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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.

ST. JOHN, H.

March 18, 1940

Dr. Harold St. John
Department of Botany
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. St. John:

I have just had a telephone call from Dr. Pennell's secretary, telling me of a letter from you concerning the possibility of giving a lecture in Philadelphia early in April. As Dr. Pennell is at present in California and since I believe you mentioned my name in your letter, I am taking the liberty of writing to you in this connection.

Unfortunately the programs have already been arranged for the next meetings of both the Philadelphia Botanical Club and the Pennsylvania Botanical Society.

We would be delighted to hear from you on the subject of your explorations in Fiji, but the only way in which I see that we could use you would be at one of our Tuesday afternoon seminars. I did not understand whether you are asking a fee for giving this lecture and hope you will let me know concerning this point. We have no funds available for our seminar speakers, most of whom are members of our own department, or visiting botanists who happen to be passing through Philadelphia. If you would be willing to come under these conditions, please let me know as soon as possible and I shall be more than happy to try to fit you in on a date which would be convenient to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Fogg, Jr.
Assistant Professor of Botany

JMF:H

YALE UNIVERSITY
OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

March 19, 1940.

Dr. J. M. Fogg Jr.,
Botanical Laboratory,
University of Pennsylvania,
38th & Woodland Ave.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg,

Am glad to hear from you. As I wrote Pennell I am making a trip to Washington to lecture at the annual meeting of the Washington Botanical Society. My date there is for Tues, April 2nd., so I am occupied on the available Tuesday. It is possible for me to stop off at Philadelphia, and I could do so on either March 30th. Sat., or April 1st. Mon., or April 3rd. Wednesday. If you can arrange a lecture on any one of those days, I will be glad to come. I am not asking for money.

Recently I saw Dr. Fosberg in Washington, and he seems very well established there.

Sincerely,

Harold St. John.

Harold St. John,
Professor of Botany

March 21, 1940.

Dr. Harold St. John,
Osborn Botanical Laboratory,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Dr. St. John:

Many thanks for your letter of the 19th. I wonder whether you would find it convenient to stop off here on Wednesday, April 3, and talk to our Seminar group at 4 P. M. As I told you before, Tuesday is our regular day for this meeting but Dr. Schramm is so eager that we should have a chance to hear you that he suggested making a special date to suit your convenience.

I hope that this arrangement will set in with your plans and that you will let me have a title for your talk at your earliest convenience. We shall wish to have special notices posted calling attention to the occasion.

I should be only too glad to have you stay with us while you are in Philadelphia. I seem to remember, however, that you have some family here, or in the immediate vicinity, with whom you would probably prefer to lodge.

Looking forward to hearing from, as well as seeing, you, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Ass't. Professor of Botany.

JMF/LV

YALE UNIVERSITY
OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

March 22, 1940.

Dr. J. M. Fogg Jr.,
Botanical Laboratory,
University of Pennsylvania,
38th & Woodland,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg,

Very well, Wednesday, April 3rd. is yours. I will come up on an early morning train from Washington. I think I will spend the morning at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Even if Dr. Pennell is away, there is plenty for me to do there. After lunch I could come out and join you and Dr. Schramm. If you have any suggestions as to when and where I should appear, drop me a line.

It is good of you to rearrange your seminar hour. I will be at your service at 4 on Wednesday. My topic is The Jungles of Fiji and their Inhabitants.

I can spend the night in Philadelphia. I would be glad to accept your invitation for that night. I must leave early the next morning for New York and New Haven.

Sincerely,

Harold St. John.

Harold St. John,
Professor of Botany

Please write me the time limits - how long should I talk? That will govern the number of slides I bring -

H.S.J.

March 25, 1940

Dr. Harold St. John
Osborn Botanical Laboratory
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. St. John:

I am delighted to learn that you can be with us on April 3, and have already passed on the information concerning your lecture to the Chairman of our Seminar Committee, who will see that special notices are printed for this occasion. Our Seminar talks usually last about one hour, but you may run over that somewhat if you wish. There will probably be questions and comments which will keep the ball rolling until nearly 5:30.

I am glad that you can find it convenient to spend a nite with us and look eagerly forward to seeing you.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Fogg, Jr.
Assistant Professor of Botany.

JMF:H

YALE UNIVERSITY
OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

June 22, 1940.

