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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.

SEARS, P. B.

July 11, 1940

Dr. Paul B. Sears,  
Professor of Botany,  
Oberlin College,  
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Sears:

As you are to be one of the speakers at the University of Pennsylvania Bicentennial Celebration, September 16 to 21, I am writing to ask whether my wife and I may have the pleasure of having you as our guest during that period.

We live in the suburbs, within easy distance of the University, and I shall of course undertake to see that you are transported to and from the various events on the Program.

It is too early, probably, for you to say on what date you will arrive, but I should be glad at this time to learn whether this arrangement is agreeable to you, so that I may inform the Director of the Celebration that you are provided for.

I remember with much pleasure our brief trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens several years ago and shall look eagerly forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,

John M. FOGG, Jr.  
Asst. Prof. of Botany

Vassar College

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

24 July 1940

Dear Mr. Rogg,

I'm very grateful for your cordial invitation and look forward with pleasure to seeing you again. As you surmise, I am not yet certain as to how much of the session I can attend, but will let you know later.

Your letter followed me to Stanford and then back across the continent, hence my delay in acknowledging it. I expect to be back in Ohio during August.

Sincerely yours

Paul B. Sears.

OBERLIN COLLEGE  
OBERLIN, OHIO

September 24, 1940

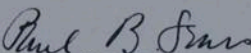
Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.,  
Department of Botany,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

I want to express to you and your family again my gratitude for your gracious hospitality. I realize this must have been a good deal like trying to entertain an eel. I promise, if I get to Philadelphia again, to be a little bit more deliberate in my movements.

I am certain everyone who had attended the Bicentennial shares my admiration for the thoroughness and devotion of every member of the institution in making the thing a success.

Sincerely,

  
Paul B. Sears

/n

December 7, 1942.

Dr. Paul B. Sears,  
Head of Department of Botany,  
Oberlin College,  
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Sears:

Many thanks for the splendid series of reprints which you sent me recently and which I am delighted to have. I had read several of these in the original but others were new to me and all constitute a welcome addition to my files.

I do not recall whether I have kept you up to date to receive my own small series of reprints but shall take steps to see that the situation is adjusted promptly.

I suppose you are having your troubles, as are we, in planning for the future and are eagerly awaiting news from Washington as to just what place botanists are going to occupy in the world of the near future.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Associate Professor of Botany.

OBERLIN COLLEGE

OBERLIN, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

January 12, 1943.

Prof. John M. Fogg,  
116 College Hall,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Prof. Fogg:

I have just received the reprints to  
which I have been looking forward  
with great interest, and thank you  
for your trouble in sending them.

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Sears*  
Paul B. Sears

/n

Paul B. Sears  
Department of Botany  
Oberlin College, Ohio



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

January 29, 1948

Dear Jack:

Thanks, indeed, for your good letter with its enclosure. I shall long remember my visit with you.

Sincerely yours,



Paul B. Sears

PBS/s

January 3, 1952

Dr. Paul B. Sears,  
Conservation Program,  
77 Prospect Street,  
Yale University,  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Paul:

Now that I have finished going over the accounts of the Botanists' Dinner last Saturday night, I find that receipts exceed expenditures in the amount of three dollars and I am therefore enclosing a check in that amount to remunerate you for the dinner which you did not eat. Things worked out very nicely and I had sufficient funds to cover the dinner, the gratuities, the decorations and the cost of printing the tickets. It was indeed generous of you to insist that I keep your hard-earned cash and I felt guilty about having done so. I am now more than happy to be able to make restitution.

It was certainly a pleasure to see you again last week and I greatly enjoyed your presentations. Some day I would like to talk to you about the future of the A.A.A.S. with respect to the botanical sciences, for I am not one of those whole-heartedly in favor of the divorce. I should like, at least as a compromise, if there has to be a separation, to see an occasional reunion, perhaps at intervals of two or three years. I do hope that the coming year will provide an opportunity for me to see more of you.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

enc.

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, Chairman

January 7, 1952


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

Dear Jack:

Thanks indeed for your thoughtful letter with its enclosure.

I am heartened to know that you are giving thought to the problem of the AAAS and the botanical societies. We shall need all the good counsel we can get to tide over the present situation.

Very truly yours,

  
Paul B. Sears

FBS:LW

YALE UNIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PAUL B. SEARS, *Chairman*

January 12, 1953

Mr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Vice-Provost  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania


Dear Jack:

I can imagine no excuse whatsoever that would justify missing any time in Mexico. Please make no apologies. Any arrangement that works out will be quite satisfactory with me.

