



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DIVISION OF PLANT BIOLOGY

P. O. ADDRESS:
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

December 26, 1950

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry
Department of Botany
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Wherry,

At this time we are distributing sets of herbarium specimens of the *Madiinae* collected principally in the '30s. These include some of the key types used in our crossing experiments and upon which our genetic conclusions are based, as well as many collections that are to be cited in our forthcoming publications on the *Madiinae*. We are sending you by parcel post, as a gift from the Carnegie Institution, a package of 40 sheets for the University of Pennsylvania Herbarium. We hope you will find these of value.

With best personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



David D. Keck

DDK:eb

January 5, 1951

Dr. Jens Clausen,
Carnegie Institution of Washington,
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Clausen:

Dr. E. T. Wherry of our Department of Botany has turned over to me a letter addressed to him on December 26th by Dr. Keck, together with forty herbarium specimens sent to us as a gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington. We are delighted to have this material which will be immediately mounted and incorporated in our Herbarium.

I should like at the same time to raise with you the question as to whether you are desirous of receiving duplicates of eastern plants in exchange. I realize that the nature of your collection is somewhat specialized but if you desire duplicates of any particular group or from any special area in the East, we shall be more than happy to send you material in exchange.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany
and Curator of the Herbarium

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DIVISION OF PLANT BIOLOGY

P. O. ADDRESS:
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STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

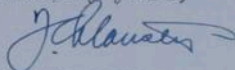
January 9, 1951

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Many thanks for your offer of exchange of eastern plants. We will keep it in mind if something comes up so we need it. As you apparently realize, our herbarium is only a temporary working herbarium of California plants and some of their relatives from out-of-state, and we are trying to keep it down so it does not become an encumbrance. We depend on the established herbaria for our exploratory studies and are therefore happy when we can cooperate with them in making them more useful.

Sincerely yours,



Jens Clausen

March 9, 1951

Dr. David D. Keck, Head Curator,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dave:

I just want to tell you again how delighted we were to have you with us on Tuesday and how much we all enjoyed and profited by your stimulating seminar discussion. On all sides I have heard favorable comments concerning the manner in which you presented your material and I want you to know that you have conferred a very great favor on us by coming here to speak.

I have put in a requisition for a check to cover your expenses, but since we are now converted to IEM procedures, the simple matter of writing a check sometimes takes several days. You will, however, hear from me in the near future.

I had a grand time in New York the day following your appearance here and at the luncheon at the Waldorf saw Robbins, Avery, Paul Sears and B. Y. Morrison. Sorry you could not have been with us. The New York Show is good but really, I believe, leaves something to be desired in the matter of overall effect as compared to our Show here. I do hope that we can all see more of you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Acting Chairman,
Department of Botany

Check sent March 12

P.S. The Daphne we saw at the Show is D. odora.

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November 22, 1954

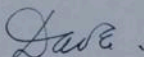
Dr. John M. Fogg
Morris Arboretum
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Jack:

This is to remind you that I am planning to come to Philadelphia on Thursday, December 2, to look over the Pennell manuscript on western Scrophulariaceae at the Academy. If I can get a 9 o'clock train from Pennsylvania Station, I should arrive about 10:15 a.m. I look forward to seeing you at that time.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



David D. Keck
Head Curator

DDK:EG

KECK

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December 7, 1954

Dr. H. Keadclyffe Roberts, Director
Academy of Natural Sciences
Nineteenth and the Parkway
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Dr. Roberts:

As you know, I was in Philadelphia on Thursday, December 2, to see the manuscript materials left by the late Dr. F. W. Pennell. Dr. Smith had things neatly laid out for me to expedite my work. First, I read the statement by Dr. Li as to the condition of these Pennell manuscripts and then turned to the manuscripts which Dr. Li himself had worked over. These Dr. Li considered the most complete, and hence in essentially semi-final form except for the addition of Latin descriptions for the new taxa and a number of mechanical matters. Frankly, I found Dr. Li's re-writing of these manuscripts very unsatisfactory. Actually what he did was to make a typescript of Dr. Pennell's long-hand manuscript. He introduced innumerable major and minor errors into the work due to his unfamiliarity with Dr. Pennell's handwriting, his unfamiliarity with the geography of Western North America, and his total dependence upon Dr. Pennell's autographed notes, many of which Dr. Pennell himself would have been the first to admit required further verification, either from the literature or from herbarium specimens. Taxa which Pennell had tentatively proposed to publish as new to science would be authored by Pennell and Li under Li's editing, although Li had not seen the plants involved at least when they were housed in herbaria other than that of the Academy. I recommend that Li's work on Pennell's manuscripts be disregarded as no real contribution but rather a source of error and confusion.

