



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS
January 10, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray
Chairman, Dept. of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

For a number of years now I have contacted various officials of the University of Nebraska regarding the selection of a successor to Dr. Weaver when he retires. I understand that Dr. Weaver plans to retire from teaching at the end of this school year, and therefore, it is likely that you will be employing his successor to begin next September.

As you know, Dr. Ray, I have been fairly closely associated with Dr. Weaver since my graduation there in 1937. Four of our young men have worked under Dr. Weaver and have completed the requirements for the Doctor's degree. The point to my letter is to request that a fairly young, well trained grassland ecologist be secured, if possible, to take up the work where Dr. Weaver leaves off. I make this request for two reasons: (1) The work that Dr. Weaver has been responsible for in the past is the only type of its kind in the U. S. I believe I am in the position to know that his graduates scattered widely over the U. S. represent a point of view very important to basic understanding of the ecology of grasslands. If at all possible, it seems to me that we must keep this program going during the coming years. (2) We offer only a Master's degree at Fort Hays; therefore, it will be important that we send some of our best graduates on to other schools. Two years ago I sent one of my young men to another school when he was best prepared to continue with the type of work that Dr. Weaver gives. It was only because Dr. Weaver felt that he could not see him through that he advised that I send him elsewhere.

As I get around in various meetings where ecology is important, I become more and more convinced that the work of the Botany Department of the University of Nebraska has played a significant part in helping to solve some of our major problems relating to vegetation. It is for this reason that I am writing to you, to let you know how I feel in regard to this important matter. I know that many other alumni of Nebraska, and even those not in any way connected with Nebraska, feel the same way.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Albertson
F. W. Albertson
Professor of Botany

FWA:de

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

April 3, 1956

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
The University of Nebraska
Department of Botany
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Thank you for your letter of March 20. I found it this morning upon my return from Florida where I spent a week between terms.

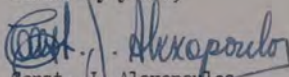
I have two persons and possibly a third one to recommend for the position you mention, but I do not know whether they are interested because I have had no opportunity to contact them.

Dr. E. E. Tylutki who is replacing Dr. Shaw at Pullman this semester might possibly be interested. He is desirous of obtaining a permanent position, but might wish to be considered. I shall write him today. He received his Ph.D. with me last December and I can recommend him very highly. By next September he will have a semester of experience teaching Advanced Mycology at Washington State in addition to his experience here as a teaching assistant. I am sure he will do a good job. The salary you offer is considerably lower than his salary now, however, and I do not know whether he will wish to apply.

Another man who has just received his Ph.D. in Mycology here (with Dr. Beneke) is Dr. Sam Ringel. He is an excellent student, but has stressed the physiological and industrial aspects of mycology in his work and hopes to find a position in industry. He will return from New York in about ten days, and if he has not located something there, he will probably write to you.

The third possibility is Mr. Bernard Sloan who hopes to finish his Ph.D. with me here by June or August 1956. He is assisting me in Mycology this year again and will be admirably fitted to fill an opening such as you describe if he finishes his research on schedule.

Sincerely yours,


Const. J. Alexopoulos
Professor of Botany

CJA:jls

May 27, 1959

Members of the Committee on Vocational Brochure

Dr. Clyde Christensen, Chairman

Dr. W. H. Bragonier

Dr. John Ehrlich

Dr. Lindsay S. Olive

✓ Dr. W. W. Ray

Dr. R. P. Korb

Gentlemen;

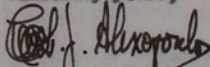
May I remind you that you will be called upon to report on your activities concerning publication of our Vocational Guidance Brochure, at the Council meeting in Montreal?

I hope you have made some progress toward this goal and that you will have concrete proposals for publication which the Society may be able to implement.

With the unprecedented demand for Botany Ph.D's this year and with an ever increasing demand for well educated Mycologists, the completion of your task is not only important, but has become urgent.

Please let me know how your deliberations are proceeding.

Sincerely yours,



Const. J. Alexopoulos
President

CJA/lj

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

November 5, 1954

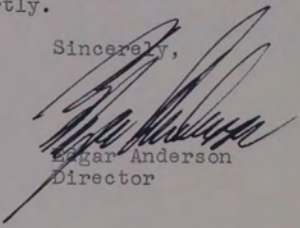
Professor W. W. Ray, Chairman,
Botany Department,
University of Nebraska,
Lincoln 8, Nebraska.

