



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
BUREAU OF GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES.
MANILA.

Salix azolana Blco,

Fl. Filip. ed. 2. 539.

1845, ed. 3. 3: 188.

S. tetrasperma F. Vill.

Nov. App. Fl. Filip. 210.

1883, Planos, Mem.

Ac. Ceix Mach 1858.

non Roxb.

I have redescrbed this species but it wunt be published for 6 or 8 months if then. It may be only a variety of *S. tetrasperma* Roxb. or possibly not even distinct from that variable species. Which extends from India to Java & Sumatra. Will you search for *S. tetrasperma* over

Merrill, E. D

in Herb. Nat. & compare
these specimens with
what you find & with
the plates & descriptions
of Hook. & B. Bot. Ind.
5:627 - I have here
= Wright & Roxburgh, Pl.
Coromandel, but not
Brandis, Beddome
nor Forbes

I would like your
opinion on the validity
of *S. agavilana* as a
species

EDM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
BUREAU OF SCIENCE.
MANILA.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU.

June 16, 1909

Dear Mr. Ball:

Once I remember you were a "willow sharp" but I do not know whether or not you have any time to devote to this hobby at present. However that may be, some weeks ago I received a lot of plants from the Field Columbian Museum in exchange, among them a quantity of North American willows, including a number from the Bebb herbarium. Now these are of no value to us here, and only serve to fill up valuable herbarium space; accordingly I am sending you the lot by mail, about 90 specimens, and you are at liberty to make any disposition of the material that you desire, in case you do not wish the specimens for your own herbarium.

We are buried in work here, and as the herbarium grows, there is of course a rapid increase in the simple routine duties, that takes more and more of my time. Our Herbarium is rapidly approaching the 100,000 mark, so you will readily see that we have quite a quantity of material to work with. Am working on several papers at present, none of them very long, or very startling, but at the present rate it seems that the Botanical Section of the Philip. Journ. Sci. for this year will be considerably larger than for any previous year, and larger than either of the two other sections of the Journal.

Very truly yours

Respects to any of my old associates you happen to run across
E. H. Merrill
E. H. M.

July 31, 1909.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Bureau of Science, Dept. of the Interior,
Manila, P. I.

My dear Dr. Merrill:

Your kind favor of June 16, with the accompanying package of willows, I find on my desk as I return from a little vacation in Vermont and New Hampshire.

I ran through the bunch hastily at lunch time today in order that I might make prompt reply. I find that most of this material will be of exceeding value to me for my own herbarium. This is especially true of the fine lot of specimens collected by Suksdorf in Washington; the splendid series of *Salix balsamifera* collected by the Faxon in the White Mountains; and the fine lot of specimens representing the first distribution of the "Herbarium Salicum" by Mr. Bebb. The Suksdorf and Faxon material I had never hoped to possess. A part of the Bebb material I already had secured from Dr. Millspaugh. All specimens that duplicate material which I already have I should take pleasure in sending where they will be of value.

I am still working at the willows as time permits. I have given my attention very largely to the species of the

Dr. E. D. Merrill - 2.

western United States since Dr. Fernald is handling the eastern material so satisfactorily. My last contribution, now in press, is a revision of the Rocky Mountain species for the new Nelson and Colter Manual. It is conservative, including only 35 species. In addition to this I have nearly completed a revision of two badly tangled up sections, Cordatae and Commutatae.

While I have the entire material of the National Herbarium at short range, I have built up a very good personal collection in Salix, especially of western material. It contains some 1800 sheets not counting the collections and accessions in 1909.

We have plenty of evidence of your activity and still the wonder grows that one small man can do so much. Keep at it but do not kill yourself. I have just had a card from the Nessesons, stating that they will reach here about the 10th. I hope they are going to be here sometime for I leave on a three months' trip to the southwest in a few days and I certainly want to see them while they are in this country.

I have just learned that Dr. Griffith's wife died about a week ago leaving him with two children, one of them a baby only a few days old.

With kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Merrill, and any other available mutual friends, I am as ever

Yours sincerely,

MAS

Copy
THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Jamaica Plain, Mass.,
USA

Merrill, E.D.

March 19, 1932

Dear Mr. Martin:

I have an abundance of ideas along the line of your query of March 17 but I have never found time to put them down on paper. Herbarium methods tend to become standardized and then "static" on the standards adopted by this or that curator. I have been more or less an iconoclast on "standard" methods, and have been very free in making what I thought to be desirable changes. When I have developed something really worth while it is somewhat disappointing to learn how slowly the innovation "takes" in other institutions. Nearly a year ago I asked one of our staff members to prepare for publication a roughdraft outline covering many of the points you mention, but he never got beyond the introductory paragraphs; so your letter was a remainder that something needed to be done, and before I started to write this I run off a very pointed memorandum for his benefit. My idea was that he should list his own experience, and that then, other staff members would add or subtract so that the sum total would be a reasonable consensus of opinion of a group of more or less interested individuals.

I cannot write a long dissertation at this time as I am just on the point of leaving for Cuba. I have only one pamphlet covering one special field that I developed, and I send a copy of this for your information. Here, although several other institutions have adopted the scheme, including the National Herbarium, it is very curious how much opposition one encounters even from individuals (who have never done it personally) but who have benefited immensely from what others have done in the past six years or so; and some curators absolutely refuse to have any clippings pasted "shoot" the individual responsible for the system now being used in the USNH, but whoever designed it probably thinks that his system is the only possible one---anyway scores of thousands of original descriptions are actually being incorporated in the herbarium there, and that much is pure gain.

There isn't any system of poisoning that is entirely satisfactory that I know of. Arsenic is the best from the standpoint of protecting the specimens, but it cannot be used because of the danger (and there were very serious cases in the past) of arsenic poisoning among herbarium workers. Corrosive sublimate is good, but is not an absolute protection, for in the course of time the chemical apparently breaks down. One must use a practically saturated solution in at least 60 percent alcohol; but users must be on guard in applying it because of the danger of mercury poisoning if one handles the mixture too carelessly.

As to glueing, I would say, on the whole, that simple strapping or sewing is probably the best if it is very well done; and "very well done" means that it is then distinctly expensive. That is, constant supervision and high unit cost. While there are some objections to gumming, it is, on the whole, an excellent system. The trouble is that curators followed the line of least resistance and ordered the obvious thing that everybody else used, i.e., ordinary fish glue. It does not work well, tends to

get brittle, lose its adhesive qualities, at least with some types of specimens and many leaves "snap off". I developed a mixture at California, later put into use at New York, and almost immediately adopted at the Gray and at the Arnold, but I think not elsewhere. It is the best all round adhesive I have found for herbarium specimens. It is a mix of two thirds Special Tin Paste and one third improved carriage glue. Both are manufactured by the Russian Cement Co., Gloucester, Mass. I have tried gum arabic, gum tragacanth, mixtures of the two, and various other adhesives. At New York and in California, at first I used only the special tin paste and found that when applied to certain types of stiff glossy leaves they tended to snap off; so later went over to the mixture with carriage glue.

Going back to poisons, Has anyone ever given rotenone a trial? Couldn't someone in the small army of entomologists in the USDA take up this whole subject of control of herbarium beetles and see if an entomologist cannot contribute to a botanical problem?

Adhesive cloth. Don't be content with anything that may be passed out to you. I suppose the USNH still uses the expensive and distinctly impracticable gummed silk---very difficult to use especially in humid weather. Write to the Nashua Gummed Cloth & Paper Company, Nashua, N. Y. and ask for samples of the white pencil cloth supplied to the Arnold, the Gray, and the N. Y. Bot. Garden. When I "developed" its use in New York, after becoming disgusted with the ordinarily available types of gummed cloth, and utterly disgusted with the gummed silk I did a little "exploring" in this field. Here the conservative Gray and the conservative Arnold followed me immediately, because the pencil cloth was obviously so superior in this field; it really sticks and does not "snap off" as do many commercial types of gummed cloth. If the USNH commenced using gummed silk in 1890 I suppose that custom has become so "firmly established that probably no change has been made; of if it has been abandoned for something really better, well, there is hope that sometime other "innovations" may be adopted. There is a no more conservative group of individuals that I know of than a group of old curators of herbaria!

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill

Merrill, E. D. An economical herbarium case. Torrey 26; 50-54. f. 1-2. 1926
A n efficient and economical herbarium paste. op. cit.
63-65 (written before I commenced adding the special carriage glue).

April 11, 1932.

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Director, N.Y. Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Merrill:

I am getting within sight of the end of my research here, and unless there is some change in the plan, I will be free in six or seven weeks. Thereafter I want to finish my book on the history of American Agriculture, while getting into some new position.

