



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The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences.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of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions.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 Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections'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.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 4, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Botany Dept., U. of Penn.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg;

The specimen which you showed me the other day and which I said was Schima (Theaceae) is not that but Skimmia (Rutaceae). Rehdér treats the genus in his manual on p. 524. Although I suspect the species is S. japonica I can not assert this with any assurance until I have had an opportunity to compare the specimen with those in the National Herbarium, which I shall be glad to do. At the time I said Schima I was thinking Skimmia; such are the vagaries of the mind!

I have not had an opportunity to get the Japanese copied from your herbarium labels translated but shall put it with my collection of Japanese "troubles" and get in touch with my translator at an early date.

It is a tremendous impetus for scientific work to get out of ones environment and see other's fields, and I feel my day in Philadelphia was of great help in this direction.

Sincerely yours,

Egbert H. Walker

Aid, Div. of Plants

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 7, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Univ. of Penn.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

I asked my Japanese translator about the characters on your labels and he says they are merely the name of the concern which printed the labels. It specializes in educational supplies.

If there are any other ways in which I can help you out I shall be more than glad to do so.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. Walker

Aid, Div. of Plants

from Fogg



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE COLLEGE

Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

Philadelphia

Jan, 8, 1933.

Mr. E.H. Walker,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

Your letter of January 4th certainly relieves my mind considerably. The day after you were here I made a point of consulting the Schima folder in the herbarium of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Needless to say, I derived slight satisfaction from that I saw there! It is indeed gratifying to have this elusive plant tagged at last and I am indebted to you for your trouble.

Within a day or two I shall forward by mail the specimen which I showed you, so that you can make the specific determination. I am sorry not to have a duplicate so that you might retain the one I am sending, but I doubt whether you would care to have a thing the source of which is someone's shrubby border.

There is one thing more I am going to ask you to do for me, if it is not too much trouble. In the National Museum there is supposed to be a specimen of Abies Fraseri, collected by E.S. Steele at Crescent Rock, Page Co., Va. in 1901. Will you be so kind as to glance at this and tell me whether it is actually A. Fraseri or whether, by any chance, it could be A. balsamea. A correspondent of mine has just sent me a sheet of A. balsamea from the same locality, casting some doubt on the validity of the Steele record. To be sure, both species may occur at the same spot, but as one tree is at the extreme northern limit of its range and the other is said there to be at its most southern station, the actual identities are a matter of some interest. If this is too much out of your line do not hesitate to say so, and I shall bother someone else with it or wait until I have an opportunity to get to Washington myself.

very sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 9, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Univ. of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Under separate cover I am sending you a set of my reprints with some extras from my files which you may put in your private files or those of the Morris Arboretum as you think best. I can furnish duplicates of mine if desired. If these duplicate any of your files I should be glad to have them back to use in stimulating other botanists should the opportunity arise.

On the chance that it may be of interest to you and an aid to your library at the Arboretum, I am sending you herewith my carbon copy of a paper I prepared on Chinese botanical serials. I have put a check mark by those current periodicals which have important (though mostly strictly technical) papers in them concerning taxonomic botany. This gives little information about the serials, but if you can not find more in your University library I shall be glad to give any information which I have. Just indicate which you are interested in when you return the copy.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. Walker

Aid, Div. of Plants

Rocky Mts - Ural

Schubert

maps ?

Mtd. tablelands

at sea level ?

Cretaceous

Peneplain -

Uplifted in ~~Cretaceous~~

Tertiary

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 10, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Univ. of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

I have just looked up the Steele specimen of *Abies* from Crescent Rock, Page Co., Va. Although the bracts are longer than the scales by a trifle, they are by no means as long as are those of other specimens of *Fraseri*. According to Sargent, Manual of the trees of North America the bracts of *Abies balsamea* are rarely longer than the scales. Hence I believe the Steele specimen to be *A. balsamea*. Having many loose scales with the specimen, I am sending you two scales so you may judge the case also.

Do not hesitate to present me some more of your problems if I can be of help to you.

