



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

Statement on harmful and offensive content

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

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.

RICKETT, H. W.

BULLETIN
TORREYA
MEMOIRS

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CARD INDEX TO AMERICAN
BOTANICAL LITERATURE

BERNARD O. DODGE
PRESIDENT

HAROLD W. RICKETT
EDITOR

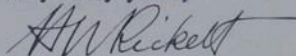
April 12, 1940.

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

Dear Doctor Fogg:

The enclosed document, which I am sending to a number
of botanists, explains itself. I shall appreciate any help you
can give me.

Very truly yours,



H. W. Rickett
Editor

LK:HWR
Enc.

Articles printed in the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club should in general conform to a uniform style. Uniformity, besides enhancing general appearance, results in economy and clarity. Departures from the general style may be permitted, but only if good reasons can be shown for special treatment.

Such a policy is especially desirable for taxonomic papers. cursory perusal of recent numbers of botanical journals which print such papers discloses a lack of uniformity even within the covers of one journal; and if there are reasons for such variation, they are not apparent.

Some of the problems are indicated below. The editor would appreciate your comments and an expression of your preferences, if any.

Names of species in a taxonomic paper are commonly printed in capitals-and-small-capitals, novelties in bold-face upper-and-lower-case. A few periodicals use bold-face for every entry, new or old. This makes a neater page and facilitates rapid scanning of the species treated; but makes no provision for emphasis upon new names save by the use of such words as "sp. nov."

Current usage almost always italicizes both generic and specific names in the text or in synonymy.

The manner of indention of species-names varies greatly. The more important American journals use the three types represented on p. 3: 1, name centered in a separate line; 2, name at margin, descriptive matter indented as a paragraph below it; 3, name indented and beginning paragraph of descriptive matter. Various combinations of these are possible. The synonymy may or may not have a paragraph to itself; so also the description, and the citations of specimens.

Too great uniformity in paragraphing is undesirable. A long entry may best be broken into paragraphs, a short one run together. long and complex synonymy may have a paragraph to itself, brief citations be run in with name and description. The choice of styles must necessarily reckon also with cost; i.e., if the absolutely best is also the most costly, the next best becomes a better choice. On this basis type 1 is almost out of the question.

As for capitalization of the specific epithet, most journals appear to be trying to follow the recommendations of the International Rules. These recommendations are rarely, if ever, consistently followed, and, in the opinion of the writer, never will be. They would lead to Verbena Urticifolia, Polypodium Polytrichoides, Ascidium Anthericicola, and the like; and, on the other hand, writers on fungi who now use the old American code would have to learn to write Caeoma labiaterum and Uromyces hybridi. The number of capitals would be greater than those actually used at the present time; but some now used would disappear. The editor would welcome an expression of feeling on the proposal to join the few journals which regularly decapitalize all specific epithets.

large
cap:
plain.

The title of an article appears in large capitals, capitals, small capitals or upper-and-lower-case, either bold-face or plain. Is there any choice?

cf
Rhodes

Citations of geographic names at present are mostly unsystematized; names of states, provinces, countries, towns, mountains, follow each other almost at random, either before or after the citation of a specimen. Best usage seems to be to place the main geographic name first in small capitals, followed by other place-names in order of decreasing size, with the specimen last. The editor would welcome suggestions, especially for punctuation.

Authors' names in "literature cited" are bold-face or plain, capitals or upper-and-lower-case. The practice in articles in the Bulletin might well conform to that of the Index to Botanical Literature, so well established by length of time that one would hesitate to change it materially. Authors may be cited by date or by a number; either seems acceptable.

Is there any preference for any particular way of designating headings and subheadings within the text?

"Fig.2" in upper-and-lower-case or capitals-and-small-capitals, is universal below the figure. Most journals spell out "figure" with a small initial when it appears in the text, but abbreviate it to "fig." when used in parentheses. Table headings are in italics or small capitals.

