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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.

Dr. Wendell H. Bragenier,
Dept. of Botany,
Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

3314 Jecelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

19 March, 1953.

Dear Dr. Bragenier:

Through Mrs. Williams, of the Juneau Botanical Club, I have just heard of the death of Dr. Joseph P. Andersen, on Feb. 13th. It is some time since I had heard of him, and I was not aware that his condition had become so serious. It is a great loss to arctic botany and I sincerely trust that his work can be completed and published. I shall be glad to contribute to this end, when matters get arranged. I shall complete the manuscript on the willows, for his publication, just as soon as possible.

I find no notice of his death in News of Iowa State for March but hope that the Alumnus may obtain from you a good write-up of his activities.

As you know, Science publishes, monthly, a list of scientist deaths. The last was in the issue for March 13, but his name does not appear therein. Could you send to Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington 5, D.C., the brief item needed. It would read: "Joseph P. Andersen, age, botanist (Alaska), of Ames, Iowa, Feb. 13.

I understand that he died at the Mayo Clinic, but the statement that he was "of Ames, Iowa", is in accord with Science. When the person dies remote from his scientific employment, and it would be usage more informative to many friends. I could have sent the item, but I do not know his age.

I think that I will write to the Arctic Institute of America regarding possible assistance in completing his project. It may be that one of the many foundations underwriting scientific projects would make a grant. I am not acquainted with their procedures. I will be glad to help in anyway that I can.

Cordially yours,

P.S. Do you happen to know if Dr. Andersen was, or had been, a smoker, and, if so, to what extent?

Carlsten R. Ball '96, I.S.C.

Bragoner

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

March 25, 1953

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn Street, N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 19. I am sorry we were delinquent in getting a notice of Dr. Anderson's death into SCIENCE. We did submit to several of the journals of taxonomy, and it was widely publicized in the state of Iowa. I have already complied with your suggestion of submitting a write-up to SCIENCE. It should come out in April.

As to carrying the notice in News of Iowa State and in the Alumnus, I don't know just what occurred there, but suspect the copy was already in press, or nearly so, at the time of his death and material should be out with the next issue.

Completion and publication of Dr. Anderson's work will be undertaken by Drs. Isely and Pohl, so I am referring your letter to Dr. Isely (Dr. Pohl is on a post-doctoral fellowship at Berkeley this year) for comment on your manuscript on the willows.

You may be assured we will appreciate anything you can do to obtain assistance, financial and otherwise, for completing Dr. Anderson's work. If there is anything that I can do so far as the Arctic Institute of America is concerned, I shall be glad to do it. Since you are in closer contact with the various agencies in Washington that back scientific projects, you will be able to do us a great deal of good, I am sure. We have not gone into his materials to any extent, as of yet, because they have not been given to us officially. His will gave them to us but the administrator of the estate has not yet been named, and until he is we are hesitate to become involved. This matter should be cleared up within a few weeks. From what we know about the condition of his work, however, we are certain there is much that needs to be done, and whatever financial support we can obtain will speed up the job materially. We are determined to carry his work to completion, if at all possible.

Your inquiry about Dr. Anderson's personal habits can be answered in the best way possible, namely, Dr. Anderson was not a smoker nor had he been at any time, so far as I know. He was a man of very clean personal habits, and so far as I know, had no vices. He was well loved by all of us, but well known by only a few. He was

Dr. Carleton R. Ball

-2-

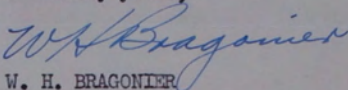
March 25, 1953

very active in the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints, and his life exemplified the best of Christian ideals. In order that you may have more complete details about Dr. Anderson, I am asking Dr. Isely to send a copy of the material he prepared for a science faculty meeting recently.

We appreciate your keen interest in Dr. Anderson's work. You are one of the few who really appreciate his quality.

Please accept my kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



W. H. BRAGONIER
Head

WHE:bcs

cc: Dr. Duane Isely
Dr. Richard W. Pohl

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Dr. Wendell H. Bragonier,
Dept. of Botany,
Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

23 July, 1957.

Dear Dr. Bragonier:

The flood of willows for determination continues, in spite of the drought which has made this area a national disaster area. The Univ. of Michigan is sponsoring a revised Flora of Michigan. They are obtaining the willows from every college and university in the State. I have just returned 6 large cartons, and more are coming soon. Smaller lots from many other States have been handled.

Just now I have a brief breathing spell and am making a study to see what promises of willow manuscripts I have made but not yet met. Back in 1953, you assigned Drs. Isely and Pohl to attempt the completion of Dr. Anderson's projected revision of his Flora of Alaska. I promised to write the chapter on Salix, but never have completed the job, altho much has been done.

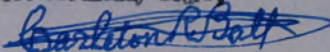
What is the present status of their project? Did you get financial aid from some of the various foundations, or is there more that needs to be done in that line? From present indications, when will you need the manuscript on Salix. I plan to give priority to the projects most nearly complete, so far as possible.

Any information you can give me, either personally or thro Drs. Isely and Pohl, if they are still on the job, will be greatly appreciated.

I flew back for my 60th anniversary of graduation in June, 1956, but cannot now remember if I had conference with you then. My memory is failing sadly. Also, while on a bus from Des Moines to Ames, I read of the Congressional approval of a Veterinary Medical Research Laboratory, to be located at some Agricultural College in a livestock State, remote from any large city. To me that meant Iowa, so I spent most of my few days there in getting necessary data from the Depts. of Animal Industry, Dairy Industry, and Veterinary Medicine. When I got back to Washington, I made copies of the data obtained. Then I went to the Committee which was to make the choice of location and present copies of the data showing desirable conditions of faculty, laboratories, and land areas at Iowa State.

I also assured them, that, while they might think me strongly prejudiced in favor of my alma mater, I had cooperated for 30 to 40 years with nearly all of the State Experiment Stations, and felt that I knew the other livestock States fairly well. I'm glad that Iowa State was awarded the Laboratory.

With all good wishes for you all, I am Most Cordially Yours,


Carleton R. Ball

P. S. I am interested to note that Iowa is one of the few States maintaining the name authorized by Congress, namely, State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. So, Dak. and N.J. still do, while N. Mex. and Puerto Rico merely omit the word "State".