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Walker
Aid, Div. of Plants.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 23, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Botany Laboratory,
Univ. of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

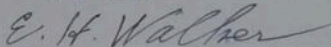
Dear Dr. Fogg;

I have just compared the specimen you sent with these in the herbarium. It is without doubt Skimmia japonica Thunb. I am having it returned to you, as it will doubtless be of value in the Arboretum herbarium.

Yesterday I was at the locality where the Abies specimen collected by Steele came from. There are indeed some fine trees of the genus there, but as they have no cones at this time of year I was unable to determine them from fresh material. I shall doubtless be back there again at intervals during the year and shall watch for evidences of A. fraseri.

If you can ever get down here lets plan for a trip.

Sincerely yours,



Aid, Division of Plants

from Fogg



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE COLLEGE

Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

Philadelphia

Jan. 29, 1933.

Mr. E. H. Walker,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am certainly grateful to you for the pains which you have several times taken in my behalf. First, let me thank you for the collection of reprints and periodicals which you so kindly forwarded. As these seem not to be duplicated here, I am taking the liberty of retaining the entire lot; I assure you that they will prove most helpful in the organization of our library at the Arboretum.

Your list of Chinese botanical serials is likewise of great interest to us. Our librarian is checking off the most important publications, as indicated by you, and as soon as she has finished I shall return your paper.

I am passing the information concerning the Abies on to Dr. Freer at Lynchburg, with the suggestion that he look further into the matter. Certainly the Steele specimen, which you so kindly looked up for me, is A. balsamea. If A. Fraseri occurs at that locality, which it may well do, Steele apparently did not get it. I hope to be able to drive down that way in the Spring, and if so I shall let you know.

It comes as a blow to learn that the highly ornamental Japanese characters on our labels are just that and nothing more, as far as scientific information goes. Again I am indebted to you.

I am glad to know definitely about the Skimmia. The specimen has returned safely, and our greenhouse man thinks he can get some of the seed to germinate. So, perhaps by the time you next visit us we shall have another living oriental species to show you.

Thanking you again for all your favors,

Most sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 27, 1933.

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

Dear Dr. Fogg;

Did you return the manuscript I lent you concerning Chinese botanical serials? If so I have misplaced it. If convenient I should like to have it back soon as I want to make another attempt to get it published.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. Walker

April 1, 1938.

Mr. E.H. Walker,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am indeed ashamed because of the long delay attending the return of your Chinese manuscript, enclosed herewith.

True, our secretary did not report for duty when we expected her, due to illness, but at that your paper should have gone back to you some weeks ago.

I trust that you will soon find it possible to publish your list and criticism, so that others may be as free to profit from them as we have been.

Sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 19, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Morris Arboretum,
Univ. of Penn.,
Philadelphia.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

I was sorry not to have seen you the other day but trust that your field trip was more profitable.

In talking with Mr. Adams he mentioned that he did not know the specialists to whom to send things for identification. Hence I enclose a list we made up some time ago. It may be useful to you. This is an extra copy you may keep.

Sincerely yours,



Aid, Div. of Plants.

From Fogg



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE COLLEGE

Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

Philadelphia

Sept. 3, 1933

Mr. E.H. Walker,
U.S. Nat'l. Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

I perceive, to my great humiliation, that I never acknowledged your letter of June 19 nor thanked you for the list of specialists which you so kindly compiled for us. Please accept at once my apology and my thanks.

I trust that things are going well with you and your bibliography; have you found a place to publish it?

You may be interested to learn that our fellowships are finally being awarded, five of them at \$1250. If, when you finish your bibliography, you find yourself in a position to work ahead on your PhD, I hope you might be tempted to apply for one of these yourself. I feel that you would stand a very good chance. Do let me know how your plans are shaping up for the future.

Sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sept. 5, 1933.

Dr. J. M. Fogg,
Botanical Laboratory,
Univ. of Penn.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Your good letter of the third is at hand. It is a pleasure to hear the funds of the Arboretum are in a better state thus giving you greater opportunity for development.

Just yesterday I wrote Dr. True a note saying I was to be in Philadelphia ~~Thursday~~ ^{Friday} of this week and should like to see him. I sent the letter to the Arboretum, but it occurred to me afterward that he might not get it or be away on vacation. If there is any uncertainty about it, will you kindly tell him I shall be looking for him in the morning ^{at the} or possibly in the early afternoon at the University? I hope also to see you. I'll hunt you up by phone ~~Thursday~~ ^{Friday} A. M.

