

Rep animal

NAGGAR, Kulu
Punjab, Br. India

Dec. 14th, 1930

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Director, New-York Botanical Gardens,
New-York City, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill

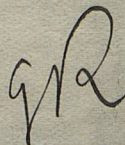
It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the despatch of 5 postal packages of Himalayan plants collected by Dr. Walter N. Koelz the Botanist of our Institute.

The Institute will be glad if you will kindly accept this sending as a contribution towards the collection of your Institutions.

We shall greatly appreciate if you would be kind enough to have the plants identified and all particulars sent to us, in order that we might enter the data in our collection.

With best regards and assuring you of our constant cooperation

Yours very sincerely



Director.

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NAGGAR, Kulu
Punjab, Br. India

Jan. 31st 1931

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director, New-York Botanical Gardens
New-York City, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

I have much pleasure in advising the despatch of one postal parcel containing seeds, which our Institute is happy to donate to your Institution.

I hope you have already received the 5 packages with dried plants, collected by Dr. W. Koelz, and that we shall soon hear from you regarding the identification of the species in the collection.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

g.R.

Director.

P.-13.

N. of. H. S. Garden.

PARCEL POST CUSTOMS DECLARATION.

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DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS.

The nature and value of the contents should be fully and accurately stated.
(See Instructions on reverse.)

Value in Sterling.

£ s. d.

Seeds for scientific purpose

NO COM-
MERCIAL
VALUE

Country of origin or of manufacture of the goods

India

For use of Post Office of Exchange.

Signature and address of sender.

No. of rates prepaid

URUSVATI *Shri*
Himalayan Research Institute.

Parcel Bill No.

NAGGAR
KULU, PUNJAB

Date stamp of office
of exchange.

Entry No.

MGIPAh. 100-2-15.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DESCRIBING CONTENTS.

(To meet the various Customs Regulations.)

1.—All articles in a parcel must be described in the declaration, the actual nature of each article being shown and its value accurately stated in sterling. It is not sufficient to describe one or two articles, and then make a general entry, such as "other miscellaneous articles," "some odds and ends," "a few sundries," etc. When a number of miscellaneous articles have to be sent, it is recommended that more than one parcel be made up.

2.—Articles of the same ware or manufacture may be entered collectively, but the number of such articles must always be given, *e.g.*—

	£	s.
10 Articles Peshawar wax work, value	0	5
2 Satsuma bowls, value	0	15

3.—Articles of gold and silver must be entered separately with the separate value of each article or pair or set of articles, *e.g.*—

	£	s.
One silver brooch (Cuttack work), value	0	10
Three Cutch silver salt cellars, value	0	15
One pair gold earrings (Indian make), value	2	0

4.—Foreign articles of personal private property on which import duty has been paid by the present owner and which are exported with the intention that they will be reimported should, prior to export, be presented to the Custom House for inspection and the grant of a certificate of export. [*Vide* Clause 257—III (4) and (5) of the *Post and Telegraph Guide*.]

N.B.—This declaration has to be pasted to the parcel; if the size of the parcel, or of the address label tied to it, is too small to admit of this being done, the parcel cannot be accepted for transmission by post.

DOMESTIC TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. N. Y. TELEPHONE EXCHANGE NO. 43235. 4

NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab
India

April 22nd, 1931

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director in Chief
New-York Botanical Gardens
New-York City. U.S.A.

My dear Dr. M e r r i l l ,

It was very gratifying to read your letter about Dr. Koelz's collection in Lahul and Kulu. We hope that this beginning of cooperation between the New-York Botanical Gardens and the Himalayan Research Institute will result in further fruitful work in the interest of science. We are very anxious to enlarge our plans and thus to be able to thoroughly explore this most important region.

This summer Dr. Koelz is proceeding to Rupshu, Ladak and Zangskar to collect the Fauna and Flora of the Tibetan uplands as well as of the deep eroded valleys of periferal Tibet. This trip will no doubt bring new material and form a basis for future work in the same region. Besides our biological section, our linguistic and ethnographic Dep-t will continue its work in the same region, concentrating itself this summer on Lahul. We are preparing for the erection of a biochemical laboratory at the Headquarters of the Institute to conduct extensive

research in medicinal plants. Mr.L.L.Horch has doubtlessly informed 805

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you of all details of our botanical work and our immediate plans with regard to the medicinal plant research. In this respect we shall need the support of all our friends, for the field is unusually vast and almost virgin and promises important finds if properly conducted.

This Biochemical Laboratory will form a nucleus for all sorts of allied research works in the botanical field.

Our Journal is shortly to appear and a copy will be forwarded to you. The next issue is scheduled for November-December 1931 and it would have been very gratifying to have some of your identifications for our second issue. This Journal is appearing annually but with the increase of the material we propose to print it at least half-annually.

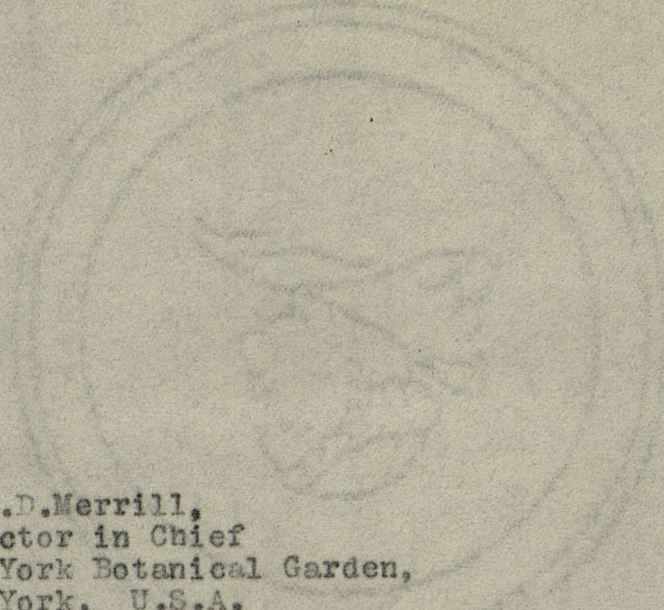
With kindest regards and thanking you for your friendly support

Sincerely yours

gR

Director.