Dear Professor Ray:

I cannot tell you how heartening
it is to find a whole botany depart-
ment backing us up. The fact that
you banded together and did it means
infinitely more to us than the gen-
erous check you enclosed.

Herewith I am presenting you with
your official membership card and
our Bulletin will start coming for-
ward very shortly.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson
Director

EA:ep

THE CLEMSON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
SOUTH CAROLINA EXPERIMENT STATION
CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND BACTERIOLOGY

March 23, 1954

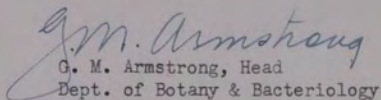
Dr. W. W. Ray
Mycologist and Chairman
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

No one in this state is working with Thielavia basicola or Thielaviopsis basicola, and I feel quite sure that there is no chance to obtain a culture. Dr. G. B. Lucas, at N. C. State College, has reported some work with these organisms in recent years and I am referring your letter to him. If he has cultures, I feel sure that he will be glad to help you.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


G. M. Armstrong, Head
Dept. of Botany & Bacteriology

GMA/mwd

cc: Dr. G. B. Lucas

THE CLEMSON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
SOUTH CAROLINA EXPERIMENT STATION
CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND BACTERIOLOGY

February 26, 1945

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
Oklahoma A. & M. College
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Dear Doctors Ray and Lehman:

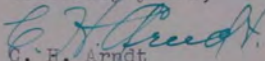
The following is a paragraph from a letter just received from Dr. Meuli:

"I have arranged to have the cotton seed pellets made as soon as the seed is received. We will want 25 pounds of reginned or acid-delinted seed as clean of linters as possible. We will use approximately 1-1/2 pounds of seed per treatment and plan to include several treatments other than those you requested."

It seems evident from this quotation that Dr. Meuli would prefer acid-delinted seed. Is there any objection to sending acid-delinted seed to Dr. Meuli for the preparation of the pellets? In these preliminary tests, it seems to me that either may be used. If the use of pellets seems desirable, tests can be carried out later to ascertain whether heavily reginned or acid-delinted seed should be used. ~~Although~~ We do not recommend the use of acid-delinted seed in the southeastern portion of the Cotton Belt, largely because the superiority of acid-delinted seed is not sufficiently greater to justify the messy job of acid-delinting. However, if the use of pellets is advisable, the added cost of acid-delinting should be justified since it will add only a small amount to the cost of preparation of the pellets.

I shall be pleased to have your reaction to the use of acid-delinted seed.

Sincerely yours,


C. H. Arndt
Clemson, S. C.



THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 WASHINGTON AVENUE

BROOKLYN 25, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON BOTANIC GARDEN

H. J. SZOLD, CHAIRMAN

LEONARD P. MOORE, VICE-CHAIRMAN

HILDA LOINES, VICE-CHAIRMAN

J. VICTOR HERD, VICE-CHAIRMAN

THE INSTITUTE
FRANCIS T. CHRISTY
PRESIDENT

GEORGE S. AVERY, JR.
DIRECTOR

January 14, 1963

Dear Dr. Ray:

In answer to your recent letter: I wish we could suggest a plant physiologist for your situation. Have you written to Dr. Skoog at Wisconsin or to Penn State, Cornell, Michigan or Harvard? They might not have the more mature or perhaps experienced man you need, but ought to be able to make helpful suggestions. Also ask Dr. Paul Kramer, at Duke.

With best wishes for your success in finding the right man.

Sincerely,

Dr. William W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

January 17, 1952.

Dr. W. W. Ray,
University of Nebraska,
Department of Botany,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Dr. Ray:

I take pleasure in sending you a copy of the letter Dr.

Ernst wrote me telling about the early days at Iowa State when his father
was Professor of Botany.

Very truly yours,

A. L. Bakke
A. L. Bakke,
Professor.

January 28, 1952

Professor A.L. Bakke
Botany and Plant Pathology
Iowa State College

Dear Professor Bakke:

It was a pleasure to receive the copy of the letter written by Dr. Ernst Bessey regarding the early days of his father, C.E. Bessey, at Ames. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Professor Pool tells me that somewhere in his belongings he has a rather full account of the blizzard encountered during Bessey's trip to California. If it comes into my hands, I'll have a copy sent to you for your files.

