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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 BOTANY

November 22, 1933

Dr. J. M. Fogg  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Fogg:

The past week I had occasion to dig into some of our duplicates and while I was at it found time to sort out some for you. Heeding your request transmitted by Mr. Anderson I am sending only Coastal-plain and Piedmont specimens. I made no attempt to pick out any particular things but took them just as they came in the bundles as put away. Am sending sixty-five sheets in return for your specimens received last fall and one hundred extra. I hope you will find the material to your liking.

Although we would welcome almost any plants in return we must, because of our limited housing facilities, concentrate on our own part of the world. Consequently, we would appreciate southern collections more than any others.

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Oosting*  
H. J. Oosting

HJO:IU

Nov. 30. 1933

Dr. H. J. Coating,  
Dept. of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N. C.

Dear Dr. Coating:

I desire gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of a package from you containing 165 specimens of plants from the Southern States. I have looked over this material and find it uniformly interesting. It was good of you to pick out specimens from the area in which we are most interested.

I note your preference for exchange material from the South. Unfortunately, I have not much on hand from this region, since most of our duplicates are from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but I shall begin to lay aside for you plants from the area on which you are concentrating.

My regards, please, to Dr. Blomquist.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

March 23, 1934.

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

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Thank you kindly for your interesting reprints recently received.

At the present time we are fortunate enough to have some part time student help for assistance with mounting and in a letter to Mr. Anderson I suggested that if you had any material for us you might send it along since we might be able to get it mounted. He says that you have been waiting for southern specimens to accumulate. Although we would prefer southern collections any of your coastal or mountain material will be welcome.

Mr. Anderson says that you are quite disappointed with the labelling of the specimens received from us. I realized that the labels were not what might be desired when I sent them. It should be remembered, however, that the majority of the specimens you received were not collected for exchange and many of the earlier collections were not even made with an herbarium in mind. Our herbarium is a development begun only three or four years ago and the more recent collections have been made and labelled with an entirely different viewpoint.

I cannot refrain from mentioning your criticism of Dr. Blomquist's grass nomenclature. Perhaps I misunderstood Mr. Anderson's statement but I judge that you consider his synonymy completely out of date. I feel this criticism is somewhat unfair since there were but a few grasses in the material sent and all of them were old collections. I frankly admit that

Dr. John M. Fogg--2

3/23/34

I know next to nothing about grass nomenclature and I did not have Dr. Blomquist check the identifications before the plants were sent. The criticism should be of me not of him. I feel sure that the sets of grass duplicates which he is gradually arranging will not have these nomenclatorial weaknesses.

*although they were his originally.*

I do not blame you for complaining about our labelling. However, I feel that you haven't realized just what the circumstances are and that a little explanation might clarify things a bit. Our herbarium has grown from practically nothing to approximately 25,000 mounted specimens in about four years. We have had absolutely no herbarium assistance and the mechanical routine work has absorbed the major part of our time. Things are beginning to level off somewhat now and, given a little time, we can give more attention to details.

Sincerely,

*Henry J. Oosting.*

Henry J. Oosting

fm

*P.S. - If I have misunderstood your statements through some fault of Anderson's please twist his neck for me since he is out of reach. If I have understood correctly I hope this helps you to see our side of the situation.*

*H.J.O.*

Dr. H. J. Oosting,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N. C.

May 29, 1934.

Dear Dr. Oosting:

There is going forward to you a package containing 180 specimens in continuation of our exchange agreement. This shipment is a mixed lot, including material from our local area, a few specimens from New York and New England, a few from Delaware and a small set - the third and last - of my own plants from North Carolina. I am sorry not to be able to send you more southern plants but hope you will find these of some value. I regret, too, having taken so long to get this lot into your hands, but I have had eleven extra workers this spring - thanks to the C.W.A. - I it has taken ~~every~~ every minute of my time to keep them all busy.

I quite appreciate what you say in your letter of March 23rd concerning specimens and labels. We all become more critical and exacting as time goes on, and I assure you that I am far from proud of some of my efforts of a few years ago. My present feeling is that we can not very well put too much on label in the way of precise locality, conditions of growth, ephemeral notations - such as color of corolla, etc. - and while I do not always succeed in doing it, I think I try a little harder to do so each year.

