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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.

13 September, 1988

Dr. A. Hansen,
Botanical Museum and Herbarium,
Gothersgade 130,
DK1123 Copenhagen,
DENMARK

Dear Albert,

I would be grateful if you were able to assist with the following questions which have arisen in the course of my writing an "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses".

1. What were the personal names corresponding to C.P. for C.P. Holbøll?
- 2 What is the title and publisher of the book you once showed me, that deals with short biographies of Danish botanists?

The reference to Holbøll occurs on the page of the working draft enclosed for your information.

With kind regards to yourself and any other of my Copenhagen friends you may encounter.

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD,
Professor of Botany

ca. 13 Sep 88.

~~I. Statistikk over Den Danske Botaniske Historie med tilhørende Bibliografi. II. Bibliografi. Copenhagen 1924/26.~~

"- : Den Danske Botaniske Litteratur 1912-1939.
Copenhagen 1940.

A. Hansen: Den Danske Botaniske Litteratur 1940-1959. Dansk Botanisk Arkiv bd. 21(1). Copenhagen 1963.

contain short biographies of Danish botanists

Carl Peter Holbell

at Institute for Botanical Documentation

Til underbrift

Kan beholdes

Ifølge aftale

I henhold til brev/telefonsamtale af

Tilbageendes med tak for lån

Ring venligst herom til

Til Deres orientering

Til godkendelse

Ønskes retur

Den Botaniske Museum

Gothersgade 130

DK 1123 København K

Tlf. 01 / 111744 lok

Til Dear Prof. Clifford!

*Your questions in your letter
of Sept. 13th. are answered on the opposite
side!*

Dato 27/9- 1988

Med venlig hilsen

Olefred Hansen

- hirtigluma* L. *hirtus*, hairy; gluma, glume. With hairy glumes.
Digitaria hirtigluma.
hirtiraginatus L. *hirtus*, hairy; vagina, sheath. With hairy culm sheaths. *Indocalamus hirtiraginatus*.
hirtula L. *hirtus*, hairy; -ula, diminutive. Slightly hairy.
Arundinaria hirtula.
hisauchii in honor of Kiyotaka Hisauchi (1884-1981) Japanese botanist.
Poa hisauchii, *Pseudosasa hisauchii*.
hispanica L. of Spain. *Dactylis hispanica*, *Gaudinia hispanica*, *Periballia hispanica*.
hispidula, -um, -us L. bearing coarse stiff hairs. *Arthraxon hispidus*, *Arundinella hispidula*, *Digitaria hispidula*, *Eragrostis hispidula*, *Indocalamus hispidus*, *Indosasa hispidula*, *Lasiolytrum hispidum*, *Paspalum hispidum*, *Phyllostachys hispidula*, *Shibataea hispidula*, *Tribolium hispidum*, *Tristachya hispidula*.
hispidifolium L. *hispidus*, bearing coarse stiff hairs; folium, a leaf. With hairy leaves. *Panicum hispidifolium*.
hispidula, -us *hispidus*, bristly; -ula, diminutive. With minutely hispid glumes. *Arthraxon hispidulus*, *Digitaria hispidula*.
hissaricus *Polypogon hissaricus*.
Hitchcockella in honor of Albert Spear Hitchcock (1865-1935), United States agronomist.
hitchcockii see *Hitchcockella*. *Digitaria hitchcockii*, *Styppelochloa hitchcockii*, *Trichachne hitchcockii*.
hochstetteriana in honor of Christian Gottlob Ferdinand von Hochstetter (1829-84) German anthropologist and geologist.
Aristida hochstetteriana.
hoffmanni in honor of Hoffmann (-) plant collector. *Agrostis hoffmanni*.
hohenackerana in honor of Hohenacker. *Stipa hohenackerana*.
hohenackeri see *hohenackerana*. *Dimeria hohenackeri*.
hoi (*Isachne hoi*). In honor of Y.Y. Ho (fl. 1957) Chinese plant collector. C.P. *Isachne*?
Holboellia in honor of Holbøll (1795-1853) Danish botanist. Carl Peter Holbøll
holcoides Gk. -oides, resembling. Similar to *Holcus*. *Eriochrysis holcoides*.
Holcolemma Gk. lemma, scale. The lemma resembles that of *Holcus*?
Holcus Gk. *holco*, to draw. Used in Ancient times to remove hairs from the body.
holdgateana in honor of Martin W. Holdgate (fl. 1955) British scientist. *Agrostis holdgateana*.
holmii in honor of Herman Theodor Holm (1854-1932) Danish-born United States botanist. *Calamagrostis holmii*.
Hologamium Gk. holes, entire; gamo, marry. Meaning obscure.
hololeuca Gk. *holos*, entire; *leucos*, white. Densely pubescent with long white hairs. *Digitaria hololeuca*.
Holoseium Gk. *holos*, entire; L. *setum*, bristle. Meaning obscure.
holstii *Setaria holstii*.
holtumiana in honor of Richard Eric Holttum (1895-) English botanist. *Olyra holtumiana*.
holubii in honor of Emil Holub (1847-1902) Czech naturalist, explorer and medical practitioner. *Echinochloa holubi*, *Panicum holubii*.
Homalachna Gk. *homalos*, ----; *achne*, scale.
Homalachne see *Homalachna*.
Homalocenchrus Gk. *homalos*, ----; *kegros*, grain. Possibly a reference to *Aristida holachna*.
holachna Gk. *holos*, whole; *achne*, scale. Lemma mostly awn. *Aristida holachna*.