Sincerely yours,

W.W. Ray
Chairman

NOTES ON CHARLES EDWIN BESSEY AT IOWA STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

(February, 1870 until November, 1884)

Charles E. Bessey, aged 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, graduated from Michigan State Agricultural College (as the name was then) in November, 1869. He was immediately given an appointment in the Department of Botany (which at that date included all plant sciences; Botany, Horticulture, Forestry and much of what is now Farm Crops). A greenhouse had just been built and he was given the task of getting the plants growing in readiness for the opening of the college at the end of February. In December, 1869, a tall man with an ample gray beard came to the greenhouse and sought him out. He introduced himself as President Welch of Iowa State Agricultural College (its name at that time). He said that President Abbot had recommended Mr. Bessey to him as a good man to fill the new position to be established at Ames of Instructor in Botany and Horticulture. They talked the matter over for an hour or so and when President Welch left he indicated that he might be heard from soon. About a month later came the offer of the instructorship in Botany and Horticulture at the then rather good salary of \$1000 per annum, an offer that was promptly accepted.

On his arrival at Ames in February, 1870, C. E. Bessey was given residence in a room in the Old Main Building, taking his meals in the mess hall with the students and the other unmarried members of the faculty. He was assigned an office and one or two class rooms at the south end of the hall on the second or third floor of the same building. The department at that time possessed no compound microscopes and he persuaded President Welch to purchase one, which I believe is still in existence. A few small dissecting microscopes were also soon obtained. At any rate in that first year he shocked the rest of the faculty by tacking a sign on a classroom door reading "Botanical Laboratory". The other members of the college staff said that the name laboratory belonged to the Chemistry Department, but in spite of this objection the

name remained for the Botanical Department, as well. For several years the beginning course in Botany was not listed in the catalogue as a laboratory course although actually the students studied plant material under dissecting microscopes and performed what we now recognize was really laboratory work. The advanced students in Botany used the compound microscopes to which others were gradually added. In his first class was found a sophomore (I believe) named Joseph Charles Arthur, who nearly sixty years later informed the writer that actually laboratory work was carried out in the year 1870.

Besides the classes in Botany C. E. Bessey had to teach classes in Horticulture and to organize and carry out practical demonstrations as well as experimental work in that field. After two years there was a political upheaval on the Board of Trustees and J. L. Budd was made Professor of Horticulture and C. E. Bessey became Professor of Botany and Zoology (including Entomology).

In 1872 Professor Bessey met the famous Harvard botanist, Asa Gray at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Dubuque, where Dr. Gray gave an address as retiring president of the Association. This was his first meeting with the famous botanist. As a result he arranged to spend his winter vacation in 1872-1873, studying under Gray at Harvard. This was repeated in the winter of 1875-1876. The friendship between the older and the younger man continued until the death of Gray in 1888. When, about 1878, the publisher Henry Holt sought an author for the Textbook of Botany in his proposed American Science Series he naturally turned to Dr. Asa Gray for advice and the latter promptly suggested the name of Charles E. Bessey. Thus came about the series of several editions of Bessey's Textbook of Botany and the smaller Essentials of Botany, both of which had their first appearance while their author was still at Ames.

In the first ten years of his residence at Ames, Professor Bessey did extensive collecting of plants and established a herbarium at the College. It must be noted that he collected not only vascular plants but also mosses, Algae and Fungi, an unusual practice for herbaria in this country at that time. As early as 1871 in

a report of the Agricultural College (No. 17, pages 89-127) he published a paper entitled Contribution to the Iowa Flora. This was based mainly upon his own collections, assisted by J. C. Arthur, and with the cooperation of four other interested persons in different portions of the state. His added burden of Entomology compelled him to devote much time for several years to studies on the insects of Iowa, particularly on those that were harmful to plants. This burden became less by the aid of a young student, Herbert Osborn, who eventually became Professor of Entomology. In the 1873 and 1874 Reports of the Iowa State Agricultural Society are published Professor Bessey's Reports on Insects.

As time went on Professor Bessey became more and more interested in the diseases of plants. In the Agricultural College Report printed in 1877 appeared his paper entitled "On Injurious Fungi. The Blights (Erysiphei)". Several other botanical papers, partly of physiological nature were published in the Transactions of the Iowa Horticultural Society in the years before and after 1880. One of these papers in the 1883 number is entitled "The Diseases of Plants" and may well be the first pathological paper from the College.

With the erection in 1880 of North Hall the Botanical Department was removed from the Main Hall and given much more commodious quarters. In a note by him concerning this event, in the March, 1881, number of the American Naturalist it is stated that "A large lecture-room is supplemented by a laboratory adjacent to it. The latter is constructed with north and east windows for microscope work. A third room of ample size is set aside for the herbarium and cabinet."