With reference to my criticism of your grass nomenclature, let me say that Anderson did not entirely understand the point. What happened was that he heard me express surprise that you should be calling our Candle Rush Juncus effusus when Fernald has shown that true J. effusus does not occur in this country, but is represented by 5 or 6 well marked varieties. Similarly with Lycopodium complanatum, where I feel sure that your North Carolina form is var. flabelliforme. But certainly these are not "grasses" and Lewis has since admitted that he was speaking rather broadly!

I hope that you will keep us in mind this season and let us have whatever you can in the way of duplicates from N. C. or anywhere else. For my part, I shall try to get together a good series from New Jersey and Delaware, which I think will interest more than material to the north.

Many thanks for your reprints which I greatly enjoyed and am glad to have for my files.

Sincerely,

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

June 1, 1934.

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

Dear Dr. Fogg:

The package of exchange specimens arrived and a hurried examination showed several things of interest. Thanks especially for the North Carolina collections and for the numerous sedges.

Our duplicates are almost completely gone but by fall we should have some Piedmont and Coastal Plain plants for you.

Please excuse the abruptness of this note. Preparation for teaching in the mountains which begins next week and all the minor details which must be attended to preceding a summer's absence makes it necessary to make the most of every minute.

Sincerely,

*Henry J. Costing*  
Henry J. Costing

fm

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

September 21, 1934.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,  
Department of Botany,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

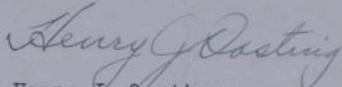
Dear Dr. Fogg:

I am sending a package of 100 exchange specimens. Unfortunately only a few Coastal and Piedmont duplicates have accumulated this summer. The package contains what was available from eastern North Carolina, a miscellaneous collection of northern aquatics in which I thought you might be interested and a few N. C. mountain specimens to fill out an even hundred.

In the near future Dr. Blomquist will have several sets of N. C. grasses ready for distribution. Are you interested? Some are already spoken for but not all.

I could have sent about 200 western North Carolina sheets collected this summer but assume that as you indicated some time ago you do not care particularly for them.

Sincerely,



Henry J. Gosting

HJO:fm

Sept. 26, 1934.

Dr. Henry J. Oosting,  
Department of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N.C.

Dear Dr. Oosting:

I was delighted to receive your package of 100 specimens which arrived safely and are already on their way to the mounter. I greatly enjoyed looking over these plants and was particularly pleased with your series of Potamogetons; our series of Pondweeds needs considerable strengthening.

If it is not too late, I should certainly like to speak for one of Dr. Blomquist's sets of North Carolina grasses. I know of his interest in this group and shall look forward to seeing his series.

It is true, as I have already told you, that we are particularly interested here in the southern coastal plain, but this does not mean that I am not very eager to procure material from all of the southern states east of the Mississippi. The very fact that the coastal plain is a far less definite province in the south than it is northward means that any comparison of austro-riparian forms requires a series extending way up onto the Piedmont or even farther. By all means, let me have all the material you can spare from the western section of the state.

I have had a pretty good season - 1500 numbers so far - and shall be able to repay you when I get around to the job of naming and labeling.

Sincerely yours,

January 7, 1935.

Dr. H. J. Oosting,  
Dept. of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N. C.

Dear Dr. Oosting:

There is going forward to you, by parcel post, a package containing 225 herbarium specimens, in continuation of our exchange relations with Duke University.

The present lot is a mixed one, including material from several sources. We have not many southern duplicates, but I have sent you all that I could muster. I do not believe that I ever sent you before a set of Dr. J. M. Macfarlane's southern plants. If, by any chance, I did, please let me know and I shall replace those included in the present shipment with something else.

We are accomplishing a great deal here this year in the way of mounting and herbarium organization. I have at present 17 extra helpers going full tilt and it begins to look as though we might actually get caught up in our back mounting work for the first time in history!

I am sorry not to have been able to get to Pittsburgh, but as most of my people wanted to work straight thru the holidays I felt that I had to stay here to keep them busy.

Hoping that the package of plants may contain some few things of interest to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

January 14, 1935.

