.

Well, the work days are back as usually. I have turned 75 by now but do not really feel so. But the thought that there is "only" 25 years left to 100 is a little bit scary. I suppose you, too, have not long to experience that feeling, too.

I hope that your arm will soon heal properly, so it does not bother you so much. And thank you for offering me assistance when needed. I certainly appreciate that. My selfconfidence is not very great so it is good to know that nice people are ready to help in need.

With the very best regards and wishes for a "God fortsättning på det nya året", from yours always

Ann

Doris Ann Askell

Dear Bill, -

Here is another Icelandic moss paper for you! Hope it is useful.

Thank you also for your letter. Concerning the Spanish Stipa, this one is used for braiding hats, mats and so on and is called "esparto", which is the common name for *S. tenacissima*. I have not heard that *S. pennata* can be used for that purpose. Apparently "tenacissima" is also used for making paper in N. Africa. So I feel that is the correct name here. "Esparto" is as far as I know a Spanish name, but as usually "common" names are very unreliable. I do not have *Flora Europea* any longer, but if you could check there, we may solve the problem.

I read again Vavilov's text on the Ethiopian Juniper and found that he called it *J. excelsa* MB. But I think the Ethiopian (who was then at the Swedish Forestry Academy) may have looked up the taxonomy better. Is there any relation between these two species?

Earlier this week I sent you my translation of the Vavilov travelogue. I am sure that you have some suggestions to me when you read it. Please send me any commentaries you have. A reference to the page no. is enough for me to find it. The copy is of course not a final one, revisions can still be made both in the computer and on the final diskette I will send them in USDA. But I feel better if I have your blessing before I do the final editing on it. When I did the first book, I did not have a computer, but in this case things are so much simpler. Thank you in advance!

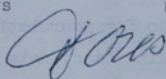
I almost feel guilty of dumping this on you, when you are so occupied with the Parry collection and papers. They must be great fun. I always feel that the detective work involved in taxonomy and ecology is one of the best parts of the whole. It really can be exciting. Most non-botanists have a hard time understanding that aspect, but I think at least we and you feel the same in that case.

I am just moonlighting on a very different subject, a number of papers on the book of Ruth! It is Ingela's former professor, a Yemenite Jew, prof. at Santa Cruz in comparative theology and folk-lore, who requests them. It is also quite interesting, an entirely different way of looking at things from

points of views of Jews, Arabs, Protestants and Catholics. Not boring at all. Translator's get into all kinds of matters and learn a lot from it.

Now I have to prepare our lunch. Best regards in haste,

always



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5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Jan. 29, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very, very much for your help, now and always! I really appreciate your "proof-reading" my ms. and helping out with nomenclature. It is invaluable.

I also owe you thanks for two letters. The first, where you mention *Brassica campestris* versus *B. rapa*: Áskell claims that you must not take *Fl. Europea* as a bible. When the Englishmen ruled its composition, they were not always careful with the names but took what suited them although some other members objected to it. In the case of *B. rapa*, Áskell says *B. campestris* is the narrower concept, which in his opinion is correct. So I will let stand.

The second letter confirms my suspicion that *Juniperus excelsa* was a mis-identification and that *J. procera* Hochst. is correct. I feel good about that. At least one name is definitely correct. I do not think Vavilov was always correct in his name-giving, but he was otherwise far ahead of his time when trying to use correct names of plants. But as you say, he never got a chance to himself revise these papers. I have often noticed that he had needed to do so, but fate prevented him from it. It is just thanks to his faithful secretaries, who concealed his mss, that we on the whole have them today. So much is still missing.

Henry Schands from USDA talked to me yesterday and was happy with what I sent in so far. It is not a final ms by far, just a first draft that needs revising both as far as language, style and so on are concerned; that is why I sent the copy to you. I told Henry that you were helping and he was delighted. I also have a Ukrainian, fluent in Russian, here to help with "problems" as far as the translation is concerned. He works as an engineer in the firm Lóa works for and helped out with the first book because he knew of Vavilov and wanted him rehabilitated. It is wonderful to have such good friends.

I am surprised that you had not heard of the use of "esparto" grass. When I was a child, the hard, flat hats that you call "Boaters", the kind the used during the twenties, were very common and fashionable. My father had several. They came from Spain and were made of "Esparto", although I did not at that time know what it was. Braid-work is still done in Spain of this grass.

You are so right: I use far too many "the". Goy used to scold me for it. I try to avoid it but they slip in. Perhaps this is a hold-over from Swedish or a reaction to the "the-less" Russian. After all, I am not English-speaking from the beginning, and sometimes ~~my~~ many languages get mixed up, so your "purification" of ~~xx~~ ^{the English} is very much appreciated.

The final ms will be published by USDA in the form it is plus a translator's foreword and some introduction by UEDA. But AAAS is also interested in it in order to throw some light on what happened to Vavilov and to show what a fine and noble personality was and how terribly he was treated by Stalin. They want to add more about his final days and the circumstances of his imprisonment and death. That contract is not concluded yet, but they wanted to look over the ms as it is at present, well knowing that it will take more editing. That is why it was rushed a bit.

I do not really know how you find time for me when you have so many other interesting things going, but I am indeed very grateful.

I am learning more and more on my computer. I have just learnt how to put papers on disks. It took me a good time to learn it; really, I was surprised, but it seems one's brain is not so receptive at this age. Do you feel this too? But now it has sunk in and on my computer I can use both 3,5" and 5" disks now. It also means I can earn a bit more from my farm. Certain papers on disks give me 3.90 ^(per disk) when on disk, but only 2.75 when typed (or printed out).

I am presently moonlighting on a series of papers about the Book of Ruth for Ingela's professor in Santa Cruz. Rather interesting. Translators get into the most diverse jobs and learn something from all of them.

We have warm and sunny weather again after the deluge; it feels wonderful.

Best regards to Sammie and from both of us all the best, yours always

Yours

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

Febr. 2, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very, very much for your excellent amendments and corrections on my ms. It is extremely helpful and I do, indeed appreciate your help.

Yes, there are a lot of mistakes, misprints etc., since I have not had time to go over the work properly before doing the copying. The people in USDA wanted it "as is" in order to be able to show it to AAAS which will most likely also print it. I do not really know in what form USDA intends to publish it, but they know that this is not the final version.

Concerning the Latin names: You may not have remembered from the foreword that the names within parantheses are those given by Vavilov in his text but those in brackets are the ones I added in order to make the common names understandable, since common names (corn/maize) are so unreliable and vary from one area to another. I in general followed the agricultural book referred to in the index for Latin and common names, respectively. Some may be outdated (the Latin, i.e.) but without our library I am unable to check all. I use Askells and mine chromosome lists, of course, but they do not always help, especially with exotic things. At least I have tried to do my best.

One request: when you give a Latin name, will you, please, remember to add the authors as well!

I do not yet know in which form the editors in USDA/AAAS want to have the Latin names in the text, with or without authors, but the author names are definitely necessary for the indices. The same applies to the miles/km, etc. They are just put in so that I do not have to sit and do them separately at a later stage. It depends much on whether they intend to publish for US only or for a more international public. Now Canada is metric (sensible!), both may be of use. But with a computer it is easy to erase what is not needed.

Actually, I had a small devise for converting mi to km, lbs/ kg, etc. which was given me by my graddaughter Dawn. It is intended mainly for kitchen use and conversion of recipes from one system to another, but they wisely made the conversions more general as well, so it was very convenient to use this devise. I will remember to convert "mls" to mi, the computer can do that in a few seconds through out the book.

I have also to compose a kind of foreword and acknowledgements. But that comes last.

I am a bit mad at the Russian, a friend of Yuri Vavilov, the son of Vavilov himself. He is not helpful at all. Lóa has a fellow in her office, actually a Ukrainian but fluent in Russian, and he is extremely helpful and practically does things over night, when I have a question. So that helps. But his English is not very good although he can explain to me so that I can convert it into more or less proper language. There are still some sentences I have to have him look at, but it helps when somebody else spots them, too. Russian is, as you know, not an easy language to cope with. The grammar is just as simple as the English, but the syntax is much worse. And I have only a simple correspondence course taken 40 years ago as my basis. But friends and constant attempts to learn have helped. But to say that I master Russian is a great exaggeration. I just use a lot of intuition and a good portion of imagination. Therefore I do not dare to stray too far from the text either in order not to invent what it really does not say.

From my ordinary job as translator for my firm, I have learnt that scientific and industrial texts must ~~be~~ carefully follow the original. Literary texts can take liberties, but how far one can go with a text like Vavilov's is hard to tell. There is not much room for changes, I feel. It is a semi-popular story, but also very distinctly a scientific one. In that respect the first book was easier because it was definitely intended for professionals.

Otherwise things are the same here. They predict rain for later in the week, but just now the sun is shining beautifully. Áskell is about the same. He is not much help, but still seems most alert when it comes to taxonomy although he forgets there, too.

I am looking forward to "next installment" and, again, thank you so much for this valuable help. Say Hello to Sammie, and best regards from yours always

Yuri

2-03-93

Dear Bill, -

Thank you so much for "installment no. 2" and all the good corrections. I especially am grateful for the interpunctuation help, that is one of my very weak points because it is so different in different languages that I am confused on that point.

I need your advice in another matter that poses a severe dilemma for my old, honest Swedish heart. I got the expected slip from U. of Colo. about the reprint payment, but the copy distinctly reads \$ 3,000! There is a gap behind the printed \$-sign and the typewritten sum but I do not know if that is important. But the fact is, as you know as well as I, that we got 13,000 for the whole. Åskell and Lóa think that I should send in the slip as is and thus avoid coming into a higher tax-bracket than I otherwise would. But what if my copy, which is weak anyhow, just does not show the figure 1? And theirs to the IRS does? Is there any possibility to check that? I hate to get into trouble with IRS, I had enough of that after Åskell had totally messed up everything and had me sign it: "You do not have to look through it because you do not understand it anyhow." But it turned out otherwise and it was not fun. We had to pay a hefty sum in late taxes. The envelop this statement came in only says U. of Colo. Boulder campus CO 80309-0054. Does that zip-code tell you what department it refers to? Should I phone ^(pls. please) them to ask if the figure is right? I could just say that it is so smeared that it is difficult to read. If they then say 3,000, I could use it as is, but I have to accept the fact if they say 13,000. I am really too honest to deliberately take risky chances. So if you can phone me to advise me I would be happy. I go shopping Friday a.m., but otherwise I am always home.

Again thank you for all your help and advice. It is good to have somebody to talk to who still is able to think and reason. I feel so terrible about Åskell's regression, it is like missing half of oneself after all these years together.