In 1880 he accepted the task as botanical editor for the American Naturalist to which he had contributed a number of short papers in the preceding years. He prepared monthly notes for that journal for quite a number of years beyond his years of service at Iowa Agricultural College. Feeling the need in Iowa of such

an organization he took active part in the organization of the first Iowa Academy of Science, of which he became president.

In 1874 he was invited by President Gilman of the University of California at Berkeley to deliver a course of lectures and organize classes in Agricultural Botany during the long winter vacation at Ames (November, 1874 to February 1875). Accompanied by Mrs. Bessey he took train to California, missing by one day a terrific blizzard that tied up traffic a week or more. He arrived at Berkeley just as Dr. Gilman was leaving to assume the presidency of the newly established Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The botanical courses that winter at Berkeley were the first ones given at the rather new University of California.

In July 1881, upon invitation from the University of Minnesota, he gave courses in Botany during the summer session of that institution. As there were no compound microscopes there he was permitted to borrow from Iowa Agricultural College twenty-five. He used these in conducting the first laboratory courses in Botany ever held in Minnesota. In 1882 J. C. Arthur conducted a similar course there.

Professor Bessey was always interested in the problems met by teachers and early associated himself with the Iowa State Teacher's Association. He was anxious that college courses and the high school work leading toward the college be placed on a more scientific basis. At the meeting of the Association at Grinnell on December 26, 1876 he gave a talk entitled "A Study for a Course of Training in Science". The proposed course was intended to continue for eight years beyond the eighth grade of elementary school. He suggested that the first four years should be given in high school, but because there were very few four-year high schools in Iowa at that time some of this work would have to be done in the earlier years of college. Reflecting the prevalent tendency then, the proposed course was a fixed one, with practically no opportunity for deviation or for electives. Influenced probably by the insufficiencies that he felt in language training, which made it necessary for him to spend much time and labor so as to learn to read the botanical and other scientific litera-

ture in Latin, German and French he recommended in his proposed course of study two years each of Latin, German and French and a year of Greek, a year of English two years of English Literature, one year of Science of Language, one year of Logic, one year of History, one year of Biology. Then in the purer sciences: he lists one year of Algebra, one of Geometry, one of Trigonometry, one of Analytical Geometry and one of Calculus. With these firm foundations of language and mathematics came the following sciences: six years each of Botany and Zoology, two years of Chemistry and Physics, followed by four years each of Chemistry and of Physics. Concerning the teaching of Botany and Zoology he wrote "For the preliminary years the method is that of learning from Nature, under the guidance of the teacher. The teacher must exercise an intelligent discretion; too little help given the pupil is often as bad as too much." With such a course, had it ever been given in any college the student passing through it would have been equipped with a thorough training which would have enabled him to go far in whatever Science he chose as his specialty. Even now there is scarcely anywhere a high school-college combination that would go so far as that outlined. (Author's note: When it became apparent to my father that I was intending to make Botany my chosen field he guided my studies so that in high school and college together I had six years of Latin, over four of Greek, two each of German and French and one of Italian. This foundation in languages has been of incalculable assistance to me in my botanical work.)

While Professor Bessey was still a student in his Junior year at Michigan State Agricultural College, President Abbot called him to his office for a conference. He said "Prentiss (who was head of all the botanical work at the college) says you ought to become a Botanist". He answered, "But I came here because I wanted to learn more Civil Engineering". Abbot answered, "Prentiss says that your keenest interest and best work is in the field of Botany. Go, think it over and come back and tell me your conclusions". After considering the matter some days he realized that Prentiss was really right and he told President Abbot so. The latter said "Bessey,

I am glad of it, but you will ~~never~~ be rich". I have heard my father repeat this story many times but he always insisted that Abbot was wrong, for though he never became rich in money or goods he had great wealth in the love and admiration of his hundreds of students and scientific friends.

On Christmas Day, 1873 he married Lucy Athearn of West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, whom he first met when she was teaching music in the Lansing, Michigan, Academy of Music in 1868. For about a year they lived in the old Main Hall, but upon their return from California early in 1875 they moved into a house in Ames. There were born their three sons, Edward, in June, 1875, Ernst, in February, 1877 and Carl in August, 1878. Edward and Carl became electrical engineers, but only Ernst felt the desire to follow the field of Botany. In March, 1882 the family moved into what was then called South Hall on the Campus. Part of the house was reserved for the classes in Home Economics and often we, upstairs, could smell the delicious odor of baking.