16 July, 1991

Dr. A. Hansen
Botanical Museum and Herbarium
Gothersgade 130
DK1123 Copenhagen
DENMARK

Dear Alfred,

I was sorry to miss seeing you earlier in the year. No doubt you received my invitation to join Bertel and myself for lunch but unfortunately for us you were on holiday at the time.

The "Dictionary" is nearly finished and it is about a few Danish people honored with grass names that I write. It would improve the appropriate entries if you were able to answer a few questions. These are indicated below against the names that were on the list you kindly supplied.

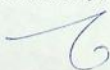
1. Hartz N.E.K.; names corresponding to initials.
2. Edelberg L.; name corresponding to initial.
3. Pedersen T.M.; names corresponding to initials and year of death if deceased. I remember him well from my first visit to Copenhagen.
4. Vollesen K.; name corresponding to initial.
5. Kjøie M.; name corresponding to initial and year of death. If not deceased, he would be 80 this year.

Botanists extra to the list you supplied and who are honored in grass names are Tyge Böcher (*Poa boecheri*); Theodor Edward Cantor (1809-1860) who collected in China and Malaya (*Bambusa cantori*); Peter Claussen (? -1855) who collected in Brazil (*Merostachys claussenii*) and Th. Sorensen (? - ?) who probably taught in the Taxonomy Institute (*Coelachne sorenseni*).

Are you able to supply the year of birth of Claussen and the full name of Sørensen along with his year of birth and that of death?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

Professor H.T. Clifford
University of Queensland
Department of Botany
St. Lucia, Queensland
Australia 4067

19.4.1990.

Dear Clifford

Thanks for your letter on the etymology of grasses. The *Sitanion hansenii* is apparently derived from *Elymus hansenii* Scrib., an American grass described around 1900. I do not know which Hansen gave name to it.

However, N.L. Bor in 1968 published *Ischaemum hansenii* based on a specimen collected by Smitinand and myself two years earlier and in the same year *Tripogon larsenii* after Kai Larsen, both collections being from Thailand. I was born 1932 and Kai Larsen 1926.

Hoping that this has solved a small problem,

Yours sincerely

Bertel Hansen
Dr. Bertel Hansen

Please give my regards to your wife as well.

Dear Bertel, ✓
Thank you for your prompt
reply to my letter and for the additional
information pertaining to Kai Larsen.
The *Elymus hansenii* (*Sitanion*) was
named in honor of George Hansen (1863 - 1908)
United States Botanist. Poor book keeping on my
part led to me confusing my entry for *Sitanion* &
Ischaemum. There are now about 13,000 entries in the Dictionary.
With kind regards
Yours sincerely
19/4

Dr. B. Hansen
Botanical Museum and Herbarium
Gothersgade 130
DK-1123
Copenhagen K
DENMARK

Dear Bertel,

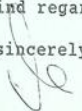
Recently when in London I read the report of a Danish Expedition to Thailand. You were certainly mentioned but so also was another Hansen. The report included the description of a new grass named, if I recall correctly, *Sitanion hansenii*.

Is this species named in your honor? If so, I would be grateful for you to complete the entry for *hansenii* on the enclosed sheet which is from my manuscript on the etymology of the grasses. The entry for *harmandii* will serve as a model. Either write on and return the sheet or send the appropriate biographical details in a letter.

To date, the Dictionary includes about 13,000 entries but to my chagrin there appear to be many more to come.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

Latin ~~harmonicus~~

30 April, 1990

Prof. K. Larsen
Botanical Institute
University of Aarhus
68 Nordlandvej
DK-8240 Risskov
DENMARK

Dear Kai,

I am preparing an "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses" in which are included brief biographical details of persons honored with grass names. Your name is included under *Tripogon larsenii*.