Arboretum,

Just recently I made another estimate on when I would be through with my bibliography. I estimated that by the end of winter the body of it would be ready for the press. But more hopeful than that is my revision which I am counting on for a PhD thesis. It has reached the late stage of a jig-saw puzzle and pieces are just falling into place.

Please give me a chance to identify some of your unknowns. I have just finished 800 for the U. S. D. A.

Sincerely,

E. H. Walker

1/10/1934

Dear Dr. Togg,

Thanks very much for your Note. It adds very much to the satisfaction of some of us, to know in broader intelligence, about some of the trinkets wh. the simple Islanders want us to buy. I am glad to know that these "Mahogany-nuts" are "Palm-nuts" of the East Indian saga. palm &c. &c. &c. I hope I did not take too much of your time.

Very truly
Anne Woolman.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 25

September 28, 1944

Dr. J. M. Fogg, Vice Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

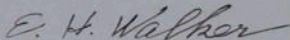
Dear Jack:

I was much interested in your comments on my paper on recording localities on specimen labels. Yours is the only reaction I have had to this article. It suggests that I may have omitted a worthwhile point or two in my paper.

Latitude and longitude are indeed accurate. But the time involved in working out precise figures for each locality, even with a quadrangle in hand, is such that most people just will not take the time. Compared with "distance and direction" it is much more laborious, unless you have some short cut which I haven't heard of. Actually human, "lassitude and loungitude" are more potent influences than geographic latitude and longitude, and I was advocating a system which is more likely actually to be adopted even if slightly less accurate and scientific. Secondly, distance and direction do not require a topographic quadrangle. Fortunately for you Pennsylvanians the whole state is covered by these maps, but the same condition does not hold for the whole country. Another point in favor of "distance and direction" is that the mere mention of the point of reference usually gives the user of the specimen much more of a concept of its location than does a row of figures. Thus I feel we will advance further by adopting a practice which (1) will be more generally taken to by the common run of mortals, (2) is less dependent on specific maps, and (3) is clearer in its interpretation by a larger circle of users. The acquisition and keeping of the compass course protractor is a drawback to my recommended system, I admit. But my attempts to work out latitude and longitude made me feel that a ruled overlay of some kind would be almost an essential, and such gadgets are not on the market.

My account of the botany of China is printed but not yet released. I shall certainly remember you in distributing reprints.

Sincerely yours



E. H. Walker
Assistant Curator
Division of Plants

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 4, 1944.

Dr. J. N. Fogg
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Although I know you are a very busy person, I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter I have written Professor Bartlett hoping you will give me your reaction to the idea. There certainly is a need for revision of methods, but perhaps my suggestion of finding how to make the revision is not the best or most feasible one. What do you think?

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Walker

E. H. Walker
Assistant Curator



Professor H. H. Bartlett
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

October 6, 1944.

Dear Professor Bartlett:

This morning I received an idea from Dr. Waldo Schmitt which appeals to me as very much worthwhile. It belongs in the bailiwick of the college botany professors so I am passing it on to you.

We were discussing the mounting of plants, apropos of the thousands of specimens here awaiting mounting and the more thousands at the National Arboretum Herbarium. We have too few mounters. Hence, it seems to me we should seek for new methods as well as new mounters. This problem concerns new methods. I have felt for a long time that the methods now used in mounting plants could profitably be revised and in some respects replaced, that they are not sacred as now constituted. But aside from a few experiments by Archer and possibly some others at the Arboretum herbarium, I have not heard of anyone who has seriously considered this subject. I suggested to Dr. Schmitt that a symposium at the annual convention of the Botanical Society of America might be held on this subject, but he felt that all it would amount to would be an assembly of people each trying to promote his pet idea, and I was inclined to agree with him that its results would not be very great. He countered with the suggestion that some student with some experience with herbaria (but not too much!) might take as a thesis problem (a minor thesis) this problem and work out original methods and adaptations of the present ones. Then when the thesis is finished would be the time for a symposium. I believe new adhesives, plastics, and other materials have been developed recently some of which could help solve our problems of mounting plants quickly and cheaply. But the people who have handled mounted specimens for many years are too content with things as they are, do not know what new materials are available, and are not interested in this subject of mounting plants anyway as they want to study the plants after they are mounted.