1. Pholistoma auritum (Lindley) Lilja

Nemophila aurita Lindley, Bot. Reg. 19: 1601. 1833. Pholistoma auritum Lilja in Lindblom Bot. Not. 40. 1839. Viticella aurita Macbride, Cont. Gray Herb. 59: 29. 1919.

Foliage green; stems 2-12 dm. long, sparingly hispidulous; blades of the cotyledons 8-10 mm. in diameter; lower leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 8-15 cm. long, 2-8 cm. broad, acuminate at apex, cordate at base, divisions

OK

2. Pholistoma auritum (Lindley) Lilja in Lindblom Bot. Not. 40. 1839. Nemophila aurita Lindley, Bot. Reg. 19: 1601. 1833. Viticella aurita Macbride, Cont. Gray Herb. 59: 29. 1919.

Foliage green; stems 2-12 dm. long, sparingly hispidulous; blades of the cotyledons 8-10 mm. in diameter; lower leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 8-15 cm. long, 2-8 cm. broad, acuminate at apex, cordate at base, divisions

2. Pholistoma auritum (Lindley) Lilja.

Nemophila aurita Lindley, Bot. Reg. 19: 1601. 1833. Viticella aurita Macbride, Cont. Gray Herb. 59: 29. 1919.

Foliage green; stems 2-12 dm. long, sparingly hispidulous; blades of the cotyledons 8-10 mm. in diameter; lower leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 8-15 cm. long, 2-8 cm. broad, acuminate at apex, cordate at base, divisions

3. Pholistoma auritum (Lindley) Lilja. Nemophila aurita Lindley, Bot. Reg. 19: 1601. 1833. Viticella aurita Macbride, Cont. Gray Herb. 59: 29. 1919.

Foliage green; stems 2-12 dm; long, sparingly hispidulous; blades of the cotyledons 8-10 mm. in diameter; lower leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 8-15 cm. long, 2-8 cm. broad, acuminate at apex, cordate at base, divisions

3. Pholistoma auritum (Lindley) Lilja. Nemophila aurita Lindley, Bot. Reg. 19: 1601. 1833. Viticella aurita Macbride, Cont. Gray Herb. 59: 29. 1919. Foliage green; stems 2-12 dm. long, sparingly hispidulous; blades of the cotyledons 18-10 mm. in diameter; lower leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, 8-15 cm. long, 2-8 cm. broad, acuminate at apex, cordate at base, divisions 7-13, oblong or

April 29, 1940.

Dr. H. W. Rickett, Editor,
The Torrey Botanical Club,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I am sorry to have taken so long to answer your letter of April 12 with its request for reactions in the matter of editorial policy for the Torrey Bulletin. Here at last, for what they are worth, are my own ideas on the subject.

I favor the use of bold-face letters only for novelties. It seems to me that to use it for all citations makes the work of the bibliographer extremely difficult and quite obscures the publication of new species, varieties, forms, etc.

The use of italics for generic and specific names which appear in the text or in synonymy, appears to me in keeping with the best editorial practice.

The matter of citation of specific names appears to me very largely a matter best conditioned by cost. On the whole, I think I should favor your example No. 2a as it seems to me that this achieves clarity as well as economy. No. 3 might be cheaper but I think is a little harder to read.

I am unalterably opposed to the decapitalization of specific names in those cases where they represent personal commemoratives or generic names used as substantives. In other words, I am one of those who endeavor conscientiously to follow the International Rules, believing that in this way only can world-wide uniformity be achieved. There is nothing in the rules that would require us to capitalize such names as urticaefolia and polypodioides, since they are adjectives. On the other hand to use small letters in such specific epithets as Pinus Strobus and Myrica Gale, seems to me a thoroughly reprehensible practice. If strobus is spelled with a small "s" some one may come along in the future and change it to stroba, feeling that it is an adjective which should be made feminine. I am prepared to believe that some day the International Rules may be modified in this respect

Dr. H. W. Rickett...#2...4/29/40

but in the meantime let us all follow the same provisions and not subject ourselves to the criticism of being split into separate camps.