Best regards in haste, always

Joris

Febr. 1971
This got returned
I had put it into an
envelope to come back
also claims he did not need it!
hope so. It is an hour read!
Put "Japan" is safely arrived!
Regards in haste, Davis.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Febr. 16, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very much for helping out with our taxes! That was invaluable, since otherwise we would have had a hopping extra tax this year. Now we actually should get a small sum back, and that feels better. My tax-man was also very happy when he heard that the problem was solved, because he was really worried about it. He is one of those who help old silly ladies like me for free with the tax-returns. It is a joint AARP and state service, so he has a special number that he attaches to the return, so they know it is proper. Do they have something like that in Colorado, too? I suppose that it does not matter whether it is men or women who need help.

Thank you also for the excellent corrections of my script. I am a lousy typist, and although I spell-check every page, I feel the checker is not so very accurate either. I do read over everything, but since I usually read very fast, I am apt to bypass minor mistakes. I will try to slow down but old habits are hard to combat. Your help is very much appreciated. I must now be more careful not to put commas around --- statements and be sure that commas get in the right spot. But as I said before, interpunctuation is one of my very weak points. However, I have to tell you that the plural of hoofs, according to Webster, is actually hoofs; hoooves is considered old-fashioned!

I do need the author-name(s) of Adenolinum perenne, too. I have tried to locate it in the books we still have, but failed. I suppose it a relatively new revision of Linum. If a Latin name occurs more than once on a page there is no need to use author names for the latter ones, but if it comes on a new page, at least Cambridge U. Press wants it repeated. This, like the ref. to altitude and distances, will be up to the pleasure of the eventual publisher. I put them in just in case they intend the book for overseas consumption as well, or for Americans who are not familiar with the sensible decimal system.

I notice that you have the same trouble as I have with Sammie and Åskell in respect to attention span. Åskell looks at TV (his favorite program is (horrors!) Geraldo and Mauric Povich (why I do not know except that it is a lot of griping and he loves complaints on American ways dearly), but he never

remembers what he sees and when an advertisement comes, he often shuts it off saying there was nothing more. Unfortunately he also holds on to the thing setting the channels, and since his fingers move uncontrollable, he often messes up the channels and then I have to come and try to find out what he watched. It is sad, indeed, when one's dear ones loose control like that. But all you can do is grin and bear it.

Now I have to continue on my reviews of articles on the Book of Ruth for Ingelas professor. It is a very different subject but not without interest. It is almost incredible what ideas theologians can get from a simple text that probably was told just to amuse. But one of them finds that it relates to all kinds of present problems like human relations, family relations (he recommends that religious people do not give up their beliefs for that of a mate, or join his church just for no other reason than to please him), the relation between Jews and Arabs, the question about a Jewish "race", which he thinks does not exist. Jews, he says, is from the beginning a mixed people united under one faith., and so on and on. I wonder what this Yeminite Jew will say about that?

will probably also get here from my firm today ~~too~~, so I have enough to take my mind of personal problems at present.

Hope you are not too bored by reading about Vavilov's adventures, I found them rather amusing but admit that some chapters were tedious in their details.

Thanks for all help and best regards to Sammie and yourself from always

W. Davis

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

March 2, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for the last batch with corrections. It was also so nice to hear your voice and that of Kinna the other day. Really, she sounds just like Sammie! It was almost spooky. Nice that she could come and see you all the way from Montréal.

The other day I shipped a box of reprints and additional numbers of journals which have accumulated since the first large shipment. Hope it has arrived in good shape. I addressed it simply to the Herbarium of the U. of Colo. at Clare Small Gymnasium (the basement) and hope it found its way via UPS.

When sorting it all up I found another Icelandic moss-paper, included here, just in case you had not got it from Bergthor himself. I do not know if I have told you about him before, but he has a rather interesting story. He and his family were caught in a big avalanche in his hometown of Isafjörður and buried with the wreck of their house for several days before they found him and his father alive. All the rest of a rather large family perished. He was a bit disturbed for some time after that but recovered and is now one of the most active botanists in Iceland.

I am entering the corrections you make on my computer ms. I find your corrections very good and am learning a lot from them. I know now more about interpunctation and how to spell certain words, which I apparently have misspelled for years without realizing it. Actually, I do not think there are very many changes, so my English must not be too bad, after all, but when translating for publication I am always so terribly conscious of being a foreigner, dabbling in a new language. I suppose that feeling will never leave you.

Áskell is about the same. A friend of ours wanted a picture of him so I took some, but the flash did not work well, and I did not want to send them to him because I did not want him to remember Áskell other than he was when they met last. I enclose a copy for you because you know what it is like with him. What looks like a urinal in the background is actually the dog's feeding dish!

I am looking forward to next batch of corrections and thank you so much for taking time out from all your other interests and work to help me!

Say Hello to Sammie, too. Always

Jois

5780 Chandler et., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

March 14, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very, very much for the last pieces of the Vavolov ms! Your services have been excellent and I am forever indebted to you. I wish there was something I could do for you in return and if you think so, do not hesitate to say so. I only feel lost without our books and reprints and my memory has never been as good as Askell's used to be, but not even he can help out any more. But I am sure you are glad you are through with it and can return undisturbed to all your other commitments.

I have learnt much from your corrections: I will no longer use commas around -- ... --s. and I will refrain from using already so much. It is apparent that the Swedish "redan" and its Russian equivalent cannot be directly translated into English (e.g.: Redan på 1700-talet...; Redan morgonen innan hade jag...., etc.). And I will not confuse "amount" and "numbers" any more. And lots of other little things you have taught me. Thank you!

I am now entering the corrections on the computer. I am sorry I was so sloppy ~~with~~ typing out the name lists of the Latin and common names. I sometimes rush too much and my typing is terrible. Proof-reading is not my strong point either, it seems.

I have checked on Artocarpus altilis (Parkins.) Fosberg. Both the USDA list and Mansfeld use this name, although the latter calls it A. communis Forst. (in Char. gen. 1776, p. 102), but refers to the revision of Fosberg in Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. 31:95, 1941, which I accept as correct. Parkinson called it Sitodium altile in Journ. Voy. Endavour 45, 1773 but Mansfeld calls this "nomen subnudum".

On the other hand I think I will use Thymus serpyllum as an alternative to T. vulgaris L. although the latter is the common garden plant. I will check on the context so I use these names correctly. If it refers to the wild one, it is definitely T. serpyllum, if the garden variety, the latter.

I'll have to check up on the endings (-iaca, -iana, etc.) of other plants, too, but it is hard not to have Kew Index handy. Now I have to rely on Mansfeld, etc. But at least I tell that those are the references used.

I have also had all the Russian place names checked by Geol. Survey and the Vavilov Institute in St. Petersburg. Some need to be revised, but I feel that

Vavilov's spelling should be used in the text and the corrections should be made in the index like ~~xxxx~~ for the plant names.

I admit that there are parts of Vavilov's text that seem out-of-place and badly written. But again, I will have to note in my foreword that he never had a chance to read proofs or to make revisions of it and that his flag-waving, particularly in the latter papers, is because at that time he was being severely criticized by Lyzenko and Stalin's men. It was not long after his return from USA and the congress that his misfortune really started and from then on, all was downhill. It is only thanks to his loyal coworkers and secretaries that we, on the whole, have any of these papers at all. They secreted them away when the Cheka searched his papers and, thus, preserved what we now have. During the war his former colleagues at VIR (the Vavilov Institute) preserved the seed and living material as best they could and some of them died at their desks from hunger surrounded by edible seeds and bulbs, etc. Some who worked for him still meet regularly and talk of old times according to what I have learnt from friends in St. Petersburg.

One of my friends is still trying to rehabilitate her father, who was a limnologist and the first to really study Lake Baikal and make propaganda for its protection. He, too, was disgraced, imprisoned but shot rather than starved to death since he had served in the army at an early stage, mostly in order to be able to get funds for his research ship and station. Stalin's era must have been ~~a~~ hell.

I just wonder what is happening now with Yeltsin. "Up som en sol och ner som en pannkaka" seems still to apply there. Somehow the common people survive, grin and bear it and seem to have an endless patience.

Did you see the beautiful series of programs in the CNN news from Siberia, concerned mostly with the destruction of its nature do to overexploitation? It was very interesting. We usually look at the internat. news at noon while we have lunch.

We have wonderful weather here, everything is so green this year and soon the spring flora will be out. We will have some visitors from Iceland just before Easter and Lóa will take them out to see it. I wish I could come along, but...

Hope you did not have too bad weather like that in the East just now. Goy phoned that it snowed in Charlotte, N.Carolina, where she lives now. The peaches had just started to flower!

Best regards and many, many thanks for your valuable help. Regards to Sammie, too. Áskell joins me in saying hello,

Joanis

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

March 23, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter of March 16, which I have not had time to answer until today. I was flattered and impressed by the review you have composed for Arctic and Alpine Review of Vavilov's "Origin...". Hope it will have an effect. I have no idea how well the book sells and I see no reviews any-where so if you could be so kind to keep an eye open for any, I would like to know what it says. I think the book should be widely distributed, it is so important and, surprisingly modern in spite of its age.

I have not had time to start thinking of the "foreword" for the "Five Continents" yet. Things have been a bit difficult here, Áskell has had a couple of bad days and Ingela dumped a dog of hers on us, in addition to two others we keep for her, while she went off to visit Boulder and her father. Gunner is not well. (He is married to Lynn Lazar and they have a nice, 15 year old girl, Dana, whom Ingela likes to visit now and then. Gunner got some sort of a kidney ailment, cannot tolerate any fat at all but nobody has been able to find out the reason for it, yet, at least.

I have also had a couple of other translations to take care off, so my days have been more than full and some nights as well. Sometimes Áskell wakes up and is very confused and is difficult to get back to rest. By the way, the picture you got was the best of those I took. The others were horrible.

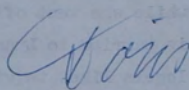
Now we are expecting guests from Iceland, tomorrow a nephew of Áskell's arrives and stays to the 1st of April. On the 4th of April another niece arrives with husband and stays to the 9th. In addition we have a dinner for our reading club this Saturday, some 10-12 persons in addition to ourselves. Both the relatives are medical doctors, one in virology (Aids) and the other in dermatology. I like them both very much and know they will not be too much bother but there is no chance to do any other work when they are here.

I was interested to hear about the Brewbaker's. We met Jim years ago (30, I think) at some congress and he has visited us once or twice since then. I knew his parents lived in Longmont but not that old Mrs. B. was still alive. But what a life! And I did not know of the family involvment with the cathedral in Lund.

Askill and I have both made our "Living Wills" and refuse any "heroic efforts" to keep us alive. But if it came to something sinister for myself I would rather look for a "Kevorkian" than go on like a vegetable. As long as one's mind is O.K., I suppose one can stand a lot of discomfort, but when that goes, there is no more reason to go on. Death does not scare me; I am rather curious to know what it is, complete nothing or some sort of entering some other existence. At our age, one cannot escape such thoughts now and then and I, for one, prefer to look at it realistically and from the practical point of view.

