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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.

May 16, 1957

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
Department of Biology  
Brooklyn College  
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Dr. Becker:

I received your title and am happy to learn that you plan to attend the Stanford meetings.

Will you let me know by return airmail about your status in the Paleobotanical Section? I do not have you on the membership list, though this may be only a difficulty in liaison, as you are apparently a member of the Botanical Society of America, and all one needs to do to be a member of the Section is join the Society and mark Paleobotanical Section on the application blank. I am putting your title on our program but would like to know about your status for the records. If you are not, despite appearances, a member of the Botanical Society, I can help you supply that want very easily!

Yours very truly,

*AT*  
Alfred Traverse, Secretary  
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

May 23, 1957

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
Department of Biology  
Brooklyn College  
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H  
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Dr. Becker:

Thanks for your letter of May 20, 1957. My lack of faith in liaison within the Society is yet again confirmed. I have added your name to our list and have sent you the circulars for this year, up to date. One of these, the most recent one, is now out of date, as the one sent you is the extra file copy.

See you in August.

Very truly yours,

  
Alfred Traverse, Secretary  
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:hmp

# Brooklyn College

Bedford Avenue & Avenue H, Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

Department of *B*iology

September 12, 1957

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Company  
3737 Bellaire Bvd.  
Houston 25, Texas

Dear Dr. Traverse:

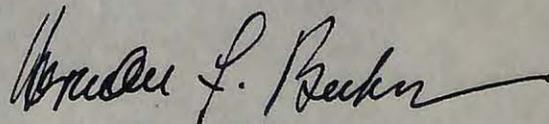
Your reprints were just received and are greatly appreciated. It is for the first time that I get an insight into Pollen publications and the significance of this work in relation to mega-fossils.

Permit me first to express my thanks again for your splendid help and cooperation in arranging my part at the AIBS, and at the encouragement and good reception that I received. It was indeed a highlight in my summer's work and has given me a psychological boost.

As soon as I returned from California (Sept. 2) I asked my rancher in the Ruby area in Montana to collect for me samples of shale rock of every site I worked on and to ship it to me as soon as possible. He is very reliable and I am almost certain that I will receive this material within 2 or 3 weeks. I will then send you a sample of each for pollen studies. Also have at School two reprints on paleobotanical material which I will mail to you as soon as I get in. Hope to be able to identify my new material during the coming semester and turn in the ms at the beginning of the New Year. What with a full teaching program and evening session, this will be quite a busy season for me.

Hope this finds you well and satisfied with your part at the meetings.

Cordially yours,



Herman F. Becker  
Dept. of Biology

**Brooklyn College**

Bedford Avenue & Avenue H, Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

Department of *Biologu*

Oct. 6 - 1957

Dear Dr. Traverse:

Received the shipment of matrix specimens from Montana, and mailed to you 11 bags, one from each site. I hope they will prove helpful and contain good material. Would be very much interested in their contents - eventually. It was a pleasure to be helpful.

Sincerely yours

Herbert F. Peck

October 23, 1957

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
Department of Biology  
Brooklyn College  
Bedford Avenue & Avenue H  
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Dr. Becker:

The samples arrived recently in very nice shape, and I also have your letter of October 6. Perhaps I should emphasize that there will inevitably be some delay, probably at least six months, before you hear much about my results.

In the course of accessioning these samples I discover that I have no information about the origin of the samples. I have them filed as Becker #1, Ruby River region, Montana, etc. If you could conveniently supply a topographic map with the localities plotted and whatever other information you have available about exact origin, I would certainly appreciate the data. It would make the samples more meaningful to whomever might eventually inherit my samples and sample books!

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,

  
Alfred Traverse

AT:ml

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

# Brooklyn College

Bedford Avenue & Avenue H, Brooklyn 10, N. Y

Department of Geology

March 14, 1958

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Co.  
Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Traverse:

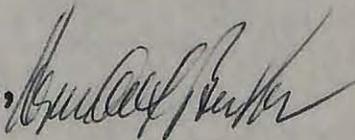
To judge from the preliminary preparations for the meetings in Indiana, it appears that we will meet again at this time. By then I hope to have completed the ms on the Ruby Flora as a first chapter in its undoubtedly uncompleted history. Eventually a pollen analysis may add to its scope. One fascinating aspect of paleobotany is the opportunity to work in the field, where I am almost more at home than in the class room. Recently the need for identifications has taken me to Princeton (Dorf), to Washington (Roland Brown), and soon to Michigan, my latest Alma Mater.

