

AIR MAIL TO SAN FRANCISCO

September 17, 1934.

Dr. Georges de Roerich,
c/o Tschurin & Co.,
Torgovaya, Harbin, Pristan,
Manchu-tikuo.

Dear Doctor Roerich:

By the time this letter reaches you, I imagine the growing season will have closed and the opportunity for collecting seed in the field for this year will be about over, except for that which you may find in the towns, villages and market places and among the native doctors and medicine men. I hope that, although the season has been a rainy one, you have been able to find an interesting collection of plants and have secured seed, herbarium specimens and data concerning them. The seed, herbarium specimens and other dried specimens, cuttings, if any, photographs, reports and other data should be carefully packed, in line with our suggestions made here, and turned over to the American Consulate at Harbin or such other points as there are Consulates, for forwarding through their channels. I have written Dr. MacMillan that before he and Mr. Stephens leave Harbin for other work they be of every assistance to you in packing the material, so that you may have the benefit of their past experience in packing, labelling, and shipping such material, and also that they be sure that the consular officers in Harbin and elsewhere understand about receiving and forwarding anything that is to be sent on to Washington by you in the future.

We are very anxious to get in the expense account for the expedition, none of which have yet been received, and have asked Dr. MacMillan to be of every assistance to you in bringing your accounts up to date, as both Dr. MacMillan and Mr. Stephens have had long experience in the preparation of these rather troublesome but necessary documents, so that we can know just exactly where our finances stand and make prompt settlement. We want to be sure that there are no questions either about the handling of plant material or about the accounts or any other aspect of the work that are not answered before MacMillan and Stephens leave, so that you will have a minimum of red tape and routine, and there will be no misunderstanding regarding the shipments. We are vitally interested in the plant materials to be collected in Manchukuo and we want to take every precaution so that, once you have collected them in the field, there will be no opportunity of loss from that point on to Washington. Mr. Mahoney informs me that he gave you in New York a model copy of a foreign expedition expense account and left with you

sufficient blanks for six months. However, I am having an additional one sent to you in case you may have left the others at a pase point and may wish to have it for the use of your secretary or for the use of yourself at all times.

Dr. MacMillan will return to Washington this winter as planned, and Mr. Stephens will remain in the Orient for further studies in grasses and legumes.

I look forward with interest to the recommendations that you may make for your work after you have completed the field activities this fall and have had an opportunity to make tentative plans for the winter months.

I hope that you and your father have enjoyed good health in the trying part of the world in which your work has been carried on, and I am looking forward with much anticipation to your reports as to results of the collection.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

K. A. Ryerson,
Chief of Bureau.

Expense Account sample enclosed
Copy to Dr. MacMillan
Copy to Mr. Morrison