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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.



CONSERVATOIRE
ET
JARDIN BOTANQUES

ROUTE DE LAUSANNE 192

HERBIERS BOISSIER, DE CANDOLLE
ET DELESSERT RÉUNIS

DIR.: PROF. DR CHARLES BAHRNI

GENÈVE, 22.1.1964

Professor B. Karstén
Hills Cottage
Berkeley
California

Dear Bakzi,

For a long time I
postponed to answer: there is such a
heap of work to do here that friendship
is neglected. But I do not forget you.

Since your paper
in the "Museum de Genève", two distinguished
visitors accepted to collaborate: Mrs
Lucat-Guillaumod and Prof. McVaugh.
By the way, Profs. Constance and McVaugh
did a trip in the alps with me and
Bessier: they both stayed spent some
time with us in Geneva and this
journey was quite a success: I have
to send some photographs to prof. Constance.

Do not forget you

promised to send me the
relation of the year you spent in
Europe in the Bulletin of Alumni of
your college. I am very much
interested.

I am myself more or less finishing
my revision... when I find some
minutes between my official duties:
I had to prepare a volume of Candollea
and one of Borssiera. And there is
the sorting of the Borssier Herbarium
according to the Flora orientalis, and so on...

How are you doing yourself?
Thanks for your separates!

Very cordially and
with my best
wishes,

G. Bonquet.

VILLE DE



GENÈVE

GENÈVE, le 13.I. 1965.

CONSERVATOIRE
ET
JARDIN BOTANIKUES

ROUTE DE LAUSANNE 192

HERBIERS BOISSIER, DE CANDOLLE
ET DELESSERT RÉUNIS

DIR.: PROF. DR CHARLES BAERNI

Monsieur B. Kasapligil

Docteur en Sciences

Mills College

Berkeley

California

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My dear Bakl,

Let me say how ashamed I am not to have answered earlier to your very kind cards! I would like to express what a fine memory I keep of your stay in Geneva. It would have been a pleasure to meet you again this autumn as you had previously planned, and I regret you preferred Stockholm! By the way, did you visit Erdtman's laboratory?

You seem to travel the deuce of a lot and the poor old world chap that I am is very impressed! I have to say that things are looking better here since the death of Baehni, under this respect as in many other ways. We could obtain far more generous credits for 1965 as we ever had. Still we are far from being able to do such expensive trips (especially since we are 5!).

Please do not think I am rash when speaking of Baehni that way! His was a very poor reign, really! And now he is dead, we are, as we say in French, put in the same bag. That is, WE too are held responsible for the deplorable status of the institution. So no one of us as a chance and the new director will be an outsider (apparently J. Miège from Bakar). And probably it is a good thing. You found me sad at the time and it was true! You thought (and very friendly said so) that I was making a fuss. I can assure you everything was distorted. I recognise that you were not able to judge the situation clearly from the outside: in private the man was fairly likeable. He had just nothing for being a director, but ~~for~~ his social ambitions. In the end, he simply killed himself on the job. Unfortunately, he killed us, too, or nearly so! Still, let us bygones be bygones!

The death of Bersier was an awful tragedy. The poor man was literally "destroyed" by a generalized cancer. He suffered a lot. For me, he was a friend as well as a collaborator. So for me, his misfortune was a terrible shock: such an association can be replaced and it means a whole piece of the future disappearing of my field of research. And he was such a promising young man! I am so glad he was able to come to Edinburgh and to put up with me the two exhibits we presented at the congress, although he was already unfit at the time. He could so see a full account of our researches on the ovules and see that it met some interest.

My situation here is better now and I do not complain at the new direction will be ~~more~~ more intimately connected with the university and research possibilities will be apparently better. I have very good prospects towards the university myself.

I was very much interested by your paper on *Corylus* and I hope you keep me on your exchange list; you will soon receive some papers from me. We have to keep in touch somehow! You forgot one thing: you promised me a copy of the alumni bulletin of your college when relating your trip in Europe.

Most cordially,

Gilbert Bocquet

July 2, 1965

Monsieur Gilbert Bocquet
Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques
Route de Lausanne 192
Genève, Switzerland

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Dear Gilbert,

It was so nice to hear from you. I wanted to answer you earlier, but this was not so easy during the semester. My teaching duties kept me quite busy. You probably started teaching at the Univ. after the deaths of Prof. Bächli and M. Bersier. Did you complete your doctor's degree? If not, you better speed up my good friend. You would make just the right candidate for the vacancy at your famed university. I am sure you can handle both jobs at the herbarium as well as at the Univ. Teaching just one course would not take much time, and it can be inspiring for the type of research you are doing. How is M. Talafer? You are fortunate to have such a capable technician for you. I did not receive any published paper from you for quite some time, I hope you will not forget to send me your reprints. Likewise, I shall do the same.

I am glad to know that M. Bernerdi is planning to visit the San Francisco region this summer. I shall be delighted to help him in any way I can although I can not be sure to introduce him to all taxonomists of our region since many of them would be away during the summer vacation. I assume that he departed from Geneva in June, therefore I could not write to him directly since I do not know his address. If you communicate with Dr. Bernerdi, please do tell him to let me know the exact date of his arrival and the name of his hotel in San Francisco. He will find my phone number in Oakland Telephone Directory. I hope, next year it will be your turn to visit U.S.A.

I regret that I did not have time to visit you last summer. In Stockholm, I spent a wonderful week in Prof. O. Selling's laboratories.

Of course, I know Prof. Erdtman, and I had a phone conversation with him. Unfortunately he was sick during that period and I did not want to disturb him. For this reason, I did not have the opportunity to visit the palynological laboratories, but I do hope to revisit Sweden.

Yes, I do remember that I promised to send you our alumni bulletin and I did send you one at least a year ago. I wish I had another copy to mail it to you. I had only one copy of it and I forwarded to you. The news note about my sabbatical leave was a short paragraph, mentioning the European institutions I visited and my research interest on the genus Corylus.

I have too many plants to study, after my trip in Japan and India. If you wish, I will be glad to send you the duplicate specimens for your herbarium. Sorry, I do not have many from the fam. Caryophyllaceae, but I do remember collecting one Silene from Caucasian Turkey last summer. If you wish, I shall be glad to send you a specimen of this Silene which may turn out to be an interesting one for you.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Bocquet. My family joins me in sending best wishes to all of you. Does Nicolas have a partner now? With cordial greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Baki Kasapligil