April 8, 1882 was the day before Easter Sunday. As was the custom all the students were to attend chapel exercises in the Main Hall, at 5 P.M., including Saturday. The conducting of these exercises was rotated among the faculty. My father was very busy in his office in North Hall and did not expect to attend chapel, but only a few moments before five he was sent for as the professor who was slated for the job was taken ill. So my father went over to President Welch's office preparatory to entering the chapel. A sudden storm of rain and wind came up and was followed by a tornado passing up the center of the campus. It hit North Hall and dumped several tons of brick and other debris on the desk and office chair where my father had been sitting not ten minutes before. My mother had gone to Ames by the morning bus to do some shopping and to visit her friends. She was on the bus returning to the college and they had just crossed "College Creek" and driven up the hill near South Hall when the bus was torn to pieces by the tornado

and the kitchen wall of the South Hall blown out and all chimneys taken off and deposited upright on the ground north of the house. Although badly banged up, her injured did not shorten her life greatly as she lived to the age over eighty-two.

Early in 1884 the University of Nebraska sought to take Professor Bessey away. He was reluctant to accept the call but finally the offer was so attractive that he accepted and resigned to take effect at the close of the college year in November, 1884, after the completion of fifteen years at Ames. He always retained great interest and affection for Iowa Agricultural College and rejoiced to see it grow and prosper.

Professor Bessey was a religious man. Like his beloved teacher, Asa Gray, he retained his religion while at the same time accepting the belief in Evolution.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

CORNELL UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION

WILLIAM I. MYERS, DEAN

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

April 10, 1956

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

This will acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your recommendation of Dr. Lommasson for the Summer Institute of Botany. His application will be given careful consideration.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Very truly yours,

Harlan P. Banks

Harlan P. Banks, Director
Summer Institute of Botany.

The University of Tulsa

Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 22, 1953

Head, Botany Department,
University of Nebraska,
Lincoln, Neb.

Dear sir,

I would like to inquire as to a possible young man from your Department or of your acquaintance to fill a position in this Botany Department beginning September, 1953. We are desirous of having a recent Ph. D. for the position of Assistant Professor, on a nine months basis. The courses which it would be advisable for him to teach, in addition to a section of the introductory work, would range, over a period of time, in the fields of morphology, physiology and plant pathology.

Since this is a matter of some urgency, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as it is conveniently possible.

Very truly yours,

Harriet G. Barclay

Harriet G. Barclay,
Professor of Botany

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
Soils, and Agricultural Engineering
~~WASHINGTON~~

DIVISION OF
COTTON AND OTHER FIBER CROPS
AND DISEASES

Plant Industry Station,
Beltsville, Md.

April 5, 1945

Dr. W. W. Ray
Oklahoma A. & M. College
Stillwater, Okla.

Dear Doctor Ray:

Referring to your letter of March 27, it seems to me that the plans for the cooperative seed treatments for the coming year have shaped up unusually well, considering the difficulty of obtaining help for field plot work, and I think that some valuable data will be obtained.

I really feel that the seedling disease committee should feel gratified that despite the various difficulties encountered in attempting to do field work during the past three or four years, interest has been maintained and continuous progress has been realized. I feel that the trip to New Orleans in January was well worth while, and I hope that we can continue to maintain interest in the cooperative work of the various subcommittees of the Cotton Disease Council so that after the war we can again look forward to our annual meetings and exchange of information and ideas.

Sincerely yours,

H. D. Barker

H. D. Barker
Principal Pathologist

THE DEPARTMENT OF
PLANT PATHOLOGY,
BACTERIOLOGY, AND
ENTOMOLOGY
ROOM 401, BROOKS HALL

West Virginia University
THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,
AND HOME ECONOMICS
THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
MORGANTOWN

BACTERIOLOGY
MYCOLOGY
PLANT PATHOLOGY
ENTOMOLOGY

November 24, 1958

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I hope you had a pleasant stay in Turkey and am glad to hear that you are back on the job at Nebraska. I am mailing cultures you asked for, except for Pythium. The Colletotrichum does not seem to be producing setae, but perhaps it will for you on a different medium. If you need more cultures please let me know.