It may surprise you to hear that I have resigned from the staff of Brooklyn College. Intra politics-antagonisms-jealousies-resentment toward those who appear to have extra-curricular professional success is to me intolerable. In addition a 16-hour student contact program in General Biology for mostly freshmen leaves no time or leisure for research. I will be free to associate myself with another Institution as of Sept. 1st., or even earlier. Have put out several feelers, but the octopus-stage has not yet been reached. I am writing to some of my professional friends and acquaintances to be on the look-out in case something suitable turns up, and I am open to suggestions and offers. I would not mind working with the U.S.G.S., in a University with a tolerable teaching load where I can teach in the sphere of my own interests, in a Botanic Garden where an interest in paleobotany is not frowned upon, or in private Industry where I can be useful in my field.

Should you have any suggestions in this matter I would appreciate a note from you. You are probably in contact with a much greater number of people in our field than I am, and in a position to steer me into a promising direction. For your convenience I enclose personal data sheets and a list of publications. The enclosed clippings speak of a narrow escape from disaster, but all turned out well.

Hope to hear from you again soon. Meanwhile,  
I am with best personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

  
Herman F. Becker  
Dept. Biology

20. Succulents at Brooklyn College; Cactus and Succulent Journal, vol. VII, No. 4, 1940.
21. In Defense of the Attacked; Cactus and Succulent Journal, vol. XIV, No. 2, 1942.
22. Cacti and Morale; Cactus and Succulent Journal, vol. XV, No. 10, 1943.
23. Students, Don't Read This !; Bioscope, Brooklyn College, vol. VIII, 1942.
24. It's Greek to Me; Bioscope, B.C., vol. X, 1944-5.
25. Miraculum Naturae; Bioscope, B.C., vol. XII, 1947.
26. The Anatomy of Yelleowstone Park; Geolog, Brooklyn College, 1947.
27. Grand Teton, Majesty of Nature; Bioscope, B.C., vol. XIII, 1948.
28. Correlation by Flora; Geolog, B.C., 1949.
29. (Collaboration and Assistance in research); The Stapeliae; Book by White and Sloane, 3 vols., vol. I, p. XIII.
30. A New Occurrence and Description of the Fossil Arthropycus; Becker and Donn; Science, vol. 115, No. 2982, pp. 214-215, 2-22-1952.
31. A New Method of Handling and Preserving Soft-Matrix Fossils; Asa Gray Bulletin, vol. III, No. 1, 1955.
32. An Oligocene Flora from the Ruby River Basin in Southwestern Montana; Doctoral Dissertation, Univ. of Mich. Microfilm Publ. 1956. Libr. Congr.; Submitted for Publ. to Geol. Soc. of America, Bull.

for correspondence

List of Publications  
by  
Herman F. Becker

Publications in GERMAN

1. Sukkulente Euphorbien; Gaertneri Fachblatt, vol. XV, No. 2, 1929.
2. Stabheuschrecken als Schaedlinge; Gaert. Fachbl., vol. XV, No. 13, 1929.
3. Einige wertvolle Chrysanthemen; Gaert. Fachbl., vol. XV, No. 21, 1929.
4. Dendrochilum glumaceum; Gaert. Fachbl., vol. XV, No. 26, 1929.
5. Cyclamen Samenzucht; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVI, No. 3, 1930.
6. Vom Nutzen der Palmen; Gaert. Fachbl. No. 3, vo. XVI, 1930.
7. Die Durian; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVI, No. 6, 1930.
8. Praktische Auswirkung theoretischer Erkenntnisse; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVI, No. 7, 1930.
9. Ranunculus alpestris; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVI, No. 8, 1930.
10. Orchideen, Geschichte und Verwendungsmoeglichkeit; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVI, No. 24, 1930.
11. Der Botanische Garten in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Gaert. Fachbl., vol. XVII, No. 14, 1931.
12. Winterschutz fuer Gehoelze im Nordlichen Nord America; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XVII, No. 22, 1931.
13. Internationale Blumenausstellung in New York; Gaert. Fachbl., vol. XIX, No. 11, 1933.
14. Fruehling in New York; Gaert. Fachbl. vol. XIX, No. 13, 1933.
15. Tropen in Dahlem; Der Abend (Berlin Daily) July 27, 1929.
16. Die Dachflora Berlin's; Berliner Tageblatt (Haus-Hof-Garten) July 27, 1929.

