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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

Sarton

ISIS

Review of the History and Philosophy of Science
Organ of the History of Science Society
(Harvard Library 185, Cambridge 38, Mass.)

Editor, GEORGE SARTON

Managing Editor, A. POGO

Associate Editors

R. C. ARCHIBALD (*Mathematics*)
C. A. KOFOID (*Biology*)
LYNN THORNDIKE (*Middle Ages*)
SOLOMON GANDZ (*Iran*)
TENNEY L. DAVIS (*Chemistry*)
A. POGO (*Astronomy*)
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JOHN F. FULTON (*XVth Cent.*)
CONWAY ZIRKLE (*Botany*)
ASHLEY MONTAGU (*Anthropology*)
J. B. DE C. M. SAUNDERS (*Medicine*)
R. K. MERTON (*Sociology*)
AUBREY DILLER (*Greece*)
W. J. WILSON (*Middle Ages*)
JAMES R. WARE (*China*)
O. NEUGEBAUER (*Ancient Near East*)
FRANCIS R. JOHNSON (*Renaissance*)

4701.26

Many thanks for the very
interesting paper on "Corn before
Columbus" and best wishes for 1947

Yours Sarton

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Professor Edgar Anderson
Washington D.C.
St. Louis, Mo.

Sarton

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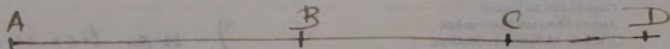
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Dear Dr. Andersen,

I was tremendously interested in the lilac paper. I never created so much trouble for myself as I did with the Busbeque paper, & that because Busbeque was so many-sided, and now every specialist is dropping down on me. Jager, the Greek scholar, says that I ought to have spoken of an important MS. of Aristotle's *Metaphysics*; E.C. Merrill, that many plants were called *Busbecquia*; Verdoun & you that the story of tulips & lilacs is much more complicated than I imagined. . . . The most curious item brought to my knowledge, is the existence in my own Harvard library of the very charter granting Busbeque the honor of knight hood! . . . However, I never claimed that I was saying or trying to say the last word on Busbeque. My article is simply a preface — not a conclusion.

or on lilac!

As to Balkanic lilac - I am willing to grant you that, but why on earth did the Turks ^{give} call the flower ~~be with~~ a Persian name? It is very common for an article to receive a name which reveals not his real origin, but an intermediate point



For ex. in A people believe that it comes from B, while it really came from ~~B~~ C or D. But why would they give it a name suggesting that it came from an opposite direction? I'll bind your lilac paper with my

Bushes - in order to provide the necessary correction --

Vale

Eve Sarton

Sarton

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JAMES R. WARE (China)

May 17 1942

Dear Dr. Andersen,

In my letter of a few days ago I forgot to announce your two queries.

(1) Malmaison. - According to a charter of 1244 there was in that locality a house called "malmaison" - perhaps because of a crime, accident or bewitching. This became "malmaison" - & the name was already so ancient when Josephine bought the estate in 1798 that the bad omen was overlooked. She who came from Martinique would not have disregarded it if it had been clear. Time washes everything clean.

(2) Stoten. As I suspected it the word is not German. It does not exist in any of many German dictionaries consulted & German colleagues could not help me. It must be "St. Louis German". Should you be able to elucidate that mystery please let me know. I lost my opportunity when you stopped your car before the

close to the German boxing. I should have stepped out and
bought a sloten - to see what it looks like & tastes. I
hate to discuss words when I am not familiar with the object.

As a reward for my efforts, I hope you will
tell me when I can find definite information about the
agricultural inventions (clover?) made in Flanders
in the XIVth century. I ought to speak of them in

my book. The author.

Vale

Georg Sartorius

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Sarton, George
Amer. scient. 1884-1956

May 27, 1942

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May 27, 1942

Dear Dr. Adderson,

Many thanks for the rich collection
of reprints - which I have examined, and
partly read, with interest. You sent me two
copies of "Sassafras", I return one.

Stollen is O.K. Apologies to the
German Sh Louisians! - I have been
remiss in that you told me about the
cultivation of *Victoria regia* in the open air.
You ascribe your success to the shallowness of the pond.
A pond shallow enough to be heated quickly
would be cooled with equal speed. Your success is
due I believe to hot nights rather than to
anything else. In New England, near the Ocean, the

East Wind often causes a drop of 30° or 40° - and
 the temp. of a summer night may then fall below 60° or
 even 50° . - It is probable that shallowness is necessary
 (the natural habitat is in shallow marshy waters) but
 for some other reason? - Many of your papers will
 interest my wife even more than myself for she is the
 chief gardener (and at present the only one) of our Brattle
 St. plantation.

Vale,

Samuel Sartorius

Bulletins prepared to simplify my correspondence
Bulletin no. 4, November 18, 1946

1. Introduction to the history of science - Volume III dealing with science and learning in the fourteenth century is being proofread. Printing is exceedingly slow. Most of the galleys have been read, as well as 637 page proofs, less than one-third.

