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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.

March 7, 1938

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
Extension Service,
Coordinating Committee,
U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C

Dear Dr. Ball:

It is nearly three months since I received your nice letter and it should have been answered long ago. I have been working at top speed to get all of the last South American collections checked up and labeled and sent off to the specialists, so I neglected writing to you as well as some others.

I have now taken the time to label those willows according to your list of determinations and have distributed them to U.C., the Academy, Field and a few for Gray and N.Y. If you wish to give the extra ones you have to U.S. National I should be glad. I sent you ample so that you might see all the variations I could get, and have as complete a set as you might wish. I'll enclose some of my labels as you suggest.

Let me know if you want me to get more of the tiny leafed willow that gave so much trouble and I'll do my best to get it. I do want to help you straighten that out. The County question for 869; 870; is Siskiyou; up there the counties wrap themselves around each other. It is grand country!

How about that grandchild? You didn't mention him or her or is it both! And how is the family including your nice wife? Take off a moment and write me a letter some day.

Dr. and Mrs. Copeland left in their car about a week before Christmas for Mexico, where he hoped to clear up some confusing fern records and the Parks left about a month ago to join the Copelands but didn't get beyond Mexicali, where they were told no one was allowed to cross the boarder due to difficulties in Mexico. They also ran into almost every sort of storm and so came home last week.

Dr. Setchell is having the time of his life being fairy godfather to a number of boys whom he calls nephews. He is feeding them and taking care of them when they are ill, even taking them to his apartment and calling the doctor and staying home to nurse them. He always has some for lunch with him, more come in to dinner, he takes them to shows, symphonies opera and concerts, for trips on week ends and just about everything that a father would do. He enjoys it hugely and it costs him just as much. The boys are most fortunate in the association. There are five "neices" and I am one of them. He hasn't taken us under his wing but seems to like us and had us all over one evening to listen to symphony records and eat refreshments, all the boys appearing late. It is a grand thing he is doing and it is nice to see him happy again.

Miss Eastwood, 79 years young, is still going strong though she has not been well lately.

I am more irrepressible than ever, even pneumonia can suppress me. Better come back and work on willows! My husband has not been at all well for a long time, but I must keep on hoping.

We have had weather, lots of weather and we are having it this minute; at last we can say unusual.

How is your work coming on and are you staying in Washington or wandering around? With the best of wishes to you and Mrs. Ball, I am, Most cordially,

Mrs. H.P. Bracelin

N. Flory Bracelin

glad you caught my error of 3950m. alt. - when it should have been 4000 ft.

Address:

Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agric.

September 3, 1938

Mrs. H. P. Bracelin,
Dept. of Botany,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. Bracelin:

I am sorry that your good letter of March 7 should have remained so long unanswered. It came just as I was reading proof on two of the volumes I wrote while in California. That job lasted for weeks. I have been busy most of the year on matters pertaining to the Congressional investigation of TVA, and have been away from Washington most of the time.

Many thanks for the extra labels. I have just labeled a set of 21 duplicates and am taking them today to the U. S. National Herbarium as a gift by you. There are still a few duplicates and I will send them to other institutions than those you named.

I have had very little time to collect willows this year. Did get a set of *S. petiolaris* in the mountains of southern Virginia, hundreds of miles south of its accepted range. Have not had time to label it yet, but U. J. will get a specimen later.

I'm sorry that Mr. Bracelin is not keeping well. Please give him my regards and best wishes. Please tell me what happened to our good friend, Mrs. Mexia. I am glad to know about Miss Eastwood and Dr. Setchell. The grandson is thriving, walking, singing, at 14 months. Family were there recently but I was South then. His father and mother flew to the Pacific Coast for vacation, were in San Francisco but not in Berkeley. We hope to drive out next summer to see friends and the Fair.

I hope to have time to work on willows again next fall. Have a brief paper in Jour. Washn. Acad. Sci., containing *S. caudata* Bryantiana Ball and Bracelin, *S. lasiolepis* Sandbergii (Rydb.) Ball, etc.

