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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.

Mills College



OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94613

August 7, 1970

Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Dear Dr. Mason:

I understand that I was misinformed earlier this year about your intentions regarding your valued reprint collection.

For the record, the College now recognizes that you intended these as a gift to Dr. Baki Kasapligil.

Sincerely,

Thor M. Smith
Vice President
and Secretary

Dr. Herbert L. Mason
1190 Sterling Avenue
Berkeley, California 94708

cc: Dr. Kasapligil

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of Thor M. Smith.

MILLS COLLEGE • INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE August 7, 1970

SUBJECT Reprint Collection of Dr. Herbert Mason, 1190 Stealing Ave.,
Berkeley, Cal., 94708

FROM Maryann Fritz

TO Development Office

Digitized by the Herbarium Institute for Botanical Documentation

Dear Sirs:

Dr. Baki Kasapligil has asked me to unravel a misunderstanding regarding the legal ownership of an extensive and impressive collection of reprints which Dr. Mason brought to Mills during the spring term (1970). These reprints are intended to be under the ownership of Dr. Kasapligil, and not the property of Mills College. Dr. Mason apparently received a "Thank You" note from the college and, according to Dr. Kasapligil, was distressed because it was not his intention to give them to the college.

Dr. Kasapligil does not want to shelve nor index the reprints until his title to them is absolutely clear. He will do so if he is recognized as the owner by the College. Since he is the only person available with the necessary expertise to classify these materials appropriately, it would seem obligatory upon the college to retract it's well-meant "Thank You."

At any rate, a short note to Dr. Herbert Mason in Berkeley with a carbon-copy to Dr. Kasapligil, which properly acknowledges Dr. Kasapligil's ownership of the reprint collect would seem to be in order. Would you be so good as to take the time to do this?

Thank you so much for attending to this matter.

Sincerely,

Maryann Fritz
Maryann Fritz, Ph. D.
Assistant Professor
Biology

cc: Dr. Kasapligil
Dr. Bowers
Dr. Bennett

Lecture by Dr. Mason
April 17, 1973

The history of botany in America began with exploration of the flora in various regions, at first by Europeans and then by locals. It was common practice for plants found in America back to Europe for study.

David Douglas, one of the greatest contributors to botany, was financed by the Kew Gardens in ^{Richmond, Surrey} ~~Edinburgh~~, England to come to America and collect seed. He named the Douglas Fir and the Sugar Pine in his travels through Okinagen Country (Northwest America). Turreson, the founder of the Department of Botany at Mills College, discovered in 1922 ecotypical differences and genetic variations in the Douglas Fir. Douglas dated his notes, a practical system, which enabled his colleagues to determine the approximate locations of the various species collected and described.

In his travels through Monterey, Douglas met Thomas Coulter of Ireland, a physician by profession, who had taken a year off to explore. Coulter was the first botanist to collect in the desert region. He had crossed Colorado and travelled north to San Francisco. He also had collected in Mexico. Among his discoveries were the Santa Lucia Fir and the Coulter Pine. However, his efforts were concentrated mainly on herbaceous plants.

Thomas Nuttall explored with Richard Henry Dana (1815 - 1882). Having a ship and excellent facilities he was able to collect successfully many species of plants.

Jeffrey, discoverer of the Jeffrey Pine, explored during the gold ^{discovery} strike period. He sent his collected specimens back to England.

Theodore Hartweg came upon the area known today as Oakland and saw before him a most magnificent strand of native oaks, and so its name. Inhabiting the forest were large numbers of grizzly bears, feeding on the plentiful acorns. Driven south by encroaching civilization, the grizzly bears of Oakland have been found in the back country of Mexico.

The next era of this history is marked as an epoch of competition. The best known botanist of the time was Asa Gray at Harvard, author of a glossary of botanical terms. Edward Lee Green, a high churchman at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley had become first professor of Botany at the University of California, Berkeley. When Gray died, Green, taking his herbarium with him, went east, hoping to replace Gray as number one. He was not accepted at Harvard, and much embittered but never returning to California where he could have gained much reknown, Green joined the Catholic Church and stayed on at Notre Dame in Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee were eminent California botanists (around 1910). Katherine Lane Brandegee was a doctor by profession. She and her husband offered their botanical library collection and herbarium to the University of California, Berkeley in exchange for a place to live. U. C. built them a cottage and there they tyrannized the Department of Botany for several years. Their donation comprised the nucleus of the botanical library of the University, however they were known to be stingy with their herbarium. Difficult to get along with (they didn't like Jepson) they were great friends with Marcus Jones, the famed, profane botanist of the Great Basin region between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains.

