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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.



DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY
913-864-3569

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS · LAWRENCE, KANSAS · 66044

January 26, 1971

Dr. George B. Van Schaack
The Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear George:

It was good to hear from you and doubly good to hear that you and Iltis are working so hard on Joe's behalf. I am pleased to be asked to support the proposal and I trust that the enclosure might be of some help in this regard.

While on the subject of Joe and his many contributions, how about a Festschrift? I can think of no greater honor than a volume of essays on the history of American botany written by Joe's scholarly friends (Berkeley, Rudolph, Stuckey, Graustein, Egerton, etc.). He has done so much for others, that now it is time to "pay him back".

I am sorry that our correspondence broke down when I was in Germany but since much of my first-class mail did not get forwarded, I am certain the breakdown occurred here at K. U.

All goes well here, though a new administrative assignment has cut into my research temporarily. I still look forward to visiting the Arboretum and would be pleased to give a lecture if that can be arranged. Keep me posted on the development of your project.

Cordially,

Jerry Stannard

JS:pm
encl.



The Chairman
Honorary Degrees Committee
College of William and Mary in Virginia
Williamsburg
Virginia
United States of America

Dear Sir,

I hope it will not seem impertinent to begin a letter relating to Professor Joseph Ewan and the College of William and Mary with the truism that the conferring of honorary degrees is a mutually honorific act which reflects credit as much upon the bestowing institution for judgment and enterprise in formally recognizing personal merit and exceptional services to learning as upon the deserving recipient, for in this instance it would apply with particularly evident and telling aptness. The proposal, only recently brought to our notice here, that the College of William and Mary should confer an honorary doctorate upon Joseph Ewan seems to us in every way commendable. Joseph Ewan's work, as you will undoubtedly be well aware, in his earlier years was primarily taxonomic and in his later years has been primarily biographical and historical, but one cannot make a sharp distinction between such activities, least of all in an institution such as ours with its vast store of historically and scientifically valuable material, because the scientific importance for modern use of the older material often only becomes manifest in the light of detailed historical and biographical information. This often overlooked linkage Ewan realised long ago. His union of such interests has given his publications their special worth and has also made him an ever welcome visitor here, for he has always been ready to share his vast range of otherwise not readily available information on such matters. His synopsis of the North American species of Delphinium and his papers on tropical American Gentianaceae, notably Macrocarpaea, have provided a sound and much needed basis for later research; his Rocky Mountain Naturalists remains for us an invaluable source of information when with North American collections; his William Bartram, being based upon our material investigated with thoroughness and scholarship and combining biographical, historical, bibliographical, zoological and botanical enquiry, is naturally much admired here. Together with his many other contributions and his personal standing as a creative scholar, they provide more than adequate evidence that in conferring an honorary doctorate upon Joseph Ewan the College of William and Mary would be worthily maintaining its own high traditions. It would, ~~therefore~~, be widely appreciated, for his reputation extends far outside North America.

Yours sincerely,

W.T. Stearn, D.Sc., Sc.D., V.M.H., F.I. Biol.,
F.L.S.

20.I.71

Dear George,

As surely as seeing is believing, this is the first opportunity that I have had of getting anything off to you in behalf of Joe Ewan. It's just grand of you and Hugh (give him my regards) ~~to be~~ ^{to be} doing his honorary degree getting ~~for~~ ^{for} him.

To believe of the thousand and one letters and partly finished books and manuscripts, I am trying to wind up before it's too late, you will have to come here and take a look at my cluttered up room - table and desks. Seeing is believing. And when may I expect you?

Here's hoping the enclosed for Dr. Beyer reaches you in time to be of use to you and Hugh, otherwise forward it to Dr. Beyer. This honorary degree that you are trying to promote is just about the most worthy thing you two will ever promote. Best ever to you both. Good luck, Sincerely,
Walter S. Schmitt

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
held at Philadelphia
for Promoting Useful Knowledge

104 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

December 28, 1970

Dr. George B. Van Schaack
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Ill. 60532

Dear Dr. Van Schaack:

It has been a very great pleasure for me to draft a letter supporting your proposal to the College of William and Mary that it consider awarding an honorary degree to Joseph Ewan. I enclose the letter to Professor Beyer, hoping that it will add something to the recommendations of Dr. Baldwin and yourself.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Corner

George W. Corner
Executive Officer

C/f

Enc.



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 · TEL. 202-628-1810

December 21, 1970

Dr. George B. Van Schaack
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear George:

I just arrived back from 2 1/2 months abroad in the Indian Ocean area and found your letter of December 15. I think nominating Joe for an honorary doctor's degree is a first class idea and I will support it with enthusiasm. I am enclosing the letter required to Professor Beyer. I hope it is what is needed.

