



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

7 October 1953

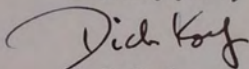
Professor W. W. Ray
Department of Botany
University of Nebraska
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Ray:

In accord with our discussions at Madison, I am enclosing a sheet indicating, as best I can, the points which we brought up. I hope you will be willing to write up one or more of these topics so that we can get your viewpoint, as well as that of others, on the method by which we are to proceed.

My best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,



R. P. Korf,
Assistant Professor.

RPK:bh
767
encl.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

March 26, 1956

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

Dear Dr. Ray:

This letter is in part to acknowledge receipt of your's of March 20, 1956 in which you indicate that you are going to be on leave of absence for two years and that you are looking for a young man to replace you during that period. I have a promising student who has almost completed his Ph.D. work, but because of financial responsibilities left last September to accept an instructorship at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. I believe the position there is on a temporary basis, however, and I am not sure whether he would be interested in remaining there after he receives his Ph.D., presumably this spring or this summer. And that he needs to do is complete his thesis, many parts of which I have already examined. I have written to him asking him if he would be interested in the position you outlined in your letter, and expect to hear from him shortly. If he is interested you may expect a long and detailed letter from me regarding his qualifications.

My other purpose in writing is to ascertain whether what I have heard by the grapevine is true or not. You may recall that on Professor Fitzpatrick's death he had a very large reprint collection, which I was able to purchase from Mrs. Fitzpatrick by swinging a loan from my father. Some time after the completion of that transaction I heard that you were attempting to negotiate purchase of the same set of reprints from Mrs. Fitzpatrick, but that since I had already purchased them, this was impossible. I presume that you were acting on behalf of the University of Nebraska? After purchasing Professor Fitzpatrick's collection of reprints, I consolidated it with my own very extensive collection, so that it now is perhaps half again as large as it was at the time of Professor Fitzpatrick's death. My own contributions were not only recent material, which I have a good deal of, of course, but also include many of the rarer, early papers

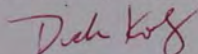
March 26, 1956

that Professor Fitzpatrick did not have. In part it includes the complete reprint collection of Charles E. Fairman, which I had purchased a few years earlier from a book dealer in New York. I suspect that it is now one of the most complete sets of mycological reprints in private hands.

Discussions with some of my more intelligent graduate students have convinced me that there is some sort of a sin involved in maintaining such an extensive reprint collection, particularly since there is essentially nothing in the reprint collection which is not duplicated somewhere or other on the Cornell campus in one of the libraries. On the other hand, there are many institutions, both in this country and abroad, where no copy of any of this material would be available to a mycological research worker. Under these circumstances, I have more or less come around to the conclusion that I should attempt to sell the reprint collection, preferably placing it where it will do the most good. I wonder if you would advise me whether the University of Nebraska would still be interested in the reprint collection, and if so to whom I should write in regard to it. You may recall that the papers are all filed by author, and if I go ahead with this I would doubtless prepare some sort of a listing by author, perhaps merely indicating the number of different reprints under each author's name, and then issue such a list either for bids or at a set price. Perhaps you could give me some idea as to what you think such a reprint collection would bring?

All best wishes accompany this note.

Sincerely yours,



Richard P. Korf
Associate Professor

RPK:am
3484

from Kerf

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

April 4, 1956

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

Dear Dr. Ray:

I have heard from Mr. WILLIAM C. DENISON, about whom I wrote you earlier, and he has indicated an interest in being considered for the position at Nebraska which will be vacant during your two years on leave. You should be receiving a letter from him before long, and also his file from the Educational Placement Bureau here. I consider it a pleasure to recommend him for the position.