Publications in ENGLISH

17. A German Dictionary for Gardeners; Florist's Exchange, in Book Review; June 24, 1934, p. 12.
18. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Succulent Display; Cactus and Succulent Journal; Vol. VI, No. 3, 1934.
19. Xerophyte Exhibit of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden at the 24th International Flower Show in New York; Cactus and Succulent Journal, vol. VIII, No. ii, 1936.

HERMAN F. BECKERFields of Specialization:

Paleobotany  
Botany  
General Zoology  
Invertebrate Zoology  
Physical and Historical Geology

Further Fields of Interest:

Geography  
Evolution  
Ecology

Membership in Professional Organizations:

The Botanical Society of America  
The Geological Society of America  
The Paleontological Society of America  
The Torrey Botanical Club  
The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

References:

- Professor Carroll W. Grant, Chairman, Department Biology,  
Brooklyn College, Brooklyn 10, N.Y.
- Professor Irving Tittler, Department of Biology, Brooklyn College,  
Brooklyn 10, N.Y.
- Professor Norman D. Newell, Curator, Invertebrate Paleontology,  
American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, N.Y.
- Professor Erling Dorf, Department of Geology, Guyot Hall,  
Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
- Dr. Roland W. Brown, Curator, Department of Paleobotany, U.S.  
National Museum, Washington, D.C.
- Professor Chester A. Arnold, Curator, Paleobotany, Museum of  
Paleontology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Professor Kenneth L. Jones, Chairman, Department of Botany,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

*W. correspondence*

HERMAN F: BECKER

Date and Place of birth: January 10, 1907, Duesseldorf, Germany

Education:

Realgymnasium, 1917-1923  
Horticultural College, Berlin/Dahlem, 1929  
Brooklyn College, 1940-1947, B.A. 1947  
Columbia University, Botany, Geology, M.A., 1952  
University of Michigan, Paleobotany, Ph.D., 1956

University of Michigan, Camp Davis, Wyoming; graduate studies  
in Geology, Summer 1947

Research studies in Montana, Paleobotany, Summers of 1947,  
1949, 1954, 1955

Member of Botanical Expedition into So. Utah and Colorado,  
University of Michigan, Summer 1953

Experience:

1925-1930, Horticulturist's Assistant in the Botanic Gardens  
of Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany, and at Horticultural School  
in Budapest, Hungary  
1930-1939, Horticulturist's Assistant at the Brooklyn Botanic  
Gardens  
1939-1954, College Science Assistant, Brooklyn College, Depart-  
ment of Biology  
1949-1954, Lecturer, Adult Education, Brooklyn College  
1949 to present, Lecturer, School of General Studies, Brooklyn  
College, Department of Geology  
1955-1956, Teaching Fellow, University of Michigan, Department  
of Botany  
1956 to present, Instructor, Brooklyn College, Department of  
Biology

Publications:

See attached list of publications

Honors:

*DEAN'S HONOR LIST, 1947*  
Graduated Cum Laude, Brooklyn College, 1947  
Geology Prize, Brooklyn College, 1947  
Elected to full membership, The Society of Sigma Xi, Brooklyn  
College, 1954  
Elected Alpha Sigma Lambda, Brooklyn College, 1955  
Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1955-1956  
Ermine Cowles Case Award for Scholarship, University of Michigan,  
1957, for outstanding doctoral dissertation in Geology for  
the year 1956-1957  
Research Grant of \$2000. for Paleobotany, Summer 1957, from  
the Geological Society of America  
Presentation of Paper at Botanical Meetings at Stanford University,  
California, August 1957

W. Carr p.



There's a California Sherry for you  
ready, always correct—be-  
fore, during, and after meals!  
moderate cocktails... Always  
— and Vermouths — are easy.  
Because our California Sherries  
and serve Sherry to friends?

nes.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1958.