There is also a grass *Digitaria larsenii*. Is this species too named in your honor? Have you been honored with any other grass names.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

13 May, 1991

Dr. P. Wagner
Botanisk Centralbibliotek
Sølvgade 83, Opg. S
DK-1307 København K
DENMARK

Dear Peter,

My visit to Europe was a great success and the Dictionary is now nearly complete. Much of the credit for this state of affairs belongs to the Botanical Library in Copenhagen. Needless to say, there are still many incomplete entries and it is about one of these that I write.

There is a species of *Triticum** named by Seidl using *ichyostachyum* as the epithet. The *stachys* part is easy but not the *ichyo*. If it were *ichthyo* there would be no problem and, indeed, I anticipate an orthographic error. If you could secure the original description I would be most grateful.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

**Triticum ichyostachyum* Seidl ex Opiz. Natural. n.9:106

Sølvgade 83, Opg. S
DK-1307 København K
tlf. 01 12 31 46
PHW/lh

1st July 1991

H.T. Clifford
Professor of Botany
University of Queensland
Department of Botany
St. Lucia, Queensland
Australia 4072

Dear Trevor.

Today I received from the National Museum in Prague a photo-copy of the description of *Triticum ichyostachyum* from Opiz' Naturalientausch. It does not explain the epithet so I am still inclined to assume it is a spelling error.

I also think there is something "fishy" about the
Scill name.

With the best wishes

your

✓
Peter Wagner

Dear Peter,

The literature is full of misspelt names and I agree that *ichyostachyum* is another. The word certainly doesn't appear in any Greek dictionary available to me in Britain. Thank you for your trouble.

A word that puzzled me for some time was *pisca porcum* and but when I found the original description and which stated the stems were used for fishing rods the mystery disappeared. To misplace a t with a p is a not unlikely mistake - a word published in China where the Roman alphabet is quite strange. With kind regards
Yours sincerely
Peter

7 August, 1991

Dr. P. Wagner
Botanisk Centralbibliotek
Sølvgade 83, Opg. S
DK-1307 København K
DENMARK

Dear Peter,

I find myself in need of a copy of an article by Pilger in Engl. Jahrb. 48, 1912. Therein, on pages 345-347, he describes three species of *Eragrostis* the definitions of whose names need checking. If you could let me have a copy of that article assuming it to be not too long, I would be most grateful.

I assume E.O.G. Hultén the Swedish botanist is deceased as he was born in 1894. Do you know his year of death?

The text of the Dictionary has now been expanded to include all the additions and corrections made whilst I was overseas. It will be ready for despatch to the publisher before the end of the year which will please not only myself but also those kind enough to reply to my persistent questioning.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

16th August 1991

Professor H.T. Clifford
University of Queensland
Department of Botany
QLD 4072
Australia

Dear Trevor,

Enclosed copy of Pilger's paper from Jahrbuch 48. It is correct, that Eric Hultén is dead. Unfortunately our volumes of Taxon from 1975 are with the bookbinder just now, but I hope you have access to that journal in Queensland - it must be there.

Nice to learn that progress has been made with the dictionary. We look forward to it.

With kind regards,

Yours truly

Peter Wagner

Dear Peter, Thank you for the Pilgrage paper which will help confirm several entries. One that was ~~interesting~~ ^{to you} is of interest for ~~that for the first time~~ ^{the ancient} Ryukiosperma.

Here the grain is not mounted which puzzled me until I discovered there is no grain - the type specimen. Instead there are dead grains of a bird that feed on grain. That is the description another mistook dead grains for grain.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

1975

13 May, 1991

Prof. K. Rahn
Botanisk Centralbibliotek
Sølvgade 83, Opg. S
DK-1307 København K
DENMARK

Dear Knud,

I am now settled back in Brisbane and have begun in earnest the task of completing my "Etymological Dictionary of the Grasses". The text was immensely improved by my stay in Copenhagen and I am deeply appreciative of all who helped during my visit.

In particular, I should like to thank all the library staff who so courteously and so promptly met my requests. Over the years, I have come to hold the Botany section of the University of Copenhagen in high esteem and hope to return again in about two years time.

One matter on which you may be able to assist are the full name and years of birth and death of Tyge Bocher whom I recall well from an earlier visit and whose work I much admired from my student days as an experimental taxonomist. The grass Poa boecheri has been named in his honor.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

Knud Rahn
Lektor dr.phil.
Botanic Garden
University of Copenhagen
Sølvgade 83, opgang S
DK-1307 København K

28 May 1991

Prof. H.T.Clifford
The University of Queensland
Department of Botany
St. Lucia
Queensland
Australia 4067.