Dr. J. M. Fogg jr.,
MacFarlane Hall,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg,

During my brief visit in your herbarium, I saw a specimen of *Frasera caroliniensis* from Pennsylvania. Can you send me a copy of the data, so that I may cite it? I am now expanding my study into a real revision of the genus and the related *Swertia*, so I would like to be able to cite that specimen.

A week here, a month at the Gray Herbarium, then I must start west. The year is nearly over, but it has been a very pleasant and interesting one.

Cordially,

Harold St. John.
Harold St. John,
Professor of Botany

December 13, 1951

Dr. Harold St. John,
2365 Hoomaha Way,
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Dear Harold:

I should have written long before this to tell you that I had a very pleasant visit with your son Charles a month or so ago. He came over to my office and we had a long talk about his experiences in various parts of the world, and I was extremely glad to be brought up to date concerning your own activities.

We promised each other that we would get together again soon but have both been so busy that this has not yet come to pass. My hope is to have Charles and his wife out to the house for dinner some night, but my situation has been complicated by the prolonged illness of my wife who is still confined to bed except for an hour or so each day. I hope that after the first of the year things are going to be somewhat different and I shall certainly arrange to have the young couple pay a visit to our home.

With best wishes for the coming holiday season,
I am

Sincerely yours,

May 13, 1954

Dr. Harold St. John,
Dept. of Botany,
University of Hawaii,
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Dear Harold:

My wife and I expect to be in Honolulu, on our way home from India, on Monday, June 28, and I hope that I may have the pleasure of seeing you, although I realize that it is possible you may already have left for the Congress in Paris.

Our plane from Hongkong is scheduled to arrive in Honolulu 6 P.M. June 27 and we leave for San Francisco at 6:30 P.M. the following day. I should naturally like, even on such a brief stay, to see something of the island and would appreciate any suggestion from you as to how this might be accomplished. A letter addressed to me c/o Mr. Frank Eden-Thornton, 17 Stringer's Street, Madras, India, should reach me anytime between May 25 and June 24th.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you or at least of hearing from you, I am

Sincerely,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

University of Hawaii,
Honolulu 14, Hawaii, U.S.A.,
May 18, 1954.

Dr. John M. Fogg Jr.,
c/o Mr. Frank Eden-Thornton,
17 Stringer's St.,
Madras, India

Dear Dr. Fogg,

Glad to hear that you are coming, but unfortunately I will have already departed for the East and for Paris. However my wife and daughter will be here and she will be happy to do things for you. We live at 2365 Hoomaha Way, in Manoa Valley, and our phone is 991977.

Planes from long flights are not regular in arrival, so you might be some hours late. It takes an hour to clear customs and immigration. You will doubtless be weary from the flight, so we suggest no plans for that evening of the 27th when you arrive, except loafing. The next morning we suggest taking you to meet Pres. Gregg Sinclair and to see a little of our university; then the Pineapple or the Sugar Cane Experiment Stations, or the Bishop Museum, or any place you wish to go. At the same time someone could take Mrs. Fogg and show her Waikiki, the Art Museum, the town, and anything else desired. You could join for lunch and meet some botanists, then afterwards all drive around quarter of the island, seeing scenery, vegetation, etc.

There is a lot to see and do here, and one day is a short time. You may have other desires that can be carried out, instead of items on the program that we suggest. Please let us know if there are any special people you want to see. Also whether you do or do not want to meet Pres. Sinclair, for that will need an appointment.

We are delighted that you are coming, and feel sure that you will enjoy it here. Please reply to Mrs. St. John,

Cordially,

Harold St. John

Harold St. John,
Senior Professor of Botany

April 11, 1955

Dr. Harold St. John
University of Hawaii
Honolulu 11, Hawaii

Dear Harold:

Ever since receiving a batch of reprints from you some months ago I have been meaning to write and thank you for them and tell you how much I enjoyed them.

I was particularly glad to have the copy of your paper on "The Tangled Taxonomy of the Sequoias." It happened that just about the time this paper arrived I was giving my graduate course in the Principles of Systematic Botany and your article served as a splendid model for demonstrating to the class how involved such matters can become. It contains examples of practically every pitfall conceivable and provided splendid material for a whole hour's lecture.

I had the pleasure of meeting your daughter Mary a few days ago and was very favorably impressed with her personality and intelligence. I would like very much to be able to offer her something either here or in the Department of Botany, but can come to no decision in this matter until we know more fully what our situation is going to be during the next academic year. It is possible that with her background of knowledge and experience in tissue work, we might be able to find a place for her as a research assistant on one of our supported projects. At any rate, I was delighted to make her acquaintance and shall keep in touch with her as plans develop for next year.

