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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.



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700
220 8631

28 February 1979

Dr. William A. Weber
University of Colorado Museum
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Bill:

Your letter of 19 February about Askill Löve is at hand. I have known both Askill and Doris for a long time, and I helped him to get his job at the University of Colorado some years ago. He is an interesting and useful fellow, and he ought to have a chance to continue his work.

Even so, Askill has a considerable talent for getting himself into trouble. He has a messianic intensity, with the associated inability to see anything from someone else's point of view. In a sense, he brings his troubles on himself.

When he first got into trouble about his Yugoslavian venture, I advised him to drop the whole thing and apply his energies in some other way. A copy of my letter of 4 October, 1972 to him is enclosed herewith. I do not enclose copies of his letters to me, because I understand that by copyright law such things belong to the sender, not the receiver. I can tell you that on 5 November, 1972, in reply to my letter of 4 October, he expressed his appreciation for what he considered my wise and sympathetic counsel.

I heard some of the rumors surrounding his resignation-discharge from the University of Colorado. Not having access to all the facts, I supposed that the people he had been pressuring to reverse the decision not to renew his Yugoslavian work had found some technical violation of rules that they could hang on him, and that he was threatened with prosecution if he persisted in his efforts. If there was any use of grant funds that could be made to seem legally culpable, the statute of limitations would surely have taken effect by now. That would not, however, prevent the same charges from being revived and publicized in a possible adversary proceeding instituted by Askill himself.

Since I don't have anywhere nearly all the facts in the case, my impression could easily be very wrong. If you think some good might come of filling me in, I will of course look at the things you send me. What could effectively be done to redress the injury is another question. Even the driven snow can come to look pretty black when exposed to a lot of foul smoke.

Askill has my sympathy, but I would be reluctant to reopen old controversies unless we could be absolutely sure of our ground.

Yours,

Arthur Cronquist
Senior Scientist

ac/lk
encl.

4 October 1972

Prof. Askeff Love
University of Colorado
Dept. of Biology
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Askeff:

Your letter of 30 September is at hand. The events recounted there and in the attachments grieve me, as you may well know. It seems to me that your Yugoslavian venture is useful, is an appropriate use of your talents, and is a suitable subject for a Smithsonian Institution Foreign Currency grant.

That said, I must go on to say that I don't see what is to be done about the situation. If the Smithsonian evaluation had not yet been transmitted to Yugoslavia, and if the Yugoslavian government had not already informed Dr. Susnik, there might be an avenue of attack. Now I am afraid it is too late. I cannot visualize any circumstances under which the Smithsonian Institution would accept the loss of face that would accompany an official reversal of position. Even if it were to do so, I think it might have troubles on the Yugoslavian end. These are hard things to say, but there is no use kidding you. No matter how wrong the evaluation, the situation is in my opinion now irretrievable.

Few of us accomplish all that we hope to in the world. If nothing else, Father Time cuts us off. Your accomplishments are well known, and I am sure you can find interesting and worthwhile things to do aside from the Yugoslavian venture. Believe me when I tell you that there are things that I, too, earnestly wished to do, but was unable, although I have not been subjected to the sort of unfair treatment that you recount. All this may be cold comfort, or no comfort at all, but I would do you no favor by encouraging you to believe that with sufficient energy and persistence the decision might be reversed. I will of course be happy to advise the Smithsonian if they should request, but my advice to you is to write the matter off and concentrate on happier things.

Regretfully,

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT TAXONOMY

Office:
International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy
and Nomenclature
Tweede Transitorium, Uithof
Utrecht
(Netherlands)

UTRECHT, 16 November 1979
Telephone 030 - 53 18 30

Bankers: Messrs Vlaer & Kol, Utrecht

Dr. W.A. Weber
University of Colorado Museum
Boulder, CO 80309
U.S.A.

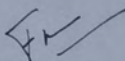
Dear Bill,

The only way that might promise any success in the "bloody story" would be to ask whether Dick Cowan would be willing to arrange for a private interview with Ripley on the matter. I have doubts on the success ~~and~~ quite a few doors are closed. In view of the circumstance that you conclude from the documents that Askill was "neatly framed" there is a moral duty to try notwithstanding the apparent opposition in many quarters. I think however that only if Dick and you would agree on the basis of the documents that Dillon should be informed that I see any chance of success.