I would like also to finish a monograph on the willows of North America. It has been slow work doing it out here because I have given much overtime to my new work here, and it has left little time and energy for botany.

I have done about one third of a monograph on the willows of California and about the same fraction of the willows of Alaska. I would very much like to finish these two pieces of work, so far as western material is concerned, at least, before leaving California. Because of the financial situation created by losing out at Washington, and the expense of living here with my family still in Washington, I cannot afford to stay here at my own expense.

Dr. Setchell is so interested that he is providing some small funds to pay my expenses for a period here. I am finding out if Stanford and the Calif. Academy of Sciences can help. I also shall ask Director Sims of the Field Museum and Dr. Nelson of Wyoming University, if they can help to finance a study of the material in their great collections. This probably is not a very favorable year in which to get extra money, but I shall try.

I would like also to do *Salix* for the North American Flora. Will it be possible for you to help finance that? If so, could you help to finance part of the study of material on the Pacific Coast. When I have finished the monographs of the Alaskan and Californian willows the genus in North America will be about half done.

To prepare the same material for the N.A. Flora would mean simply cutting down and arranging in the form adopted for the publication. There are many species of the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin, however, which will not be found in Alaska or California but which should be studied in the western herbariums.

I realize, of course, that I cannot expect to be paid a salary like that I have had in the Federal service or here if I turn in and do willows for awhile, but I would hope to get expenses for subsistence and travel and if any more were forthcoming I would be glad.

I'll be glad to know what you think of the plan, and whether you feel that you can help in it by some contribution for work to be done either: (a) here at U.C.; (b), at other western centers; or (c), at the New York Botanical Garden. The latter probably would fall wholly in next fiscal year, that is, after July 1.

With personal regards, I am

Most cordially

Carleton R. Ball

from E. D. Merrill

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRESIDENT
HENRY W. DE FOREST
VICE-PRESIDENTS
HENRY DE F. BALDWIN
JOHN L. MERRILL

DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. ELMER D. MERRILL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE

TREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL
ASSISTANT TREASURER
HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

May 23, 1932.

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
University of California,
Bureau of Public Administration,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Dr. Ball:-

I have purposely delayed answering your letter of April 11, and also the one written by Dr. Setchell, in the hope that I might be in a position to make some kind of a proposition to you that would be mutually satisfactory. Unfortunately, however, our financial situation is such that it is quite impossible for the Garden to undertake to finance any extra items at this time. Some adjustments must be made in our budget to meet the present financial situation, and I had a rather forlorn hope that in connection with these adjustments some small fund might be made available to support such projects as the North American Flora. During the past few weeks we have had a number of conferences and special committee meetings in connection with the necessary budget revisions, and it now seems certain that although some reductions must be made, any savings resulting therefrom must be used to maintain activities that have already been authorized. One of the great needs of The New York Botanical Garden at the present time is the income, preferably from a restricted fund, that could be used for financing the preparation of special monographic treatments for the North American Flora. Such a fund is, however, not available at the present time, nor do I see any immediate prospects of its establishment. It would, as you fully realize, be highly desirable if we could finance individuals located at other institutions, on the basis of special grants or Fellowships covering the period necessary to prepare a monographic treatment of any particular group.

We had another problem in connection with the North American Flora that had to be worked out. On the original plan the volumes were fixed to cover groups of families in natural sequence. In some cases this has involved no delays; in others, as you will readily realize, on the basis of the original arrangement, delays were inevitable because families had to be treated in sequence. To obviate this difficulty, we have proposed to divide certain volumes into A, B, C, etc., with separate pagination for each. This will allow us to commence work at almost any point in those volumes in which, as yet, nothing has been published. Thus, if you could possibly find the opportunity of preparing a treatment of North American Salix, we could proceed with its publication without delay and without waiting for somebody to treat those families preceding the Salicaceae.

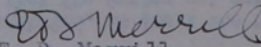
May 23, 1932.

In connection with the North American Flora, the only financial assistance so far granted to non-members of the staff of The New York Botanical Garden has been the payment of \$2.00 per printed page, but such payment has been made when the part involved was printed. Of course, this does not amount to very much but is a little help. Personally, I should be very glad indeed if you could undertake the preparation of the manuscript covering Salix, for the North American Flora, and it may be that some time in the future this can be consummated.

I only wish that I could offer you some real assistance at the present time but our financial situation is rather critical and we do not know what is in store for us next year. We must plan for a reduction in income from corporate funds, and it is almost a foregone conclusion that there will be a reduction in the City budget.

Very truly yours,

EDM-HS


E. D. Merrill

Director.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

July 31, 1932.

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Director, N.Y. Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York, N.Y.

Dear Director Merrill:

Your good letter of May 23 was more appreciated than this long-delayed reply would indicate. I am staying on here for at least one more year and perhaps longer and have been very heavily loaded with the Federal-State project I was engaged on and the make-up of the two series of volumes of which I am Editor. One covers the Federal-State relations studies, and the other Police Administration.

Professor Setchell is just back with some 350 small sets of Alaska-Yukon willows. These with the lot he got last summer will allow me to finish up my monograph of Alaska species as fast as time permits. Hope to get it ready for press this fall.

I have been holding the specimens you sent me hoping that he would get some material with which to compare desertorum. Apparently he has and it looks now as though the problem created by Richardson's collection of 1823 might finally be solved. He has one new species, or now at least to North America.

The work on the California willows progresses. Am sending descriptions of two new species and some varieties and new combinations to press soon. Also am extending ranges with every trip into the field.

Last years material has been distributed, at least the first sets have gone out, they tell me. I asked that the Garden get one of the fullest sets, as it is one of the three or four centers for taxonomic study.

With the completion of the revisions of Alaska and California species I shall want to tackle the N.A. Flora.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Most cordially

Carleton R. Ball
Research Associate

P.S. I extend my sympathy in the financial difficulties. You have lost of company. Word from friends in many States tells of cut appropriations and also of salary cuts. I have had one here, just to be in fashion.

July 11, 1935

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Merrill:

I noted in a recent issue of the Daily Digest of this Department that you are leaving, or already have left, the New York Botanical Garden to take up the administration of all the botanical agencies in connection with Harvard University. I do not know about the relative financial subsidy of the two sets of agencies and the opportunity for scientific work in connection therewith, but I am sure that you will be busy, useful, and happy in your new location. Perhaps as a native New Englander and a "downeaster" at that, you will feel that you are getting back home. Congratulations.

I left the University of California about three months ago to take up my new work here as executive secretary for the coordinating council which looks after all agricultural activities carried on in the Tennessee River Basin. As I have given most of my later life to the development of cooperation, I naturally am very happy in this particular activity. All the groups concerned seem to be so completely cooperative that little coordination seems necessary, and I may find myself looking for something to keep me busy.

We are back in our Washington home, and if you get down this way, be sure to let me know. With kindest personal regards,
I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Chief Agriculturist
Division of Program Planning

CRB:npg

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE

TREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL
BUSINESS MANAGER
HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

July 22, 1935.

Dr. C. R. Ball,
Agr. Adjustment Administration,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

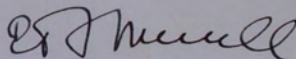
Dear Dr. Ball:

Thanks for your letter of July 11. I am expected to report on my many-sided job at Cambridge on October 1. I leave for Amsterdam about August 15.

The decision I was called upon to make was a very hard one but after six weeks consideration I decided to accept. I shall be very sorry to leave my work in New York - there has been plenty of grief, but also some accomplishments.

I hope matters work out well with you in Washington. Some time you may be able to get at *Salix* for the North American Flora - why not take this up as a hobby?

Very truly yours,



E. D. MERRILL,
Director.

EDM:FSC

July 26, 1935

Dr. E. D. Merrill, Director
The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.)
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your letter of July 22 has just been forwarded to me here. I am interested to note that you take up your new work with Harvard University on October 1. In the meantime you will have a real vacation in attending the International Botanical Congress in Amsterdam. My good friend, Dr. Setchall of California, also is going at about the same date of your sailing or possibly earlier. Miss Eastwood and Mr. Howell of the California Academy of Sciences have already gone and are spending several weeks at other botanical institutions before the Congress convenes.

All of my work with willows is necessarily in the form of a hobby or avocation. The only reason I have not done the genus for the North American flora is that the pressure of determining material, working new species and varieties, and helping out various Government agencies which use willows in their work has so far prevented a monographic treatment. Just now willows are having a large importance in erosion control, especially in the West but to some extent also in the Mississippi Valley, and I am called on rather frequently for advice as to species to be used.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Carleton R. Ball
Contact Officer

CRB:FM

Program Planning Division

October 12, 1936

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Botanical Museums,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Dr. Merrill:

I am writing to ask you two questions, in the hope that you can give me information on one or both.