Thank you again for all you are doing for me, I certainly appreciate it. With best regards from us both, to yourself as well as to Gammie,

as always



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5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

April 24, 1993

Dear Bill,

I have been very busy lately trying to complete a job for a former professor of Ingela's in Santa Cruz, a Yeminite Jew, who speaks oodles of languages but not German. He teaches comparative religion, folk-lore, Hebrew and other things, and had Ingela make comparisons between the Koran and the Bible in addition to her studies of Icelandic "hidden people" (a kind of grown up leprauchans) in whom the belief in Iceland is still strong. The newspapers often relate incidents where these have interfered with modern activities, such as building tunnels through rocks "inhabited" by them or causing roads to be diverted because of one of "their hillocks", etc. He had me translate from German a long German translation of an Arabian popular novel from around 1500 or so. It was fascinating but not very easy with all those monsters, spirits and magic carpets, etc.

I have also, in addition to assignments from my firm, gone over the Vavilov ms in respect Latin, vernacular and place names. I have decided to use the most modern names when given the latin names of plants, named only in Russian, so had to change wonderful epithets like "Alhagi camelorum" for Alhagi maurorum, which is much less poetic. But I ran into a problem, that I hope you can help me with. Vav. mentions two palmettos, one in Spain, another in southern US, mainly Florida I suppose, but does not give the Latin for them. Could you help me find out which is found where: Sabal palmetto (Walter) Schultes & Schultes f. and Chamaerops humilis L.? I would like to have them in the correct homelands, but cannot remember which of them is where. The books I have give no leads. Most likely the latter is the American one, but I am not sure.

Somewhat illogically I have also decided to retain the common names for wheats (Tr-iticum....) in the text, but to give the correct modern names in the indices plus synonymes. It does make it easier for those who do not follow up on the wheat synonymy and the modern distinction. I recognize that it is not helpful not to keep introducing the latest nomenclature, but hope you agree, since the book is intended for agronomists and other "non-taxonomical" readers.

The Russian from Washington, who is supposed to correct the translation, is causing me some trouble. He complains all the time of his "terrible workload"

and has hardly done anything to the ms. He is upset by how the AAAS people, who also plan to publish the ms (in a slightly revised form), try to change the exact wording, and offended that I without informing him, let you check it, also. But I have tried to calm him down and make him do the work faster. But I cannot deny that he irritates me. His English is awful, but he considers every word of Vavilovs "holy" and must be directly translated. One cannot do that. He seems unaware of that translations must be idiomatic and that an expression in Russian does not always fit into the English language but has to be moderated. He does not want AAAS to "lighten up" the travelling to make it a little more exciting, but I admit that it is at times a bit long-winded. But the direct translation will be preserved in the USDA library, so he should not be so averse to the idea to make the text more "saleable". Well, USDA and he have to settle that matter, I feel that I have done my share in the best possible manner.

Otherwise nothing in particular new. Askell does not improve nor is there any major change to the worse. I cannot deny that I get very tired at times with all the work, but it has to be done.

Shotchi Kawano is presently on the east coast studying *Ericium* and *Gyularia* and doing both taxonomic and molecular research on them. I have had a couple of letters from him (I sent him a list of the Japanese names; apparently the people names in the Russian text come with the family name first, so Ono Ranzan, etc., had to be changed to Ranzan Ono, and so on). He will phone us when he passes through San Francisco on his way back to Kyoto. He told us they are getting a new nice building for the botany department there which will be a great improvement on the 60 year old one they are in now.

So, if you can straighten out the palmetto problem for me, I will be grateful.

Best regards to Sammy also, hope she is doing well, and to you many thanks for helping me out so much,

always

Tom and Askell

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

May 3, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very much for helping out with the palmetto problem. I have to confess that I miss our books so much and feel embarrassed to have to depend on friends for help all the time, but few are as nice as you, so I am grateful.

Last Saturday I went to our book-club (reading Icelandic novels in the original language and translating it to English, a nice group and my only friends in this area) and one of them had found an article in New York times that she thought would interest me. Since we have both read and enjoyed it, I pass it one to you. It is so nice to see that old friends can go on working and developing into high age with a fully functioning brain and an ability to make science progress. It would be interesting to see his new system when it is done. He and Áskell used to have long discussions about the importance of genetic background for taxonomy and evolution and agreed that splitting was indeed the only way to get order in chaos. Cronquist was of course of the totally opposite idea, so rather retarded than promoted taxonomy in this

country. Áskell and you will be time be remembered as the true pioneers of the new trend, where taxonomy has a secure footing in genetics, cytology and common sense. The time when you are scorned and looked down upon as "extremeists" will certainly pass. Áskell is beginning to win more and more proselytes within agriculture where practice demonstrates the soundness of his views, but herbarium taxonomists, unlike your, are terribly conservative and do not want to have their circles disturbed.

Áskell has had a bad week, been very lethargic and required much assistance especially in the mornings. Hopefully if soon snaps out of it. It is hard on both me and Lóa.

We have had summerlike weather here recently and soon I have to start watering the lawns again. It is so windy also and that dries out everything. It seems that we will get a good crop of blackberries this year and we look forward to that very much.

Godall (ecologist from Australia) has announced that he will visit us in June, that will be nice.

Again, many thanks and best regards, always

E. Áskell

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

May 5, 1993

Dear Bill,-

Enclosed you will find an outline toward a "Translator's Foreword" for Vavilov's Five Continents. I would very much like your opinion on it.

I have tried to keep it as short as possible and still provide the pertinent information about V's cruel fate and scandalous treatment. Most of the information that I did not have before is taken from the books and documents provided me by Reznik (I am afraid he is mad at me for not fully agreeing with him; I have not heard from him yet) and I do give him due credit for it, even flattering him a bit. Yuri V., the son, has also gathered a lot of info and I have letters written to his wife during his trips abroad, but did not think it was proper to include translations of them. They do not add to the info in the book itself. But he certainly loved his family very much and it must have been an ordeal for him not to have any contact with them. I think the older son was killed in the war and only Yuri, the physicist, survived. I do not know when he married, nor if his wife is still alive or when she died. The brother, also a physicist, was an academician and staid on as such throughout the ordeal and helped when time came to get his brother, Nicolay, rehabilitated. I suppose that he is dead now.

So, let me know what you think of it.

Áskell has been a bit better the last couple of days, but the week before that he was next to impossible. I left Lóa alone with him Saturday and went to our reading club in Orinda (behind the Oakland hills). What occurred I do not know, but she told me she let him no in no uncertain words that his behavior was childish and intolerable, and perhaps that helped a bit? Lóa can be very direct and lets nobody get away with nonsense.

We still get the occasional shower here, but soon it is time to start watering the garden again. The roses are simply spectacular, as large as dinner plates and the irises have never been so beautiful as this year.

Hope you, too, have spring and no more snow on the "lowland" at least.
Best regards to you both, always

John

TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

The foreword by the Russian editors briefly outlines the scientific career of Nicolay Ivanovich Vavilov (pronounced: Va-vEE-lov) but mentions very little about his personal life and nothing at all about his cruel fate. However, it must be remembered that although that foreword was written when Vavilov's name had been rehabilitated and it was again possible to talk openly about him, it might still not have been considered proper to remind people, especially abroad, of his final days or else it was assumed that his scandalous treatment was so well known that there was no need to comment upon it.

Neither does the Russian foreword mention anything about when the individual papers, - fortunately hidden away by his faithful staff when most of his material was taken by the police, - were written. A reader cannot fail to notice a certain change in style, a harder emphasis on the achievements under the communistic era in the later papers, something that is not seen in the earlier ones which emphasize the adventures during the expeditions. It is very likely that those parts were composed during the 1930s, when Vavilov started to find his position threatened, but still tried to please the political censors of published works. Without their consent, nothing could be printed.

The books planned were never published during the lifetime of the author and therefore he never had a chance to revise or himself edit what he dictated to his secretary. The manuscripts are apparently published in the form found with just a few, well marked notes by the Russian editors. This must be kept in mind when reading Vavilov's text.

Since the older generation of scientists who well remember the controversy between Vavilov and the infamous Trofim Lysenko is beginning to die out, it seems proper to add a few more words about Vavilov's life and what happened to him.

Nicolay Ivanovich Vavilov was born into a well-to-do family with a thriving business in Moscow. Although he showed an early interest in the natural sciences, his father insisted that he should enter a business school and eventually take over his enterprise, but young Nicolay firmly declared that he wanted to become a scientist and defied his father by refusing to change his mind. This caused strained relations between them, although they later became reconciled. Ivan Vavilov left Russia at the time of the revolution in order to live in Romania. This fact was later held against Nicolay Ivanovich, although his father had returned to live out his days in Russia where he expired in 1928.

Vavilov entered the Moscow Institute of Agriculture and under the guidance of teachers, who realized what an unusually gifted student he was, he specialized in phytopathology. He also obtained a grant that enabled him to study at the University of Cambridge, England, under W. Bateson. While there he made friends with the son of Charles Darwin, Francis Darwin, which aroused his interest in the writings and library of the famous father of the theory of evolution. This became of great importance for his own approach to scientific problems.

He was also, in 1916, sent out to Persia (now Iran), to study the cause of food poisoning that afflicted the Russian troops during the conflicts in Persia between Turkish, Russian and English interests. He solved the problem, which was due to smut-contaminated grain used for making bread but at the same time he initiated his research on the origin of the bread grains, which became his life-long interest. His interests in ethnography, arts, architecture, history, languages and linguistics also stood him well in addition to his keen sense of observation and his charming personality, which allowed him to get along on equal footing with peoples from the most different kinds of classes.

After his stint as professor in Saratov, southern Russia, he became affiliated with the old botanical institute, founded in

1894 in St. Petersburg, which gradually was transformed into the All-Union Institute of Applied Botany and New Crops under his leadership. It was during this time that he developed his outstanding talents for organization and built up the institute to international fame. He was able to attract the very best of scientists to cooperate on his projects, planned and took part in 52 of the many expeditions to 180 areas sent out all over the world to gather material of use for plant breeding in Russia and elsewhere. With generous support from the authorities he built up the institute which at its peak had a staff of about 64,000 members and research stations distributed all over the U.S.S.R.

A man of his stature cannot avoid to arouse the envy of lesser souls and Trofim Lysenko turned out to be his nemesis.

Trofim Denisovich Lysenko was the son of an uneducated farmer in southern Russia, Denis Lysenko, who relied on "folk wisdom" and superstition in his work. The father was actually the one who practiced the pre-treatment of seeds to make them sprout faster, which later - under the term of "vernalization" was claimed by Trofim himself. The method has its advantages on a small scale but also its limitations. Trofim studied agriculture with the Russian "Luther Burbank", Ivan V. Michurin, who was a famous orchardist, specializing in grafting techniques. Vavilov knew him and admired him for his efforts but did not agree with his interpretation of the results. Michurin had become as much of a folk hero as ever Burbank in America. It was probably because of his admiration for Michurin that Vavilov accepted Lysenko into his institute.