I had expected to proceed directly from Fairfield to Philadelphia on the 27th from a lecture, but find that would get me in around 9:30 at night, which would be some inconvenience to my host, so I shall try to make an early morning train on the 28th and will come directly out to the department. I should like to see what is going on and will also be interested to visit the Anthropology Department. In fact, I should appreciate it if you will let my friend, Loren Eiseley, know that I will be in town. Since it is exam week here, I can remain until the next morning, which will be more convenient than trying to get a night train after the lecture.

8 P.M.

Sincerely,

  
Paul B. Sears

PBS:ecd

January 19, 1953

Dr. Paul B. Sears, Chairman,  
Conservation Program,  
Yale University,  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. Sears:

In Dr. Fogg's absence I am writing to let you know that I have informed Dr. Eiseley that you will be here on the campus on January 28th. Dr. Eiseley was delighted to hear this and asked me to tell you that he will make it a point to be in his office that day and will expect a 'phone call from you.

If I can be of any assistance during your visit to the University, please do not hesitate to call this office.

Sincerely yours,

Janet L. Bowen,  
Secretary to Vice-Provost Fogg

cc: Dr. Eiseley

February 9, 1953

Dr. Paul B. Sears,  
Conservation Program,  
Yale University,  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Paul:

Everyone here gives me glowing accounts of the fine publicity which you did for the Horticultural Society on January 28th, and while this does not in the least surprise me, it does cause me more than ever to regret the fact that I was not present on this occasion. I trust that all the arrangements were satisfactory and that you received not only the stipulated honorarium but payment of any expenses which you incurred in connection with the trip here. If there are any outstanding items, please notify me at once so that I may see that everything is attended to.

We had a fascinating, though somewhat breathless, eighteen days in Mexico, during which we not only saw a great many places we had seen before, such as Guernavaca, Texco, Puebla and Oaxaca, but also got into an area which for us was entirely new, namely, a 1,200 mile swing westward through Toluca, Morelia, Patzcuaro, Guadalajara, Lago de Moreno, Guanajuato and Queretero.

I was amazed that despite the fact that we were there in January, there was so much in the way of vegetation to see and photograph, and I was particularly interested and delighted to see in bloom the Jacaranda, which I was told would not be in flower before late February or early March. Despite this statement, however, we saw many noble specimens of this brilliant tree including one magnificent row along the street which leads out of Oaxaca on the way to Monte Alban.

I took about 400 Kodachrome views and hope very much that we can get together some time to compare notes and pictures.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

SEARS, P.B.

## What Worth Wilderness?

THE STATE OF OHIO, CONTAINING about 40,000 square miles, was once a magnificent hardwood forest. The forest types, thanks to the records of early surveyors, have been largely mapped. Yet it is almost impossible to form an adequate picture, from any surviving records, of the appearance of that forest. The state has its full share of memorials — statues, libraries, institutions; some useful, some not; some beautiful, many ugly. But somehow it never occurred to anyone to set aside a square mile, much less a township six miles square, of primeval vegetation for future generations to see and enjoy. Yet this could have been done for less than the cost of a single pile of stone of dubious artistic and cultural merit.

Farther west the "boundless" prairie, that living carpet of wonderful changing colors, is all but gone. Strenuous effort will be required to set aside proposed grassland national monuments. Unless this is done, the prairies will survive only on the pages of travelers' journals and in the descriptions of those who, like Willa Cather, knew and loved them.

We need not, said Darwin, marvel at extinction. But we have reached a point of civilization where we are no longer proud to be the agents of extermination. Once we are reminded that a species — key-deer, trumpeter swan, moccasin-flower or arbutus — is in danger, it is possible although never easy to rally help in preserving it. Often, as with the heathen and passenger pigeon, help comes too late.

The business of preserving game species moves somewhat more briskly, being substantially financed by license fees and insistent sportsmen. But for a long time the conserver of species, whether sportsman or not, missed the point. It seemed enough to slow down or stop the actual killing of individuals. We ignored an ancient rule of warfare, put into effect by Rome against Carthage: if you wish to eliminate, destroy the center of activity, the home.