The Botanical Society of Washington has its November meeting on Tuesday evening, November 3 (election night). Dr. Setchell is expecting to be in Washington for a few days in late October or early November, after his return from Europe. We would like to have him address the Society on that night. I do not know where to address him, as he should be leaving England within the next few days. If he comes to Cambridge will you ask him to write me as to the date of his arrival in Washington, and if he will address the Bot. Soc. on November 3. He can have from 30 minutes up to an hour or more if he wants.

Recently a friend wrote me of a statement recently published that a new Flushing Meadows Park (on Long Island?) was to have the most complete collection of willows in the world. Do you know under what auspices this park, if any, is being established, and just where it is. Also why they would specialize on willows?

Whenever you are down, let me know and we will lunch or dine together. I would like you to glance at the best single collection of No. American willows in the world (a la California). There are now 11,500 mounted sheets, many in suites.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Exec. Secy., Coordinating Committee
U.S.D.A., T.V.A., and Land-Grant Colleges

Program Planning Div.
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum,
Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Botanical Garden, Cambridge, Mass.
Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.

Bussey Institution, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Farlow Herbarium and Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.
Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.

↑
Oxford St

October 16, 1936

Dear Dr. Ball:

You can reach Dr. Setchell by addressing him at 170 Albert Avenue, Edgewood, R.I.. This is the address of his sister and I know that he plans to visit her on his return from England.

I know nothing about the proposed planting of the "most complete collection of willows in the world" at the Flushing Meadows Park which would be on Long Island. This sounds to me very much like newspaper publicity and probably has very little basis of fact. The project would be under the park department of the city of New York and I do not see how that organization has the contacts necessary to build up such a collection.

You might possibly secure some information by writing to Dr. Stout at the New York Botanical Garden, although his interest is in Poplars, rather than in Willows. Again, you might be able to secure more definite information by writing to Commissioner Moses whose office is in the Park Department Building, Central Park, New York City.

Sometime when I am in Washington, I will be glad to take a glance at the "best single collection of North American Willows in the World". (I am afraid that California had a bad influence on you), but don't ask me to name any of them.

Very truly yours,

E. S. Munnell

Administrator

EDM:EA

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
Program Planning Division
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

(over)

CLEARANCE SECTION

AGRI. ADJ. ADM.

RECEIVED

Program Planning Division, A.A.A.

1936 OCT 18 AM 1:08
October 20, 1936

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Admin., Bot. Colls., Harvard Univ.
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

My dear Merrill:

Thanks for your prompt letter of Oct. 16 in reply to my various inquiries. I have immediately written Dr. Setchell at the Rhode Island address given.

Will look up the matter of the "greatest collection of living willows" through Dr. Stout and Commissioner Moses.

Come and look at the willow herbarium without penalty of being asked to name 'em. Better still, let me know when you are to be in Washington on a first Tuesday of any month and the Botanical Society will be delighted to hear you on the eight-sided job you have or on any other botanical subject you may elect.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Exec. Sec., Coordinating Committee,
U.S.D.A., T.V.A., and Land-Grant Colleges

P.S. Did I ever tell you that Floderus, in Sweden, after receiving the distributed cotype material of *Salix setchelliana*, tried to beat me to publication of a new species. I beat him by 4 months at that.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ARNOLD ARBORETUM, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS., U.S.A.

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum,
Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Botanical Garden, Cambridge, Mass.
Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.
Bussey Institution, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Farlow Herbarium and Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.
Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.
The Maria Moors Cabot Foundation for
Botanical Research

January 29, 1938.

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary,
Extension Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ball:

I'm naturally interested in your letter of January 26, regarding your Salix herbarium. But if we were to consummate a deal and you should pass to your reward (which God forbid) as the Spaniards say *manana* or *manana por la manana*, where could we possibly find storage space, for both the Gray and the Arnold are crowded to the limit. Again, who knows how much duplication is involved? It would probably be considerable. I do have funds in our credit balance which, by permission of the corporation I could utilize for this purpose if we meet an agreement. I couldn't possibly cover such an item from the current funds of any one year, however, and probably few botanical institutions could do so. I judge that you are seeing what the prospects are in various institutions.

Under the circumstances, wouldn't it be best to have a conference on the subject? It so happens that I'll be in Washington on Saturday, February 5, and if you are to be in town try to contact me by telephone in Maxon's office, for I'll be at the Herbarium all of the forenoon, and will probably have the afternoon free. I'm a victim of the Scribner-Edwards-Merrill combine of the Filipino community, testimonial dinner Saturday evening. I'll be returning not later than Sunday.

Very truly yours,

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill
Administrator

EDM:CG

(over)

Extension Service, U.S.D.A.

February 9, 1938

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill;
Administrator, Botanical Collections,
of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts,

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your good letter of January 29 was forwarded to me here in Knoxville, Tennessee. I am planning to return to Washington on Friday, reaching there at noon on Saturday, February 12.

If I am enabled to do this I will contact you in Dr. Maxon's office and hope that you can have lunch with me at the Dept. and then look over the herbarium thereafter.

In case I do not get back, I would be glad if you would go to Room 3843, in the South Building, and take a look at the collections for yourself.

On second thoughts I am sending this to you in care of Dr. Maxon in order to make sure that you get it before you leave Washington.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION OF
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

from E.D. Merrill

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ARNOLD ARBORETUM, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS., U.S.A.

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum,
Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Botanical Garden, Cambridge, Mass.
Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.
Bussey Institution, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Farlow Herbarium and Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.
Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.
The Maria Moors Cabot Foundation for
Botanical Research

February 15, 1938.

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

Maybe I gave you the wrong information, but it was the week-end of the 5th that I was in Washington. I tried to contact you but got no response from the office, so assumed that you were out of town. I do not know that I will be in Washington again before the end of April, although I may stop there the latter part of March, if I go through with my present plans of making a trip to Florida and to the Atkins Institution in Cuba.

It is not necessary for me to inspect the herbarium, because I already have a very good idea of what is included in it, and I naturally assume that as this has been your personal hobby that the specimens are well-taken care of. I am naturally interested in the possible acquirement of this collection sometime in the future, and before I make a "bid" perhaps it would be better for you to find out what propositions you may receive from other institutions. Most botanical institutions, as you know, do not have free funds to cover very extensive purchases in any one year. It so happens that here I am in the rather fortunate position of having a reasonably ample credit balance which has been built up by accretions from unexpended items in the budget over a number of years. I cannot charge any item to this account without permission from the Corporation. If, however, we eventually evolve a plan that is mutually satisfactory to you and to me, I can " earmark" the amount necessary as a future charge against this particular item, and undoubtedly can secure authority to so utilize what might be needed.

There is really an enormous collection of Salix at the Arnold Arboretum due in part to Schneider's activities when he was here; supplementing the herbarium specimens, there is also a rather remarkable series of photographs of type specimens that he acquired. Again, there are ample collections at the Gray Herbarium. If we acquired a large private herbarium at sometime in the future, such as the one you have built up, the result will, of course,

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,

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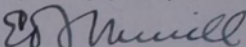
February 15, 1938.

be a certain amount of duplication, although unquestionably you have a very large amount of material representing collections not available at either the Gray Herbarium or at the Arnold Arboretum. Frankly, it is my hope that sometime, somehow, we can amalgamate the two large herbaria and thus somewhat clarify the rather complex botanical situation at Harvard in regard to the reference collections and libraries.

Probably the best method of following, in the case of your herbarium, is to secure bids on the basis of units, such as a mounted sheet. In view of the fact that from the time you make an agreement with some institution it is your intention to continue adding material to the Salix collection as long as you are actively engaged in studying the specimens, this factor should be given reasonable consideration. Offhand, I should judge that probably New York, The Field Museum, and the Missouri Botanical Garden would be "in the field" for this collection. The Gray, is I believe, not a possible bidder, although, like the Arnold it has a reasonably good credit balance.

My next trip will take me only as far as Philadelphia, as it is probable that I will attend the meeting of the American Philosophical Society on the 18th and 19th of this month. The occasion of my being in Washington in April will be in connection with the National Academy meetings.

Very truly yours,


E. D. Merrill
Administrator

EDM:CG

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Botanical Museums of Harvard U.,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

June 17, 1944

Dear Dr. Merrill:

As an interested outsider, I am sticking out my neck. The position of curator of The U.S. National Herbarium probably will be vacant soon. There are much greater possibilities of public usefulness, as well as internal efficiency, if a qualified man is chosen for the post. If no one is interested to act, seniority probably will prevail in the new appointment. That would be extremely unfortunate, under the present personnel set-up.