Yours truly,

H. L. Barnett
H. L. Barnett
Professor of Mycology

HLE/ppk

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

2 August, 1963

Dr. W. W. Ray
The University of Nebraska
Department of Botany
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I have finished with the material of Ascoidea that you so kindly loaned. The box I am sending today contains the herbarium sheets (3) and the three boxes of slides. I hope they will reach you in good condition. Thank you for the loan of the material, it was a great help.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Batra

L. R. Batra
Assistant Professor of Botany

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

May 4, 1955

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I would like to obtain material of Aecidium aesculi, which I believe to be connected with Puccinia andropogonis. In a letter last year you mentioned having seen A. aesculi near the Nebraska campus. If you can send me a few leaves bearing fresh aecia it will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John W. Baxter

JOHN W. BAXTER
Assistant Professor

JWB:cjb

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

May 27, 1955

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Thanks very much for the material of Aecidium aesculi. It arrived in excellent condition and most of the aecia opened two or three days after the material arrived. I inoculated Andropogon seedlings with aeciospores and obtained uredia and urediospores which fit the description of Puccinia andropogonis. I can't be sure whether my plants are big or little bluestem until I grow them to maturity. At any rate, the connection between Aecidium aesculi and P. andropogonis is established.

Very truly yours,

John W. Baxter
John W. Baxter
Assistant Professor

JWB:cjb

The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

• 3203 DOWNER AVENUE MILWAUKEE 11, WISCONSIN • WOODRUFF 4-4400

• COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

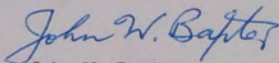
April 12, 1960

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I would like to obtain some overwintered telial material of the rusts on Bouteloua curtipendula (both Puccinia boutelouae and P. verans). If such material is available to you, I would appreciate receiving a small amount for use in some life history studies.

Very truly yours,



John W. Baxter
Assistant Professor of Botany

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

October 27, 1958

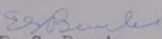
Dr. W. W. Ray
Chairman, Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I have received your letter of October 15, 1958, concerning cultures, and shall be glad to send those that I have in my collection. I do not have T. Concentricum, Sporodinia, grandis, or Hycomyces Blakesleeanus. The other cultures I do have and shall send them under separate cover.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


E. S. Beneke
Associate Professor

ESB:cs

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
1500 North College Avenue • Claremont, California

LEE W. LENZ
DIRECTOR

PHILIP A. MUNZ
DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Feb. 20, 1961

Dr. W. W. Ray
Dept. of Botany
Univ. of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebr.

Dear Dr. Ray:

Many thanks to you and Dr. Davidson
for your efforts in trying to locate
the Helicostylum cyaneum material for
me.

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Richard K. Benjamin

Richard K. Benjamin

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
POMONA COLLEGE
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

CLASSROOMS AND LABORATORIES
CROOKSHANK HALL
100 BLOCK, WEST SIXTH STREET
TELEPHONE, LYCOMING 5-1211
EXTENSION 229

LYMAN BENSON
SYSTEMATIC BOTANY
EDWIN A. PHILLIPS
ECOLOGY AND PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

HERBARIUM OF POMONA COLLEGE
RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC
GARDEN BUILDING
1500 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
TELEPHONE, LYCOMING 5-3922

December 3, 1953

Head of the Botany Department
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Sir:

Pomona College will have a temporary opening in the Botany Department for an instructor or an assistant professor for the academic year 1954-55 while Dr. Edwin A. Phillips is on Sabbatical leave. For this position we wish to have a young man with a Ph. D. Degree or with the work toward the degree nearly completed. His special field should be plant ecology.

We should appreciate having a letter of recommendation from you for each outstanding candidate you suggest. We are anxious to assemble data as rapidly as possible; consequently, I am enclosing the following mimeographed materials:

1. A description of the position and related matters to be given to each candidate.
2. A list of data and materials desired from each candidate.
3. A form letter to accompany the candidate's request for each recommendation for the position.

We shall appreciate your help with this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Lyman Benson
Lyman Benson

Head of the Botany Department

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
RENO, NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

January 15, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray
Chairman, Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of January 11 informing me of the opening which you will have in ecology. The department and your facilities sound very attractive. I am sure that the man appointed will have an exceptional opportunity to carry on the highest quality ecological work. However, I have decided not to make an application because my present salary and rank are higher than that established for the position.

Thank you again for letting me know about the opening.

Sincerely yours,

W. D. Billings

W. D. Billings
Professor

WDB:bp

Duke University

COLD DESERT ECOLOGY PROJECT
BOX 8005, UNIVERSITY STATION
RENO, NEVADA

February 12, 1953

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Thank you very much indeed for forwarding the recent letter from Boston, Massachusetts to me. In previous conversations with people from New England, I have noticed that they often confuse Nebraska and Nevada.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. D. Billings

W. D. Billings
Project Director

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

WDB:bj

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

February 4, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

It was called to my attention that Dr. J. E. Weaver will retire this summer. I am very interested in who will replace him. My interest stems from several reasons. The first is that I studied under Dr. Weaver and am very proud of this. I continue to consider him the best teacher I ever had, and also an outstanding research man. He has been a great inspiration to his students.