Lysenko was an ardent communist and politically very active. He won the ear of Stalin, a former theology student, but now a mighty man and convinced him that the "wisdom of the broad masses" would advance agriculture in Russia much faster than the "bourgeois" Mendel-Darwinist ideas promoted by Vavilov. This started already during the late 1920s, when apparently the secret police began to compile a file of "evidence" against Vavilov. But he was still useful and no action was taken against him

although several of the people in his institute were arrested and convicted on trumped up charges.

Vavilov tolerated Lysenko to begin with. After acting as interpreter during an interview with Lysenko he remarked to J. D. Harland: "Lysenko is an angry species; all progress in the world has been made by angry men so let him go on working... He may some day do some good." In the long run, however, he felt forced to openly criticize Lysenko and argue with him about the merits of Mendelian genetics as understood by scientists everywhere else in the world and by many in the U.S.S.R. as well and the falsehood and distortions of scientific facts by the so-called Michurinism¹¹ promoted by Lysenko. More damaging "evidence" was collected against Vavilov, and his position began to be seriously threatened.

Lenin himself had selected Vavilov as the best possible person to direct his newly created V. I. Lenin Academy of the Agricultural Sciences in 1921. With Stalin's backing Lysenko had him ousted from this post in 1938 and took himself over his seat. Later he replaced Vavilov also in other posts. The "war" between them was on.

Waves of arrests followed and many of the good and loyal scientists and friends of Vavilov were forced to "admit" that they had been "mislead" by Vavilov and his "false bourgeois ideas" and to give "evidence" against Vavilov, accusing him even of being a spy for foreign interests which did not approve of the soundness of the "socialist" type of science. Many were deported to Siberia or to labor camps, where they perished due to hardships; some simply "disappeared" without a trace.

Finally, the blow fell and Vavilov himself was arrested when on an expedition to the Saratov area on Aug. 6th, 1940. Actually, the "Order of arrest no. 529" was issued only on Aug. 7!

It should also be mentioned that the western world was kept ignorant of what happened to this eminent and much admired scientist and that it took years of inquiry, especially from scientists in England and the U.S.A., before it was realized that

By 1938 and 1939 the case is in the "red" and efforts were made to change the evidence.

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Vavilov had been imprisoned and died.

Lysenko and his proselytes continued to dominate Soviet "science" throughout the Stalin and Krushchev eras until 1964, when he died. They did enormous harm, but those faithful to Vavilov and true science continued to work in secret, even risking their lives, and the collections of the institute and its genebank were preserved even through the Second World War. During the siege of Leningrad, several members of the Institute died from hunger at their desks rather than taking advantage of the stores of seeds, roots and bulbs around them. ch
1

It is only thanks to the information presented and the books published in Russian by the foremost biographer of Vavilov, Mr Semyon Reznik, now living and working in the U.S.A., and Vavilov's son, Dr. Yuri Vavilov, a physicist in Moscow, as well as letters supplied by them to the U.S.D.A. that this translator has been able to piece together what actually took place after the arrest of Vavilov.

He was imprisoned in the Butyrskaya prison, Saratov, and after almost a full year, on July 9, 1941, sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. for treason and espionage on behalf of foreign interests. The sentence was based on an order from a Military Board.

Apparently an appeal from Vavilov shortly after his arrest to the People's Commissar, Beria, whom he seems to have known, resulted in a protest action, which may have led to a reversal of the death sentence on Aug. 1, 1941. At least Vavilov was led to believe so. Elated, Vavilov wrote the following letter to Beria: 19
19
B

To Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria, People's Commissar
the U.S.S.R. Department of the Interior,
from
Nicolay Ivanovich Vavilov, convict,
ousted Academician, Doctor of Biological and Agronomical
Sciences.

A P P E A L

In connection with the petition started by you about my

pardon and the abolition of the sentence set by the Military Board but also taking into account the clamor raised by all the citizens of the Soviet Union in connection with the military action, I allow myself to ask for an assignment where I can have an opportunity to focus on work concerning problems, most actual for the time being within my specialty, i.e., The plant industry. ?

1) I could within half a year complete the composition of a "Practical Manual for Producing Brands of Cultivated plants, Resistant to Their Main Diseases".

2) Within the course of six to eight months I could, by working hard, complete a "Practical Manual for Breeding Bread Grains Suitable for the Conditions in Various Parts of the U.S.S.R.".

I am also familiar with the field of subtropical cultivation of plants, including crops of industrial importance such as tung-oil trees, quinine-producing trees and others, but also plants rich in vitamins. ^ ↗

I want to the fullest to be able to devote all my research efforts to the Soviet authorities and to my native country, where I can be of maximum use. ✓

Nicolay Vavilov
Aug. 8, 1941,
Buturskaya Prison, Cell no. 49.

What actually happened is best revealed in another letter to "Comrade L. P. Beria from Nicolay Ivanovich Vavilov, ousted member of the Academy of the Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Vice President of the V.I. Lenin Agricultural Academy and Director of the All-Union Institute of Plant Industry and the Institute of Genetics" more than half a year later, on April 25, 1942:

A P P E A L

Esteemed Lavrentiy Pavlovich,

On August 6, 1940, I was arrested and put into the Central Prison of the NKVD in Moscow. On July 9, 1941, I was sentenced by the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. to capital punishment based on an order from the Military Board.

Both in respect to the written record of the inquest

on the day of sentencing, when I was presented with the original material of evidence concerning the charges against me for treason against our country and espionage (evidence presented by N.M. Tulyakov, M.N. Avdulov and L.P. Bordakov) and the trial, lasting only a few minutes under conditions of a military situation, it was categorically declared that this evidence was based on false stories, false facts and slander, in no way verified during the inquest. 18

At the inquest itself, lasting for 11 months (about 400 cross-examinations requiring 1700 hours; prosecutor A. G. Khvat), I was forced to admit my guilt as a leading scientist, out of touch in my work with the rightful problems of socialistic production and, as president of the Agricultural Academy (1930 - 1935), in my execution issuing damaging directives for the handling of the agricultural sciences to the Supreme National Commissar of Agriculture of the U.S.S.R., Ya. A. Yakovlev, who was directly under the command of the Agricultural Academy, based on :ignorance of the field of research, narrow specialization of the institute, and arguments leading astray the plans for the agriculture. 19

Facing death as a citizen of the U.S.S.R. and as a scientist, I consider it my duty to my country to declare, as I have already written to you in August of 1940 shortly after my arrest, that I have never betrayed my country and never in my thoughts nor actions participated in any form of espionage on behalf of another government. I have never taken part in contra-revolutionary activities but have devoted myself entirely to scientific work. counter

On August 1st, 1941, that is, three weeks after the sentencing, I was informed in the Buturskaya prison by a messenger from your estate about your agitated petition in front of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. for abolition of my sentence and that I should be granted the right to live.

On October 2nd, 1941, I was according to your orders transferred from Buturskaya prison to the Central prison of the NKVD, and between the 5th and the 15th of October I had upon your authorization talks about my attitude toward the war and the fascism and about my utilization as a scientist of great experience. On October 15th I was informed that I should be assigned full opportunity for scientific work as an Academician and that this should be definitely settled within two to three days. skaya 19

On the very same day of October 15th, 1941, three hours after the talks, I was in connection with an evacuation in stages transferred to Saratov and Prison no. 1, where for lack of covering papers and documents concerning the aboli-

tion of the sentence and your petition for its abolition, I was again thrown into a cell for those condemned to death, where I still find myself to this day. The hard conditions of holding prisoners sentenced to death (lack of space, of storage, of soap and, for the major part of the time, deprived of reading material, and so on), I have, in spite of great resistance, already become diseased with scurvy. As declared to me by the superior of the Saratov prison, my sentence and my situation depend entirely upon the central authorities.

Summary?

All my thoughts concern the continuation and conclusion of the large unfinished works, worthy of Soviet doctrine, for the use of the Soviet people and my native country. At the time of my stay in the Central prison of the NKVD, when I had an opportunity to obtain paper and pencil, I wrote a book on "The History of World-wide Agriculture (World-wide Resources of Agriculture and Their Utilization)", where the main attention was given to the U.S.S.R. Before the arrest I had finished a large work that had taken many years, i.e., "The Fight Against Plant Diseases by Means of Breeding Resistant Strains" (rewarded by the Stalin Prize), and the not to be forgotten "Field Crops of the U.S.S.R.", "World-wide Resources of the Species of Grain Crops and their Utilization for Soviet Plant Breeding", "The Plant Industry of the Caucasus (Past, Present and Future)" and the large book, "Centers of Agriculture on Five Continents", (the results of my expeditions in Asia, Europe, Africa as well as in North and South America over a period of 25 years).

Strains/

doing?

I am 54 years old and have much experience and knowledge of the specificities within the field of plant industry; I am fluent in the main European languages; I have been fortunate to be able to devote myself to the fullest to my native country and am aching for field work for my country. Being of physically and morally adequate strength I was happy during the arduous work for my country using my specialty as a plant breeder and in matters of improving food and technical raw materials.

specific off

I beg and implore you to soften my lot, to clear up my future fate, to allow me to work within my specialty even if in a modest manner (as a scientist and a teacher) and to permit me to have contact with my family (my wife and my two sons, - one a member of the Young Communist League, and at present in military service, - and my brother, an Academician in physics), of whom I have had no news for more than half a year.

I earnestly beg you to hasten the decision concerning my sake.

N. Vavilov

Saratov, Prison no 1, April 25, 1942.

From this letter it is evident that Vavilov was already seriously ill but had not given up hope of being able to become a free man and again work within his chosen field. The separation from his family was particularly hard on him - and them, too - because he was very devoted to his wife, Yelena I. Berulina, and his sons to whom he wrote letters almost daily, if conditions allowed, during his numerous trips abroad. Apparently nobody listened to his pleading, his physical condition continued to deteriorate due to hunger and cold and general neglect, and on January 26, 1943, at 7 a.m. he ~~expired~~.

died.

The following documents, translated from a book by Semyon Reznik, "The Road to the Scaffold" (Reznik 1983, pp. 120, 122), speak for themselves:

CASE HISTORY No. 11

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Building no. 13.
Cell block 57.

Arrested on July 6, 1941.
In the Saratov Jail from
Oct. 29, 1941.

Cell no. 12.

Arrived from the Central
Prison of the city of
Moscow.

Home address:
Gogol' str. no. 2, apt. 13,
Leningrad.

From the hospital department of the NKVD Saratov Jail, the district of Saratov.

1. Family name, given name and patronym: VAVILOV, Nicolay Ivanovich.
2. Born, 1887.
3. Preliminary diagnosis: acute membranous pneumonia.
4. Final diagnosis: acute membranous pneumonia and enteritis.
5. Out-patient treatment on January 24, 1943.
6. Result: died at 7 am., January 26, 1943.