Now, of course I do not know whether this would be a suitable thesis problem, but I feel strongly it is worthy of someone's serious and thoro attention - in spite of the fact that only a few of those in present charge of mounting programs will alter their ways accordingly. Thus it seems to me that the problem is to locate a person with originality and interest and ability to take up the project, whether student or non-student. I would be much interested in your reaction to this idea. I am going to pass on to Dr. Merrill and Dr. Fogg copies of this letter for their reactions.

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Walther

November 6, 1944.

Dr. Egbert H. Walker,
Assistant Curator,
Division of Plants,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington 25, Pa.

Dear Egbert:

Thanks a lot for having sent me a copy of your recent paper on "The Plants of China and their Usefulness to Man." I am, as you know, greatly interested in the distribution of Chinese plants and find your map of the floral areas very significant and informative. I am sure we all long for the day when there will be a "Gray's Manual" of China, but in the meantime studies such as yours make it possible for us to adopt certain helpful generalizations.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

December 7, 1944.

Dr. E. H. Walker,
Assistant Curator,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Egbert:

I have been considerably perplexed as to just how to answer the question raised in your recent letter concerning my article on "Suggestions for Collectors," which appeared in *Rhodora*. In the first place, I have no idea as to the ethics of selling reprints. I have always made a practice of distributing reprints free, even when I have had to pay for them, as is usually the case. I find that I have about seventy-five copies of this paper still on hand, for, although I originally secured 300, the article has for some reason been more or less in demand and I have distributed a great many copies. One can, of course, always state that single copies of *Rhodora* may be secured from the publisher, but perhaps it might be better in this case merely to say that the author has a limited number which he will be glad to distribute as long as they are available.

If you have any well-formulated ideas concerning the ethics of selling reprints, I should indeed be glad to learn of them. I confess that this problem is one which has puzzled me many times and I have never succeeded in deciding just which course to follow.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dec. 8, 1944.

Dr. J. M. Fogg, Vice Provost,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Thanks for your letter of yesterday about the availability of your reprints of your paper on collecting.

Herewith is a copy of the manuscript in which I refer to your paper. I have just left it as available from the author. Unfortunately the manuscript was sent off the day before yesterday. I would appreciate your reactions to this paper if you feel you can spare the time to write me. One professor thought the idea was fine and he would institute the teaching of plant collecting in his "field course" (which is taken by a handful of students). I think he missed the point. It belongs in the beginning course, the popular one!

As to the ethics of selling reprints, I must say I have not myself been faced with the problem, except where I bought extra copies at my own expense with the idea of making them available through purchase. I should think that if there were to be a special demand from people you do not know or who are not specially in your field of work and there were need to conserve the supply, as there is in this case, that it would be advisable to sell them, even if you did not pay for them in the first place. At any rate you are not going to "make money" selling reprints. Suppose I put a price on them when I get the galley proof of my paper. Shall it be 25 cents or 20 cents or what?

I understand that there is being gotten up at the U. of Michigan some directions for collecting plants which may be much more elaborate than the ordinary directions for beginners. It may incorporate some of your type of material. It is one of the added things I mention as in preparation.

I have not heard from you any reactions to my idea of hunting for a student to write a minor thesis on the subject of mounting plants. I sent you a copy of a letter to Professor Bartlett. Merrill suggests that some student in organic chemistry might be interested. He is very pessimistic about any herbarium workers adopting new methods when found. I recently discovered here some directions for mounting plants which were written before Dr. Maxon came here in 1899. Except for reference to surgeons using glass plaster, those directions are being followed here today without a single change, except that sometimes cellophane is added! I believe with the Republicans - It's time for a change! I believe some clever head could find improvements.

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Walker

E. H. Walker
Assistant Curator

December 21, 1944.