I favor the printing of titles of articles in plain large capitals, although this too, it seems to me, is purely a matter of personal choice not influenced by expediency.

In the matter of citing geographic names I would strongly advocate the procedure followed in Rhodora. Many of us have our specimens arranged in our herbaria according to the excellent system adopted at the Gray Herbarium and it seems to me that arrangement and spelling of localities used in Rhodora, even the matter of punctuation, would again be in keeping with the desire for wide-spread uniformity. Concerning the citation of authors' names, it would seem to me advisable to conform to the practice already in use in the index of botanical literature.

I should like to see the headings and sub-headings within the text printed in small plain capitals. This would be consonant with the form of the title which would be in large plain caps.

Hoping that these comments may be of some value to you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

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

JMF:H

September 18, 1942.

Dr. Harold W. Rickett, Editor,
Bulletin, Torrey Botanical Club,
New York Botanical Gardens,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I am submitting a manuscript for my colleague, Dr. L. C. Wheeler, who is well known for his studies on the Euphorbiaceae. Since the point which Dr. Wheeler desires to emphasize in this paper is an important one, I feel that it should be given an opportunity to appear in the pages of the Torrey Bulletin where it will enjoy a wide circulation among publishing taxonomists. Since Dr. Wheeler is not a member of the Torrey Club, I take pleasure in transmitting this article with my strongest recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

November 17, 1943.

Dr. Harold W. Rickett,
c/o New York Botanical Gardens,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I have been requested to inquire whether you would consider coming to Philadelphia to lecture to the classes in Botany at the Barnes Arboretum early in December. The lecture would be held at ten-thirty on a Tuesday morning, and Mrs. Barnes, the Director of the Arboretum, is offering an honorarium of twenty-five dollars in addition to travelling expenses. The lecture would be of a semi-popular nature to a group of people who had some background of knowledge of plants and might deal with your field experiences in some part of the world with which you are particularly familiar. It would be entirely possible for you to leave New York by an eight o'clock train, arriving at Thirtieth Street Station about nine-thirty and changing there to a Main Line train to Merion, where you would be met at the station.

The dates which are open are December 7th and 14th. I am also writing to Dr. Maguire offering him these same dates, so that if you and he will confer on this matter it may be that you can agree on alternate dates. I hope very much that both of you can arrange to come and shall look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

PRESIDENT
JOSEPH R. SWAN

VICE-PRESIDENTS
HENRY DEF. BALDWIN
JOHN L. MERRILL

TREASURER
ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

November 26, 1943.

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

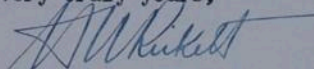
Dear Doctor Fogg:

I hope I have not inconvenienced you by delaying my answer to your letter of November 17. Before I could reply definitely it was necessary to consult the Director, who happened to be away at the time.

While I appreciate greatly the honor of being asked to contribute to the Barnes lectures, my ignorance of the project is such that I am not sure whether I should be able to offer anything acceptable. In recent years my botanical activities have been almost entirely bibliographic and historical. I have recently been in Mexico, but there also my work was of the same kind rather than with the vegetation itself. I doubt very much whether any aspects of the story of botany, such as the travels of Sesse and Mociño, would interest your audience. I have, however, been interested in recent years in the history of gardens and have from time to time lectured on gardens in Ancient Egypt, of classical times, and of Medieval Europe. On the basis of my recent experience, I could probably get up something on ancient gardens of Mexico. I have some fairly good lantern slides illustrating these subjects except for the last.

Perhaps you will be so good as to write me whether any of the subjects I have indicated would be worth while to your audiences. If they are not, please do not hesitate to say so. If you still want me to come I could manage it on December 7.

Very truly yours,



H. W. Rickett
Bibliographer

HWR:AGR

November 30, 1943.

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

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I have discussed with Mrs. Barnes the suggestion made in your recent letter for your lecture at the Barnes Arboretum on Tuesday, December 7th. Mrs. Barnes feels that a discussion of ancient gardens, with perhaps some reference to Mexico, would be extremely acceptable and has asked me to inform you that she is placing a notice to this effect on the bulletin board.

