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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.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

February 25, 1957

Dr. David J. Rogers
Department of Biology
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Rogers:

Dr. Edmund J. Fulling, publisher of the journal ECONOMIC BOTANY, has invited the Garden to take over the editorship and ownership of the journal which he founded and has built up successfully here. We find that Economic Botany is highly esteemed by a rather wide audience of readers, many of whom have only a peripheral acquaintance with botany in the pure sense. We feel that the magazine performs a valuable service to our general field, and consequently we look forward with much interest to taking it over.

As editor of Economic Botany, we are seeking a man of outstanding promise in the field of botany, who can not only continue and magnify the excellent standing of this journal, but who can fit well into our congenial staff of botanists. The editorship of Economic Botany requires about half of Dr. Fulling's time at present. This includes the management of the journal and the planning and solicitation of appropriate articles. This means that the editor would have approximately about an equal amount of time to devote to his own researches. This we would hope might turn toward the field of Economic Botany, for which there seems to be an increasing demand by industry and commerce among others. The editor we engage, however, may utilize the extensive sources of the library, herbarium, and other facilities here as required.

Because we know of your interest in the Manihot and suspect, therefore, that your interest may already have broadened to other economic plants of tropical regions, it has occurred to us that you might be interested in giving consideration to this job. We do not know anything about your interests in an editorship, nor in fact are we acquainted with your ability in that line, but if you meet this requirement and have an interest in turning your attention a little more toward economic plants, the New York environment offers a stimulating opportunity, and this editorship should yield considerable personal satisfaction. We would be interested to know whether you would like to know further about this position before a definite offer is made you and, if so, probably arrangements can be made to bring you to New York to discuss it fully.

Very sincerely yours,

David D. Keck
Assistant Director & Head Curator

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

February 28, 1957

Dr. David D. Keck
The New York Botanical Garden
New York 58, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Keck:

Thank you for your letter of February 25. I will be happy to be considered for the position.

Perhaps you already know that I have not served in an editorial role, but the opportunity to work in the area of ECONOMIC BOTANY is one in which I have great interest. I feel that I could shortly master the editorial skills, and do a creditable job along the lines you outlined.

Further, the opportunity to spend more time in the study of Manihot and associated genera is a long felt need of mine.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have, or supply any data you require.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Rogers
Associate Professor of Biology

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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

March 4, 1957

Dr. David J. Rogers
Department of Biology
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Rogers:

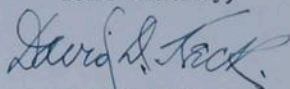
Thank you for your letter of February 28. I am glad to know of your interest in the editorial position with the journal ECONOMIC BOTANY about which I wrote you.

It would be helpful to us if you would be willing to come to New York to discuss the matter further with our director, Dr. W. J. Robbins, and myself. I presume that it would be most convenient for you to come on a week-end. Is it possible for you to come on Saturday of this week (March 9) for a morning interview here at the Garden? This is very short notice and it would be quite understandable if you could not make it. On the following Saturday I will be out of town, and so it would have to go over still another week until March 23. As we are anxious to settle this matter ourselves rather promptly, the early date would be preferable to us. It is also possible that you could be here on some other day of the week than Saturday, and I invite you to let us know your wishes in this matter. I hope it may be possible for you to get to the Garden by midmorning. If you come in on a night train, that should not be difficult, for you can come to the Garden by New York Central from Grand Central Station in about twenty-two ^{minutes} on trains leaving at 7:47 AM and 9:42 AM. It takes about an hour ^{to come} ~~to come~~ by subway to Third Avenue and 149th Street, changing there to the elevated and riding to the 200th Street station. It would be fine if you were able to come this Saturday. If that date is unsatisfactory, please advise me as to other possibilities.

We, of course, shall be happy to reimburse you for your traveling and other expenses.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Yours sincerely,



David D. Keck
Assistant Director
and Head Curator

*We would look for you in the Museum Building;
and the guard at the gate can direct you to
it.*

DDK:gg

THE HENRY SHAW SCHOOL
OF BOTANY

March 7, 1957

Dear Dave:

Thanks for your letter of March 2. I was on the point of writing you to find out what had developed from your several possibilities for a change from Allegheny. While I have the highest respect for the dear old school, I feel that you have shown more than sufficient enterprise to merit a change to an atmosphere perhaps more conducive to your research.

I am really a little surprised that Santa Barbara did not take you on, because I wrote one of my famous letters. Perhaps they felt that you were not familiar enough with the West Coast flora.

I am not much surprised that Mangelsdorf did not carry through because I told him that his salary was too low. The funny part about this is the news I have heard somewhere that Mangelsdorf did contact Jonathan Sauer, who would be more difficult to move from Wisconsin I should imagine.

When Dave Keck was here last fall he and Rog McVaugh and Al Smith and I discussed the Economic Botany business and your name was brought up. You got my O.K. of course although I said I didn't know how you would like editing. Let me know how it works out. Keck would make a grand associate.

Best to all the family and yourself!

As ever,

Bob

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DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

March 12, 1957

Dr. David J. Rogers
Department of Biology
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Rogers:

It was a pleasure to have the interview with you last Saturday morning and to learn of your interest in the post we now have available in economic botany. Both Dr. Keck and I feel that you have a commendable background training and interest to bring to this position. It is therefore my pleasure to offer you the post of Curator of Economic Botany and the editorship of the journal Economic Botany at a beginning salary of \$7,500. In addition the Garden would pay an employer's contribution to your present T.I.A.A. Annuity Plan in the amount of \$24 per month, which we understand is the amount now contributed by Allegheny College. This provision would be in lieu of the present retirement benefits of the Garden, and if and when the Garden adopts a new retirement plan, its provisions would not be available to you in addition to these. If such an eventuality occurs, a choice would be available to you.

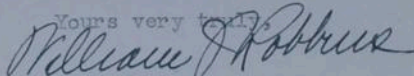
As explained in our conversation, the position is now available, and it is our understanding that you should be able to undertake your new duties July 1, 1957.

The duties of this position would be to edit and operate Economic Botany, as outlined in our discussion, and to develop the field of interest in economic plants as opportunities unfold. In these phases of your activities you would be responsible to the Director. In your work in the Euphorbiaceae and other families in the herbarium, you would be responsible to the Head Curator.

You should find time to develop your research interests, which presumably would continue largely in economic plants, and in the direction these take and their requirements, you will find the Garden's attitude a liberal one.

I trust that I may have your favorable reply, and we look forward to a happy and fruitful association with you.

Yours very truly,



William J. Robbins
Director

March 16, 1957

Dr. William J. Robbins, Director
The New York Botanical Garden
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Robbins:

I am happy to accept your offer in the letter of March 12, 1957. The position is a challenging one, and I trust that I can fully justify your confidence in me.

If you, Dr. Reek or Dr. Fulling have instructions, communications or other business which you feel I should be made cognizant of between now and the first of July, I should be happy to cooperate.

I am sure that it is beyond the requirements that you look after any housing possibilities for me, but if by chance you happen to hear of a suitable house for rent, I will be pleased to hear of it. It is preferable to rent at least for a short period, rather than immediately purchasing.

Thank you for your letter. I am looking forward to taking up my duties on July 1.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Rogers