PAUL B. SEARS  
*Chairman, The Conservation  
Program  
Yale University*

Now the home of any species is the community of which it is a part. True, by juggling diet we can now get certain wild animals to breed in a zoo, but that is a sorry expedient. As Ding Darling once pointed out, you can always tell a tame mallard from a wild one by its pot-belly. If we are really serious about preserving any species we must preserve, in generous measure, its community of plant and animal life. Can we, in our own larger community of fierce competition for space, justify this?

Sentiment, of course, draws scorn from the practical-minded. But I doubt if sentiment is as fragile a defense as we think. How cheaply would the toughest-minded sell the loyalty and pride of those who serve with him in factory, field or countinghouse? How great can a commonwealth become, how long can it endure, if it measures everything by price tag?

There exists, I suppose, such a thing as fundamental decency and gratitude and there are ways to acknowledge it. The Mormons have their monument to the gulls which saved them from the locusts. The Lord Chancellor sits upon a wool-sack, memento of the source of England's early economic power. Many of us have seen the block expressing gratitude to the boll weevil which first obliged the South to begin diversifying its crops — a curious but impressive tribute.

We are, and rightly, generous in our regard for the group of most unusual men who made possible our Nation and planned its greatness. But we ought to remember, too, that in large measure our power and leadership are based upon the lavishness of Nature, building undisturbed through milleniums. The ancients

thought it not unworthy to worship the gods who gave them grain—rice, wheat, maize. Is it unworthy in our enlightened day to commemorate, by generous preservation, the natural wealth which has been the lifeblood of our economy? I, for one, do not think so. To me it seems a matter of ethics and national self-respect.

An American commander in eastern Europe told me that he gave permission to the cold and hungry people of a city to help themselves to the trees in their ancient forest-park. This they refused to do, and the hard-headed general was deeply moved by their decision. It will not do to write off sentiment.

There is also, in the need for generous natural areas, the question of important scientific knowledge. The undisturbed community of plants and animals is a beautifully organized dynamic system, employing energy from the sun for the use and re-use of water, air and minerals in sustaining abundant life, while keeping its own organization going. Technically this presents an exceedingly important phenomenon, the approximation of a steady state. Our knowledge of this phenomenon can do with considerable improvement, and again we need generous examples for its study. When men are beginning to talk rather seriously of raising some billions for the exploration of space, we ought not to neglect a more immediate, and definitely hopeful, source of knowledge. Knowledge for its own sake, like sentiment, is not lightly to be written off by a civilized nation.

It happens, however, that although the knowledge thus obtained is not likely to be patentable as a source of direct profit, its benefits diffused over the land-use pattern of our Nation should be very great. The studies of Dr John E. Weaver of the University of Nebraska, carried on through the years on a pitiful remnant of rented prairie, are of growing significance to the economy of the great grasslands of North America.

Just as the engineer in machine and industrial design must have at hand his

theoretical apparatus of calculation, so the biologist and others who would design intelligent land-use, must have their norms or standards of measurement. And these norms, to a large degree, are to be found in the complex pattern of interrelationship represented by the undisturbed natural community. At present we have to rely largely on intuition—a wasteful and dangerous process, as is trial and error. It is a moral obligation to *know*, if we can.

Why are species which have endured for millions of years—the oak, chestnut, elm and beech—suddenly so vulnerable, now that we have disturbed their homes? Introduced parasites are not the entire answer. Why are the second-growth forests which now cover about two-thirds of New England so full of inferior stock that a generation or more must pass before they become reasonably productive? Is it because we have systematically harvested the best and biggest trees, leaving only scrub individuals of bad heredity to reproduce themselves? Four thousand years of corncocks are piled up in Bat Cave, New Mexico, and the ones on top are as scrubby as those at the bottom. Presumably the Indians ate all the big ears instead of saving them for seed. What happened in the cornfield can happen in a forest. We need to know.

Yet neither knowledge nor sentiment alone afford the most powerful justification of ample wilderness or natural areas set aside in perpetuity. Rather it is the mixture of practical, theoretical and ethical symbolized by the question, "What kind of a Nation do we want?" Do we wish to build a future completely and ruthlessly mechanized, standardized and artificial? Do we really mean to crowd back Nature to the utmost minimum, depending upon ingenious artifice at every turn for physical and spiritual sustenance, until we have to eat standing up and the healing which comes of solitude survives only in dreams?

The hour is late, but we still have a measure of freedom to choose.

From BULLETIN TO THE SCHOOLS of the University of the State of New York, March 1953.

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