Patients complaints: fever, chest pains, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea three times a day. lack of appetite, very weak. He had been ill for three days. Objective symptoms of the illness: tongue coated, stomach soft, condition miserable,

patient very weak and exhausted, skin pallid. In simple words: in the lower part [of the lungs] the respiration had a bronchial rale, the tone of the heart had a murmur. The patient had suffered from malaria in the past.

According to an oral statement by the Superior of the medical department of Saratov Jail no. 1, the forensic medical expert of the city of Saratov, Rezaeva, carried out an autopsy of on the body of Nicolay Ivanovich Vavilov on January 30, 1943. The following reports are also from the Reznik 1983 publication:

EXTERNAL REPORT

The corpse of the male had the look of one 65 years of age; his stature was of average height ~~by~~ very undernourished. The skin was pallid, subdermal (fat) cells absent; muscles very weakly developed, the skeleton regular; temperature: the corpse was cold. *but*

CONCLUSIONS

1. The death of VAVILOV was due to lobar pneumonia, which was indicated by: the presence of a congested lower left lobe and an unevenly congested upper right lobe of the lungs with a dark red color on sections with grayish, slightly edemic islands which when touched produced a watery fluid. Presence of cloudy and bloody individual parts intersected by constricted, hyperemic and mucilaginous tracheas and bronchials.

2. Death not due to violence.

Rezaeva, Forensic Medical Expert.

The information above is based on information and personal statement, especially by Mr. Semyon Reznik, and documents and letters about and from Vavilov, kindly provided me by Mr. Reznik and Dr. Yuri Vavilov, Moscow, as well as the book, "The Road to the Scaffold" by Reznik, in the series "Lives of Remarkable People, published in Russian by the "Third Wave", Paris and New York, 1983. The most informative article was, however, a so far unpublished Russian manuscript: "A Slap in the Face of Civilization - The Destruction of Academician N.I. Vavilov" by Yuri *AS*

Vavilov and Semyon Reznik, gracefully lent to me by its authors. In addition the book by Julian Huxley: "Soviet Genetics and World Science - Lysenko and the Meaning of Heredity", Chatto and Windus, London 1949, and the Translator's foreword to N.I. Vavilov: " Origin and Geography of Cultivated Plants", Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 1992, were used.

About the Translation

The Russian text has been as faithfully translated as the abilities of the translator and the English language allow.

However, the Russian habit of using common names for plants, especially in semi-popular works, prompted me, as a botanist, to try to provide the Latin names of the plants as well, since common names vary and differ from area to area. One needs only to think of that "corn" in America means "maize", whereas in Europe it is used in a wide sense as "bread grasses" in general.

For this purpose I used the Russian publication "Botanicheskiy Slovar'", [Botanical Dictionary], by N.N. Davidov, Moscow 1960, which provides a list of common Russian plant names, translated into English, German, French, and Latin, Rudolf Mansfeld's "Vorläufiges Verzeichnis Landwirtschaftlich oder Gärtnersch kultivierter Pflanzenarten", [Preliminary list of plant species used agriculturally or horticulturally], Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1959, also providing German, English and Latin names of cultivated plants as well as the younger publication of Edward E. Terrell et al.: "A Checklist of Names for 3,000 Vascular Plants of Economic Importance", U.S.D.A Handbook no. 505, 2nd ed., 1986, kindly lent to me by Dr. Douglas Johnson, USDA-ARS Forage and Range, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. These publications were very helpful as were frequent consultations and discussions with Dr. W.A. Weber, Prof. Emer., University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. It is my hope that this addition to Vavilov's text shall help make the book more enjoyable to both professional botanists and agriculturalists as well as other readers.

l.c./l.v.

more recent

Except where Vavilov himself uses Latin names (usually in parentheses) the Latin names given by me [in brackets] are those currently accepted taxonomically but in the indices of the plant names synonyms to older names, perhaps more familiar to some readers, have been provided. An exception has been made for the Triticae, the newest nomenclature of which may still cause confusion. It is based on A. Löve: "Conspectus of the Triticae", Feddes Repertory, vol. 95 (7-8), 425-521, 1984. References to those names are also given in the indices.

An additional list of the geographical names is ~~also~~ furnished.

The spelling of geographical and personal names caused at times trouble when unfamiliar to the translator. The Geological Survey has kindly checked over the Russian names and up-dated them, since they so often have changed, and the same service was provided me for the Japanese names by a former student of my husband and me, Dr. Shoiki Kawano, now director of the Department of Botany, the Faculty of Science, Kyoto, Japan. In other cases when I failed to locate names on maps or was unfamiliar with the scientists mentioned, I have simply transcribed the names given in Russian such as Vavilov perceived them. Hopefully they can still be identified by interested readers.

/ch
mystman
I hope

Acknowledgments

Throughout the work on the translation I have been encouraged and supported especially by Dr. Henry L. Shands, Genetic Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD, and his staff, for which I am very grateful. My sincere thanks also go to Mr. Semyon Reznik for his information provided and his concern with the quality of the translation, and to Dr. Yuri Vavilov, for allowing me to translate this book and providing me with important documents and letters concerning his famous father. Special thanks go to Dr. W.A. Weber for all help rendered and to Dr. Shoiki Kawano for looking over the chapter on

Japan. The addresses of these gentlemen are given in the previous paragraphs. I am also obliged to the editors of the text, who substantially improved it.

San Jose, California, 1993

Doris Löve.

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Askell & Doris Löve
5780 Chandler Court
San Jose, CA 95123

May 9, 1993

Dear Doris:

I have had a chance to read your Translator's Foreword. It is good, and I am glad that you were able to include those parts about Vavilov's final days. It is appalling that there have been several books about Lysenko; everybody knows about him and nobody knows about Vavilov. In your list of sources, you might want to add Medvedev, Zhores A. 1978. *Soviet Science*. 262 pp. W. W. Norton & Co., and by the same author, *The rise and fall of T. D. Lysenko*. (transl. by I. Michael Lerner). 283 pp. Columbia. There was also one by Dobzhansky that I don't have at my fingertips, called *The death of a science in Russia*. Below are my comments:

- p. 2, 3, line 4, the problem, which
line 8. history, languages
- p. 4, 2, line 4, and took it over himself.
line 5. Later he replaced Vavilov in other posts as well.
- p. 5. 1, line 2. Krushchev
line 8, rather than to take advantage
4, line 4 and 5. led, not lead. Elated, Vavilov
- p. 6. 1. "most actual"? This wording makes no sense. **Most critical** perhaps?
5. I want to be able to devote to the fullest all my . . .
- p. 7, line 4. and, not and
2, last line. leading astray the plans for [delete the] agriculture.
3, line 7, counter-revolutionary, not contra-revolutionary
5, line 2. Buturskaya; line 5 and [delete the] Fascism; line 8, settled definitely
6 line 2. I was, by means of [rather than in connection with]
- p. 8, 2, line 2. of several large, unfinished works [instead of the large. . .]
line 11. strains, rather than brands. line 17: Asia, Europe,
3. line 2. specifics rather than specificities; line 7: I was happy **doing** the . . .
4. delete the commas in front of the em dashes.
- P. 9. I prefer the simple word, died, to the rather fancy expired.
- p. 10. 3. **but** very undernourished; (fat) cells.
last . . . line 2. statements, especially by . . .
- p. 11. Mansfeld's book: must one capitalize more than nouns in a German title?
line 10 from bottom: the **more recent**, rather than younger publication
- p. 12. 3 line 1-2: caused trouble at times; line 6, Shoichi; delete [the] Faculty!; In other instances;
I hope (**not** hopefully, which is a word that can only be used in German)

Sincerely yours,

William A. Weber, F.L.S.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

May 13, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your excellent corrections of my "Translator's Foreword"! They are already entered on my computer. Now the question is whether it will be accepted or if Mr. Reznik is going to come forward with another, better one. As you probably noticed, I tried to flatter him a little, so that he does not feel slighted by my attempts. The ting is that he writes usually for a Russian circle of readers and seems as unaware of how American people think and react, just as he is unaware of what is good English language. But according to what I have heard from Washington (Beltsville, actually), he is terribly hard to work with, overly sensitive of being Jewish and sees anti-semitism everywhere. The AAAS editors who talked to him were accused of it but defended themselves by the fact that both were themselves Jews! This caused him to mellow a bit, but not much. They described to me the meeting as frustating to aggravating. Now both USDA and AAAS try to contact Yuri Vavilov himself to make things go faster and be less complicated. Apparently AAAS wants to publish the book as fast as possible.

Thank you for the extra references. I hesitate to refer to them since I have not seen them myself. I will try to find them in the library here (if I can find time for it). They seem interesting.

I think the reason so little has been published about Vavilov's fate is that nobody has really had any proper information about what happened except for a few privileged Russians. It may actually be the first time that anything definite and proven correct has been disclosed to a western world. I feel therefore that the information is very important, but I tried to keep it short and concise, as you saw.

Now I am trying to put in the last corrections, check the page nos. so they are sequential, etc., and then I consider I have done what I can to this job. USDA is very pleased with my efforts and my translation will be kept as is in the library in Beltsville (both copy and diskettes). Then it is up to AAAS to do their revision they way they want it. It seems copyright law allows them to treat it as they want without interference from the authors or his representatives. Well, that is their business.

A week ago we had no less than 91°F here. The day after that the high was 63! It felt COLD, we even had to put on the heat and dress in sweaters. They say it will warm up again toward the weekend and I really hope so.

Askell has had a couple of bad days and is mad as hell at me for not standing on my toes to serve him instantly, when he feels he needs it (e.g., to rush up the stairs to pull down his pyjamas legs, adjust his pillow or such nonsense). When I have been up three or four times right in the middle of my favorite TV program, I take his whistle away and he tells me to "go to hell". He has also woken me up several nights between 1 and 2 and been completely incoherent, not knowing where in the bed he is and not knowing what he wants or being able to tell me in a sensible manner. So I am tired. I wonder if this means that his Alzheimer's symptoms are intensifying. Somebody said there is often a period of anger involved. Hope not. He is difficult enough to please even when he has good days. Why had he have to suffer this?

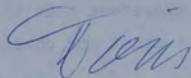
But I can survive as long as I can work on my translations, it is my escape.

We are also going to have a new roof on the house. "VAVilov" pays for a little more than half of it. But it is a shake roof and it is over 35 years old. From the attic you can begin to see daylight through it, so it is risk for leakage next winter. So we have taken the chance to get a new steel and stone-chips one put on. It will be done some time this summer.

There is always enough to keep you busy.

