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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.

July 3, 1934.

Dr. H.A. Gleason, Head Curator,
New York Botanical Garden,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

I desire to acknowledge the receipt, in good condition, of the package containing 63 herbarium specimens referred to in your letter of June nineteenth.

I have been wondering whether you have on hand any stock of duplicates from the southeastern U.S. which you might be able to include in future shipments. As I think I may have told you, we are endeavoring here not to compete with the Philadelphia Academy, with its strong representation of western material, but have selected the flora of the southern coastal plain as our special province. It was for that reason that I purchased a set of Moldenke's Florida plants and that I have endeavored to establish exchanges with all southern universities between Virginia and Georgia. We have already, in this manner, acquired some very fine collections and are bending every effort toward adding to them. I see no point whatever in a small herbarium like ours trying to spread out over a wide range - altho we do, of course, want the North American flora well represented - but would prefer to concentrate on a province which I believe no other herbarium has particularly set out to build up. I would, therefore, greatly appreciate any specimens from the southern coastal plain and the adjacent piedmont which you could contrive to send us,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Poge, Jr.
Curator of Herbarium

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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NEW YORK, N. Y.

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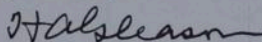
July 9, 1934.

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Doctor Fogg:

Replying to your letter of July 3, I may say that the only plants from the southeastern states which we have at the present time are the duplicates collected by Doctor Small during his various expeditions into that country. He tells me that these are not yet ready to be distributed and that they are already promised to various institutions. He did not tell me whether or not you were one to whom such a promise has been given and I would suggest that you might write a tactful letter to Doctor Small direct and intimate that if he has any specimens from the costal plain for exchange and distribution in general that you would like to receive them.

Very truly yours



H. A. Gleason
Head Curator

HAG.HAS

Sept. 26, 1934.

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
Head Curator,
N.Y. Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

Due to my having been busily engaged, first in teaching summer school and then in a series of collecting trips, I have shamefully neglected your very kind letter of July 9 concerning the possibility of our procuring a set of Dr. Small's southeastern plants.

I have written to Dr. Small, telling him of our desire to build up a strong collection from the southeast and beseeching his cooperation in the matter of available duplicates. I take it that the matter is now in his hands. If no further material of this kind is available, we shall of course be only too pleased to receive any other lots which you may care to send us.

I greatly appreciate your prompt and sympathetic response to my request.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Fogg, Jr.
Curator of the Herbarium

January 6, 1935.

Dr. W.A. Gleason,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

I am returning herewith the questionnaire received from you some weeks ago concerning the proposed new Manual of the eastern states to be sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden.

It seems to me only fair that I should tell you at the outset that my interest in such a manual is conditioned entirely by the possibilities attending the appearance of a new edition of Gray's Manual within the next few years. This is not said in disparagement of the undertaking which you contemplate, but because I have sufficient knowledge of the quality of the work going into the new Gray to feel that when it appears it will be superior to any manual which we have ever had for this region. For this reason, I should hesitate to recommend to my classes any other treatment which could fulfil at best but a temporary function.

When I was at the New York Garden last week I learned of an impression apparently prevalent there that work on the new Gray had been abandoned. I happen to have it direct from Professor Fernald that such is decidedly not the case. There seems to be good reason to hope that before too many years have elapsed we may witness the publication of Edition B.

If I have been frank it is because I have construed your letter as soliciting an honest expression of opinion. Systematic Botany is a growing subject in this University and we are naturally interested in every publication which contributes toward its advancement. In this instance, however, I feel that I am justified in reserving my unqualified support for a work which I feel confident will be epochal in its thoroughness, accuracy and scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

GLEASON, H. A.

June 17, 1940.

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx, New York.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

I have to thank you for the bulky package of your reprints which I found awaiting me here upon returning from a week's field trip in the mountains of Pennsylvania. I am deeply indebted to you for this series of separates which bears eloquent testimony to your scientific productivity. I shall, before long, send you a few squibs of my own.

I leave the end of this week for Mountain Lake, Virginia, where I shall teach the first semester. I have not forgotten your promise to spend some time there and wish that it might coincide with this coming July, when I might have the benefit of your companionship in the field.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Asst. Professor of Botany.

JMF:H

From Fogg

May 19, 1942.

