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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.

California Botanical Society

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MISS ELSIE M. ZEILE - - - TREASURER
1801 SANSONE ST., SAN FRANCISCO

California Academy of Sciences,
Botany Building, University,
San Francisco Berkeley, Cal.,
Mar. 9, 1931.

Mrs. C. R. Ball,
University of California,
Berkeley.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your request I am sending to you a notice of the purposes of the California Botanical Society and an application for membership. Just at present the activities of the Society are confined to several field trips each year, an occasional evening meeting, the annual dinner, and the publication of the journal, "Madroño" which is issued two or three times each year. If you judge your stay in California too brief to join the Society, we should, nevertheless, be happy to have you attend our meetings anyway and will place your name on our mailing list — and gladly, as a very slight recompense (See over)

for the great favor you conferred on us by speaking at our annual dinner.

I hope you will be able to attend our outing on Sunday, Mar. 15 on Mt. Tamalpais where we shall investigate the regeneration of chaparral following fire. We shall take the Northwestern Pacific ferry from the Ferry Building, San Francisco, to Mill Valley at 8:45 A.M. The Key Route local leaving University and Shattuck Avenues, Berkeley, at 8 A.M. reaches San Francisco at 8:35 A.M., in sufficient time for the Sausalito ferry.

Very truly yours,

John Thomas Howell, Secretary,
California Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco, California.

May 5, 1951.

Mr. John Thomas Howell,
Secy., Calif. Botanical Society,
Calif. Academy Sciences,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Howell:

I think you were kind enough to send me a blank for membership in the C. B. Soc. about the time of the annual meeting but I seem to have mislaid it. I enclose one obtained from Mrs. Braceton, together with my check for two dollars for dues, and will be glad to become a member of the Society.

If it will not be too much of a burden, will you be good enough to bring the cover of specimens of *Salix richardsonii* Hooker, and the Alaska specimens of *Salix sitchensis* with you when you come to the meeting Thursday night. I listed the *richardsonii* specimens but brought away the cover of *S. pulchra* instead, which I had not listed with Miss. Eastwood, if I remember correctly. I need the *richardsonii* to study along with *S. barelayi*, which I brought over myself.

Thanking you in advance, and with personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

Carleton R. Ball.
Research Associate

WM. H. CROCKER,
President Board of Trustees
SUSIE M. PEERS,
Secretary Board of Trustees

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE BAYVIEW 5100

C. E. GRUNSKY, ENG. D.
President of the Academy and Acting
Director of the Museum and of the
Steinhart Aquarium

Oct. 6, 1934.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Miss Eastwood + I are ever so grateful to you
for identifying our willows, & I am sure that if Mr.
Roe were here he would send his thanks too.
We appreciate this help so much — not only do we have
specimens properly named ~~by~~ but every little bit of help
helps relieve the congestion under which we, among others,
labor!

And thanks too for the separation of your willow papers
which we are very happy to have.

Very sincerely yours,

John Thomas Howell.
When are you going to pay the Academy the long promised visit? Soon, I hope.

Oct. 29, 1947.

Dear Dr. Ball:

I have been all too slow in acknowledging your many favors: your letters of Sept. 29 and 30 and the wonderful lot of reprints with which you have favored me. Miss Eastwood has not been well and was away for about a month and during that time I was about swamped with departmental duties, as you might imagine. She has returned to her desk this week, which relieves me of a lot of routine detail that she usually attends to, so now I can get caught up on correspondence.

You are much too generous in your appraisal of me as a salicologist. You see I had a distinct advantage over you — I saw the plants growing and when collecting the specimens I made mental notes, thus — "This may be so-and-so but this second one is different." It was the first time I have collected so many willows on the east side of the Sierra Nevada as I was curious about what I had and after I sent a set to you I spent some time studying them. Your determinations showed me up in some mistakes of my own — so my record wasn't 100% either. Anyway it has been very illuminating to get your valued notes on lutea, pseudocordata, Geyeriana, and the rest and I have profited a lot. I am very grateful to you.

In your letter you ask for the address of
Mark Kerr. It is this:

C.H.A. #3 B.Q 44

Room 330, Honolulu 59, T. H.

Postmasters must be wonderful people to make sense
out of such a conglomeration! — I am certain
Mr. Kerr will be delighted to hear from you. He ^{is} ~~was~~
so proud of his connection with your California
willow studies.

I hope you contemplate a monographic study
of the American willows. What a monumental work
it would be — but like most monuments, how useful
it would be!

Japan's estate — herbarium, library, and all — is
all tied up because the university, it would seem,
won't accept all the strings attached to the bequest.
Too bad — and there's nothing Japson can do about it
now!

Again my deep thanks for your help and interest.
With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely

John Thomas Howell

Mr. John Thomas Howell,
Science Museum, Calif. Acad. Sci.,
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco 18, California

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

November 15, 1947

Dear Mr. Howell:

There has just come under my eye, a copy of Leon Kelso's Biol. Leaflets No. 37, The Rocky Mountain Flora. II, New Varieties. issued on May 29, 1947.

In the first paragraph he says that a correspondent sent him three specimens of supposed *Salix monticola* but that two turned out to be *S. pseudocordata*. In the second paragraph, he acknowledges specimens loaned by you "in the past". If the specimens of supposed *S. monticola* were sent him by you, I would very much like to see them, at your convenience. There is no hurry.