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

Dear Doctor Fogg:

I am sending a package of 185 plants to apply on our exchange. This leaves us somewhat in arrears. However, these are about all the specimens we have available at present which do not duplicate those already sent. Since you indicated that you are getting caught up on mounting I thought it best to send them along now rather than wait until more accumulated.

We too are making good use of F.E.R.A. help in the herbarium. Your plants which arrived last week are already being mounted so you see we are catching up fast on the mounting end of the work. My chief concern right now is with more cases and a place to put them.

There had been no Macfarlane plants in your previous shipments. Thank you for sorting out these southern collections for us.

Sincerely

*Henry J. Oosting*  
Henry J. Oosting

HJO:fm

165	65
100	180
185	225
<hr/>	<hr/>
450	470

January 19, 1935.

Dr. H.J. Coasting,  
Dept. of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N.C.

Dear Dr. Coasting:

The package of 135 specimens arrived promptly and in good condition. Many thanks for thinking of us at this time.

I greatly enjoyed going over these plants, which included many interesting records. Most of the localities represented were decidedly acceptable. Anderson had given us a set of his Junalaska specimens but there was practically no duplication in those of your own which you sent us.

I am very eager to obtain more material from South Carolina and Georgia, and was grateful for the few things from there which you sent. I should appreciate it if you would keep us in mind in this connection if you receive further duplicates from those states. Needless to say, we are still anxious to have all the North Carolina material which you can furnish.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

May 10, 1935

Dr. H. J. Costing,  
Dept. of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, N. C.

Dear Dr. Costing:

Please accept this belated acknowledgment of the package of 80 specimens received from you some time ago in exchange. I have been unusually busy in the field this spring, both on class trips and with my own work, and the size of the heap of unanswered correspondence on my desk is exceeded only by the size of several large presses full of wet specimens, even now calling to have their soggy driers replaced by fresh ones.

I was particularly pleased with the splendid series of Cyperus in your last lot, also with the few things from South Carolina, whence we are much in need of material.

I shall probably have a small shipment ready for you soon, to be followed by a goodly series next Autumn, when the summer's collectings are in. Best wishes for the coming season.

Sincerely,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

OOSTING, H. J.

June 20, 1940.

Dr. H. J. Oosting,  
Department of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, North Carolina.

Dear Oosting:

A thousand thanks for the interesting series of reprints which you have sent me over a period of some months, and which I have negligently failed to acknowledge.

You are doing some extremely interesting work, and I was particularly pleased with your paper on viable seeds. I hope before long to send you a small folder of my own writings.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.  
Assistant Professor of Botany

JMF/LV.

November 14, 1941.

Dr. H. J. Coasting,  
Department of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, North Carolina.

Dear Coasting:

Thank you for sending me the reprint of your paper on "The Plants of the Calcareous Rock Outcrops in North Carolina." I read this with interest when it appeared in Torreya and am glad to have a separate for my files.

In looking through your list of species which occur on the limey outcrops, one thing which impresses me is the omission of certain species which are regular inhabitants of such places in seemingly similar situations in southwestern Virginia, where I have worked for several summers. To mention only a few, I should say that the following occur on practically every calcareous exposure in Giles, Craig and Bland Counties:

*Fellaea glabella*  
*Thuja occidentalis*  
*Quercus Muhlenbergii*  
*Ptelea trifoliata*  
*Zanthoxylum americanum*  
*Euphorbia commutata*  
*Rhus canadensis*  
*Lithospermum hispidissimum*  
*Solidago rigida*  
*Aster oblongifolius*

It may be, of course, that not all of these species occur in your area, although I believe all of them range south of Virginia. I would be interested to know what your reaction is to this list and what explanation you can offer for the fact that these plants which constitute a regular assemblage in such areas, as I know them, should be entirely lacking from the region which you have studied.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

Calcephites

Fogg to Oosting 14-XI-1941

1. *Pellaea glabella* \*
2. *Thuja occidentalis*
7. *Arisaema dracontium* \*
- 2? *Trillium sessile* \*
- 3 *Quercus muhlenbergii* \*
- 6 *Euphorbia commutata* \*
- 7 *Rhus canadensis* \*
- 5 *Zanthoxylum americanum* (S. G. Va. No. e. Kan.)
- Pachyptera Gaultii* no.
- 4 *Ptelea trifoliata* \*
7. *Hybanthus concolor* \*
- 8 *Lithospermum dipidissini* (Carolin) <sup>sermum</sup> \*
- 9 *Solidago rigida* \*
- 10 *Aster oblongifolius* \*