I want to work up *lasiolepis* and distinguish two other vars., including the one you have collected in No. California. We still lack flowering and fruiting specimens of the small-leaved var. of *Scouleriana*, which you have collected in the Shasta and Eddy area. It flowers very early in the spring, of course.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

Botany Dept., U.C.,
Berkeley, Calif.
September 22, 1938

Dear Dr. Ball:

I was wondering if you had taken the veil or merely forgot your old friends. It was good to hear from you again. I miss the old days when we worked so long and so hard on willows. That was fun. I do think you should return and finish the job. I can assure you I make a good assistant in case you do not know it!

You ought to know by now that when you publish papers on Willows I should not be overlooked. Here I read about one, "The Willows of the Southern States," in Castanea 3: 1-9 1938 and do you send me a reprint? You do not and I am plain abused. You do not know, some day you might want to have me for a chief pest again and I might, I just might object, if I never get reprints!

It will be grand to see you and Mrs. Ball next summer and if you are here long enough perhaps we can go into some other region and get more willows. I have tried so hard and so expensively to get that small leaved Scouleriana tagged but in the spring it is flat under snow and I can't distinguish it without any leaves. I won't give up however. The long, slender branches all look much alike. Can you give me any clue?

I have had a very hard summer. Mrs. Mexia was collecting in the mountains of Oaxaca when she became ill and went out to Mexico City to consult a physician. He sent her home to San Francisco, to Dr. Brown who has been like a father-physician to her for about 30 years. She arrived May 29th and Dr. Brown put her into a hospital at once. He called every possible medical aid to help him but she failed rapidly. Years ago she fell over a cliff in Mexico, breaking the ribs from the back bone and hobbled to the coast and home for repairs. Since then adhesions had grown over the ribs compressing the lung so that breathing became difficult. The lung cavity filled up and had to be drained several times. The first of July we brought her to Berkeley to a sanitarium thinking to give her pleasanter surroundings and better food, but she had too much against her and on the 12th died. I was with her most of the time and alone with her at the end.

I must confess it has been terribly hard for me, you know how much I thought of her. For weeks I was really ill. Her excellent work is done and now I must finish it for her.

Soon I shall send you a specimen Mr. Rose collected for which we would like your name and at least one of Mrs. Mexia's collection. As soon as I can search them out and label them they will start to you.

Very cordially yours,

M. Floy Bracelin

Mrs. H.P. Bracelin

Botany Department,
University of California,
Berkeley, Calif.
November 30, 1938

Dear Dr. Ball:

I am sending you a small package of willows, four of them are from the Academy, for you to keep, one is scrap Dr. Copeland brought down from Jonesville, thinking it looked strange to him and so I thought I would send it on to you. The main purpose of the package is to send you a specimen from Mexico collected by Mrs. Mexia. Of course you will send me determinations for all of these, without my asking and add them to your own herbarium.

I received the package of reprints and want to thank you very much for them. I'll let you know to whom I give them, but first tell me are you sending any to anyone out here? If not I can distribute to everyone in your name and save postage for you. We do not want to duplicate the gifts, of course. You did your usual nice job with Bryantiana and I feel duely humble and grateful to you for including my name with so celebrated a specialists as co-author. I was your chief pest for months but feel hardly worthy of co-authorship. I suppose you will never be the same again, since that long drive I put you through!

Harold Parks was in this noon to see me, they do not get down very often, perhaps 4 or 5 time a year. He looks well but says he is not at all well. His great interest is his gladiola garden, in which he says he has many thousands of bulbs planted. He is crossing them and doing all sorts of things with them. I have not seen them because for one reason or another I have been kept quite close to Berkeley for quite some time. His wife comes down for treatments whenever they are this way, and Harold says she has a lot of trouble.

Dr. Setchell has been home for quite a while and all reports are very good. There too I have not been able to go to see him during the hours when I think I should go.

With kind regards to each of you,

Cordially yours,

M. Floy Bracelin

Mrs. H.P. Bracelin

Address:

Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agric.

December 9, 1938

Mrs. H. P. Bracelin,
Department of Botany,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mrs. Bracelin:

On my return to Washington today I find your letter of November 30 and the package of willows. I have given them immediate attention and am inclosing the list of determinations herewith.

(5980)
The specimen of *S. jaliscana* Jones, from Mrs. Maxia, is probably the best specimen of that little-known species in existence. The species was named from three fragmentary collections, with few data concerning them. Mature leaves were unknown then, and have been since, so far as I know. If this was her last collection of *Salix*, it is a real monument to her ability.