Hope all is well in your house. Say hello to Sammie and to yourself, my thanks as always. You are a wonderful friend,

Always



EILIF DAHL ER DØD

Like før Firbladet skulle trykkes, fikk vi den triste beskjeden at Eilif Dahl er død. Med ham er en av de virkelig sentrale personligheter i norsk botanikk borte. Eilif Dahl har i en menneskealder bidratt til særlig norsk plantegeografi, vegetasjonsøkologi og økofysiologi. Men han hadde et utrolig vidt interessefelt, og var levende opptatt også av spørsmål langt utover biologiens område. Særlig opptok arbeidsløshetsproblematikken ham mye. De som fikk oppleve Eilif Dahl i faglig sammenheng vil huske en entusiastisk og engasjert debattant i større fora, enkel og liketil å prate med på tomannshånd og alltid med et varmt smil. Det var vanskelig å la være å bli glad i ham. Svært mange kommer til å savne Eilif Dahl.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, Ca 95123

May 17, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Just got the enclosed in a copy of a pamphlet from Morsk Bot. Förening. So Eilif is no more. Perhaps ypu already had this news, but it was new to us. How long since he passed away I do not know, no date is given, but the pamphlet must have taken its time by ordinary mail to get here.

Eilif was a particularly good friend of ours. When I worked on the paper on Mt. Washington (which never got published) he and I had a lot of discussions about soils there and at the meeting in Reykjavik (the NATO one about the trans-Atlantic biota) we had much fun concerning the plant dispersal over long distances. So we learnt a good deal about him. Did ypu know that he was very active in the Norwegian underground. He had to flee to England for a while and there he was trained and took part in the successful raid in Norway on the power station in Rjukan. In order to disguise himself when going around in Oslo and other areas where people knew him, he had simply dyed his hair a chocking red and he was amazed that practically nobody recognized him in spite of his crooked back even when he passed røght by old friends!

Over the eyars it became longer and longer between the letters and it has been almost a year since we hear d from him last. He was about our age perhaps somewhat older, it is hard to tell, he always looked the same (except with a red hair). So either it was complications from his back, cancer or something else because it is hard to believe it was "old age". In a way, he was timeless. So we will miss him.

Otherwise nothing in particular new. We will get a new roof on the house, starting late this week. Hope Áskell can take all the noise and annoyances connected with it. It will be a sort of "tile-imitation" steel and stone-chips things. It should make the roof pretty fire-safe; it has an A-rating. After the horrible fires in Oakland people are more and more changing over to fire-resistant or -safe roofs in our neighborhood. It leaked also a little in the attick but fortunately not down into the living quarters.

David Godall (mostly ecologist) will visit here June 2-3.

Otherwise nothing new. Hope you and Sammie are O.K., Best regards
in haste, always

David

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38
205

7-6-2014

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

June 8, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very much for sending me the review of Vavilov's "Origin..." It is very nice and I hope it will help stimulate the interest for this valuable book. I have actually not seen any other reviews of it, but I do not see any journals ~~any~~ more, so that is not so peculiar. But I thought Cambridge U. Press should have sent me some but so far nothing.

Today some writer came here to interview me concerning my latest Vavilov. He is writing on ecological subjects and had found the "Origin..." in the library of Stanford U. and got interested in it and in Vavilov's work. So he wanted more info. But when he wanted to buy a copy, they did not have any at the Stanford U. bookstore, so the demand for it seems not promising. Hope it is better in Europe. I am afraid that the price scares people from asking for it.

I am at present overloaded with work. The final revision of the ms is tedious, since I have actually to provide two versions, one "complete" one for USDA and another "revised one" for AAAS, that wants to have it out next spring. In addition jobs has picked up at my translation firm, so they dump thing on me to be done in a haste. Well, so far I can cope.

The real news is that we now have a nice, new tile-like roof on the house. Lóa and I decided that we had to get one now, since the old shakes started to leak a little (only in the attic, not into the living quarters, fortunately), and after the long drought it was a fire danger. Now it is steel with a stone-chip coating and looks exactly like old-fashioned tiles and they got it up in a few days only, which was good, since when it was done we had some real downpours for several days in a row. The neighbors are impressed. But many in the neighborhood has done similarly, so we were not the first ones. It probably also increases the value of the house and the warranty is transferable. We had several bids, all very similar, but got what we think was a good price and a quality job. Now I hope that I can finish the translation soon so I can pay back some of the expence. It should replace about half the cost at least. So we are still afloat economically.

I saw in the TV that you had some unusual snow in Colorado, too. Here we had up to two feet more in the Sierras and people went crazy skiing there.

Otherwise nothing new in particular. I hope all is well with both of you and best regards from all of us here in haste through yours always

Yours

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

5780 Chandler et., SAN JOSÉ, CA 95123

July 7, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter of June 30. I remember all the Penstemons that used to flower on the weedy slope below the church above our house in Boulder. They were so nice, but a fire destroyed some of it during one of those violent windstorms and after that there were much fewer of them. You must have had fun looking into the problems associated with them.

But what is it we hear in the TV. You could go skiing on the 4th of July! What does that mean to all the spring flora at high altitude? Can they survive that?

Here we had our usual 4th of July block-party in the street. It is so nice for once to be able to relax a little and chat with the neighbors, enjoy all the different varieties of food brought out and then the mighty chicken-barbecue set up just under the tree in front of our house. We were some 100 participants, families along the street and their children, grandchildren and friends. Even Askell ventured out for a little while, to the joy and surprise of many who used to see him walking the dog in "olden days". I had brought him his chicken and gone out again for a while. When I came back in to ask if he wanted desert the house was empty! I looked everywhere, and no Askell, so I went out again and one of the neighbors came running up to me, telling me that Askell is out there asking for something but nobody can understand what he says. He wanted desserts! After that he sat down at the long table for a while and people came up to pay him homage, which he liked. It is the first time in over a year that he voluntarily has left the house to be with the neighbors. It was almost hard to get him back in when he got tired. So it was an enjoyable 4th this time. and, of course, the weather was perfect, warm but not too warm. Otherwise we have around 90-95 daily now and it is tinderdry and a great firehazard with all the dry grass and fireworks around.

Do not worry about the Vavilov ms. When I am through with all the corrections, I could put it on a diskette for you (actually it takes three of them) so you can make your own print-out and keep the diskettes so you still have the work, should the print-out disappear again. I am now revising it with the help of an AAAS editor, because they want to print their own version of it, too, in addition to the complete version for USDA. It will be slightly shorter, some of the repetitions omitted and slight moving around of some paragraphs to make it "flow" better.

It is hard work to get it all done, especially since my printer refuses to do more than 25-30 pp at a time and then needs to rest for a couple of hours. But they will get diskettes also, so can make their own print-outs if necessary to meet the deadline. The worst thing is that that darned Russian translation-watchdog is not doing his job in checking things over, but we more or less ignore him by now. Actually there are few amendments he makes. But he and Vavilov's son, Yuri, a physicist in Moscow, have provided a review of Nicolay's life as a foreword which is very good and I adjusted my own to it so it should work better than the boring Russian foreword by the original editors. So you can see I have enough to do. I confess that I am almost dog-tired, but it has to be done and then I will sit back and relax and rest on my laurels.

Unfortunately we had a big upset the other day, Monday last week. Askell's favorite, youngest brother was killed in a car accident. Some ~~brother~~^{brother} broadsided him and through his car 90 feet across a traffic circle! He had not a chance and died two hours later in the hospital just a block from the accident site. When I told Askell, he just said: Oh. Showed no emotions at all. I think he has understood what happened but find it too hard to comment upon. We are still waiting for more information, but they just phoned a couple of hours after the accident. Perhaps when the letters come it will hit him more squarely. I was devastated because I like that brother (66 yrs old, in good health with a happy family) so much and cried my eyes out. Why is it that the nicest people shall be torn away that way and the cranky and difficult shall live on and on? I do not really mean Askell in this case, but a brother of his that we all dislike will probably live to near 100 as so many in that family.

It is getting very late now, so I have better stop here, but wanted to assure you that some way or another I will supply you with a "new Vavilov" (you can take 5" diskettes, isn't it?). And then, of course, the original will turn up. That happens all the time.

Well, good night, and say hello to Sammie, too, yours always

W. Davis

5780 Chandler ct, SAN JOSE, CA 95123

July 27, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for your letter! I have just a few minutes to fill before I take Askell for a check-up at the hospital, so I use them to send you a reply.

I can see that old age is beginning to catch up with you, too. I do not do any long, solo driving anymore and at night I can simply not see good enough to do any driving. Any oncoming light from headlights bother me, it takes "ages" for my eyes to see the road again even if I avoid to look at the lights and - following advice my father once gave me - concentrate on my side of the road. I complained to my eye-doctor and he just said: Welcome to the group of oldsters! So my license is valid only for daytime and with far-sight glasses. Bother. We still have our old Volvo, now 26 years of age but running fine.

In the TV I see that the peculiar weather you have in the midwest continues. Here we have sun and the ordinary morning and night fog, but still a lot of snow left in the mountains so we have no water rationing. In spite of that our garden is beginning to look neglected. It is hard for me to tend properly to it, to Askell and to my work all at the same time, and Lóa leaves so early and comes back so late that she can do little, especially since she is rarely home over a weekend either. But I can so easily understand that she prefers to be with Ingela and the horses and normal people over sitting at home with us oldsters.

I hope you find the Cambridge Vavilov again. Unfortunately I myself have only a single copy. I got two, and one was given to Goy for her help with it. Otherwise I would have sent it to you. If you want the USDA ms back, I can send it, so let me know. It is being drastically revised by a "language" editor now, so the final version will be a bit different, but hopefully easier to read.

I am about to finish up the first third of the final version for the publishers, USDA and AAAS. They want different versions so it is a bit hard to organize the work and put each on ~~maps~~^{disks} and print-outs. I am only

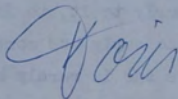
so terribly frustrated at the Russian watchdog who does not come forward with his corrections. I have translated a long article by him and Yuri Vavilov and then he sent it back to me with so many additions and changes that it has to be redone. Time does not seem to bother Russians, and the honor of keeping up with deadlines seems non-existent. I am trying to be polite to him, but when all is done I am tempted to let him know directly what I think of him and his attitudes.

Well, I have better get Áskell prepared now, get him out to the car and to the hospital.

Oh, did I tell that Shoi Kawano came for a visit recently. He brought his oldest son and a couple of other professors along and we had a very pleasant afternoon. Will you be going to the congress in Kyoto next year? I guess he will be busy with that. He said he will arrange several excursions around Kyoto and I know he is an excellent guide. He is one of our best students and so faithful. He always calls or looks in when he passes San Francisco.

Be, best regards to Sammie and yourself,

Always



5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Aug. 7, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you for a thick and interesting letter with a lot of reading material. I have just a few minutes while my hair-dye is setting to reply.