My wife and I often speak of our delightful visit to your home last July and regret only that we did not have the pleasure of seeing you. Your wife was simply wonderful to us and I do hope that the next time you are in this part of the world you may afford us the pleasure of attempting to return your marvelous hospitality.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

May 13, 1955

Dr. Harold St. John
University of Hawaii
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Dear Harold:

This is a hasty line to say that Helen and I are off again on a world jaunt, this time spending some three weeks in Burma and Thailand. We shall probably come home across the Pacific and may have a day or two in Honolulu en route. At least I have cabled for reservations at the Moana Hotel for June 23 and 24.

I hope very much that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you and your wife during our brief stay and that I shall also have the opportunity of discussing a couple of botanical problems with you. Our plans are subject to some slight modification and if they should be changed between now and the time of our arrival, I shall let you know from somewhere along the route.

With best wishes to both of you,

Sincerely yours,

John H. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

July 8, 1955

Dr. Harold St. John
Department of Botany
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, H. I.

Dear Harold:

Home again in the sweltering heat of Philadelphia - where I plunged at once into giving a brand new Summer School course - our all too brief sojourn in Honolulu takes on the aura of a halcyon interval in our mad dash around the globe. Although I am sure that your island must appear to you now to be a tourist-ridden playground, to us it seems a delightful haven, an impression which is largely the result of your and Betty's friendship and warm hospitality. Please give her our warmest greetings.

I got my specimens home safely, thanks to you, and am now - when I can spare time from teaching - deeply immersed in a study of the Rauwolfia problem in southern and southeastern Asia. I am hoping to have here this fall, as a post-doctoral fellow, a brilliant young Indian botanist to whom I am going to turn over this problem and it may be that he can come up with the right answers.

Good luck to you in your big Pandanus undertaking!

Most sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

ST. JOHN, HAROLD

from Fogg

August 23, 1957

Dr. Harold St. John,
Department of Botany
University of Hawaii
Honolulu 14, T. H.

Dear Harold:

A question which has recently arisen here concerns the origin~~s~~ of the name Monkey Pod as applied to Samanea (Enterolobium) Saman. This is, of course, a tropical American tree, but I can not find this vernacular name in any of the works which I have consulted.

I believe the species is widely grown in your region and perhaps the name Monkey Pod originated there despite the fact, as I understand it, that there are no monkeys in the Hawaiian Islands.

I have seen the plant in India, where it is in frequent cultivation, but there it is always called Rain Tree. I wonder if you can throw any light on the matter.

My wife and I often speak of our delightful visits to Honolulu and both send our warmest regards to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

JMF:am

ST. JOHN, HAROLD DR.

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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
1907 1957
HONOLULU HAWAII

Aug. 27, 1957.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. J. M. Fogg Jr.,
Morris Arboretum,
9414 Meadowbrook Ave.,
Philadelphia 18,
Pa.

Dear Jack,

I do not know that the name "monkeypod" is used for Samanea Saman anywhere else, but likely it is. Hillebrand in his Fl. Haw. Is. 1888 used the name here. Rock in his Ornam. Trees Haw. 81, 1917 explained that it was a translation of the former generic name, Pithecolobium. Bailey in his Man. Cult. Pl. ed 2, translates this freely as monkey, ear-ring. pithekos is Gr. for monkey; lobos is Gr. for a lobe. So all the translations are free, but they go back to this source.

By rule I retire at the end of this week. However, I have been reappointed, the first instance of it here. I will be G. P. Wilder professor of Pacific Botany. The duties are unspecified, but I have been made chairman of the committee to run the H. L. Lyon (formerly the Manoa) Arboretum, 124 acres in the rainbelt at the head of this valley. It will be of interest, but we have almost no funds, so I must find them, and try to get the Arboretum on the budget of the Territory, two years from now.

I have had a second large grant from the Natl. Sci. Found. for Pandanus. Yesterday I sent my assistant, B. C. Stone, for five months exploration of the New Hebrides, Solomons, Bismarcks, and Admiralties. I hope in Nov. to start for three months in New Guinea and Queensland.

Betty is just back from Los Angeles where she was baby sitter while our third grandchild was born there to our Martha, Mrs. R. T. Martin.

We send you our aloha.

Cordially,

Harold St. John

Harold St. John,
Senior Professor of Botany