Dr. Egbert H. Walker,
Assistant Curator,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Egbert:

Thanks a lot for your recent letter as well as your kindness in forwarding a carbon of your paper on plant collecting, which I herewith return. I greatly enjoyed reading it because of its many helpful suggestions, and also because it appears to put plant collecting on the high level to which its use as an educational as well as a cultural procedure seems to me to entitle it.

I raised with Professor Fernald the question of policy as to the selling of reprints since most of my articles have been published in Rhodora. He tells me he sees nothing unethical in an author's selling reprints for which he has paid, although he did not extend this to selling duplicate copies of the journal, which are sent to the author by the editors of some publications. I certainly agree with the latter decision because as long as journals continue to sell additional copies at so much per issue, the distribution of free copies naturally cuts down this market. I should say that if you wanted to put down my article on "Suggestions for Collectors" at ten cents a copy, that would be entirely satisfactory.

If I did not respond to your earlier question concerning the acceptability of a minor thesis built around the subject of mounting plants, it was primarily because I did not know the answer, and also because at this institution we do not recognize the minor thesis. The candidate for the Master's degree is supposed to turn in a rather solid piece of research which, while it does not have to be published, is supposed to possess publication value. I feel that the subject is one distinctly worthy of study but believe that it might better be done by some student who has secured his degree and has the requisite time to allow him to investigate the subject over a period of years, testing out various methods and materials with a view toward publishing a report incorporating his results in a way that would make them useful to herbarium workers everywhere. I agree with you that the subject is one which is still in the Middle Ages and feel that with the advance of all sorts of material aids such as plastics, it is time that the entire problem was reviewed with a view to improving our time-worn techniques.

With best wishes for the coming Holiday Season, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 9, 1949

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

Dear Dr. Fogg:

While talking about plant collecting at the Victoria University College in Wellington, New Zealand, recently, I referred to your excellent paper on the collecting of specimens of various plant families and the special techniques involved. An energetic student who heads the students botany club, Mr. P. C. Gardner, is anxious to obtain a copy. If you have one to send to him, in care of the Botany Department, it will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

E. H. Walker

E. H. Walker
Associate Curator
Division of Phanerogams

*sent
May 12*

from Fogg

May 12, 1949

Dr. E. H. Walker,
Associate Curator,
Division of Phanerogams,
Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Egbert:

This is just to say that I have received your note of May 9th and that a copy of my paper emphasizing the special techniques of plant collecting is on its way to Mr. Gardner in New Zealand. I am also sending him a copy of my paper on the preparation of local floras.

It is good to hear from you and I hope that we can succeed in getting together in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

June 10, 1949

Dr. Egbert H. Walker,
Associate Curator,
Division of Phanerogams,
Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Egbert:

The Art Museum of this city is planning an exhibit of Chinese pottery of the Ming Dynasty next month and I have yielded to their insistent invitation to examine some of the pieces with the hope of being able to identify the plants represented thereon. I regret to report that seldom in my life have I felt so completely ignorant and inept. This is partly because many of the plant figures are highly conventionalized and inaccurate, but is more largely due to my own lack of familiarity with the Chinese flora and Chinese art. Beyond being able to identify an occasional pomegranate, chrysanthemum, peony, clematis or lotus, I have failed totally to provide any information which might be useful in the preparation of the catalogue which is being made up for this exhibition. I therefore turn to you with a two-fold request.

First, can you by any chance recognize from my very crude and hasty sketches the three subjects which I enclose?

Number 1, which appears on several of the bowls, seems to be a plant with a woody trunk or base. There is a suggestion of something ericaceous in the flower, although the individual flowers are scattered along a stalk and are interspersed by bracts with a terminal leaflet (?) at the tip of the rachis. Offhand this looks like something which would be easy to recognize, that is if the artist has played fair with us by actually copying something from nature and has not taken too much artistic license.

Number 2 also looks easy, particularly if the palmately lobed leaf actually belongs to the flower, but I have not even the slightest guess as to the family.

Number 3 vaguely suggests Ternstroemiaceae, but the flower, as you see, is tetramerous, which leaves me gasping.