First of all: I had heard from a friend of ours, whose son was a student of Jack's, that he was in ~~xxxx~~ trouble again. The boy was not entirely satisfied with Jack, thought he did not get enough help with his studies. But the young man is a play-boy who is used to have everything put in his lap, so it did not surprise me. His mother did not like Jack, when she thought he did not do as much as he could to find the son in Alaska, when his father had suddenly died. Actually, Jack did as much as he could to locate him in the wilderness, but the poor mother expected miracles of him, so it was not entirely fair. Anyhow, the boy got his degree and is now employed by the Geol. Survey, and living an easy life on his millions.

I do not know really how much Jack did to help Askell, but I did appreciate that when he was told of our trouble, he instantly volunteered to accompany him to the dean. What he did later, I do not know. Askell tried all the time to keep me outside it all, unfortunately, because I think I could have helped him much more and explained his behavior in a better way.

On the other hand, we did not at all approve of his behavior against John Mar and told him so in no uncertain words, but without effect. We thought he behaved almost insanely in that case. I also remember when he came here and tried to get a couple of ~~xxx~~ people from Canada to come with him that one of them said to me that "Jack is ruthless and thinks only of himself; I do not think I want to be under him any more". There is probably quite something behind that. Besides, I am not so sure that he was not about to be fired from Canada, when he got Boulder. I have heard both yes or no in that case. But he, like Askell, has a marvellous ability to step on people's toes without realizing it or even bothering. That does not make for friends and usually is revenged in the long run. And like Askell, his students either loved him or hated him. There was nothing in between. So he seems to be in hot water again. I have not seen or heard anything from him for ages but receive his journal, which has a lot of nice articles, but little by himself in spite of all his travelling and talking. If I hear more, I will let you know, but since I hardly see anybody, you will probably learn more than I.

The Russian article was interesting, but not surprising. The Stalin idea of crushing all intelligentsia has backfired, of course. Russian is in a terrible state but they still do a lot of good botany.

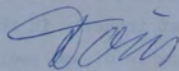
Selling names for plants, etc. to private persons for a fee is just as silly as selling names of stars, which the astronomers do. But why not? We need the money. It reminds me of Lund, where there was a terrible uproar when a lay-person wanted to donate money for an new embryological institute if they used his name for it. They fought the idea nails and claws, but at last they gave in: a couple of millions weighed heavier than all the independence of science. But I have to confess that I never liked naming plants after persons. I like more a defining characteristic or a geographical appellation better.

Things are the same here. Occasionally Åskell hallucinates, but it is so far rare events. It often takes me a while to catch on that what he sees is not there except in his mind. He wanted me to move a chair the other day and I moved every chair within reach until a realized that the one obstructing him was not there at all. When I tried to explain, he was very angry. It is sad, but I suppose it something I will have to learn to cope with.

Now the dye should be set, so best regards for now. I am trying hard to finish up the Russian job these days, so am very busy.

Enjoy what summer you have, here it is cool
today after last week's heat wave,

Always in a haste



5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Sept. 21, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you so much for your letter. We read in the newspaper and saw in the TV pictures of your somewhat unusual weather, which seems to continue. When we lived in Winnipeg we could experience these almost incredible swings from hot to freezing weather, but in Boulder I do not remember anything as drastic as you had recently. In Winnipeg the geography students "surveying" the campus in the spring could go from parkas and lined boots to shorts and cut-off jeans the next day and then back again a couple of times during that course. When you think of that we came from Reykjavik where the weather hardly varies by more than a few degrees from night to day and not more than some 20 degrees yearly, it was a surprise to us. But I am glad you returned safely from your trip in the mountains because driving on icy roads is one of the few things I really fear.

Paul Martin phoned today. Thank you for preparing me for it. His errand was rather hilarious. When he was in Montréal under Pierre Dansereau at the time we worked there, we had a lot of fun together. When he went down to Tucson we kept in touch for decades, but as always, it got longer and longer between contacts. So it was fun to talk to him again. We could not help but recall some of the "adventures" we had together, but h in Canada and in Mexico. We went there with him in an old dilapidated car, sneaked past customs into the wilderness and got stuck at the foot of a hill with very bad road, rather a track, that we had to "repair with stones and branches. Then Áskell and I pushed on from behind, while Paul gave it as much gas it could and succeeded in getting it up the steep slope. But it had sprung a tire so we limped on till we found a Mexican shack, where a nice farmer (?), terribly poor, helped us blow air into a flat spare-tire with a pump only he could manage. He refused to take any pay for it, but I had a package of cookies that I gave him "para el niños" who streamed out of the shack and were the most grateful and happy little dirty, adorable kids I have ever seen. We eventually got back but had to ford a river, that had risen in the meantime. In a small town we had a meal that literally brings tears to my eyes when I remember it, but Paul said that no bacteria could possibly survive that dose of pepper. It was a wonderful day. Best of all, the customs were so surprised to see somebody from Iceland, that they forgot to check the loot in the car. Paul had bought a good deal of stuff, and so had we but we did not have to pay toll.

His errand was actually a translation I did for him shortly after he had gone to Tuscon while we were stranded in Montr'eal when Pierre Dansereau lost his institute and all of us who worked there. It was fròm Swedish about a cave in Patagonia where a Nordenskjöld had discovered remains of Sloths so young that he suspected they were still there when people came to hunt them. Believe it or not: that translation will now be printed in a Patagonian journal. They have continued to do reserach in the area, and heard from Paul about the translation. I never believed my name would appear in a Patagonian journal about fossils, but it is rather fun.

My Russian translation is now completely finnished and I have had a little mote than a week to rest. It has been wonderful. But as usually there is something to do, and this is the txime when the apples need canning and the pears, too. We have a bumpercrop of apples this year and of pears, too, although we got hardly any apricots or plums. Why I do not know, but the long drought we had must have had some sort of influence on those tfees. We like to have apple sauce for the winter, it is so good both for desserts and for all kinds of other things. Actually I still have some left from last year, so we also give away a lot of fruits to neighbors and friends. It is really not permitted to take anything out of this area because of a mexican fruit-fly, so it is only within the neighborhood that it is legal to give away fruits. Ypu cannot even gòve the surplus to charities. But they have not found any of the wild ones for months now, only sterile ones that were dispersed to cross with the bad ones. Hopefully ,next year there will not be any problem.

So Elias Landolt is retired. All the young people we once knew seem to reach retirement age at an alarming speed, or is it we who are getting old?

The Biological Genus Concept seems a very interesting topic. You will of course meet with stubborn resistance from the old ones whò do not want to have their circles distnrbed. But it is the only workable system and if used properly, it solves a lot of "mysteries", inconsistencies and confusion. After all, the genes mean a lot more than mere looks. Let us know what ideas you want to use if there is anything we can suggest. `Askell has bright moments when he can really think straight on subjects near to his heart. He got some anti-depressants recently and they seem to have perked him up a bit. It is a new idea in the treatment.

Are you coming to the AAAS meeting in San Francisco in February? We have already heard from some people who want to drop in if time allows. You know that you are always welcome.

Hope you and Sammie are both well and ^{we} send the best regards, yours always

Yucca & Askell.

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Sept. 27, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the review of Vavilov's Origin etc. It is excellent. It is the first one I have seen in print and I will send a copy of it to Cambridge U. Press. They wrote me that they have not seen any reviews either (I had inquired with them), but usually do not get any until much later because their "clipping agent" sends in what he has found only at long intervals. But they repeated that it was their opinion that the book was off to "a flying start", so I have to believe them. It has so far sold over 500 copies. I suppose that the entire edition is rather small, since it is such a specialized book.

I also had another letter from somebody (a geographer in Boston) who had located ^{it} in the library of Harvard Science Center, so perhaps it is beginning to attract some attention.

People from AAAS called me today and said they are going ahead full speed with the production of the book. One of them is going to Moscow and Leningrad next week to pick up more info and photos, etc. to enhance the book. They seem to be very enthusiastic about it. I am not paid directly for their version of my translation, only for small additional services, mail and copying, etc., but am promised royalties, so I hope it will sell well. USDA pays for the translation itself, and that pays the major part of the new beautiful roof on our house that we had laid on early this summer. The old one showed signs of leaking and the shakes were very brittle and dry, so we decided to take the plunge. Now we are very pleased, because even on very hot days (93°F yesterday and those before) it stays pleasantly cool inside. So I hope it will be easy to keep it warm at a reasonable cost this winter, too.

We had a reading club here over the weekend, i.e., dinner and reading on Saturday and a lunch for a couple of overnight guests Sunday. It was so nice after all the work I had had, sort of a celebration really. The best thing was that Áskell was able to take part and stayed up almost to midnight Saturday without getting unduly tired on Sunday. He has got some anti-depressant pills (Elavil) and they have made him more alert and alive than before. Hope it lasts, it makes a good deal of a difference. He looks at more TV (unfortunatelnnothing of substance) and talks more so that is good.

Now I am back at the routine jobs for my firm, presently one about airplane construction and new composite materials, which is quite a change.

Otherwise nothing new. Hope you and Sammie are both well and enjoying life and that the weather will not be too bad. I really feel sorry for the people in the Midwest, they are having a horrible time with all that rain. Your snow although dangerous when driving is really mostly decorative and does not last for lon at a time.

With the very best regards from us all here via yours always

Yours

P.S. I almost forgot to thank you for the interesting article by Müller-Hill, whoever he is. He is very right in much of what he says, although - like you - I did not understand much of the mid-part of what he wrote. I think the foot-note of the editor's speaks volumes. An excuse for letting truth be heard?

I am returning it to you since it looks like an original and you may want to "file" it.

Yours

5780 Chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Nov. 14, 1993

Dear Bill, -

I had just said to Askeff that we had not heard from you in a long time, when the mailman brought ^{2 letters} ~~ms~~ ~~one~~ from you. I understand that you have been busy as usually and, not least, that you are worried about Sammie and her kidneys. My father had kidney stones and the pain he suffered during attacks was terrible. So I hope they will be able to do something for her so she does not have to go through that any more. But the procedure for examining this is not very free from pain either and at her age, it is not fun.

Gunner, Lóa ex, has suffered from some strange kidney ailment for almost a year now and they cannot figure out what causes it. He has been operated on to the extent that they scraped off all lymphnodes around it and for some time it appeared to help but it did not last in the long run so he has to keep a very strange and difficult diet. They are now contemplating removing the kidney but are apprehensive in case the other one, so far not affected, should develop the same trouble. He has never taken good care of himself, smoking and drinking and so on, but that does not seem to be the real cause. For a while they suspected a tropical infection after a visit to Jamaica, but have since ruled that out. It is still a medical mystery and he is getting very thin and exhausted. He seems still able to drive a taxi, however, but if it is regular or only from time to time I do not know. He and Lynn (Lazar) live in Lazar's elegant house in South Boulder and his stepfather foots most of the bills, it seems.