### Stolen Fossil Collection Is Found



The New York Times

Prof. Herman Becker of Brooklyn College with some of specimens that were stolen from his car, and recovered.

The 400 plant fossils stolen from a geology professor's car outside Brooklyn College on Wednesday night were safely back in his hands yesterday.

"Evidently," said Prof. Herman Becker, "the thieves thought they had stolen just a bunch of rocks. They abandoned the suitcase containing the fossils half a block from my car on Campus Road. It weighed about fifty pounds, quite a load."

Professor Becker continued, "An evening student,

Anthony Giaino, found the bag about 9:45 P. M., only fifteen minutes after I discovered my car had been broken into. He turned the suitcase into the lost and found office of the college, and I recovered it this morning. All the specimens seem to be there and intact."

Dr. Becker had intended to take the fossils, which are about 40,000,000 years old to Washington yesterday. Experts of the National Museum there were going to assist him in classifying them. That trip has been put off until next week.

## 400 Rare Plant Fossils Stolen From Brooklyn Professor's Car

28, 1958.

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

Four hundred plant fossils, including about thirty previously undiscovered species, were taken from a parked automobile in Brooklyn last night. They are about 40,000,000 years old. Some of them may be irreplaceable.

The fossils were stolen from the car of Dr. Herman Becker, Professor of Biology and Geology at Brooklyn College. The thieves smashed the window on the right side of his 1952 sedan. They took a new suit, some toilet articles in a small valise and forty pounds of fossils in a suitcase.

Dr. Becker, who lives in Freeport, L. I., drove from his home last night to the college to teach a class. He parked on Campus Road and locked his car.

He had planned to go to the National Museum in Washington this morning. Experts there had promised to assist him in further classification of his specimens. He was to stay overnight with friends in Brooklyn.

At 9:30 o'clock Dr. Becker dismissed his class. When he got to his car, he found the suitcase, the suit and the valise missing.

The fossils have no monetary value, Dr. Becker told the police. A thief could not possibly sell them. But their value to science lies in their rarity. Some of the species in the collection may never again be found.

"Everyone knew about them and everyone expected something of them," Dr. Becker said

last night. By "everyone" he meant experts in the field of paleobotany, the science that deals with the plant life of past geological periods.

Most of the missing fossils were imprinted on pieces of shale that Dr. Becker dug up last summer in southwestern Montana. Some pieces were paper-thin; others, a quarter-of-an-inch thick. They ranged from one to fifteen inches square in size.

The fossils were cushioned in cotton in glass-covered display cases. The suitcase, which had three locks, was about 18 inches high, 2½ feet wide and 10 inches thick. It was a light eggshell color with a hint of tan and brown edging. The covering was a waterproof canvas-like material.

The Geological Society of America had granted Dr. Becker \$2,000 and a full-time paid assistant for the three-month task of finding the specimens in Montana.

Dr. Becker told the police that the specimens were mostly from the Oligocene Epoch of geologic time. At this, detectives at the Sixty-third Precinct in Brooklyn nodded gravely.

The suitcase in which the fossils were packed was locked. The thieves could not have known what they were taking. Dr. Becker said that if the persons who took the suitcase returned it to the Biology Department of Brooklyn College, they would receive a cash reward and would be asked no questions.

March 21, 1958

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
Department of Biology  
Brooklyn College  
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H  
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Herman:

We were titillated by your clippings about the fantastic theft of what I presume to be the Ruby River material. I am delighted to have had some contact with such a celebrated case. The persons who wrote the stories for the Times seem to have done an unusually sympathetic job.

Sorry to hear that you have not been too happy at B. C., but I have little doubt that you can find places that are better for paleobotany than metropolitan N.Y.