The plant is from the State of Guerrero. The type was from Jalisco, with one other specimen possibly from eastern Michoacan. Her plant comes from at least 250 miles and perhaps as much as 500 miles farther south. The species was named by M.E. Jones, and Mrs. Porter probably will be interested to know about this specimen. (Guess I'm wrong again. Mrs. Porter was Dr. Bebb's daughter).

You will note that Howell's two *S. Eastwoodiae* both are *orestera* Schn. There is superficial resemblance but *Eastwoodiae* is woolly, *orestera* thin and silky. *Eastwoodiae* has leaves glandular serrulate (at least the smaller ones) and the lateral veins spreading. *Orestera* has the margins always entire and the veins running straight toward the tip.

Many thanks for the two specimens from Dr. Evans. The one from Donahue Pass is somewhat different from the variety and I will study it more fully later. Please thank Dr. Evans for me and I also will write him.

I have sent no copies of the recent paper into California. You supply those to whom you wish to give it personally and let me have the names and I will send out any others needed. Can furnish you more if wanted. Give them from yourself, not from, but I will not duplicate them.

Glad to have the news of Parks and Dr. Setchell. Will write them.

With best holiday wishes to you, yours, and friends,

I am most cordially

Carleton R. Ball

Wrote Dec 25

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

April 21, 1939

Dear Dr. Ball,

I was so glad to get your nice letter some weeks ago and yet I have let it go unanswered all of this time. I have been driving, as you and I once did, to get out some of the last South American collections and so I put off any writing I could. I have just sent out over a thousand ferns with more all ready to send and that helps a little.

I have something like 30,000 labels to type as one of the little tasks! Part of the finishing of Mrs. Mexia's work is going to be very difficult, like the photographs she took in South America and Mexico and never worked up. Her notes needed also her memories to do it well and she was going to do it when she got well. I am putting these off until I can get some of the other work out of the way. I still have 8 of the Brazilian-Peruvian sets on hand, which I would much like to sell. If you hear of any one interested I should appreciate a word from you.

I am so glad to hear of the advance of the arctic flora. How grand to have some of the gaps closed and more and more material coming in. I was going to be your chief pest in working that up. How life takes us in hand and directs our courses. I know you won't forget me when you publish your new species and accounts. That reminds me to thank you for the copy you sent me of the Willow of the Southern States. You knew I should want it and I do thank you. I have given out a few of the copies of Bryantiana and shall get at ~~them~~ soon to really distribute them and then I'll let you know to whom I sent them.

How interesting that Tracy again extended the distribution of a willow. He is a keen observer.

I am enclosing a letter to give you a laugh. You doubtless do not remember the individual, but she is the one who completely lost her mind some years ago in the herbarium and has for the last few years been footloose and playing with plants, for lack of any other occupation, among them willows. You met her before you went east. She has been pestering the herbarium at intervals for a few years and writes frequent letters to the members and even the President, complaining or asking for work. This is the latest and Lincoln said I could send it to you with his compliments. You may destroy it. After all your work to have it come to this stage! We laughed over the letter.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Ball.

Very cordially yours,

H. P. Bracelin

Mrs. H. P. Bracelin

*P.S. Am enclosing a reprint from
Madroño about Mrs. Mexia*

Calif. Acad. Sci.
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco, Ca
Sept. 5, 1940

Dear Dr. Ball:

I'm working both here and at
U.C. and managing to keep very
busy as usual. Miss Crum, after

much persuasion gave me a copy of
your latest willow publication - and
I was delighted to have it but much
abused that you should forget me
entirely! Weeks ago I saw a notice

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
of one of your willow papers and you
didn't send me that either. You should
have felt your ears burn up. Wasn't I
your chief willow poet and helper for
years and now you forget it entirely
& don't even send me a reprint!

Mr. Howell and I puzzled over the
enclosed specimen and then gave up,
deciding The Willowy Man should name
it. Keep the specimen but please send
me its name. I have my guess but
may be all wrong.

With kindest memories,

Sincerely yours

N. Flory Bracelin

Mark Kerr Lings G 9000

Emily Smith Moss Lala

IR. " " Rd from Bridgeport 5000

Jahoa H. For 7000-7500 ft.

your 804 ✓ from Sequoia

N P at 7240 ft is not

this sp but do not yet
know what