Yes, the fires down south were incredible. It called home after the ones in Oakland, where - like you said - people are again building up in the same hills. One of our friends had a house just where the fires there started but her husband did not like the narrow road and the fire hazard, so they moved out years ago to a safer locality. I am so glad they did. But few other people learn. The Oakland fires seem to have started accidentally but it is incredible that people can be so out of their minds as to deliberately set those in L.A. I am glad your contact there did not get involved. Now they have to cope with mudslides in addition to all else.

I am pleased to hear that you located Toyokuni's and Ma's papers on the Gentians. He is, unfortunately dead now (a year or so ago) but he was a very good botanist and reliable. Have you gone over the IOPB lists to see if not any chr.-numbers for them have been published?

We met the Toyokuni's in Japan at a Pacific Congress. They took us on a tour in Hokkaido to see the Daisetsun area. He was a very peculiar fellow. His wife spoke good English, was beautiful and lively and so incredibly sweet. She did all she could to make us feel "honored guests". He did not speak any English and was the "mystic oriental". When we had meals together he did not move an unnecessary muscle, was almost like a statue. It was really eerie. His eyes darted back and forth, trying to follow, but it was his wife who seemed to interpret his unspoken words and convey what he wanted to tell us. They also were the first ones to introduce us to a Mongolian barbecue. We sat around a table in the middle of which was a fire, heating our limbs almost to scolding and the food was cooked over it. You had dipping sauces galore and all kinds of meat and vegetables and broth to dip in, and so on. After that we almost missed the train to Sapporo, but one of the wildest taxirides I have ever experienced did bring us to it just in time to hop aboard as it was leaving. In the haste I forgot my umbrella, but a couple of days later they came down to Sapporo just to bring it to me! Japanese courtesy is incredible. They were apparently well to do, and we kept up a correspondence for many years with them. After more than 10, perhaps 15 years of marriage, they were blessed with a son who by now must be some 10-12 years of age. I wonder very much how the lovely wife is faring. She was a perfect Japanese wife in her domestic and vegetable garden. She is a botanist, too, but I do not remember in which fields.

It was nice to hear about Erica. Do I understand that she is divorced? And has a new boy-friend? Are you and your family related to the Carl Maria von Weber? With your musical talents it would not surprise me at all. It must be wonderful to be able to make music like that. I learnt to play the piano in my youth, more or less forced from age 6 on, but have forgotten how since for lack of an instrument. My mother was a pianist of concert quality and my sister sings beautifully, just like my father. The only memory I have of my beautiful mother is sitting under the piano when she played. I remember her feet clad in silk-covered pumps. But I was only 2 then. Strange how one single event like that can be retained from so early.

Hope you will enjoy a nice Thanksgiving. We both recall with joy all the Thanksgiving feasts we had at your house through our Boulder years! We will have a sort of family gathering here, too, this year. Askell's brother's family and we will pool the work and feast here so Askell can be with us all. Ingela's new boy-friends will also be introduced to the crowd, hope he does not get overwhelmed.

Give our best regards to Sammie and take some for yourself, too!

As always

Don

Excuse the sloppy typing!

5780 chandler ct., SAN JOSE, CA 95123

Dec. 30, 1993

Dear Bill and Sammie, -

It may be a bit early to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but I do not know how much time I will get before Christmas to write letters, so please, accept them already now, i.e. our best wishes. I am expecting a major job from my firm that, of course, has to be finished before the end of the year.

We also got the papers enclosed recently and Áskell said he always sent you them, so I do so too. I think you have told me that you get the Icelandic moss papers directly from its author by now, but Áskell said that in that case you have a duplicate if you lose the first. So with his best wishes, here they are.

I do not know how well I will be able to make all the preparations for the holidays, but Léa has to pitch in and I know she does that willingly. She is so different from Goy, who does not care for tradition, but Léa wants all to be "just right" and I appreciate that. Goy seems happy to be in North Carolina and she likes the changing seasons there. I can understand that she likes the beautiful fall colors on the Blue Ridge, but I have a hard time understanding that she really likes rain and slush in the winter and icy roads or the humid heat during the summer there. We really prefer it here with a mild climate and no snow. You seem to have a lot of snow in Colorado now, judging from what we read in the paper and see on TV. And cold weather, too. Can you keep warm enough? I remember that our house at Harvard Lane was difficult to keep warm in the winter. Here we do not even have the heat on at night, only in the mornings and evenings.

We had a nice Thanksgiving this year. Áskell's brother in Napa and his wife had bought a huge turkey and then all their children turned out to have invitations to other people. So they cooked it up there and made all the trimmings and brought it down here and we plus the granddaughters feasted on it together with them. It was really nice to have only to set the table! Ingela took the opportunity to introduce the family to her new boyfriend, Scott. She broke up with her old boyfriend whom she had stuck together with after Xmas last year. But it did not take too long for her to find Scott. Rather it was the other way around. Scott had apparently admired her from a distance

and was quick to grab the occasion when it opened up. He is much older than Ingela and much more mature and levelheaded than Geoff, so we are happy and hope something good will come of this. He even insists that Ingela go ~~back~~ to studies because she is far too intelligent for just being a riding teacher, he says. So Ingela recently passed an L-sat with flying colors and will start studying law next term. Scott, too, is ~~studying~~ studying law and they plan on working together later on. Both love animals and together they have really a complete menagerie on Scott's property NW of ~~Paris~~^{Buis}: horses, donkeys, dogs and cats and "Nimbus", a polar wolf that Scott rescued from its former owner who badly mistreated it. He brought it back to good health and vigor and now it lives with the dogs in a big fenced yard. It is completely tame and loves Scott. They both have birds, too, so their house is filled with squawks all day. We like him instantly when we first met him and are glad it seems to hold.

Otherwise there is little news. I do not quite know when the Vavilov translation will be published. Government agencies work slowly. But my job is done so far and I have been paid so I am satisfied. The other day I received a book that I had almost forgotten. A translation from French about a gardener in Versailles who specialized in Bromeliads and cereuses of it. I translated it so long ago that I had forgotten all about it, but finally it had got into print and it is a beautiful little volume. The edition is limited and most likely intended for Bromeliad fanciers, but I am proud of it and happy to have it. And it shows that you can never wait too long for something nice.

Askill has been very confused all day today but I hope it a passing phase. He has been quite good otherwise recently but today everything was muddled and unclear to him. He could not remember who lived in the house or what day it was or when or what medicine he should take and was very worried that I forget it. I hope it will be better tomorrow.

We will as usually have all the family here for Christmas except for Goy, whom we will miss. Ted, goj's "Ex", has his own girlfriend now and will probably be with her, but the girls are coming as usually. They have Xmas-day with their father.

We hope you two also will have a nice holiday season and that the new year shall be good to you in every respect. Best regards and thanks for all you have done for us in this year! Always your old friends

Doris & Edwell

5780 Chandler ct. SAN JOSE, CA 95123
Dec. 27, 1993

Dear Bill, -

Thank you very, very much for providing me with a very interesting piece of Christmas literature! I have been reading your thesis on Parry and his collections at every moment I have had between chores throughout the holidays. It is a wonderful collection of both writings and plants that you have assembled and I thoroughly enjoy it. It will certainly not be used as scrap-paper! I hope 'Askeell gradually will be able to read it, too, but he can take in only a page or two at the time, so that will take longer.

I even had to take out my map of Colorado in order to locate all the places, although in my memory I visualized all those we ourselves have visited and enjoyed. It was like going back to our Colorado days and travel around in that beautiful state all over again. I remembered, for instance, the day when Gunner and I scrambled up Gray's peak all the way to the top. while 'Askeell, Loa and Ingela staid below near the road and played in a snowdrift. The view from the peak was grandiose but the wind was so fierce that I could not stand upright but had so cling to a big boulder while Gunner photographed me. I have looked for the picture all over, but cannot find it. It must have been mislaid somewhere when we moved here.

And, of course, I remembered Pike's peak which we visited several times, but especially when we were with the group led by you for the dedication of the nature reserve. We wandered around the little lake and there were so many interesting plants.

Rollins pass was another interesting locality, not least the road up there and over to Winter Park. And then all the tours we took through Estes Park, and so on and on. I really enjoyed this travelling back to all those beautiful and interesting places in my memory. Thank you for giving me this pleasure.

However, there were a number of place names that I was unable to locate. I suppose they either do not exist anymore or have changed to something else. If the latter is the case, you should really try to "update" them just like you did with the plant names. It is a shame that Parry and Co. were so careless with identifying localities. But you have at least tried to identify their routes and to sort out plants that definitely do not belong in Colorado.

I could not avoid noticing a number of misprints, the only one of vital importance being in the very first sentence! It lacks a verb! It should obviously read: "This project started with..." Since I did not have a pen at hand I did not mark out the misprints I noticed; they are, of course, few and far between. But if you want to, I will go over it again and send you a list with ref. to page, line, etc. and send it to you. Four eyes see better than two at times.

You have done science a real service also by updating Parry's Latin names to modern nomenclature. Not everybody will

like it, since taxonomic conservatism still prevails, but the more the really correct names are used and introduced and forced upon the taxonomists, the more it serves to make them aware of that genetics counts more than morphology alone and the urge to pigeonhole everything on the basis thereof. It must have been a colossal work for you, but is something well worth the effort.

We have had a pleasant Christmas here. The weather was chilly the last two weeks before Xmas with light frost in the early morning hours but not enough to harm the citrus trees. It probably benefits the stone fruit trees instead. The days were "only" around 50°F, but yesterday it clouded over, warmed up and rained in the evening. Now it is sunny again and they predict 60° for later today.

We had all the family here Christmas Eve: all the three grandchildren plus Ingela's new boyfriend, Scott McLelland. We like him very much. He is an outgoing, kind and intelligent fellow, whose only "fault" is that he is much older than she is. After a varied career, he now studies law, and he has got Ingela to go back to the studies, too. We like that. She was waisting years and her intelligence on the other jerk, who was younger than she and never grew up properly.

'Askell enjoyed the festivities and stayed up all the night of Xmas Eve until the guests left, Lisa and Dawn for further partying with friends and Ingela and Scott to go home to feed all their animals. They live on a property of Scott's at the S. end of Lake Berryessa. It is just now being sold to some nature conservatists since a "rare" (?) California grass grows there (I have not been able to find out what it is yet) and they will relocate to a place somewhat easier to get to, where they can keep all the animals and have somebody live in a separate house against taking care of them occasionally, so they can come here and visit more often, and even stay over night.

But of course, after the indulgence in staying up late and overeating, 'Askell is now very tired, quite confused, and very grumpy. Resting and taking it very slow for some days should help but I am not at all pleased at the way his mental condition has gone down the last months. He no longer can keep track of who lives here or that Ingela does not go to school anymore. Every morning, workdays as holidays, he asks: Have Loa and Ingela left yet? Old age is no fun.

Now it remains to wish you and Sammie and all of yours a very Happy New Year 1994 with health, happiness and all the best from yours always

Joan, Merrill, & Loa