A photographic reprint of vol. 1 (1927), long out of print, has been published by Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. This was done without my knowledge and hence the book contains neither errata nor new preface. A few corrections will be indicated in the preface to vol. III.

2. Harvard lectures - The third part of the course on the history of science, dealing with the XVth, XVIth and XVIIth centuries, is now being explained to about 212 students. These lectures are given in the Geographical Building, Divinity Avenue, on Tu., Th., Sat. at 10 A.M.

3. Talis - Latest no., 104 January 1946 (vol. 36, 2). The printing of vol. 32 (stopped by the German invasion of Belgium) has been begun by the St. Catherine Press in Bruges.

4. Osiris - It is hoped that vol. 8 will appear in 1947. It will be dedicated to Paul Ver Eecke, Belgian historian of Greek mathematics.

5. Latest publication - no. 357. Demetrio Canevari, New York. Still available upon request.

6. London lectures - I had tentatively accepted to deliver a few lectures at the University of London in the spring of 1947. The possibility of my being able to do so is weakening every day, for I cannot leave Cambridge before having signed the final proofs of Vol. III.

Harvard Library, 185
Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.

George Sarton

Copy of a letter addressed to Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, President of the History of Science Society, by Mr. George Sarton, Editor of Isis.

*Isis has been given
a new lease of life*

Harvard Library 185
Cambridge, Mass.

November 25, 1946

Dear Mr. President:

The situation of Isis has become so critical that it will be necessary for the council of our Society to discuss it at its annual meeting next month and to take measures for its improvement. If the Society is not able to find a remedy, it will be impossible for me to continue my work as editor.

In the spring of 1944, the printing of Isis was intrusted to the Harvard Printing Office, a department of Harvard University. I shall refer to it as the Harvard printers.

From the end of 1944 until now, the Harvard printers managed to issue 4 numbers of Isis, 101 to 104, totalling 325 p. In this year of 1946, there has appeared thus far but one number of four sheets (64 p.).

The Harvard printers know very well, of course, that a quarterly appearing only once or twice a year in small parts is doomed to extinction, and that the Society publishing it is bound to lose its membership. The Post Office has warned us repeatedly that our second-class mailing privileges might be revoked.

The journal intrusted to their care was not a new journal but an old one of established reputation. I founded it in 1912 and edited 36 volumes. It was from the beginning the leading journal of its kind in the whole world of letters; it was never a prosperous journal from the economic point of view and could not be, considering the relatively small number of scholars genuinely interested in the history of science. As long as I could, I paid out of my pocket the recurring deficits and thus spent the whole of my patrimony and a good part of my savings; I did that with great pleasure and would do it again, if it were possible. In spite of many imperfections, Isis remained until recently, a distinguished quarterly and the leading journal in its field.

The lack of cooperation of the Harvard printers or their lack of enterprise have reduced it to but a shadow of its former self. Isis is dying.

Any reasonable man will accept to wait at the end of a line, if he knows that the line is fair; but if the line is constantly replenished from the front, and he is kept always at the end, he feels cheated. The Harvard printers claim that they cannot work for Isis because of the Harvard University business which has a natural

priority; their work for Isis is not delayed and postponed indefinitely by the Harvard University business but by the Harvard Press business which is a different matter. Isis is kept steadily in the back to be dealt with, apparently, when there is nothing else to be done.

The purpose of my letter is not so much to recriminate against the Harvard printers which would be useless, but rather to justify my withdrawal, if the situation could not be remedied within a few months. The Harvard printers have all but destroyed Isis, and it would be easy enough for them to worry me to death. I would prefer to live a few more years, however, if only in order to be able to complete the volume III of my Introduction, and at least to begin (if not to complete) the eight volumes of my Harvard lectures on the history of science, a publication which is necessary, because there are no textbooks covering my courses.

It is a sad irony of fate that an outstanding journal survived many vicissitudes including two German invasions (Isis was formerly printed in Belgium) only to be destroyed by the Harvard printers.

In concluding, I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Pogo for his devoted cooperation and my apologies to the authors whose manuscripts fill many drawers in my office, to the reviewers, to the many collaborators in America and abroad whom I seem to have betrayed. Indeed, the feeling that I was wronging them has always been my deepest source of pain; I cannot endure it much longer.

I take the liberty of mailing copies of this letter to the officers of the History of Science Society, to the members of the editorial board of Isis, to the authors of unpublished MSS, to the main collaborators of Isis in the United States and abroad, to the Directors of the Harvard Press and of the Harvard Printing Office, to the Syndics of the Harvard Press and to a few friends.

Yours sincerely,

GS/FS

(Signed) George Sarton

P. S. Nos. 105 and 106, completing volume 35 of Isis, have finally appeared on December 5.