Only action by highly-regarded individuals and/or organizations can create interest and obtain favorable action on a thoroughly qualified man. You are the man who can do it, by working either with other influential individuals or with and through such organizations as the Natl. Academy of Sciences, the Natl. Research Council, the Assoc. of American Museums, etc.

I have been familiar with the administration of the U.S. Natl. Herbarium during the past 44 years, as you have also. It has not been good, from the standpoints of public service, wholesome personnel management, or best preparation and care of material resources.

Coville was as nearly a devil as any man it ever has been my misfortune to know. Let me illustrate, and I know whereof I speak. 1. His favorite indoor sport was to call a man on the phone, curse him violently, and then hang up before a word of reply could be spoken. He did that to subordinates and colleagues alike. 2. He used every position he held, not for the public service, but for personal advantage. He spent most of his time getting himself elected to organizational office and, once elected, moved on to the next organization to repeat. 3. He held up approval of manuscripts for the Contributions by refusing to sign the letter of transmittal. He held them for months and sometimes for more than a year just for the pleasure of making the authors crawl to him and beg, again and again, for the release of what was to them their achievement and their means of gaining reputation. I could go much farther, but these examples should be enough.

Maxon naturally has a better disposition than Coville but has grown up in the Coville methods of administration. 1. His methods of personnel management destroy morale, drive out the honest and capable men, and tend to hold only weak and subservient personalities in administrative positions. 2. He devotes almost all of his time to his taxonomic speciality and little to actual administration, but still he gives no administrative authority to others. They must come to him with each detail. 3. All his life he has been closely affiliated with that little group of Division chiefs in B.P.I. who held no ideals of public service, squandered public funds, accomplished little, knifed the other portions of the Bureau whenever opportunity offered, loaded their staffs with incompetents, and, finally, had their Divisions abolished and their work transferred to other Divisions when Plant Industry was reorganized some ten years ago.

Dr. Maxon now is just back, part time, from his third in a series of heart attacks and may drop out of the picture at any moment.

Merrill- 2

Killip, who ranks next to Maxon, and probably will succeed him as a matter of course unless some one acts, is a man of considerable ability, but is gradually drinking himself to death, perhaps as a result of frustration. I think it is too late for him to develop into the man needed.

Morton does not seem to have either as much ability or personality as Killip. He probably is a good business assistant to look after details under a qualified curator but is steeped in the Coville-Maxon tradition and apparently approves the methods.

The men who will have the say about the new curator presumably Alex. Wetmore, Waldo Schmitt, and John Graf, all zoologists, and not personally concerned about the Herbarium or well qualified to appraise taxonomic botanists. They will want to do a good job, however, and I am sure that they would welcome suggestions from individuals and organizations well qualified to know and to speak. Wetmore may succeed Dr. Abbot presently.

With your life-time devotion to principles, and therefore to high standards of public and private service, I feel sure that you will see this as an opportunity to render a greatly needed service to science as well as to public administration. This is my only interest in the matter. After a half century of mal-administration, the U.S. National Herbarium, surely is entitled to the best and the public is entitled to real leadership there.

Cordially yours,

Carlston H. Ball

P.S. I have written this personally, on my own typewriter, and it has been seen by no other person.

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June 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Ball:

Curiously I was in Washington yesterday for three hours, going down on the night train Monday and back to N.Y. immediately after finishing my stint in Washington, and home on the "Owl" last night; and on my desk this morning was your letter re. the N.H. situation. I was rather pleased to note your evaluation to a lamented so-called "botanist", for mine would be even more severe--along the lines that the original appointment was the greatest single catastrophe to American botany in the history of botany in Washington. I used it in a letter addressed to the Committee that published the panygyric in the last edition of S.P.N., but modified it to be a statement that most botanists being gentlemen probably would never publish any scathing criticism but would merely subscribe to the general proposition R.I.P.

I don't know that I can do much about the developing situation that you--and all of us for that matter--should be interested in. The time to do anything is not just now, but a little later when announcement is made re. the new Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. In strict confidence such a change is in the offing and I suspect that announcement will be made in the near future. Then will be the time to put on the pressure.

In the meantime have you any ideas as to who might be available, and who, at the same time would give promise of success in the long overdue task of cleaning the Augean stables? I know a number of younger botanists, but when I come to analyze their characteristics I note too many faults of one type or another. After all, one of the most difficult things that I know of is to be able to pick good man who will do an administrative job as it should be done; and with all the picking ability in the world one cannot be right in all cases. Are there any real prospects in the group of systematists in the USDA? Some of them (but by no means all) impress me rather favorably.

Very truly yours

E.D. Merrill
E.D. Merrill

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Botanical Coll. of Harvard Univ.,
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Dear Dr. Merrill:

June 27, 1944

Thanks for your encouraging letter. I can help little on selection of men. I know nothing of museums, as such, and little of herbariums except what I see from the outside looking in. I know what seems to me good. You, and those you will work with, know the problem from all angles, and know many men.

Of the group in the Nat. Arb. Herbarium, I know several in varying degrees. Some are yet quite young. Some are middle-aged and set in some unfortunate ways.

The one I know best, besides Dr. Blake, whom you have long known, is Dr. Rogers McVaugh. I have been interested to see that, while not being in charge, he has had to take on a lot of administrative duties (keep things going), if things kept going at all. He has good personality, knows what ought to be, and works quietly to have it come out that way in the end. I do not know that he has so complete a specialty that he would be single-tracked. These are merely my personal impressions, for what they are worth. I hear from other also that he is very cooperative.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

August 11, 1944

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Botanical Collections of Harvard University,
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Since receiving your interesting and informative letter of June 30, I have talking informally with several people about the U.S. Natl. Herbarium, and especially about the relations of the U.S.D.A. with it, and also present attitudes.

So far as I can learn, and this agrees with my memories over the years, the attempts within the Dept. to capture the U.S.N.H. have never been started or countenanced by Agriculture as such, or by other Bureaus or Divisions that certain of the semi-botanical small groups in Plant Industry, which wanted to be important and didn't care what methods they used to get bigger and bigger.

The last bombardment came from Plant Introduction, whose present chief is one of the go-getter type which I have mentioned. Real honest-to goodness botanists have not made or helped in such attempts. The gentleman mentioned was in Cereal Crops and Diseases for a brief period (barberry eradication) while I was Chief and I learned something about his ideas and methods. Then I let him go elsewhere.

When he failed to get the U.S.N.H., he immediately started to build up a general herbarium of wild plants in that Division. Then were then in the city. There is more justification for it now that they are out at Beltsville, and especially while gas and tires are short. While their herbarium was supposed to be primarily of cultivated plants, and secondarily of wild species, foreign and domestic, likely to be useful, the war has emphasized the latter aspect and given them a great advantage. Then too there has been general complaint from State and private botanists that identification of material sent to the Nat. Herb. was unreasonably delayed. Part of that has been due to lack of personnel and part to a general attitude. This has caused an increasing demand on the B.P.I., and has played into their hands very well. Again, the U.S.N.H. long has been inclined to question the use and value of mounting all the material that comes their way. Considering the natural variability of plants, and the fragmentary nature of many specimens, especially woody species, an abundance of material is necessary to any real understanding of species. Their attitude gave the Dept. unit another advantage.

It is true that Dr. McVaugh is in that unit. I have never discussed the USNH. with him, but I have always found him, agreeable, cooperative, interested in good administration, and apparently quite willing to go to the USNH. to consult material.

I believe that the great majority of botanists here, like myself, believe that the U.S. Natl. Museum should have a large and creditable National Herbarium, just as they have the great collections of animals and minerals. If needed, I would be very glad to go before and committee or other body and speak strongly for this view. So would many others here whom I know.

All would be much the more willing if there was prospect of getting capable administration of this particular collection. The covers containing two critical species of *Salix* are missing from the USNH (one from the Alaskan, one from the general collection, and the latter for several years). The administrators insist that they cannot possibly be on loan because they have no record to that effect. I happen to know another case of the same sort, where I finally located the material myself and got it returned to the USNH.

I inclose brief article on Education in Science Museums. Cordially
Carlson R. Ball. Collaboration

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June 30, 1944

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thanks for your letter of June 27. As noted in my previous letter anything that I might suggest as to the herbarium situation in Washington should be deferred until announcement is made regarding the new Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. I know who is to be appointed but the information is confidential.