The University of Nebraska has become great in plant ecology, almost entirely due to Dr. Weaver. Students came to the Nebraska Botany Department from all over the world to study under this Professor. It would be a great thing for the University if it could maintain this outstanding reputation in plant ecology and could continue to attract graduate students in this field as it has in the past.

My second reason for interest in the position is that I am very anxious to see a good grassland ecologist go to the University. Someone to whom we can recommend that students go for graduate study and feel assured of outstanding training in this field. I believe that the person for this position should be selected largely on the basis of his particular interest in grassland ecology. It would be a mistake to select someone interested primarily in plant sociology, or forest ecology, or something else and expect him to be a grassland ecologist. It could turn out that a plant sociologist or forest ecologist would leave Lincoln during the summer to do his research. This would be unfortunate for graduate students who might come to the University for advanced study. I hope that the person selected will have enough interest in the grasslands to do his research in the prairie around Lincoln. This is almost an essential for research and training of graduate students in this field of work.

A third reason for my interest in the position is that I hope someone can be selected who will carry on with about the same sort of research and teaching that Dr. Weaver has done so successfully. He was excellent in combining fundamental training with practical application; and, by doing this, he has made a great contribution

Dr. W. W. Ray--2:

February 4, 1952

to agriculture and to the wise management of our wildlands through his training of many students who have gone into the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and other organizations concerned with land management. In addition, many of his students have become teachers and are expanding his influence in this way. Plant ecology is important in all phases of land management. It has gained in recognition in the past few years. But every little while someone mentions that we still need more plant ecology. I feel that a continuation of Dr. Weaver's approach will do much to further advance wise land management through the application of fundamental ecological principles.

My last, but not least important, reason for interest in the position is that I would like to see and urge that a Weaver trained man be secured for the replacement. No one else could fill the position quite as well as a Nebraska trained man. There are several men with this training who would be well suited for the position.

I hope that you will consider this letter in order. It is not my intention to try to dictate what should be done at Nebraska, but merely to let you know of my interest in the Botany Department, and particularly that part concerned with plant ecology.

Very sincerely,

H. H. Biswell

H. H. Biswell

Professor of Forestry

W

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

December 9, 1952

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

At the present time, we are in the process of distributing our fifth exsiccata of fungi. In addition, a number of other duplicate specimens are available for distribution.

Our records show that no exchange of fungi has been made with your institution since 1936. We should, therefore, like to inquire whether you would be interested in receiving a set of this material and renewing an exchange arrangement with our herbarium.

Sincerely,

Lee Bonar

Lee Bonar, Chairman
Department of Botany and
Curator of Mycological Collections

LB:IT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

December 31, 1962

Dr. W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I am afraid I do not know any prospective applicants that would meet the requirements of your position.

We have a post-doctoral fellow who has been with us about two years and will be looking for an opening shortly, but he does not have the experience your position requires. This man got his degrees at Ames and, while with us, has worked on photoperiodic control of flowering in Chenopodium rubrum. He is a very careful worker and has done exceptional work here. He has had some teaching experience at Ames but probably not much and no administrative experience. I mention him only because of the possibility that you might know of some appropriate opening for him.

If I hear of a possible candidate, I will let you know. At the moment I can think of no one I would really care to recommend.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Borthwick
Chief Plant Physiologist



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

May 17th, 1955

Dr. W. W. Ray,
Chairman,
Department of Botany,
The University of Nebraska,
LINCOLN, 8, Nebraska.

Dear Dr. Ray,

We wish to thank you for your letter of May 6th with regard to the opening on your staff. We are notifying the members of our staff who are likely to be interested and hope we will be able to recommend someone who will be satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Bragonier
W. H. Bragonier
Head

WHB:mlp

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

of Science and Technology



AMES, IOWA

Department of Botany and Plant Pathology

December 12, 1961

Dr. W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

In reply to your letter of November 29, regarding the plans of the two Turkish plant pathologists to visit our department between January 2 and 5, I am happy to report we shall be looking for them and shall be glad to show them our facilities and introduce them to the staff.

If overnight accommodations are desired please inform us so reservations can be made in the Memorial Union. We'll need to know the time and date of arrival and the type of room(s) desired.