At noon, when I had about completed going over Dr. Li's work, Dr. Patrick, Dr. Fogg and Dr. Smith came in and we had a conference on the spot at which the following conclusions were reached:

(1) that it was becoming apparent that there was no true manuscript for a monograph on the Scrophulariaceae of the Western United States; (2) that the Pennell notes before us were almost entirely drafts for the large contribution he made to the third volume of Abrams' Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, with only a modicum of original unpublished notes on the Great Basin and intermountain

floras; and (3) that when all these materials were systematized and placed in as nearly final form as possible (following the format of the companion volume on the Eastern Scrophulariaceae), we would still be very far indeed from having the manuscript desired. What we would have would be materials in very large part already published by Dr. Pennell. What we would not have would be any manuscript whatever for the preliminary chapters on the philosophy of the work, the guiding principles, general relationships, importance of special characters, ecology, plant geography, etc., which would compose the most important individual contribution of Dr. Pennell, any distribution maps, which were a principle feature of the earlier volume, and treatments of some of the biggest genera in the family for that area, such as Mimulus, Castilleja and Penstemon. It was obvious that anyone endeavoring to bring this volume on Western Scrophulariaceae to completion would have to start near the beginning and do a large amount of the basic work again. Dr. Pennell had drawn his data ~~too~~ largely from the collections under the Academy's roof, and it would be necessary to do an appreciable amount of work at other herbaria (as was done in the case of the earlier volume) before a definitive monograph could be put in final form.

Our conference also brought out that Dr. Pennell's finest contribution to western Scrophulariaceae had already been published in Abrams' Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States. There is very little beyond that on hand. I could not find a single genus that would warrant publication without extensive amplification, editing, and reconsideration, that would at the same time offer something new to our state of knowledge on these plants. Such a publication would be anticlimactic and possibly unjust to Dr. Pennell, whose ideas had not firmed yet on so many of these matters.

Dr. Pennell was a worker who changed his mind often as he worked with a group of plants, but he left a record on the sheets themselves of the history of his thinking. One could not be sure whether a name he was using in the herbarium would eventually be published in that or some other form if at all. The American herbaria are liberally sprinkled with Pennellian names on sheets that have never seen the light of day altho they were placed on the sheets as long as thirty years ago. Perhaps the majority of these names Dr. Pennell would himself have now renounced, and to publish them for him would be an injustice to Dr. Pennell and a disservice to science.

In the afternoon I went over the Pennell notes in more leisurely fashion. I found they indeed consisted of drafts and re-drafts of portions of manuscript which he was bringing up to date from time to time as new materials came to hand. I found no dates on them to tell one which was the latest. In the form in which they are they represent merely work sheets for the preparation of the magnum opus

on Western Scrophs, which Dr. Pennell had not yet gotten around to writing. They would be valuable to a serious student of the family who could sift out the parts of interest, but to my surprise there is very little original observational material. Most of these notes are concerned with mechanical matters such as descriptions and citations of specimens (90% of these being the Academy's, which is not a broad enough sample). My findings must lead me to recommend forgetting about these Pennell notes. Preparation of a companion volume to that on the Eastern Scrophs would have to be a new task undertaken essentially from the beginning. Of course, one would lean heavily upon Dr. Pennell's published papers and these notes, but there is no framework of Pennell manuscript around which to write it. There doesn't seem to be even a portion of the whole which could be lifted out for worthwhile publication.

