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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.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

4

THE COLLEGE

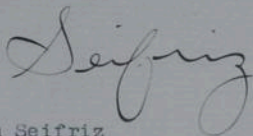
Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

April 8, 1946

Dear Fogg:

I fear we all underestimated Proctor at our last meeting. I still stand by my statement that he is weak in physiology, almost as weak as I am in taxonomy; but in phytogeography and the taxonomic questions relative there to, he is tops. He is the liveliest wire I now have in Plants and Climates, and invariably looks a matter up and traces it down to the end. I like to give a good man his dues, aside from personal feelings. I fear the adverse criticism expressed was based on pure emotional reactions. I have noticed that some of our faculty judge a man on the basis of how much they like him. I like Platt (he is a fine fellow, isn't he?) and Moul very much, but this has nothing to do with Proctor's ability. He is keen.

Sincerely yours



William Seifriz

I will hold this thinking it unnecessary to reopen the subject, but Proctor continues to give much

excellent evidence of an unusually active mind, that he deserves full credit for it, & he hasn't been given it by everyone. If he doesn't know, he looks it up or asks.

W. H. R. G. G.

April 15, 1946

Dear Seifriz:

Thanks for your note about Proctor. You may recall that I was one of those who stood up for him saying that I thought he had an unusually keen mind but a personality which was at times a little rasping. This letter is really to his credit, I suppose, for it betokens originality of thought and emancipation from set methods of procedure. I hope he does as good work for you as he has been doing for me.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

Dr. William Seifriz,
Department of Botany.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

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THE COLLEGE

Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

October 29, 1948

Dear Fogg:

I do not recall a lecture that I have enjoyed so much. I listened to every word. Whether it was you or the subject which made it so interesting I am not sure. Many seminars are terribly dull in spite of an interesting subject. Perhaps it was a case of soil vs. climate, one is as significant as the other, and when you have both working together, then you've got something. I liked, too, the sincerity with which you presented each topic, no pushing it aside with a quip. I know of no branch of science - and I haven't forgotten protoplasm - which fascinates me more than the causes of plant distribution.

There is a second reason for this letter. About a year hence I want to publish in my physiology book a plant map and beside it a soil or geological map, and then a second pair to compare plant distribution and climate. - You see I show no partiality for climate or soil! - I presume to publish any of the "Flora of Pa." maps is out of the question before your book appears. I liked especially the maps showing plants following the limestone ridges, the plants huddled on the fall line, the pine in the north east corner and those plants clustered on old glacial moraines. If to use these is impossible, where in the literature will I find the best illustrations? Shantz has one of the entire United States, but the soil map is far too confusing. I shall appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Sifton

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 4

The College

BOTANICAL LABORATORY
38th and Woodland Ave.

November 14, 1951

Dr. John M. Fogg, Vice-Provost
109 College Hall

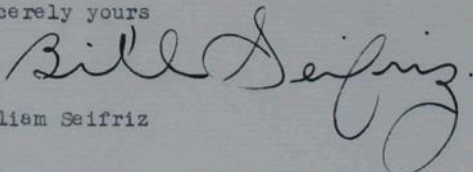
Dear Fogg:

This letter may be premature but it is only an inquiry, the official request to follow, after you tell me when and to whom.

As you know, I plan asking for a sabbatical leave of one semester as has been granted to several other members of our Department. I had hoped to follow Goddard, but on learning that Zirkle intended to, I stepped aside. I should like the first semester of the next academic year, namely October 1952 to January 1953. I want to spend the time at some marine laboratory either Naples or a more tropical shore where marine material for protoplasmic research is abundant and varied. After experimenting in the laboratory part of the day I want to devote the rest of the time to rewriting my book on Protoplasm.

To whom, and about when, should I apply? I would, ordinarily, assume that the request should first go to Schramm, but I very much fear that it may not go further, at least, not with dispatch and with enthusiasm. For this reason I turn to you, and then I'll write a formal letter.

Sincerely yours



William Seifriz

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

Botanical Laboratory
38th St. and Woodland Ave.

June 22

Dear Fagg: Your letter, being official, requires no answer, but it is so delightfully written I would like to say "Thank you". Then too I want to tell you about the class of Proctor. Proctor was not so popular, nor was Mager, nor is any instructor who is trying his spurs for the first time. But when I appealed to the class for 3 contributions of blood, to replace that gotten by Proctor, gratis, from the hospital, 3 boys rose immediately. There is something fine in mankind after all.

Most sincerely, Bill Seifriz

SEIFRIZ, Wm.

Last summer the colleagues of Professor William Seifriz were shocked to learn that he had drowned while collecting some marine algae in the Chesapeake Bay. On the tenth of ^{July} August he went to the village of on the eastern shore of Maryland. He left his briefcase at the hotel and proceeded immediately to the collection of specimens. He did not return to the hotel that night and two days later his body washed ashore. The next day it was identified. Thus the career of one of the best-known biologists in America was brought to a close.

William Seifriz was born in Washington, D.C. on August 11, 1888. His parents were Paul Seifriz and Anna Schmidt. His family was exceptionally well versed in the fine arts, one of his maternal uncles being a sculptor who spent most of his life in Paris and was a close personal friend of Rodin. Professor Seifriz was the proud possessor of an original clay model given him by Rodin.

Before going to college, William Seifriz worked for three years in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, and it was here that his interest in botany crystallized. On resigning from the Bureau of Plant Industry he enrolled in the Johns Hopkins University in 1912 and received the Bachelor of Science Degree in 1916 and the Doctorate of Philosophy in 1920. The following two years he spent in travelling around the world and in pursuing his scientific research at several Asiatic and European centers. He worked at the great tropical center of botanical research, the Buitenzorg Botanic Gardens in Java, and at the University of

London and the University of Geneva. He brought his foreign studies to a close with his work at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin.

On his return to America he became a Seessel Fellow at Yale for a year, and he was also for one year an Instructor in Botany at the University of Michigan. He came to the University of Pennsylvania as a National Research Fellow in 1924 and in 1925 was made Professor of Botany.

Professor Seifriz was an exceptionally productive scholar, publishing numerous technical contributions. He ^{was the author of} ~~also wrote~~ a textbook of plant physiology but he was best known for his book Protoplasm (published in the McGraw-Hill Botanical Series.) He was one of the original editors of the journal Protoplasma and he also served as an associate editor of Biodynamica and the Journal of Colloidal Science.

His botanical interests were broad and varied, and he travelled extensively, particularly in the American tropics, (collecting and) ^{and writing on} studying the floras of Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba. His interest in Alpine flora took him to the high mountains in Venezuela. Earlier, when Russia was more hospitable to visiting scientists, he explored the Caucasian Mountains and studied their ecology. He was at all times both a laboratory and a field worker. Few American botanists have ever been as well known to the world at large as Professor Seifriz.

Both his colleagues in Botany and the University of Pennsylvania have sustained a real loss in his death.

Pacaraima

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Dean, I move that this *memorial*
be included in our minutes.

spread upon

Respectfully submitted

John M. Fogg

Wesley G. Hutchinson

Conway Zirkle, Chairman