As I believe I told you earlier, it is entirely possible for you to come from New York on the 8 o'clock train, changing at the Thirtieth Street Station to a Main Line local, leaving at 9:48, which would get you to Merion well before 10:30, the time scheduled for the lecture.

If, on the other hand, you prefer to come to Philadelphia the night before and stop at a hotel, please let me know and I shall try to make a reservation for you. I hope very much that my own schedule will permit me to be present on the 7th to hear your lecture.

Sincerely yours,

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

PRESIDENT
JOSEPH R. SWAN

VICE-PRESIDENTS
HENRY DEF. BALDWIN
JOHN L. MERRILL

TREASURER
ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

December 2, 1943.

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

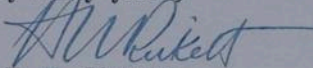
Dear Doctor Fogg:

Thank you for your letter. I will get together material for the lecture on ancient gardens as you suggest. I will bring a box of slides. Although you did not mention this point, I assume that a projector is available and that slides are desirable.

I will follow your suggestion of taking the 8 o'clock train Tuesday morning from New York, changing at the Thirtieth Street Station to a local for Merion. In your first letter you said I would be met at Merion and I trust this arrangement will be made.

If there is time for you to get off a note to me before I start, I should appreciate some word on the number in the class and whether or not they are primarily interested in gardens or not. This would influence the orientation of my remarks.

Very truly yours,



H. W. Rickett
Bibliographer

HWR:AGR

February 6, 1947

W.
Dr. H. V. Rickett,
The New York Botanical Garden,
New York 58, New York.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I understand from Mr. John C. Wister that you have agreed to undertake the revision of the botanical part of the Collier Encyclopedia. I am glad that someone has finally agreed to do this for I think it is a worthwhile undertaking. I considered the matter myself some months ago but had to decline because of the pressure of administrative and other duties here.

In going through my files I have just discovered that I still have a few of the tear sheets forwarded to me by Mr. Barry last August when I had this matter under consideration. Since I had already returned a much larger batch of sheets, which are probably now in your hands, I am now forwarding under separate cover the remainder so that your files may be complete.

With best wishes for success, I am

Sincerely yours,

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

The New York Botanical Garden
New York 58, N.Y.

Jan. 11, 1949

Dear Fellow-Taxonomist:

The enclosed sheets are sent to you as a subscriber to *Brittonia*.

As you will see, they are reprinted pages from back issues, chosen to illustrate the principal kinds of text that occur in *Brittonia*: description, citation, and keys.

They are printed by photo-offset from typewritten copy. This method, if adopted for the forthcoming volume, would result in a considerable saving in the cost of production. Printing by conventional methods is (with recent and coming increases) so expensive as to necessitate a delayed program of publication, or possibly an increase in subscription rates.

Whether the new method is adopted or not depends largely on the response of subscribers. We want to know if you, as a subscriber, consider the appearance of these pages satisfactory in general appearance, and sufficiently legible, or whether you would prefer to continue letterpress printing even at the cost of slower publication and possibly increased subscription price.

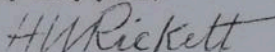
In looking them over carefully, please disregard typographical errors. To save time, these pages were not "proofed" by author or editor. If the process is adopted, each author will see "proof" and can correct errors in the usual way. Moreover, the printer's proofreader is one who has had long experience in dealing with scientific material, so that no trouble is anticipated in detecting errors and making corrections. The only difference in this respect between this method and conventional printing is that it may be more costly to make insertions or extensive alterations in proof; for such changes the author, of course, is responsible.

The paper used in making the samples is not necessarily that which would be used in printing. We could have any quality of paper we wanted.

The usual methods of illustration may be used. Half-tones are made without a screen and are often better than those produced by letterpress.