You are right that I hear a great deal about job trends in paleobotany, but at the moment I don't have too much encouragement to offer. Even if you were a microfossil man instead of a megafossil worker, your changes in industry would be rather slim because of the seemingly widespread policy of trying to get staff members who are at the very beginning of their careers or near it. As far as academic jobs are concerned, I think you would do well to send your qualifications, etc., and a letter to Dr. Samuel Ellison, Chairman of the Department of Geology, University of Texas. They should be in the market for a paleobotanist. The Chicago Natural History Museum, I think, could be talked into believing that they need a full time paleobotanist - they really do. Write to Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator, Department of Botany. You'd really like it there. The Canadian Geological Survey might be worth contacting. As far as I know they really haven't replaced Wayne Fry yet. I wonder if the University of Massachusetts might not be interested in having a paleobotanist. L. R. Wilson left there about a year ago. As far as concrete suggestions go, I'm not much help, I'm afraid.

Thanks for the clippings and for the very impressive list of your publications, etc. Needless to say, you may use my name for a reference, if you should wish to.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

  
Alfred Traverse

AT/mg  
Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

## Brooklyn College

Bedford Avenue & Avenue H, Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

*Department of Biology*

March 29, 1958

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Company  
3737 Bellaire Boulevard  
Houston, 25, Texas

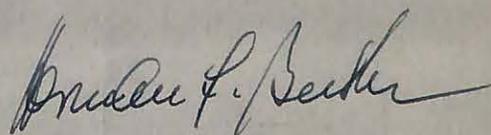
Dear Al:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my inquiry and the suggestions given. I have just written to Dr Ellison who will answer me in due time, no doubt. Since I know Dr. Just from the Palo Alto meetings, I had also gotten in touch with him. There seems to be nothing at the Museum at the present, but he suggested to apply at the U. of Cincinnati, Dr. Hoskins death leaving an opening. This would have been a perfect place for me, but a Dr. Maxine Abbott, a former student of Hoskins, has taken over the position.

Will see Dr. Preston Cloud at the U.S.G.S. in Washington D.C. this week on my way to Ann Arbor. He may have some concrete suggestions. Will work on my paper and in the Herbarium at Michigan U. during the Easter recess and hope to have the work finished by late summer. Thanks for permitting me to use your name as reference. I have done so regarding the U. of Texas.

I am really very much obliged for your interest and help. Hope to see you again this summer.

Most sincerely yours,



Herman F. Becker

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY  
AUSTIN 12

COPY

Mr. Herman F. Becker,  
Department of Biology,  
Brooklyn College,  
Bedford Avenue & Avenue H,  
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Mr. Becker:

I have your letter of March 29 and your biographical data. We have been unfortunate in that Miss Jane Gray, who was employed as our expert on Palynology, has married one of the University's Zoology professors. Under the present rules of the State Employment Act in the Legislature, she now is not eligible for employment by the University as long as her husband works for the University. Therefore, we expect to lose Miss Gray's services at the end of this semester.

We are definitely interested in keeping our foot in the door on Palynology, but at this particular moment our university administration officials have insisted that we employ young men under 35 years of age who have just recently completed their Ph.D. We have, therefore, been actively searching for just such qualified individuals. We would, however, like to keep your material on file because there is a possibility that the university officials will change their general policy concerning age of new teachers in the Geology Department.

Thank you for your interest and we certainly appreciate the kindness of Mr. Traverse in suggesting your name.

Yours very truly,

Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
Chairman

SPE:kr

cc: Dr. Alfred Traverse,  
Shell Development Company,  
Houston, Texas

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK  
NEW YORK 58, N.Y.

PRESIDENT  
CHARLES B. HARDING

TREASURER  
BERKELEY GAYNOR

VICE-PRESIDENT  
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, JR.

DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM C. STEERE



Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Comp.  
Houston, Texas

September 20, 1958

Dear Al:

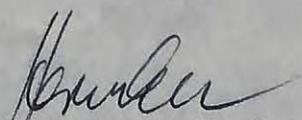
Your reprint on Problems in Nomenclature arrived and is very interesting, and I think appropriate in the light of the difficulties involved. It was a pleasure to see you again at the Bloomington meetings and experience stimulating meetings and discussions. I hope we will meet again at Montreal next year. Since I didn't respond at once to the questionnaire, it seems to me that I am crossed off their mailing list for further information. However I have written to them since and hope to be re-instated.