J. G. Lemmon, a school teacher in the Sierra Valley, became state botanist of California. He discovered sex reversal in pine trees. The usual order of catkin arrangement in the cones is a small cluster of ovulate catkins above and a large cluster of staminate catkins below. Lemmon noted a tree whose bisexual cones had the order of sexes reversed, that is, a small cluster of staminate catkins were above and a large cluster of ovulate catkins were below. Lemmon moved to Oakland and set up an herbarium.

S. B. Parrish was an expert of the flora of the deserts, having worked extensively in the Mojave Desert. Quite late in life, a fire destroyed all his notes.

Dudley, a taxonomist at Stanford was from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Never quite fitting into the scheme of things on the West coast he was arrested for collecting and preserving flowers in Santa Cruz.

Japson, a sensitive man, known recluse and lone wolf, was tops in the field of Botany. He was connected with and inspired by the Hooker family in England. His great work was his "Flora of California."

Abrams, like Dudley, was meek. He was greatly influenced by the New York Botanical Garden, representing the East coast contingent of American botanists.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

HERBARIUM
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

31 July 1974

itized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Dr. Baki Kasapligil
Department of Biology
Mills College
Oakland, California 94613

Dear Baki:

Thank you for the reprints. I have entered an order with our library for Fremontia. It is a very interesting publication.

Pat and I could not wait for the International Congress and so are planning a trip to the Middle East this December-January. Our plans, although indefinite, are to fly to Rome, Athens, Istanbul, Baghdad, Kuwait, Beirut, Cairo, etc. Any information you can give us as to where to go and what to see in Turkey will be appreciated.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Chuck

Charles T. Mason, Jr.
Curator of the Herbarium

CTM/alk

Rt 2 Box 701
Judson Aiy, 85715
Dec. 4, 1974

Dear Baki,

Via my sister, via Herbert, I have gotten word that you are wondering about our itinerary; (I received one letter from you some months ago, but none recently.) We just received our plans - still incomplete in confirmations - from our travel agent yesterday. Our flight from Baghdad to Istanbul is not confirmed (altho it has been requested for weeks - even months.) The plan to leave Baghdad JAN 3 10:30 AM & arrive Istanbul 12:00 noon Iraqi Airways 045. We have reservations at the KEBAN HOTEL - TAKSIM, SIRASELVILER 51 for Jan 3, 4, 5 and leave Istanbul for Athens JAN 6 17:55 P.M.

We are not sure we will be going to Baghdad, for we have been unable to receive a reply from our Iraqi ^(former) student who is the reason we would be going there. 4 letters have gone unanswered, and that is not at all like him; so obviously he has not received them. We will be in Kuwait before going to Baghdad, and as there is no way to fly directly from Kuwait to Istanbul, we may have to go by way of Beirut or who knows! At any rate, we'll be in Istanbul to keep our hotel reservations for

Jan 3, 4, 5. If your brother has a few free hours we'd be delighted to meet him. We have no idea what the hotel is like or where it is.

As far as we are booked to spend 10 days in Egypt, 3 in Kuwait, 2 in Iraq, 3 in Istanbul, 3 in Athens, & 1 in Rome. We have all been so busy with classes etc that not one of us has done anything in the way of studying for the trip. Finals are from Dec 10-20. Tom has his last final on the day we leave (Dec 19) but the teacher is nice enough to give it to him early. I have been attending classes in Arabic (Church & I audited the entire semester but still can't speak it!), Islamic Thought, and Modern Mid-East history. That's where all my time has disappeared, but next week I'll be free to concentrate on our trip, for I won't be taking any finals.

We understand from Reed Rollins who is here for the semester that several unfortunate hitches have sprung up for the Russian trip next summer. Hop it all gets cleared up.

Thanks for being concerned about us and for offering your brother as our guide — if he has time. Please don't tell him he has to take care of us!

Fondly, Pat
I'll let you know more if I find out any more definite plans.