I hope that you will let me know at once, on the enclosed postcard, your verdict on the desirability of producing *Brittonia* by this method. If you have more to say than will go easily on a card, please write me a letter. In any case, please do not delay!

Very truly yours,



H. W. Rickett
Editor

HWR:md

Rickett to Fellow Taxonomist
11-2-1949
Rickett to Fellow
Taxonomist
11-2-1949

plant differs in the small leaflets more pubescent below, the sessile, terminal leaflet, shorter petioles, the vernicose, purple inflorescence, and the other minor characters. Barkley believes the vernicose nature of the inflorescence to be caused by galls, but none were observed on the two sets of specimens. The plant was rare in the mountain and by its more strict habit of branching and the densely tomentose leaves was immediately recognized as differing from the more widely distributed *S. allophyloides*. Also it apparently occupies higher elevations than the latter.

RHAMNACEAE

Rhamnus surotatensis Gentry, sp. nov.

Frutex 1-1.5 m. altus; ramulis brunneis; foliis petiolatis, coriaceis, 5-10 cm. longis, 2.5-4 cm. latis, anguste ovatis vel lanceolatis, acuminatis, glabris vel pubescentibus, integris; petiolis 1 cm. longis, nervis validis, pinnatis, 8-11-jugis; floribus solitaribus vel geminatis; pedicellis puberulentibus, 5-8 mm. longis; fructu globoso, 6 mm. longo, 7 mm. diam., sparse puberulenti vel glabrato.

Spreading, leafy, sclerophyllous shrub 1-1.5 m. high, colonial; branches chocolate-brown, glabrous or pubescent, wrinkled; leaves alternate, sparsely or densely pubescent, blades narrowly ovate or lanceolate, acuminate, base obtuse sometimes slightly decurrent, 5-10 cm. long, 2.5-4 cm. wide, entire or rarely remotely serrulate, sclerophyllous, venation pinnate, midvein strong, laterals 8-11 on each side; petioles mostly 1 cm. long, sparsely or densely pubescent; flowers single or geminate in the leaf axils, apparently apetalous; pedicels 5 to 8 mm. long, glabrous or pubescent; calyx lobes connate to near the tips, forming a cap over the ovary, 1-2 mm. long, densely strigillose; ovary pilose below around the base, glabrous apically; stigma 0.5 to 1 mm. long; fruit tricoccus, sparsely pubescent or glabrate, globose, 6 mm. high, 7 mm. diam. transversely near apex.

TYPE: Gentry 6236, Ocurahui, Sierra Surotato, Sinaloa, Mexico, Sept. 1-10, 1941, in herb. Univ. Mich. Duplicates in herb. Univ. Ariz., Mo. Bot. Gard., Harvard Univ., N. Y. Bot. Gard., Stanford Univ., N. Y. Bot. Gard., Stanford Univ., Inst. Biol. Mex., Gentry.

The series of 11 sheets represented by the type number was collected at random from two shrubs out of a colony along a canyon bottom in deep rocky soil marginal to a stream. One shrub is glabrous, the other pubescent, densely so on young growth. No other essential differences are apparent. This plant is related to *R. capraefolia* Schlecht., to which it keys in Wolf's monograph of the genus (Rn. Sta. Ana Bot. Gard. Monog. No. 1. 1938), but differs in the smaller non-serrulate leaves, the 1-3-flowered inflorescences (instead of 10-15-flowered), smaller flowers, and the ovary glabrous at the apex. The herbarium specimens resemble those of the variable *R. betulaeifolia* Greene, but that species has pedunculate umbels, larger and glabrous fruits.

VITACEAE

Cissus brevicaulis Gentry, sp. nov.

Herba perennis nonvinea erecta 3-5 dm. alta, monopoda, lignea ad basim; circhi nullis; cauli brunneo-pustulato crispo-tomentoso; foliis petiolatis, laminis orthogono-oblongis acuminatis 6-9 cm. longis, 4-7 cm. latis, ad basim truncatis, pubescentibus; petiolo 1-2 cm. longo; inflorescentia ad folia superiora opposita; pedunculo pubescenti 10-12 mm. longo, bracteato ad apicem; petalis 4 viridis coriaceis lato-lanceolatis 1.5 mm. longis, in galero caduceo connatis glabris; staminibus 4; ovario 1 fertili, 3 abortivis.