*Cyrtop. bulbif.*  
*Asplenium resiliens*  
 " *cryptolepis*  
*Polygala Senega*

from Oosting

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA  
November 21, 1941.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

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

Dear Fogg:

I was interested in your comments regarding species growing on calcareous outcrop\* in Virginia. Included among the species you mention are some which apparently do not occur in North Carolina and some which have here no calcareous affinities.

Pellaea glabella has not yet been found in the state.

Thuja occidentalis is reported from two localities in the mountains but I've never seen a specimen and Dr. Blomquist has spent some time searching for it without success.

Quercus Muhlenbergii - we have one collection (Blomquist) from Wilkes County (mountains). It's recent and Blomquist would have called my attention to the limestone had it been present.

Ptelea trifoliata I believe is rare if present in the state. We have one North Carolina specimen of Schallert's which is marked simply W-S (Winston-Salem) and this suggests to me that he probably took it from a cultivated plant.

We have no North Carolina records of Zanthoxylum americanum, Euphorbia commutata, or Solidago rigida.

Rhus canadensis we have from a number of stations none of which are calcareous.

Aster oblongifolius - we have one North Carolina specimen from coastal pineland.

Lithospermum hispidissimum - I presume this is what we have called Onosmodium hispidissimum. Of this we have several collections, none from calcareous habitats.

Dr. Fogg (2)

What this all means I don't know. When Anderson and I started this we thought we'd extend ranges for dozens of species. (He's writing up the mosses now). To be sure a number of new pteridophyte records resulted but nothing like we anticipated. Several times we were sure we'd found Pellaea glabella but we were always wrong.

We've heard of several more limestone localities since we quit hunting. Someday we'll get to them but I don't believe they'll change the list of vascular plants much. Some of the species characteristic of outcrops in Virginia and Tennessee are here quite regularly, some don't seem to get over the state line or if they do they're not associated with limestone.

Several of our stations are widely separated from each other and all are far separated from the outcrops in Virginia and Tennessee which are usually much more extensive, more frequent, and less widely spaced.

Obviously we need more observations - if we can find the stations to observe. It would also be desirable to revisit and comb the stations we've seen, since most of them we've worked but once. I don't know that the information on vascular plants is of any particular significance, at least in its present state. It is interesting though and somebody may be able to add to it and eventually fill out some kind of story.

Junaluska summer school has been discontinued and we don't get to the mountains much now. Considering this, it seemed best to write up what information we'd accumulated. I guess it was worthwhile for it set a number of people to thinking. At least it was good fun doing the field work and I hope to follow it further someday.

Congratulations on your appointment to the deanship. I trust that executive responsibilities will not divorce you entirely from botanical interests.

As I recall you pointed out a considerable pile of exchange specimens earmarked for Duke when I visited at the herbarium last year. Might they be sent along some day?

Sincerely,

*Henry J. Costing*  
Henry J. Costing.

HJO:w

November 20, 1942.

Dr. Henry J. Costing,  
Department of Botany,  
Duke University,  
Durham, North Carolina.

Dear Costing:

I was delighted to receive the copy of your paper on "Plant Communities of the North Carolina Piedmont." This impresses me as being a very comprehensive and critical compendium and although I have only dipped into it in spots, I am looking forward to the opportunity of sitting down with it for a most serious study. It is good to have this continued evidence of your research activities and I hope that you will find it possible to keep on with such work.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

November 14, 1956

Dr. J. M. Fogg  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

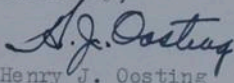
At the end of this academic year Dr. H. L. Blomquist will have reached retirement age. We are, therefore, in search of a taxonomist to join our staff next fall and I am writing to you for any advice or suggestions you can give us to help find the right person.

Responsibilities will include teaching, both undergraduate and graduate, with no more than 12 contact hours per week, and curatorship of the herbarium with assistance provided. We hope the appointment can be made at assistant professor level but do not rule out consideration of an associate professor.