I have read this issue through twice and I cannot yet tell what he is talking about. Obviously he has no idea of what *S. cordata* Michx. is.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Nov. 21, 1947.

Dear Dr. Ball:

I am happy to state that "we" are not the guilty party
that loaned Salix monticola to Lem Kelso. What we loaned
^{was} S. Bonplandii.

I am sorry for anyone who has to understand his
entities. Sometimes I may have to attend to some of his causes
but I shall let you attend to the willows.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely

Thomas Howell

(See over)

Mr. John Thomas Howell,
Calif. Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco 18, 1947.

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

December 4, 1947

Dear Mr. Howell:

Yours of Nov. 21 received promptly. Even if you did send Leon Kalso samples of *S. arcuati*, it seems not to have taught him much about that species. He has republished old spp. & vars. and much besides but I can readily determine what he has done because his novelties are mostly founded on one collection in his herbarium, and his collections apparently have not been distributed widely.

He was in the Biol. Survey of Dept. Agric. 1930-37, quarreled with everybody and resigned after disciplining. Took M.S. then at Cornell U., and I don't know what since. Was a subprofessional in our Bi. Dairy industry for 9 months in 1941-42 and then part-time in Entomology for 3 mos. in 1942. Not in our Dept. since. Apparently has lived here for years but is not in telephone directory.

Apparently has severe case of inferiority complex, which compels him to assert his superiority over all others. Severe cases frequently lead to suicide or insanity or both, after age 50 or thereabouts. I am trying to get him to thinking but probably will not succeed. One evidence for his condition is that he seems to specialize in the difficult groups, as grasses, carices, Composites, Salix etc.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK
SAN FRANCISCO 18, CALIFORNIA

Mar. 4, 1949

Dear Dr. Bell:

I have a small bunch of undetermined western willows and I wonder if I may send them to you for your help.

Miss Eastwood passed her 90th birthday on Jan. 19 with flying colors. She took ^{the occasion?} that anniversary to retire, so now I have the responsibility of the department.

How are you? With all good wishes,

Sincerely

(See over)

John Thomas Howell

Dr. John Thomas Howell,
Science Museum, Calif, Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 18,
California.

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

7 March, 1949

Dear Dr. Howell:

Your letter of March just flew in and I will be happy to determine your willows at any time you wish to send them.

Please let me know if any are to be retained by me. I am just as happy to determine them if they all go back to the sender, as I learn a lot from the study, but I don't like to go to the extra labor of repacking and remailing and then get a letter saying that I was supposed to keep them. That happens about once a month.

Many congratulations to Miss Eastwood for achieving her 90 birthday anniversary so joyously. She certainly has set a fine example to the rest of us, both in prolific labor and in long living. (I'm only 75, but don't know it at all).

Congratulations also to you for the new "responsibility", well-earned and long to be exercised, we all will hope. Such institutions are to increasingly useful as science becomes more complex but the ability to go places increases in proportion.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

P.S. I am looking forward to the time when we can drive back to California and have a real visit with our many friends.

3/15/55.

Dear Dr. Ball:

I am making a catalogue of California endemics (i.e., all named taxa found within the political boundary of the state), and I am puzzled about the willows. The latest I have to go by is your treatment of Abrams' Flora published over 30 years ago. There have been so many changes in other groups of flowering plants, I feel certain there must be changes in the willow concepts too.

I am writing to ask if you ^{would} be able to prepare for (See over)

me a list of *Salix* endemics ^{in California}, as you recognize them
now. Certainly I would appreciate your help and would be
glad to have the data up-to-date.

With kindest regards & all good wishes I am,

Very sincerely

John Thomas Howell

Dr. John Thomas Howell,
California Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco 18, Calif.

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

18 March, 1955.

Dear Dr. Howell:

Your letter of March 15 is here and I will be glad to prepare an up-to-date list of willows known to occur in California.

Before doing it, however, I will be glad to know just what additional information, if any, is desired. From your statement, I would assume that a list of species and varieties, arranged under the Sections of the genus *Salix*, is all that is desired.

If you want citations of original publications of the names, or general distribution within the State of California, general distribution in America, with continent and country of origin of introduced species, I will be glad to provide it (them).

With our regards and best wishes to you and other mutual friends in that area, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK : SAN FRANCISCO 18, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE BAYVIEW 1-5100

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

THE MORRISON PLANETARIUM

THE STEINHART AQUARIUM

March 21, 1955

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

I wish to apologize for writing to you so hasty and indefinite a note when I asked your help with California willows. Now I shall try to put the request into proper form!

I am serving as California representative on the Conservation Committee for Plants of the Pacific Science Congress and I have been asked to submit a report on California endemics threatened with extermination. In order to do this I am preparing a catalogue of California endemics (species, subspecies, varieties, etc.)--and as you can imagine the task is tremendous.

When I came to Salix, I have your excellent work in Abrams' Flora to go by, but since that was published over 30 years ago, I decided I would ask your help in compiling an up-to-date list of willows endemic to California. I am sorry I was so indefinite when I wrote to you. What I would like is a list of endemic California willows with their ranges in the state.

Certainly I shall be grateful for this help which no one else can give me. I trust it will not be too much trouble.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

John Thomas Howell