November 28, 1950

Dr. H. W. Rickett,
Bibliographer,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

I am writing to ask whether you would be good enough to give me some information, or at least to tell me where I can secure information, concerning the travels, if any, of the James Gordon after whom Ellis named the genus Gordonia. About all that I know of this gentleman is the statement contained in Rehder's Manual that he was "a well known English nurseryman" and that his dates are 1728-91.

My interest in Gordon arises from the fact that I usually make mention of his name in my course on the History of Plant Exploration. This year one of my students came up with the statement that Gordon had visited America but was unable to adduce any evidence in support of that opinion. I should be greatly interested in knowing whether Gordon ever came to this country, as well as grateful for any other data concerning his activities which you may be in a position to furnish.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK
NEW YORK 58. N. Y.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOSEPH R. SWAN
PRESIDENT
CHARLES B. HARDING

VICE-PRESIDENT
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, JR.

TREASURER
ARTHUR M. ANDERSON
DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

November 30, 1950

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

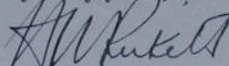
Dear Dr. Fogg:

With respect to James Gordon, I cannot find where Rehder has anything to say about him in his Manual. Bailey, however, in his Manual does have a brief statement about him with the dates that you have quoted, 1728 to 1791. Where he got this information I am unable to say. Gordon was a correspondent of Linneaus and other botanists. He worked for Lord Petrie and Dr. Sherard before setting ^{up} for himself and is frequently mentioned in the botanical literature of his time for his skill in plant propagation and his success in the introduction of novelties. These contemporary notices, however, give little biographic information. The only dates I can find are in Britten & Boulger, who say he died in 1780. Barnhart had the date 1783 but I cannot find where he got it. A good account of Gordon is to be found in Loudon's Arboretum, page 77. He has sometimes been confused with his son who had the same name and succeeded him in the business.

Do not hesitate to call on me for additional information if I can supply it.

With best regards,

Very truly yours,



H. W. Rickett
Bibliographer

Letter from Ellis to
Linnæus (Loudon's arb.)

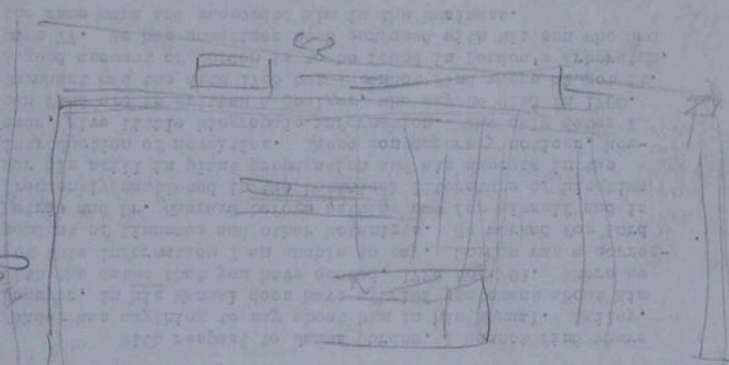
HWR:md

Rehder's Man. of Cult. Trees & Shrubs Ed. 1 1927
p. 624 - Under gordonia

Omitted from 2nd ed. bec. g. appears under transition

Jordania Ellis Phil. Trans. IX (1770) 518. t 11

Wood
Prospects of
New England's
History Room



London
Hullington
Madras

London I : 379

named in honor of Alexander Gordon
a celebrated nurseryman at Hulse End
near London, who lived in the
time of Philip Miller

Jordania - Ellis in Phil. Transactions, 1770

December 6, 1950

Dr. H. W. Rickett,
Bibliographer,
The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

Many thanks for your prompt and courteous reply to my request for information concerning James Gordon. I find that a good deal of confusion exists concerning the person for whom Gordonia was named, but believe that I now have the story straight, although I still am ignorant as to Gordon's travels, especially as to whether he ever visited America.

