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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.

Feb. 7, 1931.

Dr. E.D.Merrill, Director,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

You may recall that last summer at Cambridge you expressed an interest in some plants of my own collecting from southeastern Massachusetts, especially from the Elizabeth Islands. This material has served as the basis for records published in a series of articles by me in Rhodora.

I find in going over my duplicate material that I have left but a small set of 31 sheets. These I am taking the liberty of forwarding to you by Parcel Post. Small though the set is, for I have distributed material to four or five other institutions, I feel that it should be represented in a large herbarium. Many of Mrs. Alice Northrop's plants from the same region are in the New York Garden and these will help to supplement her records.

If you are at all interested in material from the Philadelphia local area, i.e., southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, we have here many duplicates for exchange. In return I should be glad to receive specimens from the New York area or from New England. In this connection I am wondering if any of E.F. Bicknell's plants, which, I believe, Mrs. Mitchell worked over, are available for exchange. I have projected a study of the flora of Martha's Vineyard and Bicknell in his later days collected on this island. His Nantucket collections also would have a distinct bearing on this problem.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John W. Fogg, Jr.
Curator of Herbarium.

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

February 25, 1931

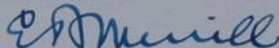
Mr. John M. FOGG, Jr.
Botanical Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania
38th Street and Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Fogg:

I wish to thank you for your courtesy in sending to The New York Botanical Garden the package of duplicate specimens from the Elizabeth Islands, southeastern Massachusetts. We shall be very glad indeed to add this material to our permanent collections.

I took up the matter of exchanges with Dr. Small who is responsible for the arrangement of the Bicknell Herbarium and the segregation of the duplicate sets. We have made some progress on this task this winter. Dr. Small suggests that some time when you are in New York that you get in touch with him personally and go over the entire matter of exchanges. There will be a certain amount of duplicate material in the Bicknell Herbarium, but just how much I am not in a position to state at present.

Very truly yours



E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM/GMS

from Fogg

Sept. 16, 1933.

Dr. E.D.Merrill, Director,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I would like very much to take advantage of your kind offer to let me have as a sample one of the cardboard herbarium cartons which you showed me last week. I believe that this type of box will not only solve our storage problem but enable us to expand our herbarium in the absence of funds to purchase more metal cases. So, if you could let me have one for the purpose of noting specifications, I should take good care of it and return it to you at an early date.

As luck would have it, I saw Walker the day after I had talked to you. His mind is quite made up to proceed toward the doctorate and I hope that a year from now we shall be able to award him one of our fellowships. He tells me that he has practically completed his graduate work in course at another institution, so he would need only to establish the year of residence which we require from our candidates and to polish off his thesis and locate an avenue for its publication. I am certainly grateful to you for the information which you gave me concerning him. He seems to me to be the type of man who is entitled to encouragement.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Professor of Botany
Curator of Herbarium

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRESIDENT
HENRY W. DE FOREST
VICE-PRESIDENTS
HENRY DE F. BALDWIN
JOHN L. MERRILL

DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. ELMER D. MERRILL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE

TREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL
BUSINESS MANAGER
HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

September 19, 1933

Professor John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Fogg:

Responding to your letter of September 16, I am forwarding to you by parcels post today one of the cartons in which you are interested; it may reach you in a rather battered condition but will serve your purpose as a model as to size, style, and quality of material. You will have no difficulty in having these manufactured in Philadelphia, as there are doubtless several companies there that specialize in the manufacture of cartons, or paper boxes. As I remember our bills, these cost approximately 12 cents each in New York, and you should be able to get approximately the same quotation in Philadelphia. I believe our unit orders were in lots of 500 and 1000.

The cartons will come "knocked down"; that part forming the end and door is pasted in position through the use of water glass (Sodium silicate), and the ends are sealed with ordinary kraft tape. You may wish to modify the size, but this seems doubtful, as we find our unit size to be eminently satisfactory here.

The draw clips can probably be secured from any large hardware dealer in Philadelphia; if not, they may be secured from the Globe-Wernicke Co. I would advise a slightly larger washer to prevent the draw clips from "pulling through" in the lower tiers. As I explained to you, the flap of paper pasted in the bottom at the back of each unit was intended to protect naphthalene from undue wastage.