Second, can you suggest any work or works of reference in which an attempt has been made to identify the botanical subjects in

June 10, 1949

Chinese art either on pottery, jade or any other medium? It seems to me that this must have been done, although the authorities of the Museum have absolutely no knowledge of any such attempt. I realize fully that much design of this sort is highly stylized, although it seems to me that someone with a knowledge of the Chinese flora should be able to recognize at least a few of the forms which appear and re-appear so often. At any rate, I shall be extremely grateful to you for any information which you can give me on this subject.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 14, 1949

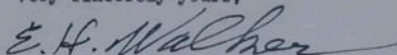
Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Vice-Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Jack:

Your letter of June 10 with the sketches of plants shown on Chinese vases has been received. Recently Dr. Pope of the Freer Gallery, in preparation for submitting vases for exhibit in Philadelphia, asked me to identify some plants shown there. I was only slightly helpful but did identify a few with some degree of certainty. Your three have me stumped. Nos. 2 and 3 look definite enough but I really cannot identify them. No. 1 bears a resemblance to three pictures in an old Chinese herb book which I have. The identification of the Chinese names of these pictures by means of Matsumura, Jinzo, 1915-16. *Shokubuteu mei-1*. Revised and enlarged. Part I. Chinese names of plants. 1-405. 1915. (Part II. Japanese names of plants) 1-667. 1916, and Giles' Dictionary leads me to (1) some member of the Acanthaceae, (2) ginger, (3) *Dioscorea*, and (4) *Litsea cubeba*. The first and the last are obviously impossible and the third is extremely unlikely. It is therefore possible that this represents ginger. However, I would not like at all to be quoted on such a determination. This reminds me of the good artist lady who came in with a painting of a Philippine orchid flower and asked to see the leaves of that particular species. When I found them for her she was dissatisfied because they would not answer her artistic requirements. The leaves of another species of orchid were so much more satisfying to her that she painted them along with her painting of the flowers. I am afraid Chinese artists have also taken liberties with scientific accuracy. Possibly Dr. Merrill would have some more reliable suggestions concerning the identity of these drawings and I suggest that you submit them to him.

The only article that I know of concerning botany and Chinese art is as follows: Sowerby, A. de C., 1937. The flora of Chinese art. *China Journ.* 26: 310-320. 12 pl. 1 f. It was no specific help in the identification of your sketches but might have suggestions in other connections.

Very sincerely yours,



E. H. Walker, Associate Curator
Division of Phanerogams

Walker, E.H.

7413 Holly Ave.
Takoma Park, Md.
July 15, 1958.

Dr. John M. Fogg
Morris Arboretum
Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Only yesterday did the project of preparing a Supplement to the Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany under the American Institute of Biological Sciences with finances from the National Science Foundation become established as of July 1st. Mr. Chen has been working on it, however, since June 20th on faith that the details would be worked out. We have a difficulty with which you may be able to assist us.

As you may know foreign students are not permitted by the Immigration Service to earn money except as assistants in universities or as part of their academic work. Because Mr. Chen had three qualifications that I urgently needed in this project, I arranged for him to join me in this work. He could do so with pay if the University could approve his doing so as part of his training. As you know bibliographic work is fundamental training, which indeed few students are able to get. Mr. Chen made some inquiries before he came about University permission to do this work, but there seems to have been nothing definite done about it. Now the AIBS is about to begin paying him and the question of satisfying the Immigration Service regulations has become acute. We do not want him deported for infraction of the rules. "I need him!"

It occurs to me that your knowledge of the University's operations might enable you to come up with a solution. Mr. Chen says he talked with the Foreign Student Aid, but is afraid he is an agent of the Immigration Service and is unsympathetic to his working. I suspect his concept is not quite right, but I am sure you can ascertain the true situation and come up with a solution, in doing which you will bestow a great favor on both of us.

Yours sincerely,

Egbert H. Walker
Egbert H. Walker

P. S. You may be interested in the fact that I shall soon be either on leave-without-pay for a year or retired from the Smithsonian, being now eligible for the latter.