In the first edition of Rehder's Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs, 1927, on page 624 the author says, "after James Gordon, a well known English nurseryman, 1728-91." In the second edition of Rehder, which is probably the one you consulted, G. alata-maha has been transferred to Franklinia, and since G. lasianthus is apparently not regarded as being in cultivation, the genus Gordonia as such is omitted.

In the seventh edition of Gray's Manual, Fernald and Robinson say, "Dedicated by Dr. Garden to his 'old master, Dr. James Gordon of Aberdeen,' and by Ellis to a London nurseryman of the same name." In the new edition of Gray, the genus is not included, since Fernald is apparently convinced that G. lasianthus is unknown in the Manual range.

The reference in Loudon's Arboretum, page 77, is interesting and I am grateful to you for having called it to my attention. As you no doubt observed, Ellis says that James Gordon died in 1780. I wonder, however, if you noticed that on page 379 in Volume I of Loudon, the author says that the genus was "named in honor of Alexander Gordon, a celebrated nurseryman at Mile End near London, who lived in the time of Philip Miller."

the original of Gordonia occurs in

All of this sent me scotting back to the Philosophical Transactions, Volume LX, page 519, 1770, for Ellis's original description. In a letter to Linnaeus, Ellis describes the beautiful plant sent to him by Alexander Garden of Charles-town (sic), s.c., and says, "I desire it may have a place among your genera by the name of Gordonia, as a compliment to our worthy friend, that eminent gardener, Mr. James Gordon, near Mile-end, to whom the science of botany is highly indebted and

December 6, 1950

whose merit is universally known for his great knowledge in the cultivation of exotic plants." This is accompanied by a beautiful plate of G. Lasianthus. These lines, of course, make it apparent that Loudon's reference to Alexander Gordon is in error, as well as the reference in the seventh edition of Gray to Dr. James Gordon of Aberdeen.

I thought you might be interested in this little tangle which furnishes another object lesson as to the confusion which results from a failure to check original sources.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany

September 24, 1956

Dr. H. W. Rickett
The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx Park
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Rickett:

A few days ago I returned from Europe and in attempting to catch up on my reading one of the first things that came to my attention was your fascinating article on "The Origin and Growth of Botanic Gardens" in the September-October issue of The Garden Journal.

In addition to working in the herbaria at Paris and Geneva, I made it a point to visit, for the sake of taking pictures, some of the older botanic gardens in France, Italy and Spain. Every few years I give a course in the History of Plant Exploration and material of this sort is very helpful to me in this work.

I had a fine time roaming through the gardens at Pisa, Padua, Montpellier, etc., but was disappointed in Bologna to be told that the Garden established there in 1567 is no longer in existence. I wonder if you have any information on its fate or can tell me whether I was correctly informed concerning the fact that it is no longer in existence.

Incidentally, although it is by no means one of the older gardens, I was very greatly impressed by the lay-out, condition of the plantings and intelligent administration of the gardens at Geneva. I took many pictures there and greatly enjoyed the opportunity of becoming acquainted with this splendid collection which I had never before seen.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOSEPH R. SWAN

PRESIDENT
CHARLES B. HARDING

VICE-PRESIDENT
FREDERICK B. MOBELEY JR.

TREASURER
BERKELEY GAYNOR

DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

5 October 1956

Dear Doctor Fogg,

Thanks for your letter and the kind words about my article on botanic gardens.

It was not a very serious performance, having been compiled originally, as you saw, for the good ladies of a local garden club. I should really have liked to do more with it. Curiously enough, on the very morning before your letter came I was wondering how I could lay hold of a grant which would enable me to tour old botanic gardens. Evidently you have been before me.

I am sorry I have no information on the garden at Bologna beyond what is contained in Gager's memoir.

With all best wishes

sincerely yours

AW Rickett