The sample need not be returned.

I am writing today to Dr. True regarding Mr. Walker's application.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

In practice we paste our cartons in blocks of four to make the stacks more steady.

from Fogg

Oct. 14, 1933.

Dr. E.D. Merrill, Director,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Many thanks for the sample card-board carton which reached me safely and also for your kind letter explaining the method by which the boxes are assembled.

I have ~~got~~ found a Philadelphia concern who will make the boxes for a price which, while not as low as yours, is probably fair enough on the small quantity (200) which is all we are at present in a position to purchase. For a lot of this size they are asking \$35.00, or 17½¢ apiece.

The enclosed description fell out of the carton when I opened it.

Sincerely yours,

Curator of Herbarium

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE

TREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL
BUSINESS MANAGER
HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

October 17, 1933

Professor John M. Fogg, Jr.
Botanical Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania
38th Street and Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Fogg:

Many thanks for returning the misplaced clipping.

Your price for cartons is distinctly above our latest quotations here. The Star Corrugated Box Co., Inc., Maspeth, Long Island, N. Y., on October 5, 1933, quoted us on single lined slide, jute and jute cartons, delivered at The New York Botanical Garden, as follows:

8 1/4	12 3/4	17 3/4	100	-	250	-	500 Lots
			\$98.45		\$82.25		\$76.85 per 1000

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

MERRILL, E. D.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ARNOLD ARBORETUM, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS., U.S.A.

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum,
Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Botanical Garden, Cambridge, Mass.
Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.
Bussey Institution, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Farlow Herbarium and Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.
Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.
The Maria Moors Cabot Foundation for
Botanical Research

Sept. 14, 1942

Dear Dr. Fogg:

I have assembled my copious Rafinesque data to the point that I am now arranging the 10,000-12,000 half sheets in alphabetic order. On each I have in general had copied everything that Rafinesque published about each entity. My next long job will be to prepare an alphabetic index to all places where he considered genera, subgenera, species, and varieties. The real object of doing this is because of the homonym rule, as it is not my intent to go into details of priority and urge acceptance of Rafinesque names where they are manifestly earlier than those proposed by other authors and now generally accepted. I suspect that there are between 1200 and 1500 names that are in none of our indices!

I have already segregated the cellular cryptogams--very numerous slips--and the relatively few references to the vascular cryptogams; and in the latter group I note already that Christensen overlooked nearly all of Rafinesque's fern names, and when he did pick up a few of them, he did not give the earliest reference. I showed these slips to Wetherby a few days ago and he thought that it would be a good idea to publish a short paper in the Fern Bulletin, just to get these overlooked names "on the docket"; these names will in no way effect accepted nomenclature.

But I ran into one that Rafinesque placed in "Cryptog. filices" where from his description it manifestly does not belong. It comes from your baliwick and here is the description exactly as Rafinesque printed it:

"7. Carpanthus. Cryptog. filices; natural order of the carpantheous, fructification: capsul axillar, solitary, globulous 1 locular semi 4 sperm dehiscent in the maturity, in 4 obtuse semi valves; seeds lenticular. C. axillaris, axillar carpanthus: leaves opposite, sessile, oblong, obtusinervous. This plant grows under the waters of some creeks in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It may form with the genusses pillularia, salvinia, lemna, marsilea, sivetes, &c a new natural order akin to the ferns" Med. Repos. II 5: 357. 1808, Jour. Bot (Paris) 1: 221. 1809.

I cannot make anything out of this but Myriophyllum tenellum Bigelow. What do you think about it? There must be relatively very few submerged herbs with opposite leaves etc. with axillary solitary globose 1 celled semi 4 seeded dehiscent capsules. When I first scanned the description I thought that he might have had a submerged Ammannia or Rotala, but the description doesn't apply as to capsules seeds etc.

