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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.

GAISER, L.O.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Dept of Botany

December 4 /48

Dear Dr. Fogel-

As one of my collectors picked up Protomonas umbellatus at the eastern end of L. Erie this summer, I have been trying to check my later collections than those listed by Cox in 1941 (this Jour. Science) in order to bring the Ontario specimens together. Yesterday I happened to be at Cornell & when asking Dr. Innes about Protomonas distribution on L. Erie, he said he had heard that it had been collected recently too in Erie Co, Penn. on L. Erie. I wonder if you know the collector? If the specimen has been one of yours, I am at the same time asking if you could care to give me the reference to include it on my map - or would you be planning to write up a note on it yourself?

We have known it for sometime on the L. St. Clair shores & so it was that, as well as our past area. Erie (eastern) observation that suggested just a note regarding it now.

Very sincerely yours

Lulu Gaiser
Prof Botany

Lulu O. Gaiser

December 13, 1948

Dr. Lulu O. Gaiser,
Department of Botany,
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Gaiser:

I am keenly interested in the subject of your letter of December 4th. Ever since the appearance of Core's 1941 article on the distribution of *Butomus* I have been wondering when this plant would turn up along the eastern shores of Lake Erie. Your letter comes as the first indication that such may be the case and I am very eager to know more about the conditions under which it was found.

As you may know, I have been working for a good many years on a Flora of Pennsylvania and during the course of my studies have examined all of the herbaria containing significant collections from this state. Since the western counties have been so well explored by botanists at the University of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Museum, I have done a minimum of field work in that section of the state but have concentrated on those areas where little collecting has been carried on. My associates and I, however, have examined all of the Pennsylvania specimens at the Carnegie Museum and have so far failed to note any collections of *Butomus* from Erie County. It has been two or three years, however, since we have been over their monocoats and it is entirely likely that it may have been collected at Presque Isle or elsewhere during that interval. I am inclined to believe that Dr. Jennings would have communicated this discovery to me and am writing to him to inquire whether he has any knowledge of the occurrence of this species within our boundaries.

My own knowledge of *Butomus* is restricted to having seen it along the St. Lawrence and to having collected it on Lake Champlain near Whitehall some ten or twelve years ago. I should be very grateful for any additional information which you can give me concerning its appearance on Lake Erie and would be particularly delighted to have a specimen from there for our herbarium. Your plant, if it was actually found in Erie County, is the first record from our state and I should like to see that credit is given to its discoverer. I hope also that you will follow through your intention of publishing a note on the occurrence of this species for the plant does seem to be on the move and every new indication of its spread ought to be made a matter of record. Under

Dr. Lulu O. Gaiser

- 2 -

December 13, 1948

separate cover I am sending you a little paper of mine which describes something of our work on the Pennsylvania Flora.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany

Mr. Master Gard.
Hamilton Dec 16/48

Dear Dr. Fags -

I was delighted to receive your letter yesterday and to learn of your interest in Bentonia. That is fine.

I am writing at once to explain that the specimen found by my collector in the eastern end of L. Erie is on the Ontario side. That is near Pt. Abino & at present I have only 1 specimen because the collector saw there were only 10 plants in the small stands. When I wrote you, I had heard through Dr. Invenchew that someone had picked it up in Erie Co. Pa. He did not just recall whom he had heard it from. He suggested writing you, as I did. I am at this same time writing him that it was not you & asking him if it does come to mind, will he please let us know.

The other point I notice from your letter is that you say you collected it on L. Champlain ^{along the St. Lawrence} 10 or 12 yrs ago. If you would care to copy the date & places of collection I would include them on our little map because they may be later references than we have for Whitehall. (In fact I have none from there since those listed by Coe). We are not extending our map all the way down the St. Lawrence but at least a little below Montreal. So send along references to any specimens you have at the Herbarium

Very sincerely yours

PS

as I hope to get to Gray after Xmas

Dr. J. M. Coulter
Credition, Ontario

J. G. Rose

January 21, 1949

Dr. L. O. Gaiser,
Department of Botany,
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Gaiser:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 16th regarding the occurrence of *Eutomus* on Lake Erie. I too have written to Dr. Muenscher telling him of my interest in the possible occurrence of this plant in Pennsylvania and saying that I have no knowledge of it within the boundaries of our State.

Since you are interested in the information contained in our herbarium concerning the occurrence of this species, I am here giving you the complete story as represented by our specimens, which are only five in number.

Quebec

Laprairie. A.S. Pease. Sept. 17, 1941
Longueuil. Marie-Victorin. Sept. 12, 1931

New York

2 miles south of Whitehall, Lake Champlain, Washington
County. Fogg. Aug. 20, 1934
South Bay, Lake Champlain, Washington County. Muenscher
and Justice. Aug. 6, 1938
Montcalm's Landing near Ticonderoga, Essex Co. House.
July 18, 1939

I did not, in my earlier letter, mean to give the impression that I had personally collected this plant along the St. Lawrence. I did, however, see it there on a trip which I took with Professor Fernald about 1926. As I recall, the place where we saw it was near where it had originally been reported by Marie-Victorin, and for that reason we did not collect it.

I shall be keenly interested in following the behavior of this species for once introduced in any large body of water it seems able to spread with considerable success.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

from Fogg

January 19, 1950

Dr. L. O. Gaiser,
The Biological Laboratories,
Harvard University,
16 Divinity Avenue,
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Dr. Gaiser:

Many thanks for your kindness in having forwarded me a copy of your article on Butomus. I read this with considerable interest when it came out in RHODORA and am happy to have a reprint for my files.

It will be interesting to follow the progress of this species and to see whether it ever gains a firmer foothold, especially in Lakes Ontario and Erie. If you learn of any further collections of it from Erie County, Pa., I should be happy to know about them.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

Crediton Apr 7/62

Dear Dr. Fogg-

As I did not receive any reply to my letter of Feb 29th, as to whether you would examine a few more of my last yr's specimens, I did mail the package.

Was I expected to send them on?

Would you have your secretary just drop me a card, to say "to be or not to be."

I know you are very busy indeed, & will understand whatever you say.

Sincerely
Lulu Purdie

April 13, 1962

Dr. Lulu O. Gaiser
Crediton
CANADA

Dear Dr. Gaiser:

Your note of April 7 just received. I am sorry to be such a heel, but I just can't undertake to do another single thing these days.

What with writing articles, editing our Bulletin, teaching taxonomy, giving a batch of public lectures, studying and photographing Magnolias all over the area, and trying to run this Arboretum at the busiest time of the year I'm just about standing on my head.

I have those earlier plants of yours in a case in the Herbarium down on the Campus (13 miles from here) and I just don't know when I am going to find time to study them.

Some of these days I hope life will be a little more peaceful and I'll surely let you know.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

JMF:am

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