*Phone conversation
July 30*

7413 Holly Ave.
Takoma Park, Md.
Sept. 27, 1958.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Herewith is a letter addressed to the Foreign Student Advisor which I would appreciate your scanning and sending on to the proper individual. If the person I have addressed it to is not the most suitable person to deal with this, I am sure you will know who is the proper person to receive this letter.

We became much attached to Mr. Chen this summer. Perhaps we should have done something more about this matter, but we did not know just how to go about it and thought we might strain relations through our errors. Hence we just left him to learn English words from us. I'm afraid Chen picked up entirely too many colloquialisms and slang expressions. I never realized how much of the latter I use in ordinary speech, and began to fear for my reputation when people come to ask Chen where he learned all these Americanisms, not all dated "1958".

Chen was a great asset in my work on the Supplement to the Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany that I have started to prepare under contract for the American Institute of Biological Sciences. I hope he will be able to spend the Christmas and spring vacations with us, so that I can have more of his services and so he can earn some more money on this project. I am struggling along without him, though I have about come to the point of laying aside all the oriental work.

I hope you have had a pleasant summer.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest H. Walker

7413 Holly Ave.
Takoma Park, Md.
September 27, 1958.

Foreign Student Advisor
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Penna.

(Through Dr. J. M. Fogg)

Dear Sir:

It was my privilege to have Mr. James C. W. Chen reside with me this past summer and assist me in my bibliographic work on Chinese botany. The family became much attached to Mr. Chen and we hope he will consider ours as his second home while he is in this country.

He has just sent us his schedule for the semester. There is one item which we feel is lacking, though how it can be added is not quite clear to us. However, I would like to bring this to your attention, for it is something that may not be so evident to you and to him.

One of Mr. Chen's great assets is his willingness to talk, even though it is a great struggle to get his ideas across. This is the first step in becoming adept with the English language. However, he now, to a large extent, talks English with Chinese grammar, i. e. he translates Chinese (or rather Japanese) into English. My wife and I feel strongly that he should learn the ways of expressing himself in English as well as the words to use, and that this should be done formally rather than leaving it to be picked up. Chen is a bright boy, quick to learn and eager to improve himself. We feel that since he does make himself understood, he may get the habit of using Chinese idioms so firmly established that he will find much difficulty later in adopting the English idioms.

We doubt if there are any English courses in the University that would be adapted to Mr. Chen's needs. However, there may be something in your large city that would supply his need. Perhaps there are enough others in need of the same thing so that a properly adapted class could be developed. This may not be a matter for you to deal with, but if not, I hope you will bring it to the attention of the proper people. I am reluctant to say anything more about this to Mr. Chen, lest I make him feel that I am unduly criticising him. You can doubtless deal with it in a more objective manner.

Sincerely yours,

Egbert H. Walker
Egbert H. Walker

WALKER, Egbert A Dr

October 8, 1958

Dr. Egbert H. Walker
7413 Holly Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Dear Egbert:

Thank you for your letter concerning Chen. I am sorry I was not aware of this matter sooner, for it might have been possible to do something about it before the beginning of the college.

We have so many foreign students with similar language difficulties that several years ago we initiated a special course designed to improve their verbal use and aural comprehension of English. This course is offered during the month before the start of the Fall semester and every foreign non-English speaking student who has been admitted to the University is informed of it well in advance and urged to enroll in it.

I am afraid, therefore, that there is nothing which we can do for Chen except help him as much as possible in the Department. As you know, he arrived in the middle of the last academic term and was unable to take any formal course work. He is now taking several courses, among them our graduate seminar in which he will be expected to give a number of reports. We'll keep an eye on him and help him all we can. Then, next August if he still needs improvement we can try to have him take the special course.

Very sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

JMF:am

1
d
o
c

WALKER, Egbert DR.

October 4, 1961

Dr. Egbert H. Walker
7413 Holly Avenue
Takoma Park 12, MARYLAND

Dear Egbert:

Thank you very much for the interesting series of reprints received from you a few weeks ago. I have been so busy with the opening of the new fall term that I have been unable until now to acknowledge them.

I particularly enjoyed reading your account of "Botanizing with the Okinawans".

My own output of late has been restricted to the trivial kind of thing which I enclose a few samples.

Best wishes and warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

JMF:am