My long, and overdue, manuscript has finally reached the GSA, and I hope to see the Ruby Flora in print soon. In the meantime my activities at the New York Botanical Garden have begun, with a tremendous program of rehabilitation ahead of me. The most urgent need is for cleaning up, literally, the dust of decades. The two coming years under the NSF grant are really challenging, I think I will have to learn a lot during that time to do the job justice. What I will enjoy most is the opportunity to continue the Ruby studies and to be able to go into the field again next year. Stella Leopold has asked for matrix of Ruby material, she is interested to do the pollen study and compare it with the Florissant.

Please direct any further correspondence to the New York Botanical Garden as in the above letterhead.

Hope this finds you well

Cordially,

  
Herman F. Becker

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK  
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

PRESIDENT  
CHARLES B. HARDING  
TREASURER  
BERKELEY GAYNOR

VICE-PRESIDENT  
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM C. STEERE

November 25, 1958

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Co.  
3737 Bellaire Blvd.  
Houston, 25, Texas

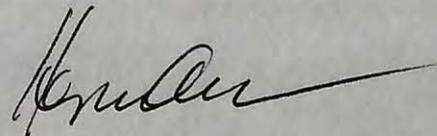
Dear Al:

Just a quick note of inquiry on some information I think you might have. Some of our botanists working on floras in Colombia S.A. are interested in communicating with someone, or finding literature of someone who has done paleobotanical work in Colombia, Venezuela, or in South America generally. This could be some scientist in S.A. or someone in the U. S. who is familiar with fossils of S.A.

In my own studies I have had no occasion to use any South American material. My own work at the Garden is progressing favorably, if slowly. I am in the midst of identifying another Ruby site with about 40 species. Hope the first section will appear in print soon. Editors mills grind proverbially slowly.

Wishing you a happy holiday,

regards  
as ever



Herman F. Becker

Mailing Address  
P. O. Box 481  
Houston 1, Texas

December 2, 1958

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx Park  
New York 58, New York

Dear Herman:

Thanks for yours of November 25. I am very interested in your efforts to re-establish paleobotany at THE Garden

Suggestions re South America, re persons to contact:

1. Dr. Thomas van der Hammen  
Paleobotanico Jefe  
Apt. Nacional 2599  
Bogata, Colombia
2. Dr. Sergio Archangelsky  
Instituto Miguel Lillo  
Miguel Lillo 205  
Tucuman, Argentins

Archangelsky has sent me a number of reprints on a wide range of material from S.A.; van der Hammen is mostly a palynologist. He has published a great deal in the past two years and seems to have a wide knowledge of the literature. I should add that some of his papers reveal a rather flamboyant nature that will bear watching.

One further suggestion is that Dr. James Canright of the Botany Department, Indiana University, might be able to help. He spent last summer in Venezuela as a paleobotanical consultant and may have met paleobotanists to whom he could refer you.

Our own Dr. J. Muller has been transferred from South America, and I am not acquainted with any other Shell paleobotanist in South America whom you could profitably contact.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse

AT:pjd

## THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK  
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.PRESIDENT  
CHARLES B. HARDING  
TREASURER  
BERKELEY GAYNORVICE-PRESIDENT  
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM C. STEERE

Jan. 12-59

Dear Al,

On Feb. 19, I'll take a hasty trip to Europe, not more than 2 weeks. On my way I would like to visit various paleobotanists and Institutions, but know very little about them. Above all I'd like to visit Dr. Zimmerman, but do not know his whereabouts. Can you enlighten me?

My work here at the Garden progresses satisfactorily and several papers are in the offing. We'll spend the summer again in the Reuby area in Montana. Thank you for any possible information you may have. Your latest info on S. A. paleobotany was passed on and proved well worth.