Dear Trevor,

I am very pleased to know from your letter that you were content with your stay here in Copenhagen. We hope very much to see you again in two years time, you certainly will be cordial welcome.

You asked about Tyge Wittrock Böcher, he was born 25 October 1909 and died 15 March 1983.

Your sincerely,

Knud Rahn
Knud Rahn

Prof

Dear Knud, Thank you for your prompt reply concerning the full names, year of death and that of death for T.W. Böcher.

Due to the courtesy of correspondents of people such as yourself the quality of the Dictionary is much improved. Hope to finish it within the next few weeks.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

L.H.C.

15 July, 1991

Prof Knud Rahn
Botanic Garden
University of Copenhagen
Solvgade 83, opgang S
DK-1307 København K
DENMARK

Dear Knud,

Thank you for your prompt reply concerning the full names, year of birth and that of death for T.W. Böcher.

Due to the courtesy of correspondents of people such as yourself, the quality of the Dictionary is much enhanced. I hope to finish it within the next few weeks.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

GODDARD BUILDING
MANSFIELD PLACE

24 September, 1991

Prof Knud Rahn
Botanic Garden
University of Copenhagen
Sølvgade 83, opgang S
DK-1307 København K
DENMARK

Dear Knud,

I have come across another grass species named in honor of a Danish botanist. The plant is *Panicum vollesenii* named in honor of Kerj Vollesen. I would be most grateful if you could inform me of his year of birth. He is, I suspect, a contemporary who may be in the latest edition of Index Herbariarum which has not yet reached our library.

The Dictionary is, I hope, almost complete.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

Knud Rahn
Botanic Garden
University of Copenhagen
Sølvgade 83, opgang S
DK-1307 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Telephone: (+45) 33 12 33 17
Telefax: (+45) 33 15 56 14

2 October 1991

Professor H.T.Clifford
Department of Botany
Goddard Building
Mansfield Place
The University of Queensland
Brisbane

Dear Trevor,

Kaj Vollesen (his first name is not "Kerj") is Danish, born in 1946 and graduated from Univ. Copenhagen about 15 years ago and then went to Africa and Kew. I am sorry, but I do not know very much about him (although I remember him as a nice fellow). His name is in Index Herbariorum as "K.B.Vollesen, 1946". Probably correct, although I never heard about the "B."

I am glad to know that you have almost completed your Dictionary.

Your sincerely



Knud Rahn

Dear Knud,

✓
Thank you for the note with biographical details of Kaj Vollesen. The Dictionary should be ready for the publisher before Christmas.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

1057

26 August, 1991

Prof. A. Strid
C/- Universitetets Botaniske Museum
Gothersgade 130
DK-1123 København K
DENMARK

Dear Arne,

The "Dictionary" has now been expanded to include all the information gleaned in Copenhagen and elsewhere and has expanded to about 500 pages of typescript. I am now concentrating on completing the old rather than adding new entries for most names are now included.

None-the-less there is still much to do before the text is ready for publication.

One entry with which you may be able to help is that for *soerensenii*. I think you told me he was a former Professor of Taxonomy rather than a forester. I would be grateful if you could tell me his full name and years of birth and death.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.T. CLIFFORD
Professor of Botany

BOTANISK LABORATORIUM

KØBENHAVNS



UNIVERSITET

Gothersgade 140 · DK-1123 København K · Danmark

Tlf.: 33 11 46 90 · Fax: 33 13 91 04

28th November, 1991

Prof. H.T. Clifford
Department of Botany
University of Queensland
Qld 4072
AUSTRALIA

Dear Trevor:

When looking through some correspondende I realized that I have unfortunately forgotten to reply to your letter of August 26 concerning my predecessor, Thorvald Sørensen.

He was born on July 4, 1902, and died on June 21, 1973. From 1943 to 1955 he worked at the Department of Systematic Botany of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, and from 1955 until his retirement in 1972 he was professor of botany at the University of Copenhagen as well as director of the Botanical Museum and Botanic Garden. His main scientific work concerned plants of Greenland and experimental taxonomy on northern European plants.

I enclose an obituary (in Danish), published in Botanisk Tidsskrift 68(2): 165-168 (1973).

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Arne

Arne Strid
Arne Strid

Dear Arne / Thank you for the biography of Thorvald Sørensen. The letter arrived just in time for the manuscript goes off to the printer before Christmas. With kind regards yours sincerely

H.T.C.