Personal Data: Mr. Denison will be 28 years old in June, is married, and has two sons, 3 years of age and nearly a year old. He was born in New York State and is a citizen of the United States. He received the A.B. degree in 1950 from Oberlin College, with a major in Botany. He was a Teaching Assistant in Botany at Oberlin, 1950-52, and in 1952 received the M.A. degree from Oberlin, with a major in Botany under Dr. G. T. Jones. His master's thesis was entitled "The Discomycetes of Lorain County, Ohio," being a floristic contribution. He came to Cornell University to major in Mycology under my direction in 1952. He was a Teaching Assistant in Plant Pathology 1952-54, and was the Teaching Assistant in Mycology 1954-55. He had a minor in Bacteriology under Prof. E. A. Delwiche, and a minor in Plant Pathology under Prof. C. W. Boothroyd. His doctorate thesis is entitled "Studies in the Genus *Scutellinia*," and is a taxonomic and cultural study of a genus of Operculate Discomycetes. Mr. Denison was elected to Sigma Xi in 1952. He has not yet published any scientific papers. Because of the pressure of finances, Mr. Denison decided to accept a teaching position as an instructor in the Department of Biology at Swarthmore College beginning in the fall of 1955. He has completed all of his residence and course requirements for the Ph.D. degree, and all that remains for him to do is to submit his doctorate thesis. I have already examined several portions of this thesis, and expect that he

will present himself for the examination on the thesis during this current semester.

Teaching and Research Interests: Mr. Denison has indicated an interest in a teaching position, preferably one in which some of his time would be available for research. He feels qualified to teach elementary courses in mycology, industrial mycology, plant pathology, botany (including plant morphology and possibly physiology), bacteriology, and field biology, as well as advanced courses in mycology. At Swarthmore Mr. Denison has been teaching courses in biology as well as courses in botany and in genetics. A unit on fungi in the elementary course was also under his direction. His research interests lie especially in the morphology, life-histories, and taxonomy of the Discomycetes, the structure and dynamics of Phycomycete flagella, the production by fungi of high-protein food products, and investigations on heterocaryosis and its relationship to sexuality in fungi.

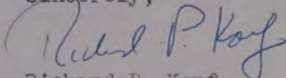
Appraisal of Teaching and Research Abilities: Mr. Denison was a teaching assistant in the elementary course in plant pathology here for two years, and last year was my teaching assistant in mycology, giving me ample opportunity to observe his abilities. His very broad background in biological sciences gives him great depth as a teacher, and he works very well with the students. He is always enthusiastic, and the students seem to catch some of his fire. He is a natural teacher, and I believe will become an excellent one. He could teach excellent courses in the fields listed in the preceding paragraph. His research abilities are likewise very fine, and again his broad background in biology is of help here. His mechanical ability has led him to devise techniques and apparatus of value in his research. He is interested in taxonomy, especially from an experimental viewpoint, and I feel sure that over the years his experiments and taxonomic conclusions will prove of immense value in delimiting species of Discomycetes. I believe that he will become one of the better workers on Discomycetes -- with the proviso that this is true only if his wide interests in biological phenomena do not lead him elsewhere. As a worker in the Discomycetes myself, I can only hope that he will remain with this group and devote his undoubted abilities toward solving some of the problems there; no matter where he turns his attention, however, I feel he is capable of making significant research contributions.

Appraisal of Personal Characteristics: Mr. Denison has a very engaging personality, a great deal of verve and enthusiasm which is contagious, and an ever-ready smile. People

April 4, 1956

like him instinctively. He looks younger than his age, but is, on the whole, well-adjusted socially and mature in his thinking on both social and scientific subjects. His wife is likewise a charming person, and an excellent complement and help-mate to him. They both have very high moral standards. Mr. Denison has fine judgment, and seldom jumps to a conclusion without thoroughly investigating the alternatives. He has further the knack of being able to tie in his related fields of interest with whatever subject is at hand. He has demonstrated the ability to work very effectively alone, but likewise he operates smoothly and efficiently in a team-work project, and is sought-out by his fellows. His scholarship will gain him many admirers, and his personality will bring him many friends. It is a pleasure to recommend Mr. Denison highly for your consideration. He may be contacted directly by addressing him at the Department of Biology, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Korf
Associate Professor,
Mycologist of Experiment Station,
and Curator of the Herbarium

RPK:am
3496



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

Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Dear Dr Ray

Please accept my thanks for the reprint of ^{my} ~~your~~ article
which you sent to me: for use of foreign colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

Rich Korf
RICHARD P. KORF