We are indeed sad to lose Paul Romberg. He has done a grand job for us and we find it difficult to replace him. Since you and your fine wife did such a good job of selecting him for us, would you care to try again? Any suggestions will be appreciated you may be certain. Both Rose and Paul have made a host of close friends in Ames and in the University and they'll leave a big hole when they leave. They are all you said they were and more too. We shall always be indebted to you for helping us find them.

Please extend my greetings to your wife and accept my best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Bragonier
Professor and Head

WHB:eb

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN 12

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

October 19, 1959

Professor W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

I have received your recent letter in which you again invite me to visit your Department and, provided we can work out a mutually agreeable time and duration for the visit, I accept with pleasure.

I am going to be in St. Louis on November 10 lecturing at Washington University and could most conveniently go to Lincoln right after that. Inasmuch as I travel by train rather than plane, can you advise me about train service between St. Louis and Lincoln. I would also like to know a little more about what you would expect me to do during my visit.

With kind regards and thanks again for the invitation,

Sincerely yours,

Harold C. Bold

Harold C. Bold
Professor of Botany

HCB:jh

* or Dallas - Ft. Worth & Lincoln

cc or before

Dept. Botany
University of Texas
Austin, Texas
November 1, 1959

Professor W.W. Ray
Dept. Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

(Hortalia)
Your letter of October 30 came in Sunday's mail and I hasten to reply about the subjects for the lectures. Unless you insist, I would rather not discuss the problems of classification in a lecture, especially an evening one, at which the audience might be of varying backgrounds, for several reasons: (1) Phylogenetic discussions chill some people and really to be intelligible require of the hearers complete familiarity with the plant kingdom, living and fossil. (2) I have written most of what I think about this subject in my book and little new evidence has been added. Of course I am interested in the topic and would be delighted to discuss it informally with anyone and everyone, but I have prepared two other lectures which I think might go over better.

For the evening lecture I would suggest "Some Aspects of Sexuality in the Algae"—this is illustrated with Kodachromes and mimeographed materials. In this I would allude to methods of cultivation of algae and I would hope to supplement it with a demonstration of some living algae, provided they survive the trip. I think the topic and information will appeal to more people and contain some new information. I have a second lecture, also illustrated, which tells the story of soil algae and some of their biological interrelationships. The latter aspect will appeal also to a broader (but more sophisticated) audience. In this also I would plan to discuss techniques. The illustrations here also are in part Kodachromes.

Perhaps from these two, you will be able to decide which is better for the evening. If there were to be present many people who are not microbiological in their outlook, I think the lecture on sexuality would be the better. In addition to these, *(Hortalia)* I will be glad to try to arrange a few thoughts on classification for informal discussion. I also had planned to bring some Kodachromes of the various phyla of algae—mostly photomicrographs—which I would be glad to show and comment on.

If I do not hear from you to the contrary, I will plan on the two lectures—on sexuality and on soil algae—and prepare to discuss the others informally and to do anything else I can.

I am hoping that the Burlington train will be a little late in Omaha so that I can catch it and get to Lincoln earlier. Do not bother to meet me—I will take a taxi to Bessey Hall.

Sincerely yours,

Hortalia C. Bold
Harold C. Bold

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN 12

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

November 17, 1959
(Dictated Nov. 16)

Professor W. W. Ray, Chairman
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

Your exceedingly kind letter arrived this morning and I am grateful to you for telling me that my two talks were well received. I relied heavily on the demonstration, having as my purpose the fact that they would be eloquent if the lecturer failed. I very much enjoyed visiting your Department and getting acquainted with your staff and graduate students. I appreciate very much all the time which you gave to make my visit a memorable one, and I ask you especially to thank your good wife for the delicious luncheon with which she provided us. Please thank those who entertained me again at luncheon last Thursday.

I am sorry I missed your cold weather, but was surprised to find that we had had a heavy sleet storm here on Saturday. Traces of it still remained until yesterday, but as I write, the sun is out and I am sure the thermometer is about 70°.

With kind regards and thanks for your generous check,

Sincerely yours,

Harold C. Bold
Harold C. Bold
Professor of Botany

HCB:jh

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN 12

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

January 29, 1962

Air mail

Professor W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

We have an inquiry from a student named N. K. Pandeya regarding graduate work in plant ecology in this department. Calvin McMillan said he would appreciate it very much, and so would I, if we could get some comment regarding Mr. Pandeya's qualifications from you or someone in your department. I would very much appreciate your help.

I hope that this finds you and all of your colleagues well. At present we are having what I call "Nebraska weather"---it is down to 24° and we have some sleet.* This has been the coldest winter in Austin in many years.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harold C. Bold
Harold C. Bold

HCB:cs

* 70°F today!