Curiously the consensus of opinion here seems to be that McVaugh is probably the most promising individual in the younger group in Washington. But I really don't know much about the local intrigues and internal bickerings that characterize the Washington botanical scene. I realize that the "atmosphere" is not good, and that there will always be difficulties on the part of the individual who really wishes to accomplish something constructive and worthwhile. This is all a part of the formidable task of cleaning the Augean stables as far as the N.H. is concerned. Supplementary to this will, of course, be the political pressure, in all probability, to sink that unit in the USDA. If anything like that came to pass it would indeed be a major catastrophe for systematic botany in America, for the place with no possible medium of publication of its strictly taxonomic output would probably degenerate into a place for making current identifications. If the Department publishes a highly technical paper, no matter what its format or title, as to "Bulletin", Technical Paper, Contribution, or what not, it will become the target for ill-informed radio commentators, as witness the recent one on the technical revision of lice; the commentator pounded this at great length as a waste of effort, of money, and of paper, the poor nut not realizing that some of the bugs transmit serious diseases and some do not.

The picture is not good anyone may look at it, politics and bureaucratic tendencies being what they are. I had to fight the situation in Manila in a minor way, for incoming high officials, chiefly pure politicians (if there be such a thing as a "pure" one) always tried to kill the activities that they knew nothing about, especially if they be along the lines of scientific research. I'm glad to be entirely out of the "atmosphere" and count myself most fortunate in my present position.

Very truly yours

E.D. Merrill
E.D. Merrill

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.
June 21, 1947

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your letter of Last Oct. 23 apparently has never had reply. Its content started a long chain of memories.

Much indeed has happened since 1899 in the top story of the old Agricultural Main. I arrived on June 19 and you came in July, if I remember correctly. Pat Kennedy came in Oct. Tom Williams, Cornelius Shear and Jared Smith already were there. Poor Tom died of heart attack at Christmas and I had to take over his classes at Geo. Wash. Univ. for rest of that year. You left for the Philippines in about 1901, Smith and Shear transferred, Scribner was let out, Pat took a forced trip to Reno, and I went into Cereal Crops.

Sorry to hear about the new edition of the Flora of Manila. War, the destroyer of all people have labored and saved to attain. Universal destruction takes all but sometimes local destruction does more damage than should be. You may recall the Iowa volume on Grasses of Iowa by Pennel Scribner and Bell. The completed manuscript was burned in the destruction of the old Main at Iowa State. I re-supplied ~~my~~ part from my carbon copy in Washington. Theirs were all gone and they had to do the work over again, taking two more years. That taught me never to keep ribbon and carbon copies in the same building. And I never have done so since, tho I never have had fire loss, either.

Separately I am sending you my latest reprints (3 of them cusswords). The Va. willows was done in cooperation with the Va. Conserv. Comm. and the U.S. Soil Conserv. Service and they asked for a summary of the uses of willows. That's hey I send it.

The other are pleas and protests on present taxonomic methods. Another discusses Fernald's rejection of *S. petiolaris* as an American species with the claim that it is a "British tree". That idea was given up by all British and American votenists more than 100 years ago. I discuss the 7 errors of fact and conclusion. *Mss.* submitted but not yet accepted. In another *mss.* I have reviewed Schneider's three new Canadian species (*S. snarsa*, *S. fullertonensis*, and *S. hudsonensis*), concluding that only the second is a valid species. (*Mss.* in *Canad. Field. Nat.*).

Thanks for the copy of *Merrilliana*. It is fine to be so remembered and well that it happen while a man is still here.

All of my time goes for study and writing, in *Salix*, a third Calif. vol. on natural resources, and some things in public administration and in social action. Monograph of the willows progress, the visible expression being found in revisions for manuals, State, regional, and national. Six are in progress or in line at the moment.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours

P.S. Shear is still living on his farm near Vienna, Va., and comes occasionally to meetings.

Carleton R. Ball

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

Oct. 23, 1946

Dear Dr. Ball:

I begin to think that a lot of water has run over the dam since the old days at the end of the last century in the top story of the old Dept. Agr. bldg.! Glad you favored Reeder; I actually sent him my last remaining copy of my Flora of Manila, but his wife prized it too highly to send to him when he was in the field in New Guinea! It's the only really useable text for beginners and amateurs that has appeared on any oriental flora (i.e., Malaysia) in the present century; and the new illustrated edition was nearly ready to print when the Nips took over, and the copy and all the illustrations now a thing of the past---went up in the Bureau of Science holocaust...

Reeder got a Sheldon Travelling Fellowship on my recommendation which will enable him to spend the winter in Washington working in the grass herbarium on his thesis. He'll make the grade all right.

Copy of MERRILLIANA has been sent to you. It will be a good soporific in case you are troubled with insomnia. Anyway, Verdoorn didn't wait until I was dead and buried, and it was a nice gesture.

Regards

B. D. Merrill

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

* It will be a rare oasis in
occidental libraries!

(over)

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

June 24, 1947

Dear Ball:

Thanks for your letter. I saw the last MS on Salix in which you sort of take Fernald apart. It was sent over for Rhodora and I anticipate that it will be accepted for publication.

I wonder if I sent you my rough draft (carbon) of the Rafinesque proposals in the Salicaceae. If you would take time to check the reductions? Mrs. Chase did it for the Gramineae and Blake for the Compositae. Mostly "bibliographic" of course, for he didn't describe many new species--- mostly his fine generic splits. Could also pull out and send along the half sheets whereon the original "descriptions" were typed. The whole Rafinesque opus will largely "add to synonymy" but I am not making new names, merely painting the picture. About 3400 unlisted new generic names and new binomials, with somewhat over 50 cases where Rafinesque has priority on generic names in spite of the conserved list. Leaving acceptance or rejection to specialists however. If you don't want to bother with this Rafinesque adventure in Salix, just say the word.

Nothing decided I suppose as to the ultimate disposition of your Salix herbarium, other than the tentative proposal made some years ago. I am of course no longer at the helm here, but I strongly suspect with Raup's interest in this group, that your original proposal will be acceptable by the new authorities.

I have an idea that I will be going back into the Philippine work. May not accept a very flattering offer to return to the Philippines. To accept would solve certain problems, to reject would raise others. But large collections are now being made for me there, and within a few months suspect that the stuff will commence to pour in, even is Chinese material is beginning to come in. One very large collection from Omei Shan, Szechuan already in, another collection completed to be shipped in near future, and some 25,000 numbers long in storage in Szechuan and Yunnan, now I suspect being moved out (by air, expensive but the only way to the coast) for I have advanced necessary funds. Most of this was pre-war collections made with funds I advanced. If all this comes in I'll have plenty to work with!

Very sincerely

E.D. Merrill
E.D. Merrill

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

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

January 8, 1948.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

In continued New Year house cleaning, I have just found your letter of June 24, 1947, in which you ask if I would be willing to go over the Rafinesque data on Salix.

That letter must have come just as, or soon after, I left on my vacation, which was spent "rolling along" and not getting mail. At any rate, it seems not to have had any reply. That makes me feel like a ~~hunk~~ heel, or a flat tire.

Of course, I would have been glad to help in any way I could. If it is not now completely too late to do anything in the matter, I still will be glad to take a hand in it.

As to the other matter mentioned, namely, the ultimate disposition of my Salix Herbarium, I have been too busy writing to think much about it. I probably told you that a few years ago I wrote the Field Museum about it and got the reply that they were not interested. The Bobb Herbarium is there, and as he was the specialist in Salix just preceding me, it seemed to me that that was the logical place for mine to go. He died in 1886, the year I graduated from Iowa State.

There are only five institutions where it would be fully appropriate. These are Harvard, N.Y. Bot. Garden, U.S. Natl. Herb., Chicago Museum (Field), and St. Louis Bot. garden. Perhaps Univ. of California might be considered a sixth. I do not believe in peacocking such collections in out-of-the-way institutions, especially if not basically taxonomic, such as my alma mater.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

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

October 28, 1947

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I note that you are one of the speakers at the symposium on botanical nomenclature, at the meetings in Chicago next December. There are many problems but I doubt if any real thing will be done about any of them. However, I am moved to the point of making suggestions.

1. Species Splitting or Multiplying. *Crataegus*, with more than 1200 "species", and 16 new ones recently from Florida by a pathologist. The 1200 were a race between 3 men to see which could name the most in least time. It is to laugh to see what recent publications have tried to do with the genus.

I know nothing of *Rubus*, but when I find one county credited with 40 (?) species, I wonder a little. Many collectors are taking willow specimens for me from the same plants throughout the season and in successive years. One of them is collecting *Rubus* for Dr. Bailey. He tried that plan in a single clump through a single season and Bailey could not do a thing with them when told that they were from one plant.

2. Changing Rank of Entities. The growing indoor sport of shifting a named entity from rank to rank (species, subspecies, variety, form), up and down and up again. One need know nothing about plants but he gets "credit" (nomenclatorial) for every change. And the Germans now have subform, sub-subform, and sub-sub-subform, all subject to juggling.

3. Obsessions Regarding Hairiness. Multitudes of varieties and forms based on presence, abundance, scarcity, or absence of hairs on plant twigs, leaves, and other organs are being published. Often all of the stages can be found on successive growth of a single plant, and sometimes in successive seasonal stages of a single twig.