It is our hope that we may find a man whose initiative, imagination and accomplishment in research would attract graduate students and qualify him to direct their work. We are open-minded as to his research interests but we do feel strongly that he should know plants and have an appreciation of an herbarium. Finally, but not of least importance, the man should have a demonstrated effectiveness in working with undergraduates and a personality that would fit well in a congenial-closely-knit group such as ours.

We are, obviously, trying to capitalize on your knowledge of the field and of promising younger men who have come to your attention. Any suggestions you could give us would be much appreciated but a short list of those you feel most merit our consideration, together with a thumb-nail appraisal would be tremendously useful. The intention is to follow up such suggestions immediately to determine the possible interest and special qualifications of those who seem most nearly to fit our hopes.

Sincerely,



Henry J. Oosting  
Chairman

HJC:ff

November 26, 1956

Dr. Henry J. Coosting, Chairman  
Department of Botany  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Coosting:

I have given considerable thought to your letter of November 14th in which you ask for suggestions concerning the forthcoming vacancy in your department.

Of the crop of students who have taken their doctor's degrees with me in recent years there seems to be no one who would really merit consideration. The older and really good ones like McVaugh and Fosberg are already well established and would hardly be attracted by an assistant or even associate professorship. Bob Platt is a possibility, although he is, as you know, more of an ecologist than a taxonomist. Also I doubt whether you could get him.

Among the younger men there is Bob Schaeffer, but although a fairly good research man Bob is not an inspiring teacher and I would hesitate to recommend him. He is at present tucked away in a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania and that is probably just about where he belongs. Dick Pohl is one of my best of the post-war group, but he is already full professor at Iowa State. I happen to know that he wants to leave there, but it would take a good salary to pry him loose. Also, he hankers to move west rather than east.

I take it you will not consider a woman, so there is no point in telling you about Polly Miller - extremely able; good teacher (assisted me in Taxonomy lab. for three years); Ph.D. last June and now at Wheaton College.

I am wondering if you would care to think about Art Cronquist at the New York Botanical Garden. Art has told me in considerable confidence that he would be willing to move and would definitely consider a teaching job. I don't know what he makes, but he is a pretty stimulating person and might be worth keeping in mind.

Sorry not to be more helpful, but that's the situation as I know it. If you care to follow up any of these leads I shall be glad to write in greater detail about any or all of them.

Best wishes and warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.  
Director

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

November 28, 1956

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

Dear Dr. Fogg:

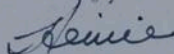
Your good letter regarding our taxonomy situation is much appreciated. Your evaluation of our circumstances is correct and your honest appraisal of several of your people in terms of these circumstances is just what I expected we'd get from you.

If we were to make an upper level appointment we would have much less trouble compiling a list of those we'd like to have. Regardless, we are convinced that it is for the good of the department to hire a young man who is on the way up. We've hired two associate professors in the past 3 years and we can't afford to become top heavy. Maybe we'll have to come to it but I hope not. Should it be necessary, your suggestions would be of real value and we're glad to have them even though they may seem not to help us at the moment.

You'll be interested to know that we have given thought to Cronquist. He certainly would not detract from the prestige of the department. Nevertheless, I'm dubious of what his influence would be within the department. We still look upon undergraduate teaching as our bread and butter. The new man would teach in the general course, as do we all. We have some strong-willed people to contend with now. What would an avowed iconoclast do to such a set-up? We can't afford a person who is hired for his research alone and I don't mean this in dollars and cents.

Should you have further advice or suggestions, please don't hesitate to write again. All this will not be settled over night. Thanks again for the time and thought you've given us.

Sincerely,



Henry J. Costing

HJO:ff

Encl.

Duke University  
DURHAM  
NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

March 25, 1957

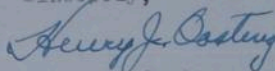
Dr. John M. Fogg  
Department of Botany  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

We are pleased to be able to announce that Dr. Robert L. Wilbur has accepted our taxonomy position for next September.

Please accept our thanks again for the assistance and advice you gave us in screening likely candidates. We had such an excellent group of applicants that our choice was not an easy one.

Sincerely,



Henry J. Costing  
Chairman

HJO/ff