Personally I cannot be involved simply because I have only hearsay evidence. One can only make headway with facts and those should come forward from the papers. Furthermore: I shall not be able to come to the United States for at least a few years and could hardly be helpful from this side of the Ocean.

I am sending a copy of your letter and of this to Dick. You could talk with him by telephone in first instance to see how the land lies. However, one thing you can be assured of: I am very much interested in this, have a feeling that something may have gone terribly wrong and that those who have facts should at least try to do something!

All the best,
yours,


F.A. Stafleu

c: R.S. Cowan

31 August 1983

Phil Becker
Administrative Officer III
Personnel
Armory

Dear Phil:

On behalf of former professor Askeff Love I have, on three occasions, attempted to consult, with his permission, his personnel file. The first instance was when I was acting on his behalf concerning retirement benefits when Joanne Arnold was in office. At that time we were told that they had been checked out to Mr. Holloway, the University attorney.

A second instance occurred when Dr. Patrick Webber and I were arguing Askeff's case before Chancellor Russ Nelson. At that time, Mr. Holloway was the special assistant to the Chancellor and we were refused the papers because we were told that we were not entitled to "go on fishing expeditions". The third instance was when I approached you for the records, and found that they were still signed out to Mr. Holloway (or perhaps to Lawson Crowe).

I would appreciate it if you would write me a note telling me what the status is of this file, and why it continues to be held apart and unavailable to legitimate perusal.

Sincerely,

William A. Weber
Professor, Curator

31 August 1983

Phil Becker
Administrative Officer III
Personnel
Armory

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Sincerely,

William A. Weber
Professor, Curator

Peter Hoch
Missouri Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 199
St. Louis, MO
FAX 314-577-9595

Áskell Löve

It is difficult to separate, for purposes of honors, the man and wife, Áskell and Doris. Each is responsible in so large measure for the success of the other. "In Lund they called us 'ler and lánghelm' meaning 'clay and straw' (adobe), a typical Scanian expression for things inseparable when one makes 'klinehus', houses built of something like adobe bricks."

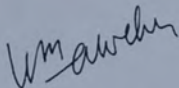
In Iceland Áskell was an Eagle scout, a popular radio-lecturer, the class poet. He was very active in educating the Icelanders on topics of botany, systematics, and evolution. His books include a popular handbook of the Icelandic Flora; *Cytotechnology*, a handbook of techniques; *Cytotaxonomic Atlas of the Arctic Flora*; *Cytotaxonomic Atlas of the Slovenian Flora*; *Cytotaxonomical Atlas of the Pteridophyta* (with Doris L., and Pichi Sermolli).

He was chairman of the committee that organized the IOPB (in 1961, as the IOB), and served as its first president in 1964 (see *Taxon* 14:43-46, 1965). Áskell was a prime mover in the organization of the *Flora Europaea* project. His 766 publications appeared steadily from 1935 through 1988. Some highlights of his publication career include the editing of one hundred chromosome number reports published in *Taxon* from 1964 through 1988. His paper on the *Biological Species Concept* (*Taxon* 13: 33-44, 1964) is a classic that was reprinted in several other works and has not been greatly improved upon by recent authors. He published at least 198 book reviews. Some of his long-time specialties include the cytotaxonomy of *Rumex* and its segregate genera, biosystematics of the Triticeae, phytogeography of the Amphiatlantic Flora, the cytotaxonomy of the floras of the White Mountains and the Rocky Mountains, and the role of polyploidy in plant speciation.

At the present time Áskell is confined to his home and suffers from Parkinson's Syndrome, and Doris continues her career by translating. Her present occupation is with the works of Vavilov.

I think that it would be very fitting for the IOPB to honor Áskell and Doris in some way while he is still able to be here to enjoy it.

William A. Weber
Professor Emeritus
University of Colorado Museum
CB 350
Boulder, Colorado 80309



PETER HOCH
Missouri Botanical Garden
314-577-9595

FROM: W. A. Weber
303-492-6171

Áskell Löve

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

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

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

Member of numerous scientific societies, including all international botanical associations, among others the Mendelian Society, Lund, Sweden, Genetic Soc. of Canada and of America, Intern. Soc. of Plant Taxonomy, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bot. Soc. of Brit. Isles, etc.

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

Dear Bill, -

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

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

Best regards in haste

W. A. Weber



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560
U.S.A.

February 10, 1972.