A man, during his first 15 or 20 years, has pubescent hairs on the lower half of his face (var. or f. *pubescens* or *pubescens*); in later years it becomes long-haired (var. or forma *longivillosa*). On the top of the same head, the hair may be black (var. or f. *atrovillosa*); become gray (var. or f. *grisea* or *cineræa*); then white (var. or f. *albovestita*). Or it may become bald (var. or f. *abares*, *demidata*, *glabrescens*, or *glabrata*). All this on one individual. Botanical nomenclature is full of just that. So I wrote "More Plant Study: Fewer Plant Names". But the naming goes right on.

4. Dogmatic, Undocumented Refusal to Recognize Published Entities. Fernald's refusal to recognize *Salix petiolaris* as an American plant is in point, and American botanists pay. By the way, Kobuski writes me that the Edit. Board of Jour. Arnold Arboretum had declined my manuscript. In *Gery Manual* (1909) he and Robinson included *S. humilis* "var. *rigidiuscula* Andersson". Andersson had published it as a form, not variety, and most botanists have written it "var. *rigidiuscula* (Anders.) R. & F.". Now Fernald says that this plant was not what Andersson had, so gives it a new name "var. *hyperoxys* Fern.". Not one iota of proof is given. The descriptions are the same (as much as may two of the same plant ever are). There were no types of Andersson's entities. Small republishing Chapman's *Salix floridana* as *S. Chapmanii* Small without one word of explanation and with no reason, is a case in point. And so it goes.

Why are no controls exercised by the profession, over arbitrary and unjustified action? Is everybody afraid?, lest they be inhibited or disciplined?

Cordially and carefully yours

Carleton R. Ball

X Solidago rugosa rugosa rugosa Wong - one
better than Lablab!

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

Oct. 30, 1947

Dear Dr. Ball:

I sympathize with you in the ideas expressed in your letter of Oct. 28, but human beings (an botanists) being what they are, what can one do about it? I am planning to be in Chicago and I have to deliver two papers and a presidential address, but I don't want to get mixed up in these nomenclatural problems. I have an idea that one of the addresses may be a rather pointed one regarding titles of botanical papers, developing further the paper that Greene published many years ago on literary aspects of American botany. I'm daubed with the species proposing idea, for I have done my part in multiplying names; although never, to the best of my knowledge and belief, making the extreme species splits of the specialists on Crataegus, Rubus, Rosa, Taraxacum, Hieracium, etc. Don't blame the American botanists too much; note what the so-called specialists have done in Europe with Taraxacum and Hieracium! On the basis of the extreme splitting in Taraxacum you in the waste places of Washington and I within the limits of the Arnold Arboretum, could "discover" scores and scores of "new species"!

Neither have I ever been intrigued with varieties, subspecies, forms, proles, and what not, and I poke fun at those who transfer names from one category to another (in order to see their names as authorities I suppose), and particularly at those who would institute in botany the trinomial appellations such as ~~Lablab rugosa rugosa rugosa~~ Lablab lablab lablab --- page Harold St. John, Fosberg, Cronquist, et. al. They cannot define the limits of these minor categories, and so see Cronquist. Solidago rugosa Libb. subsp. rugosa Cronq. var. rugosa Cronq. The ornithologists started something, and some botanists are foolish enough to copy them! It is to laugh, but it makes modern botany utterly absurd. We got along for say 150 years with Impatiens pallida Linn. and now it is Impatiens pallida Linn. var. pallida Fosb. all because, I suppose weatherby or someone else proposed a new variety, say var. maculata; hence the species must have a varietal name also!

No, there is nothing you or I can do about it. The idea of "authority" went out of the window at the end of the last century, and now it is apparently everyone for himself. And in my judgement some of the moderns are more foolish than Rafinesque and would out-Rafinesque that strange individual. Wait until you see the new "Flora" of Gleason and compare it with the new one of Fernald! I hold no brief for either, and would probably disagree with both on some, perhaps many, interpretations. I take it that one will be a sort of "Exkursionsflora" and the other a much more critical work---from one get a name, and then from the other get what it really is i.e., according to Fernald.

I've just finished a paper on Wood's unlisted binomials, 1845-81. Here was a series of stereotyped works, and I mean stereotyped in the second-sense, for each class-Book (there were two entirely different works under the same name being concurrently published 1861 on, and one of these has as many as 41 "Revised and Enlarged Editions" and yet all of these (really reprintings) were printed from the same old stereotype plates of 1847! Unlisted binomials in Michaux! Pursh! Chapman! Nuttall! Torrey! Elliott! Eaton! Muhlenberg! and, believe it or not, in Gray's

(See over)

Manual. Have our bibliographic botanists been asleep at the switch? I suggested a short time ago that I pass my findings on to the Gray, rather than to Kew, so that cards could be inserted in the Gray series. Now they are to include original places of publication of minor forms (varieties etc.), but they can't go back of their beginning date for unlisted American binomials, no matter if these aren't in Index Kewensis. I've fattened the supplements of IKK with more than 1500 overlooked names and continue to "pick 'em up and pass 'em on". Twice recently, once in Elliott, once in Michaux I located unlisted binomials, and believe it or not later botanists picked them up, transferred them to ~~xxxxxx~~ other genera published new binomials, and these didn't get listed. There you have it. One subject I am to develop for the Chicago meetings is "Adventures in locating unlisted names". My total in Rafinesque, Wood, Bartram, Eaton, Muhlenb. Chapmen, et. al. all strictly American authors (except some of Rafinesque's proposals) as to unlisted generic and specific names approximates 4,000! I shall get myself disliked for stirring up the mud, but to me this is a disgrace to American botany, and I may baldly say so when the time comes.

Don't blame me for the editorial board action. I am a member of the board, but I have never taken part in editorial discussions since I asked to be relieved of administrative duties. I try to keep just as far away from policy matters as possible, just as Britton did in New York. Yet I surmise that when mistakes are made and matters get to be rather thoroughly puddled that I am blamed for not taking part in the discussions. I don't know anything about the merits or the demerits of the Salix discussions.

JKSmall? What did he do. In 1933 he took up two binomials published by Feay. I searched and searched, and finally gave up--no assistance from the Gray, for they didn't know. Finally Alexander who had been an assistant to Small, tipped me off---Wood's Class Book (1861) of all places. And yet at the end of the book Small very carefully published a list of all his new names as if this was an end in itself!

I'm trying to write simultaneously three different papers, and time gets short, particularly as in the offing are trips to N.Y. to Phila., to Washington, and they don't articulate; so I had better get back to my knitting.

Very sincerely

E.D. Merrill

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard U.,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

3814 Jesslyn St., N.W.,
Washington 18, D.C.

November 3, 1947

Dear Elmer D.:

I got a great kick out of your newsy letter of Oct. 30 and it set my mind to running back over the years since 1899, when we converged on official Washington like two spheroids out of steller space. The taxonomy of grasses did not hold either of us for long. After western collecting and some publishing, you went to the Philippines and I, after eastern lawn and sand-binding studies and forage surveys, went over to Central Investigations by way of the sorghums, then wheat, then the Chiefship and then got fired bodily in 1930.

In the meantime, you had come back to California and New York. I recalled the time when I asked Dr. Jepson to let me see the type of one of his willows but he refused. When I casually mentioned it to you at lunch, you said to come along with you and I would see it. I did. I recalled also that one morning at breakfast at the Berkeley Faculty Club, Dr. Jepson was unusually nasty. I spoke out just what I thought about. Half an hour later he appeared where I was doing some willows at the Herbarium, and asked me to look at some that he had collected. I did, and thereafter he did everything he could for me. I understand that his estate and herbarium are still tied up because some of the conditions the Univ. does not wish to accept.

My firing in 1930 was a direct gift from another Californian, Herbert Hoover, an Iowa small-town boy. He was assisted by Agric. Secy. Hyde, the only Secretary our Dept ever had who was not trained in agriculture. He, a lawyer, was running an insurance company in Kansas City. It failed soon after he came to Washington. Since he left the cabinet, he has leived on a farm he owns near Trenton, Mo., and his married daughter lives on the farm there that her mother owned (the family farm of her childhood).

What I got out of it was a chance to help smash the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill of 1930 (for the farmer organizations); five years in Public Administration at the Univ. of California and two volumes on Federal, State and Local Government Relationships in Agriculture; and finally 9 years as Executive Secy. of Correlating Committee which tie together the work of the Federal, and State agric. agencies with that of the TVA, over the country. That was well worth while.