Dr. Patrick asked me whether the collections brought together by Dr. Pennell were sufficiently unique to warrant the continuance of a specialist along the same line as Dr. Pennell. I replied that the Academy's collection had been built up firmly around the Scrophulariaceae since 1922, so that it was undoubtedly the best representation of the New World representatives of that family gathered together anywhere during the past 30-year period, but that the deficiencies in the Academy's collections in that family prior to Dr. Pennell's coming could not be made up to any extent, that Dr. Pennell had not taken any appreciable steps in Europe or elsewhere to make them up, and that because of these deficiencies and the importance of historic materials and types in systematic work, this did not make the Academy collection of Scrophulariaceae unique and indispensable in this field. If it should happen that the Academy had a curator who chose to follow along Dr. Pennell's line of interest, that would be a fine way to utilize most fully one of the Academy's outstanding collections and a natural thing to do, but I don't think it should be determinative in selecting a curator and following a program. It is much more important to keep a good man like Dr. Smith, whom you now have, who knows how to maintain and build the collections properly, and give him freedom to follow a research program in keeping with the facilities of the Academy as he sees fit.

I enjoyed coming down to the Academy and working with your staff and Dr. Fogg. Sorry I missed you on this visit.

Thank you for the check.

Very sincerely yours,

David D. Keck
Head Curator

DDK:EG

January 12, 1955

Dr. David D. Keck
Head Curator
New York Botanical Garden
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dave:

I have just received a letter from Jim Marvin, Chairman of the Department of Botany at the University of Vermont. They are looking for a young taxonomist who has just received or who is about to receive his doctorate, for appointment as an Instructor.

I told Jim that I had no one like this in my own present crop of students, but took the liberty of suggesting that he might drop you a line concerning Clifford Bogin (sp.?) whom you mentioned to me a few weeks ago. Marvin did not mention any salary figure and I fear that what he has to offer would not interest your man, but I thought at least this was an opportunity for a beginning position in an academic institution which offers advancement and that it was a chance which should not be overlooked. If Marvin does not write to you and you feel like following this up, it might be well for you to drop him a line telling him more about your man and requesting details concerning salary and possibilities for promotion.

I am leaving next Tuesday for two and a half weeks in Mexico but shall be back here the week of February 7th, and shall probably be running over to see you shortly thereafter.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.
Director

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November 7, 1956

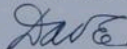
Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Director
The Morris Arboretum
University of Pennsylvania
Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Jack:

I am pleased to learn that you are willing to represent the ASPT on the National Research Council for a three-year term. In due course, you will be officially appointed by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President of the National Academy of Sciences.

I hope you will find this contact a stimulating one.

Yours sincerely,



David D. Keck
Chairman of the Council
American Society of Plant
Taxonomists

DDK:hw

Keck, David

N.S.F.

September 28, 1959

Dr. David D. Keck, Program Director
Systematic Biology
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dave:

I understand from Al Smith that you have been appointed to succeed me as representative of the ASPT on the National Research Council's Division of Biology and Agriculture.

Probably this information has not yet been relayed to Frank Campbell, for I am still receiving communications from him.

I do not recall whether you were present at the meeting in Washington last Spring when I made an impassioned plea to have information concerning the activities of the Council circulated among the member organizations. I like to think that it was at least partly because of my remarks that the mimeographed News and Views has been distributed during recent months.

I sent the first couple of issues to the Secretary of ASPT, asking him to let me know whether he wished to continue receiving these notes for his files. So far I have never had a word in reply.

Since you now represent us, I thought it well to turn this material over to you to be used as you see fit. It seems to me that our members should be informed from time to time of matters which might be of interest to them.

Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

JMF:am

enc.

Heck. D

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October 16, 1959

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
The Morris Arboretum
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue
Philadelphia 18, Penna.

Dear Jack:

Thank you for returning the copy of Vol. 8,
No. 4. We are certainly glad to have it. En-
closed is a check in the amount of \$1.90 to
cover the copy of the Journal plus your postage
on it.

Sincerely

DJR:MCF

KECK

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 14, 1960

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

Dear Jack:

I wish to thank you for your prompt evaluation and rating of the proposal listed below which we recently sent you. As you know, the National Science Foundation attempts to give every proposal for research support the fairest and most objective consideration it can. In this connection the opinions of reviewers who are considered to be unusually competent in the field of specialization are highly significant and given due weight when final action is taken. Accordingly the time and effort you have given to this matter has been very useful and is thoroughly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

David D. Keck

David D. Keck
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

B-8648

Ahmadjian

Declined