Thank you again,

Regards, as ever,

Becker

January 16, 1959

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx Park  
New York 58, New York

Dear Herman:

Good to hear that you're getting a trip to the other side, even if for a very brief time. Frankly, I don't see how you can get much accomplished in that length of time. But I know you have incredible energy!

The latest address I have for Professor Zimmerman is:

Professor Walter Zimmerman  
Institut für angewandte Botanik  
Wilhelmstrasse 5  
Tübingen, Germany

Very best wishes for a profitable time of it.

Very truly yours,

  
Alfred Traverse

AT:mpd

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK

NEW YORK 58, NEW YORK

LUDLOW 4-8500

President  
CHARLES B. HARDING

Treasurer  
BERKELEY GAYNOR

May 6, 1959

Vice President  
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, Jr.

Director  
WILLIAM C. STEERE

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Shell Development Co.  
3737 Bellaire Blvd.  
Houston 25, Texas

Dear Al:

I have just had a long conversation with the Secretary of the Geological Society of America, Dr. Henry Aldrich, who will publish my paper on the Ruby flora sometime in the near (I hope) future. He has suggested an outline of how to get geologists interested in paleobotany, that a Group or a Section of the GSA could be formed, etc. He was apparently unaware that such an affiliation exists already within the framework of the Botanical Society.

Dr. Aldrich thought of getting as many people as possible interested in the forthcoming publication and has asked me whether I can supply him with names of paleobotanists who might conceivably be reached in regard to this new Ruby flora. I think the procedure is to print cards announcing a Special Paper or a Memoir and mail them to prospective scientists.

Needless to say, I am interested in the success of his endeavor. He has, of course, the mailing list for members of the GSA, but naturally only a small percentage are interested in paleobotany. Could you possibly supply me with a membership list of our affiliated organization which I could turn over to Dr. Aldrich? This would help in reaching more people, would probably lower the cost of production, and also would speed publication.

Will be in New York until June 1st, when again I will take off for Montana to continue to disembowel the Ruby mountains.

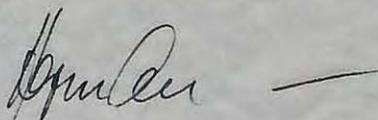
Hope this finds you well,

Thank you for your courtesy,

Regards, as ever

Address for June and July:

HFB c/O Postmaster, ALDER, MONTANA

  
Herman F. Becker  
Research Associate

May 19, 1959

Dr. Herman F. Becker  
Research Associate  
New York Botanical Garden  
New York 58, New York

Dear Herman:

Your letter of May 6 was awaiting my return from a field trip. I returned here the 12th, hence the delay in answering. I am intrigued by the results of your discussions with Aldrich. I have long wondered if the Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A., could not be affiliated also with the geologists. This would give all of us some advantages, I am sure, and I would strongly back the idea. I can't see why the same group of people couldn't have this dual identity. It might be, however, that a more natural arrangement would be with the Paleontological Society. The notion of a paleobotanical section in that organization is one that I have even gone so far as to discuss, several years ago, with one of their officers.

By the way, why didn't you decide to publish in the Journal of Paleontology? I presume you have considered and rejected the idea.

Your request for our mailing list is perfectly reasonable, and I am having one prepared for you to be enclosed with this letter.

Best wishes to you for your summer's work in Montana. I am still hoping to have a go at that Ruby pollen, but the pressure of other things has as yet kept me from doing so.

Best wishes, as ever,



Alfred Traverse

AT:pjd

Enclosure

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK NEW YORK 58, NEW YORK LUDLOW 4-8500

President  
CHARLES B. HARDING

Treasurer  
BERKELEY GAYNOR

May 22, 1959

Vice President  
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY, Jr.

Director  
WILLIAM C. STEERE

Dear Al:

Thank you for the list and permission to use it in this respect. Will put the possible affiliation proposition to Aldrich again in the fall, and perhaps we can arrive at a workable program.

The G.S.A. gave me a \$2000,- summer grant in 1957, that is the primary reason for publishing with them rather than with the Paleont. Soc. It will have to be a Spec. Paper or a Memoir.

Any additional correspondence from now on to c/o Pm. ALDER, Montana.

Regards and best wishes for the summer ,