I have been carrying around your idea for a paper-saving letter form hoping to get time to look into the patent situation which is totally outside my experience. Because of too much travel abroad and too many commitments here I have simply not gotten around to do anything about it and assume that you think that I have ignored it completely. As soon as I can get my head above water here I will continue inquiries as to how one goes about finding out if something has been patented. I suspect this involves a search by a patent lawyer and I have been told that all of them are crooks. If I find out something further I will let you know right away.

Meanwhile I am enclosing the letter to Professor Beyer and certainly hope that this goes through and that Joe is awarded his well-deserved honorary doctorate.

I hope that sometime you will be able to come to Washington on some errand or another and that I will be able to see you. I have not recently had occasion to go to Chicago but if I do will make a point of getting by the Morton Arboretum.

With kindest regards and best season's greetings,

Sincerely,

F. R. Fosberg

FRF/tsm

Enclosure

THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON A comprehensive edition sponsored
by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union and the University of Virginia

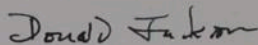
5 January 1971

Dr. George B. Van Schaack, Bibliographer
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear Dr. Van Schaack:

It is a pleasure to submit to the College of William and Mary a recommendation in support of Joe Ewan's honorary degree. It won't be easy, though. I was involved last year in getting such a degree for Charles C. Wall, who for 40 years has been the superintendent at Mount Vernon. George Washington University finally took him on, because it had awarded a similar degree to his predecessor 40 years earlier. Perhaps Banister's connection with William and Mary will work the same magic for Joe.

Sincerely,



Donald Jackson
Editor

encl.

DJ:phw

P. O. Box 177
390 FORGE ROAD
EAST GREENWICH, R. I. 02818

2 January 1971

Dr. George B. Van Schaack
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

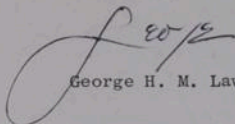
Dear George:

Enclosed is my letter to Professor Beyer endorsing the proposal that an honorary degree be awarded by the College of William and Mary to Joe Ewan. However, I feel strongly that it should be a dual award: to both Joe and Nesta. Both have earned it, both should be so recognized.

This would not be without precedent. My own University did just this last year and with husband and wife getting separate and different degrees in wholly different fields (neither was alumnus or alumna). I can recall when Columbia gave simultaneous degrees to the two Luces. Nesta has worked as hard as has Joe these last years. I know he would revel in sharing in this honor with her. 'Nuff said.

Thank you for the kind words written after learning of my stepping down from the HBL directorship. I'll strive to avoid passing into oblivion. I will continue to edit HBL publications and to develop its holdings of botanical history. This prompts me to inquire of your plans for disposition of your own correspondence files. So much of Missouri Botanical Garden history is incorporated in them. I would like them for HBL, even if you stipulated they be sealed for x-years (others are so respected now). Let me know about this.

Sincerely,



George H. M. Lawrence



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
Kew, RICHMOND, Surrey
Telegrams: Kewgar, Richmond, Surrey
Telephone: RICHmond 1171

Please address any reply to
THE DIRECTOR
and quote:
Your reference:

Dr G B Van Schaack
Morton Arboretum
Lisle
Illinois 60532
USA

22 December 1970

Dear Dr Van Schaack

I have just received your letter of 15 December in which you invite my support for the proposal that our good friend Joe Ewan should be recommended for an honorary degree from the College of William and Mary.

I have no hesitation whatever in giving my full support to this suggestion and I hope the enclosed letter will be forwarded with a nomination to the correct quarter. I certainly hope that this will go through without a hitch.

Every good wish,

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Taylor".

Sir George Taylor
Director

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

AC 504 865-7711

Department of Biology

December 22, 1970

Dr. George B. Van Schaack, Bibliographer
Sterling Morton Library
The Morris Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear George:

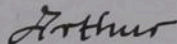
It was a pleasure to write the enclosed letter. If William and Mary are as smart as I think they are, it couldn't happen to a better person. If you think I didn't cover enough ground, or if you think some of the wording awkward, please do not hesitate to send the letter back for revision. My enthusiasm for yours and Iltis' project is so great I may have overdone it! You both deserve a hearty, hearty thanks from us all.

As you can see, I am still at Tulane, probably, because nothing better has come along. The department is now a biology department, and that brings on problems. But, taking one day after another, its still fun.

Your description of traffic near the arboretum is heart-rending. Some of the things happening in this country periodically sends me up the wall. I have found that hand-ball (which I play very poorly) is an excellent substitute for frustrated frustrations.

It was delightful to hear from you again. I shall never forget your help in putting me in contact with Anderson on the E.A. Burt preface. Frances and I remember with pleasure the Louisiana field trip and the Chilean wine, way back when.

Our best to you for the season,



A. L. Welden
Professor

ALW/k11



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801

January 7, 1970

Mr. George B. Van Schaack
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear Mr. Van Schaack:

Thank you for asking me to support Joe Ewan for an honorary degree at William and Mary. I enclose a letter and hope it is satisfactory. If you think I should change it in any way, please let me know or return it.