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

A student of mine, Mr. Richard W. Pohl,
who is working on Panicum, is interested in seeing all
available material of P. acroanthum Steud. I wonder if
you would be willing to send us on loan all American
sheets of this species in your herbarium. This material
would be annotated and returned very promptly.

Sincerely yours,

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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April 22, 1945

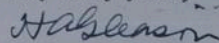
Professor John M. Fogg
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Professor Fogg:

Zephyranthes Atamasco is reported as growing in southeastern Pennsylvania. We have no specimens to verify this and I have not yet located the source of the report. Won't you be good enough to tell me on the enclosed post card if the report is well founded?

Many thanks for your trouble. With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,



H. A. Gleason
Assistant Director

HAG:mp
Encl.

April 26, 1943.

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

The reference in Gray and elsewhere to the occurrence of *Zephyranthes* in Pennsylvania is one which has puzzled me ever since I started working intensively on the flora of the State some years ago. I have no knowledge whatever of the source of this record and am inclined to regard it as an error. Dr. Wherry has looked for it without success in the lower Susquehanna Valley where the occurrence of many other things of southern distribution suggests that it might have been found. It is one of the things that I want to look up the next time I get to Cambridge and it is possible that Professor Fernald might be able to throw some light on it if you care to put the question to him.

It occurs to me that in connection with your studies on the local flora you may wish to make some use of our Pennsylvania records. I should be only too glad to place them at your disposal or to answer such questions as I can concerning occurrences within this State.

With best wishes to you in your work and warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

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DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

June 14th 1944

Professor J. M. Fogg
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

In selecting material to be drawn by our artists for the new Illustrated Flora, I was shocked to see that we do not have a single specimen of *Heuchera hispida* which shows good flowers. I refer, of course, to the real *H. hispida* which grows in the eastern part of West Virginia and adjacent Virginia, and was re-discovered by Wherry twelve years ago. If you have ample material in your collection, I wish you would donate to us two detached flowers, taken at a period when they are full-sized but not too old to show the petals and stamens. It is quite possible that you have such material, and on the other hand it is equally possible that you do not wish to divide it with us because of its scarcity. I shall be very appreciative if we can get this from you, and equally grateful for your good intentions if you should not be able to send it.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

H. A. Gleason

H. A. Gleason
Assistant Director

HAG:CK

September 22, 1944.

Dr. H. A. Gleason, Assistant Director,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.),
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

I am more than ashamed that over three months have elapsed since I received your request for loan of flowering material of *Heuchera hispida*. You will, I hope, pardon this delay when I tell you that immediately upon receipt of your letter I examined our specimens in the Herbarium and found that we had only one good flowering sheet of this species but that it had been marked by Dr. Wherry as not being^a characteristic specimen. Since Wherry had checked all of our specimens, I felt that I wanted to refer the matter to him, but at that time he was away. By the time he returned to the campus I was off for a month's vacation and it was only yesterday that Wherry and I were able to get together.

After carefully examining the specimen in question, Wherry is now prepared to remove the query which he originally made on the sheet and to approve the identity of this specimen as well within the limits of variation represented by this species. The specimen is therefore on its way to you and I hope will reach you in time to be used in connection with your work on the new illustrated Flora.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

December 4, 1945

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.),
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

One of my graduate students, Mr. Richard W. Pohl, is at present engaged in a monographic work on the genus Panicum and desires to see the type of P. pseudopubescens Nash. According to him, this sheet is in the New York Botanic Garden and was collected by Berle and Baker, No. 1537, at Auburn, Alabama.

I do not really know what your policy is with respect to the loaning of types but if you are willing to let us borrow this specimen, I assure you that it will receive the most careful treatment and while here will be housed in a metal case in a fireproof building. Pohl is interested in ascertaining how this species differs from P. euchlamydeum of Shinnery, the type of which is also here on loan.

This whole question is raised by several Pennsylvania collections from Presque Isle, Erie County, which seem to be intermediate in character between these two species, and in connection with our studies of the State Flora we would like very much to straighten the matter out.

With warm personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Vice-Provost

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DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

December 7, 1945

Dear Doctor Fogg:

I just spoke to Dr. Seaver, our present Head Curator, about that type of *Panicum psuedopubescens*. He is delighted to approve its loan to you. I shall notify Mr. Wittrock, and you may look forward to receiving it in a reasonable time.

