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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.

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.

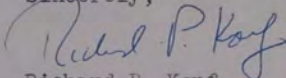
Appraisal of Teaching and Research Abilities: Mr. Denison was a teaching assistant in the elementary course in plant pathology here for two years, and last year was my teaching assistant in mycology, giving me ample opportunity to observe his abilities. His very broad background in biological sciences 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

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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
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