In the meantime you have done much for botanical institutions and for botany itself. I see the record in the abstract journals and the Taxonomic Index. But I am amazed at your "Adventured in finding Unlisted Names". I would have supposed that all those early authors had been combed over and over again, especially in those days when all odd combinations were being recombined by the splitters. I surely hope that you can publish your results in volumes, rather than merely in the Harvard Catalog or in Kew.

I don't know what Gleason is doing with the new *Illus. Flora* but I do know that the willows are going to have both names and also descriptions which will tell what they are. Always I have been able to get fuller descriptions for the willows than are given for plants in general in manuals.

I'm still hoping that Fernald will retain *Salix petiolaris* in the Manual instead of insisting that it is "British". I have given him all my recent data. He rejects *S. tristis* also, as a species, but does not use the long-published designation of it as a variety of *S. humilis*. I don't know why.

Looking back over it, I see that this letter does not say anything in particular and so requires no answer. I only hope that it does not distract you from those three papers you are writing for the meetings. My 164th paper came off the press recently and there always are two or three in press. (Just now three).

I certainly don't blame you for the rejection of the paper by the Journal, even if you had set in on the discussions. Its the third rejection in 50-odd years.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours

P.S. Maxon is much better and just gone to Florida for the winter. Would be glad to see you when in Washington.

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

Nov. 6, 1947

Dear Ball:

Read your letter this morning when I got in from Washington. Went down on night train 4th and returned night of 5th, all day session on Pacific affairs from 10 AM to 9.30 P.M., latter discussions informal including dinner etc. Just when I may be in Washington again no to see but maybe in January, and then, if the other conference comes off it may be for two days which would give me time to breathe.

Anent the unlisted names in early American works here are the astounding totals. Genera 750, subgenera 334, binomials 3163. Add to this more than 1000 varietal names (these I have not listed except for Rafinesque, but the works of Wood et al are full of 'em; and yet botanist after botanists publishes more and more varieties---let us hope that they may be bigger and better ones than the overlooked ones of their predecessors! On top of this binomials first published in Index Kewensis for Rafinesque alone 637, and total corrections to IK. about 590. Now won't I get myself disliked in some quarters for stirring up all this dirt--- job should have been done 50 years ago for what a chance the devotees of the American Code missed! My count based on Rafinesque, Eaton, Wood, Bartram, Muhlenberg, and ~~Walters~~ Chapman--there are incidental overlooked names in Torrey, Nuttall, Michaux, Pursh, and even in Gray's Manual--mention the latter with low sound, "baited breath" as it were. Plus also Elliott. I find them everywhere as I check references--even in Ascherson and Graebner, and believe it or not, sometimes for American species introduced into Germany. Don't you think that I am muddying the water sufficiently, even if I am chiefly "adding to synonymy" without trying to educate the large number of individuals who find new species and new varieties, to say nothing of new subspecies, forms, subforms, proles and what not every time they revise a group?

It is rumored abroad that I am doing to Rafinesque what I did to Blanco, Loureiro, Llanos, Rumphius, Osbeck, Houttuyn, etc., but don't worry, for I am not changing names. I merely paint the picture and give the other chap the chance of changing the names. Twice for American species, believe it or not the name bringing binomial and the new names based thereon, four in all, all unlisted.

With Chapman, and I can finish that job in the course of two or three days now that the names under suspicion are checked, I expect to drop out of the bibliographic field and return to botany. Philippine stuff coming in, first shipment made from Manila and more to follow, and I have the job of identification. Hope that I won't have gotten too rusty in the interim. Suspect some good stuff, for these collections are from little known parts of Mindanao and Palawan.

Still have the final polish to put on the very large Rafinesque manuscript, and looks as though I would have to do this soon, for this morning's mail brought in \$ 500.00 from a source that I thought was probably a forlorn hope. But the gentleman, not a former supporter of the AA, sent a check of \$ 200.00, one of \$ 200.00 from a married daughter, and one of \$ 100.00 from his wife, so I approach the \$ 5000.00 mark, and I know of at least \$ 1,000.00 that will come in between now and the end of December. So my last fund raising campaign approaches a successful finish; for this will be my very last.

Very sincerely yours
Wm. Munz

(See over)

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.
January 3, 1948

Dear Elmer D.:

Your letter of Nov. 3 was about the most amazing narrative I have ever read. More than 3,000 over-looked binomials in half a dozen works seems incredible, not to mention the missed genera and subgenera, or the binomials in other works. You must have laughed out loud many times in the months and years of labor. And, as you imply, you will not be appreciated for the contribution even now.

Perhaps Love's labor will not be wholly lost, as nomenclature has not yet stabilized, and perhaps has not begun to do so. Personally, I doubt if it ever will become stabilized, for some one always can "prove" that a given paper or volume was not published when it was said to have been, and that let's somebody else under the wire by 15 minutes or 30 days (See Fernald on Michaux and Muhlenberg).

Unlikely for me, I am not a taxonomist and have specialized in a single genus. Even there I have refrained from publishing novelties en masse. I could sit down and describe 100 or 200 varieties in the next month, fully as good (or bad) as most of those proposed, but I shall not.

I have strived earnestly to know willows, their variations in the field under differing environments, and throughout each year, and also their lifetime. I have put some of this into print in the hope that others may come to know plants, rather than to create names. Now I want to finish a monograph which will leave my record complete. Babb, who died in the year of my graduation from college, never was able to do that.

I am glad to know that the Philippine material is coming again, and from less frequented places. Every succeeding package is a treasure house of surprises and joys. It keeps one young just anticipating what may turn up next.

Congratulations on the \$5,000, more or less, for the taxonomic publication. It is a real satisfaction that you can get what you go for, when it is used for publication of real study, even if said study does raise a dust or "dirt".

If you do have any time free when you are here in January, I'd be delighted if we could get together for lunch or dinner. I am just getting over a siege of flu but expect to peppy as ever from now on.

With full wishes for the biggest and best New Year that ever was, I am

Cordially yours,

P.S. Think I will mention some of your totals of last names at meeting of Bot. Soc. Wash. next Tuesday night.

Carleton R. Ball

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

January 15, 1948

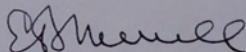
Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn Street, N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thanks for your letter of January 8th. The Rafinesque manuscript will go to the printer within a week or so I suppose. Fortunately, Rafinesque's proposals in *Salix* were practically all of the type that can be settled bibliographically. I merely thought that you might perhaps correct some of the suggested reductions as to the species involved. I have dug out the rough draft copy and enclose it for your consideration. Do not waste much time on it. If you have any comments or corrections please add to the rough draft copy in pencil and return the document to me; anyway the document should be returned eventually in case anything should happen to the draft prepared for the printer.

I am passing your letter on to Dr. Raup who is the one member of our staff interested in *Salix*.

Very sincerely yours,



E. D. Merrill
Arnold Professor of Botany

EDM:AG
Enc

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

3914 Jocelyn St., N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

April 6, 1948.

My dear Dr. Merrill:

I am completely discombobulated! Your letter of Jan. 15, and the rough-draft copy of the *Rafinesque* ms. came just when Mrs. Ball and I were escaping from our share (or more) of the national flu epidemic. It got buried and the earth's rotation, or something cataclysmic, has just brought it to the surface.

I can't make even a guess as to what Rafinesque thought he was doing. He makes some some 27 new genera out of *Salix* Linn. Theoretically, these, or at least some of them, would have some relation to the many more-or-less well recognized Sections of *Salix*. But apparently they do not. In fact, 8 of them seem to have no species assigned to them. Below are given 3 reasons for my conclusions (or lack of 'em).

1. Species assigned to a given new genus are often wholly unrelated. For example; *Diplus* contains *S. lucida* Muhl. (*Pleianthes*) and *S. cordata* Muhl. (*Dianthes*), or two separate subgenera. *Oisodix* contains *S. longifolia* Muhl. and *S. reticulata* Linn., then which (as you know) there are hardly two more widely separated species. *Vimen* contains such distinct types as *S. discolor* Muhl., *S. myricoides* Muhl. (part of *S. cordata* Muhl.), *S. retusa* L., and *S. uva-ursi* Marsh., all of which you know personally. *Biggins* contains *S. angustata* Ph. (a var. of *S. cordata* Muhl.) and *S. conferta* Weng., related to *S. discolor* Muhl.

2. Closely related and almost indistinguishable species are assigned to different new genera. For example, *S. alba* and *S. coarctata* L. (a var. of *alba*) are put in *Argorix* while *S. fragilis* L. is *Peatherix*. *S. nigra* Marsh. is in *Amerina*, *S. falcata* Ph. (a synonym) is in *Nestylis*, and the difficultly separated *S. Humboldtiana* Willd. is put in *Pleierina*. Likewise, *S. caprea* L. is in *Nestylis* while the almost inseparable *S. ciliata* is in *Vimen* (these two are our florists' willows for sale Sunday and Easter).