I make no comment on his ideas of families when he suggests that this, Pillularia, Salvinia, Lemna, Marsilea etc perhaps form a natural order "akin to the ferns"; but what in the world did he mean by Sivetes? I haven't located the latter name as yet, but I may find it among the numerous new genera proposed by Rafinesque when I get my slips alphabeticized. I throw this slip out of the ferns and fern allies naturally, and it will

be many months before I will

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be many months, perhaps, before I will have to consider its possible reduction. My first published list on Rafinesque will be his new names for the vascular cryptogams, and this will be a short one fortunately. The specialists on the grasses and on the ferns may thank their lucky stars that Rafinesque died before he published his "Agrostikon" and his "Pterikon"!----these he had either in manuscript or in preparation at the time of his death.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill

337.50
675.00
607.50
96

POST CARD



Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Botanical Department
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DEFENSE SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS



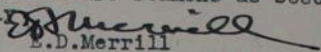


Oct. 6, 1942

Dear Dr. Fogg:

The *Carpanthus axillaris* problem is ~~not~~ solved; it is *Lindernia dubia* var. *inundata* Pennell. There is a drawing of it in the sole existing set of Rafinesque's plates, *N. Y. Bot. Gard.* now in dead storage at Morgantown and thus inaccessible at present; fortunately there is a tracing of this illustration at the Gray Herbarium. He mistook the young buds as capsules and the immature stamens as seeds!

Hastily


E. D. Merrill

from Fagg

October 8, 1942.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain,
Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I regret very much that your recent letter concerning Rafinesque arrived at a time when I was so busy with administrative matters that I found it impossible to get to the Herbarium where it would have been my intention to compare the original description with several plants which I had in mind. Your recent post card, which appears to solve the problem, gives me considerable comfort for I had been a little uneasy about your suggestion concerning *Myriophyllum tenellum*. I agree that the description appears to fit the *Myriophyllum* but that species is so very rare and restricted in this part of the world that I did not feel altogether comfortable about it. In Pennsylvania it is known from only two spots in the extreme northeastern section of the State, and similarly in New Jersey it is restricted to the northern region. So far as I am aware, the areas where the plant occurs are not ones with which Rafinesque was familiar. I am much more willing to accept *Lindernia dubia*, for that is, of course, an ubiquitous species throughout.

I am greatly interested to learn what you were doing on Rafinesque and feel that you are performing a real service to taxonomy in accumulating these hundreds of names. I confess there are times when I wish that all of Rafinesque's work could be expunged and ignored, but since that is not possible, the only logical desideratum is that on which you are working.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

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Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.
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Oct. 12, 1942

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Thanks for your note of Oct. 8. The Rafinesque job I have undertaken is a sort of thankless one, and I can hear the old conservatives saying, perhaps out loud "why bring that up?" . I wouldn't but for the homonym rule ! I suspect that I will "prove" that various Rafinesque generic names antedate those currently used, but this doesn't mean that I advocate their adoption; the various cases can be taken care of by expanding the list of conserved names. There will be a few changes because of the homonym rule. I can see Gleason "objecting"--but Gleason got a *Trillium* named for him because he used a specific name already preoccupied by Rafinesque's use of the same specific name.

About the *Carpanthus*, I'm sure about it's being *Lindernia dubia*; Fernald hedged a bit because there were details in the description that didn't apply; no single species of the eastern United States agrees with the scrappy description in all respects. So "*Carpanthus* Raf. - *Lindernia* All. (prob.)" Got 61 names in the *Pteridophyta* of which Christensen picked up only about 8, and of these in half of the cases the references were not to the original places of publication; and yet only one Rafinesque generic name stands, and only one binomial; and both have been accepted by earlier workers. *Pteretis* Raf. (*Struthiopteris* Willd.; *Matteuccia* Todarø; and *Pterinoides* O.Ktz), and *Equisetum præcaltum* Raf. At this rate I'm really not worried about upsetting nomenclature; but I do realize just how difficult it will be for future monographers to "place" Rafinesquian species that were based on actual specimens; those names (and they are very numerous) that were based wholly on bibliographic references will fall into their places rather easily. Am preparing another paper on a special phase of Rafinesque's work for the special number of *Boissieria* to be issued next spring in honor of Hochreutiner's 70th birth day; i.f. if I can possibly find time to finish it within the next two or three weeks.

Very truly yours


E.D. Merrill