Now, while I am writing you, may I bring up a small question. The original plant of *Rhamnus lanceolata* Pursh was collected by Lyon in "Tennessee." Pursh saw it in Lyon's private herbarium. I infer from the statement in *Bartonia* no. 5 that the location of the Lyon herbarium and consequently of the type is lost. If so, I have only Pursh's very brief description as a guide. Would you mind telling me if by chance the Lyon specimen could be in your herbarium or at the Academy? The latter is the better place to expect it, and you may know whether the Academy Herbarium contains any Lyon plants or not.

Plants of this species growing in the Appalachians from Pennsylvania to Alabama are very pubescent at anthesis and the lower side of the leaf remains so permanently. Plants from the Mississippi Valley, where they are common, are nearly smooth or quite so at all times. I suppose that Pursh's type was the hairy plant and that I shall have to give a new subspecific name to the lowland form. *R. parvifolia* T. & G. (we have the type, or part of it) is also hairy and I believe this name is a pure synonym. When Core spoke of *parvifolia* being a distinct species, he was contrasting it with the smooth inland form of *R. lanceolata*.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Gleason

H. A. Gleason

Fred J. Seaver

January 8, 1946

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.),
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

I wish to thank you for your kindness in arranging for the loan of the type specimen of Panicum pseudopubescens. This has proved to be an extremely interesting problem and we have now borrowed the type material of P. euchlamydeum from Wisconsin in an endeavor to throw light upon a confused situation.

Although I earlier acknowledged in a routine way the arrival of the loan, I regret that I have been far less prompt with respect to the question contained in your letter concerning the original plant of Rhamnus lanceolata. We have, as you correctly suppose, no material of the Lyon Herbarium at the University, and I therefore turned, although without much hope, to the collections at the Academy. Unfortunately, Pennell has had an assistant rearranging and repairing some of the earlier collections and it was not until this morning that I was able definitely to ascertain that this sheet does not exist so far as we are concerned. In fact, the only sheet of Rhamnus which is in any way connected with Pursh is a specimen of R. ovalifolia from an entirely different collector and source.

I am sorry not to be able to help you with this problem but suppose that, as is usual in such cases, the decision will have to be based upon descriptions alone.

With warm regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany

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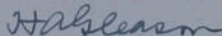
November 4, 1946

Dear Doctor Fogg:

"Before the war" I had every fall a Salt Pork Dinner, with the attendance strictly limited to male taxonomists. During the war it was impossible to get the necessary supplies, but now it seems to be feasible once more. I am accordingly planning the sixth such dinner for Saturday evening November 23, at Greenwich, Conn. I would like very much to have you with us, and a similar invitation is being sent to Wherry and Pennell. Since return to Philadelphia might be difficult at a late hour at night, I would also be delighted to put you up for the night at one or the other of my two homes in Greenwich.

Won't you let me know at your earliest opportunity if you can be with us, since the hotel-man who serves the dinner needs information in advance concerning the number of guests. You might talk it over also with Wherry and Pennell. Possibly you can all drive up together.

Sincerely,



H. A. Gleason

from Fogg

November 7, 1946

Dear Dr. Gleason:

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to attend your dinner on Saturday, November 23rd. Unfortunately there is a conference on the campus that weekend in which it is necessary for me to participate and I must therefore regretfully decline.

I have heard of these famous dinners and would like very much to be with you. This time, however, Philadelphia will have to be represented by my colleagues, Wherry and Pennell.

With best wishes for a most enjoyable occasion, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.),
New York, N. Y.

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TREASURER
ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

Oct. 29, 1947

Dear Doctor Fogg—
You missed the Salt Park Dinner last year, but
another (the seventh) is coming up on Saturday evening, November
15, at Greenwich. Conn. Do come up if you can get the time.
We have room for you in our new guest house that night so you
can return at your convenience on Sunday.

Sincerely yours.

J. H. S. Mason

from Fogg

November 5, 1947

Dr. H. A. Gleason,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.),
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Gleason:

It is more than gracious of you to extend another invitation to me to attend the dinner on Saturday, November 15th, and once more I feel like a terrible heel in not being able to accept. We have some friends coming on that day for the Pennsylvania-Army football game and cocktails afterward, and I do not see how I could possibly get away in time to be with you.

I deeply appreciate your kind thought and I hope you will convey my best wishes to all of those who will have the good fortune of foregathering with you that evening.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,