3. The same species is put in two different new genera. For example, *S. reticulata* L. is in both *Nectus* and *Oisodix*. Likewise, *S. nigra* (and synonym *S. falcata*) is in both *Amerina* and *Nestylis*. *S. lucida* Muhl. is in both *Diplis* and *Diplus*.

I do not have time to evaluate the 9 species he left in *Salix* Linn. or the new species he published in that genus. His descriptions will have to be studied. In the list of species under *Salix*, you have inserted in pencil "*S. involucae*", previously in *Vimen*. It there was spelled "*involucae*".

I am inclosing the manuscript, with huge apologies for this long and unwarranted delay. Hoping that you are out from under the snow by now, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

P.S. I see that I have overlooked a portion of page 329, upturned at the bottom. This shows a total of 11 species under *Uisionis*, representing widely separated species and sections of the total in *Salix*. Examples are *S. humilis* Willd., *S. pedicellaria* Marsh., and *S. petiolaris* Smith.

P. S. 2. I note that under *Uisionis* your ms. reads:
"aurita Raf. L. C. non. (*Salix aquatica* Linn.) France."
Should the synonym have been "*Salix aurita* Linn."?

Generic names for Salix by R. J. Merrill

Amerina	6 sp. (S. caroliniana Mx, S. rugosa Mx)
Amerix	0
Argorips	2 (S. alba, S. coerules)
Biggina	3 (S. angustata Ph; S. conifera Wamp)
Chalebus	0
Dramarips	1 S. crouana
Diplrina	8 (S. S. areolaria L., S. lucida Muhl, S. triminialis L.)
Diplopia	0
Diphusion	4 (S. corollata, S. lucida, S. rigida)
Disynia	0
Melanix	0
Nectalis	5 (6) S. ambigua Ph. - - S. whittingi
Nectopix	3 (S. cyrena, S. rhamnifolia,
Nectusion	1 S. reticulata L.
Nestylis	5 (S. amygdalina, S. foliata Ph)
Disodix	8 (S. longifolia Muhl, S. reticulata L)
Opodix	0
Pleiarina	1 (S. Humboldtiana Wessl.)
Psatherips	1 S. fragilis L)
Ripsoctis	2 (S. aegyptica, S. indica)
Riprelaxis	1 (S. herbacea L.)
Salix L.	9

over

(See over)

SCHEDULE B
(Confidential)

1. NAME OF CONCERN *American Cast Iron Pipe Co.*
 2. ADDRESS *Birmingham Ala*
 3. TITLE OR POSITION *Metallurgical Chemist*
 4. SALARY DATA (indicate salary per annum)

Year	Beginning salary for employees hired to do this work
1913	
1914	
1915	
1916	
1917	
1918	
1919	
1920	
1921	
1922	
1923	
1924	
1925	
1926	
1927	
1928	1200
1929	1200
1930	1200
1931	1200
1932	1200
1933	none put on.

Sokoloffia 1 (*S. rupestris*)
 (*Stenalia* (subgen *Vetrix*) type *V. linearis*)
Telesmia 1 (*S. persimilis*)
Unieris 1 *S. picta* Sm.
Usionis 11 *S. picta* Sm. 5 grasses weed.
Vetrix 6 (*S. helix* L., *Stenalia* sp. *S. purpurea* C.)
Vimosa 25 (*S. cinerea* L., *S. dybowskyi* Muhl., *S. trinitata* L., *S. bicolor* Elsh.)

S. myricoides Muhl., *S. physodes* Phil.
S. holapi. *S. pruinoides* Phil.
S. repens L. *S. retusa* L.
S. war-wire Phil.

Comments: No appointments made in 1933. This company has been putting on an average of six men each year shown above.

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

April 15, 1948

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

You say your letter of April 13th needs no answer. I am impressed by the opening statement which has been repeated over and over again about Rafinesque's having actually described new genera and species of thunder and lightning as proof that he was insane. He did nothing of the kind. He did publish a very readable article merely describing the forms that lightning formations may take, but this paper was in no sense classification nor does it contain technical names. As Fitzpatrick says, they who repeat this untrue story only discredit themselves! *He was erratic enough the first times, but not this*

Very sincerely yours,

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Arnold Professor of Botany

EDM:AG

(over)

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 38, Mass.

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

April 19, 1948

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Many thanks for your letter of April 15, exposing the canard about *Rafinesquea* and the alleged species of thunder and lightning. I have seen the statement many times during my life and never have seen a denial until a few minutes ago. I am truly glad to be corrected.

I well remember my efforts to correct the manual statements of the range of *Salix nigra*. They said: "West to the Rockies", "West to the foothills of the Rockies", west to the Dakotas", etc., etc. Finally I got all the botanists of that group of States to work on the problem and soon proved that it extended westward only to eastern Minn., then southwestward to the divide between the Mississippi and Missouri in northern Iowa, and thence southwest to a few counties in SE. Nebraska, and so on. But the old statements are repeated.

More recently came Dr. Fernald's conclusion that *Salix petiolaris* was a British plant, after 125 years of Anglo-American agreement to the contrary. Now I have the full story of that in print but I don't know yet what the forthcoming edition of Gray will say. I wrote to Fernald and asked him, for the sake of American botanists, to keep it an American species in the new manual, but got no reply. Will send my paper separately.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard Univ.,
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

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

14 March, 1949.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Congratulations on your appointment as President of the Taxonomic Section of the Seventh International Botanical Congress. Doubtless it will mean much grief, but also an opportunity for some more constructive work. There is no one I would rather see in that important position.

I am too busy studying willows to study the changing rules of nomenclature very much. One problem I am not certain about, therefore. That has to do with misspellings of the specific names in original publication.

For example, Rowlee, in 1907 (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club), published *Salix Maccalliana* Rowlee. This willow, of Section *Glaucosa*, was named for W.C. McCalla, of Calgary, Alta., Canada, who is one of the most careful collectors I know.

Have we a right to use the correct spelling, McCalliana, or must we continue to mislead students by using the wrong spelling of Rowlee, Maccalliana? This question, of course, is wholly independent of whether we use capital or lower-case letters for the M and the C. I prefer capitals because I believe that students should learn as much as possible from scientific names.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

3314 J'celyn St., N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

2 August, 1949

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Separately I am sending a few reprints which bring you up ~~to~~^{to} date, according to my records.

Because I do not know just where in the complex Harvard lay-out, Mrs. Ivan M. Johnson, Paul C. Mangelsdorf, and Hugh M. Rump get their mail at the moment, I am one or two each for the. All are plainly mark for the intended recipient, including

If any of them have to be remailed in order to reach these men, please have them sent on and let me know, on inclosed card, the postage required.

Have just completed the manuscript on *Salix* for Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora. Have included 40 species (35 native and 5 introduced trees) but had to dispose of some 20 others, which took more work. About 10 were hybrids published as species. Of the other 10, about 8 were wrong identifications and two were new publications of old species. I restudied and redescribed all the species included and made new sets of combined vegetal-floral keys.

I understand that Palmer is writing *Crataegus* for both Gray and E. & B. I will be interested in seeing how many of the more than 1300 published species (not all in mammal range) are recognized. That goes for Bailey's *Rubus* too. I believe he is over the 500 mark in new species now.

Hoping that you are having fun, and not so much heat as we, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

Dear Dr. Bell:-

Reprint enclosed. I cannot get to the ~~RAAS~~ meeting in California in June - troubles & finances involved, too much to do here. The Salix will be sent to you through the herbarium at U.C. & should be returned through the herbarium, as our policy involves institutional loans & I don't like to make a change because of the peculiar situation ^(see over) in reference to Dr. Johnson which I think you will understand. Sincerely, E.D. Merrill

My dear Dr. Merrill:

Your good letter and the package of willows both received. The specimens are in good condition and are just what I needed to solve some puzzling problems in connection with the willows of Alaska. They will be returned through the University Herbarium just as soon as I am done with them. I understand the Jepson situation only too well, as it is doubtful whether I will ever see a lot of Alaskan material belonging to the University which is under his care.

The study of Federal-State relations in Agriculture and natural resources grows in scope and outreach, and is most fascinating, not only to ravel out but to discover the degrees of cooperation or the lack of it. California seems to be host to more activities that are not truly cooperative than most States. By "host" I mean that some State agency provides facilities to some Federal agency but does not share in the planning or conduct of the work or in the presentation of the result.

Sorry you are not coming this way. More freak weather this year than for a long time. Heaviest rains of all since the dry season began, the last being on June 7 and causing much damage.

With person regards,

Most cordially

Carleton R. Ball,
Research Associate.