Mr. Lawson Crowe
Provost and Vice President for
Research
The University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Mr. Crowe:

I refer to CU Proposal No. 71,7,383, Dr. Askeff Löve's proposal to continue his "Cooperative Studies on the Cytotaxonomy of the Yugoslavian Flora." I regret that, after careful review of the results of Dr. Löve's first year of work in Yugoslavia, as outlined in his renewal proposal, the Smithsonian has reached the conclusion that the project cannot be supported as a continuing project. Our review included consultation with scientists particularly qualified to comment on the subject matter of the proposal; after that the proposal was reviewed by the regular Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program Advisory Council in Biology which has a rotating membership drawn from established American biologists. The conclusion of the Advisory Council was that the results of the first year's work do not warrant continued support for the project. However, since both the American and Yugoslav teams engaged in the project were proceeding on the expectation of continued support, the Advisory Council voted to award the sum of \$40,000 equivalent in "excess" Yugoslav Dinars for a terminal season of work in order to allow the data obtained in the first year to be consolidated and the project to be closed out in the most orderly possible manner.

The Smithsonian's decision not to support this project on a continuing basis, even though support for the first year was awarded on the basis of Dr. Löve's original application, is based on our Foreign Currency Program policy as outlined in our regular Program Announcement (latest edition dated July 1, 1971): "SFCP grants normally provide support for only one year's research even though the original proposal anticipates several years' work. To secure funds for each succeeding year, a renewal proposal is required."

KDWhitehead:pbk

If the University decides to accept the award of \$40,000 equivalent in Yugoslav Dinars for an orderly close-out of the project during a terminal season of work, Dr. Löve should be requested to forward a detailed budget for work at this reduced level to the Smithsonian for approval and incorporation into a subsequent grant contract. No payments designated "salary" for any of the American participants should be included in this budget.

Sincerely yours,

Kennedy B. Schmertz
Director
Foreign Currency Program
Office of International Activities

Dr. Milorad Mladjenović
Scientific Attache

Dear Dr. Sušnik

Dr. Schmertz, Director of Office of International Activities in Smithsonian asked me to transmit to you an information of a very delicate nature.

The matter in question is the project "Cytotaxonomy of Yugoslave Flora". One year's work of Dr. Löve on this project has been evaluated with a bad, insufficient recommendation. Therefore the Smithsonian has decided to finance this second year in the same amount as he did it the first one /40.-50.000 dollars/. This would be also the last year for Dr. Löve, because they will not agree with Dr. Löve continuing this work. But Dr. Löve is known as a very persistent man, so they expect that his removal will not pass without any difficulty.

They have no remarks on your work. Considering that the problems are interesting, they would like to continue this work with another, a better american scientist. You can think over about another american scientist, who would be capable for this work, and then, after the problem with Dr. Löve has been solved, continue the work with him.



EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
2410 CALIFORNIA STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008 462-6566

17. mart 1972.

Dr. Franc Sušnik
Direktor
Institut za biologiju
Aškerčeva 12

Ljubljana

Poštovani dr. Sušnik,

Dr. Schmerz, koji vodi spoljne poslove u Smithsonianu, zamolio me je da Vam prenesem jednu informaciju delikatne prirode.

Radi se o projektu "Cytotaxonomy of Yugoslav Flora". Jednogodišnji rad dr. Asker Lövea na tom projektu dobio je lošu, neprolaznu ocenu. Zbog toga će Smithsonian ovu drugu godinu da finansira u visini prve (40. - 50.000 dolara). To je, takodje, poslednja godina za dr. Lövea, jer se neće saglasiti da on i dalje nastavi da radi na tome. Pošto dr. Lövea smatraju upornim, očekuju da njegovo uklanjanje neće proći bez trenja.

Na Vaš rad nemaju primedbi. Smatraju da je problema - tika interesantna i željeli bi da je nastave sa nekim drugim, boljim američkim naučnikom. Vi možete razmišljati ko bi mogao drugi da dodje u obzir, pa kad se stvar raščisti sa Lovéom, nastaviti sa drugim.

Sa drugarskim poštovanjem,

M. Mladjenović

dr. Milorad Mladjenović
Savetnik za nauku

Dr. Milorad Hladjevović
Scientific Attache

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Translation by J. Sušnik.



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M. Mladjenović

dr. Milorad Mladjenović
Savetnik za nauku