I will follow the progress of this proposal with great interest and hope you will keep me informed.

I hope you will find an opportunity to visit Urbana ~~soon~~—I have some additional books in which you might be interested and we have added quite a few things to the library since you were here.

Sincerely,

George W. White
Research Professor

3708 Manton Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503
10 January 1971

Dr. George B. Van Schaack, Bibliographer
Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois 60532

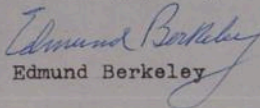
Dear Dr. Van Schaack,

It was very good to hear from you, and especially with such good news. I am truly delighted with what you propose, and am enclosing a letter to Professor Beyer. I can think of no one I should prefer to see so honored.

Your letter was somewhat delayed in reaching me because I was away from the college during the holidays. I have also been up to my neck in work since I received it.

All best wishes for the New Year to you.

Cordially yours,


Edmund Berkeley

21 December 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer
Chairman, Honorary Degrees Committee
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Professor Beyer:

I have the pleasure of writing to recommend to you Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University for receipt of an honorary degree from the College of William and Mary. As one who has taught graduate courses in the history of botany and undergraduate courses in the history of biology, I can say without hesitation that Professor Ewan has made many and significant contributions to our understanding of the history of biology, particularly in the United States. His numerous papers and books attest to his competence. However, it is much more than his writings that make him worthy. He is, above all, a true scholar. I, my graduate students, and many others who I know have received his generous and knowledgeable scholarly help--when we sought it, or when he thought we needed it.

My personal acquaintance with Professor Ewan spans many years since my graduate student days at Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden in the early 1950's. I have been associated with him as a fellow officer in the Historical Section of the Botanical Society of America, as the director of a National Science Foundation Summer Institute in the History of Biology for College Teachers during two summers when he was a guest lecturer, and as author of a chapter in a book that he edited. In my opinion, and I know it is shared by others in this country and abroad, Professor Ewan is the world's foremost authority on the history of American Natural History.

Because of Professor Ewan's particular interest in the history of Natural History in the pre-Revolutionary War period in the United States and in the naturalists of the Southeastern United States, it seems very fitting that he should be honored by the College of William and Mary. An honorary degree from your College would please Professor Ewan's many friends and admirers, as well as being an appropriate recognition of his outstanding contributions to history and biology in our country.

Sincerely yours,

cc George VanSchaack ✓

Emanuel D. Rudolph
Professor of Botany

Professor A Carlyle Beyer
Chairman
Honorary Degrees Committee
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg
USA

22 December 1970

Dear Professor Carlyle Beyer

I have heard of a suggestion that my very good friend Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University, New Orleans, might be awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the College of William and Mary. I hope you will not feel it presumptuous of me to put in a very strong plea for such worthy recognition of one who has contributed so much to the fascinating history of botany in your country and particularly of the early work of eminent people who migrated from Europe and who laid the basis for an understanding of the Flora of the United States.

No-one has done more in the most scholarly fashion to reveal the great work of these pioneers. Professor Ewan has of course had the solid help of his wife over the years but he is beyond doubt the major contributor and his wife has acted in the role of an amanuensis. I feel it would be singularly appropriate for your College with such an illustrious name to honour Professor Ewan and by so doing I am sure will honour the awarding body.

I do apologise as an outsider for my involvement in this matter but I am sure you understand how much Professor Ewan's friends feel that he is deserving of high honour.

Sincerely yours

Sir George Taylor
Director

January 7, 1970

Professor A. Carlyle Beyer, Chairman
Honorary Degrees Committee
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dear Professor Beyer:

I have been led to believe that a letter from me might be useful to you and your Committee in your consideration of Professor Joseph Ewan for an honorary degree. I presume that this degree would be Doctor of Science.

Professor Ewan is the outstanding historian of American botany. You will have a list of his publications and see from the titles how important they are and how they have been published by prestigious organizations.

The most recent book on John Banister is a very real contribution, not only to history of early American science, but to early American history itself. Until the Ewans' investigations, Banister was a more or less shadowy figure, but they have been able to "bring him to life" and to show his very important place in colonial science. Although Banister's major contributions were botanical, his geological work was of considerable importance and this the Ewans have also indicated.

Professor Ewan's interests are anything but narrow. The botanists think of him as a historian of American botany, but others recognize him as a great historian of American natural science in general. His book, Rocky Mountain Naturalists, is an indispensable source of reference and a meticulous presentation of an enormous amount of data gathered from a wide variety of sources. It is impressive indeed. We are eagerly awaiting the second edition of this important book.

The recognition of Professor Ewan by your College would be widely and favorably acclaimed. As a former member of our University Committee on Honorary Degrees, I can tell you that Professor Ewan's qualifications stand up very well with those I have taken part in considering in past years. I feel sure that if Joseph Ewan had connections with our University, he would be an outstanding candidate for Committee consideration.

Sincerely yours,

George W. White
Research Professor

GWW/ch