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NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab
India.

May 7th, 1931.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director in Chief
New-York Botanical Garden,
New-York. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of March 31st with the enclosed list of identifications, which were handed over to Dr. Koelz. It was very kind of you to undertake this labor and we appreciate greatly your friendly cooperation in the matter.

Please note that page #3 of the identifications was omitted from the sending instead of which we got two pages #2. We shall return you the extra page #2 and shall be much obliged if you would kindly forward us the missing page 3 to enable us to enter the information into our herbarium.

While writing this letter I receive your note of April 6th with further identifications of our botanical collection.

We are busily preparing our summer field work which as I wrote to you before will cover the higher alpine valleys of Indian Tibet. We are sure that this new trip will bring in new material specimen of which will be forwarded to you in the fall on the return of our expedition.

With kind regards and thanking you once more,

Sincerely yours,

WR

Director.

NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab
Br. India

June 2, 1931

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
The New-York Botanical Garden
Bronx Park. NEW-YORK, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

It gives me much pleasure to announce the
second despatch of herbarium material as a donation to your
Institution and for your kind identification.

Please notify us about its safe arrival.

Sincerely yours,

SR.

Director.

3 reg postal parcels 11 lbs each

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NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, India

Jan 21, 1932.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
The New York Botanical Gardens
Bronx Park, NEW-YORK CITY.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

We are just completing the preliminary stage of our work in the botanical field and are drafting plans for the future. At this juncture your esteemed suggestion will be of a great value to us. Anxious to continue and develop our department of Botany, we contemplate engaging a highly qualified botanist, to take charge of the work and we shall be very grateful if you could kindly recommend us a man who would be willing to undertake it. He should be ready to conduct both laboratory research and field work in which he would be assisted by trained native collectors, whom we hope to get from one of the existing botanical institutions in India. A knowledge of geology (soils, etc.) and pharmacology (in order to assist our biochemist in the study of medicinal plants) will be essential. We hope that such a man will be available in the States and that you will consent to help us once more in this matter. All credentials, curriculum vitae, health certificates, photographs as well as printed works of the candidate should be submitted here. The man should be single.

Dr. Koelz's contract expires early next year and the remaining period under contract we wish him to devote to the proper classification and installation of our collections in New-York. Dr. Koelz is a very active collector, but he states his inability to undertake the botanical work along the lines of our interest. In view that our zoological collections are only incidental to our other activities and that they have been completed as far as the immediate region is concerned, we intend to concentrate all our efforts on our botanical and pharmacological research. Dr. Koelz has laid too much stress on zoological collections and I do not think is prepared to meet our further requirements.

Mr. L. L. Horch will interview you on this matter and will communicate to you the situation in detail.

Thanking you in anticipation, with kindest regards

PERSONAL

NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, India

March 8, 1932.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Garden.
New-York.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Mr. Louis L. Horch, President of the Roerich Museum, will have already acquainted you with all the details of the very grave situation caused by Dr. Koelz's unexpected and unwarranted actions.

Dr. Koelz has now left for New-York with botanical and zoological collections to be studied in New-York. I am very sorry we were unable to forward the botanical collection, gathered in Western Tibet, earlier to you, but this was entirely due to Dr. Koelz's undesire to attend to the botanical part of the work. He has been repeatedly requested both verbally and in writing, to keep the collections in order and to sort them, in order to ensure their proper study. Although he had plenty of time after each expedition to attend to this important part of the work, this has not been done and your identifications were entered on herbarium labels only a couple of weeks before his departure. Your original lists of identifications were not handed over to me, although requested, and some of them have been subsequently found by myself in a waste paper basket! The work was only too frequently left to illiterate natives, while Dr. Koelz and his chief assistant were engaged in some private matters of which the Institute had no knowledge and was informed of it only by outsiders. Your just remark about the insufficiency of the material sent to New-York and the frequent absence of field labels accompanying the specimens, caused a violent outburst of Dr. Koelz and impermissible expressions. I have asked Mr. Horch to show you some of Dr. Koelz's writings to this effect. On his leaving the Institute's Headquarters in Naggar, Dr. Koelz did not hand over inventory lists of collections remaining at the Headquarters and of those despatched with him to New-York. This unscientific attitude came as a great shock to everybody on the Staff of the Institute.

Recently Dr. Koelz conceived an idea to establish an organization of his own, apparently with intent to sell and supply zoological collec-

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tions. This of course places this Institute in an extremely difficult position since we cannot permit a member of our staff to use the facilities of this Institute in his private interests. This unethical attitude of Dr. Koelz was enhanced by the fact that we had discovered that he was collecting Tibetan medical texts on his own and withholding from the Institute information pertaining to Tibetan native drugs. As you know one of the chief interests of our Institute lies in the study of the medicinal property of herbs and collecting data on native pharmacopoeia. Dr. Koelz was repeatedly requested both in writing and verbally to pay special attention to this side of the work, and to collect on behalf of the Institute Tibetan medical texts. It appears now that he has been collecting Tibetan medical books and has refused to hand them over to the Institute giving no explanation of his strange actions. For the last two and half months his attitude was so unreasonable and his statement of such character that we could not keep him any longer at the Institute's Headquarters in Naggar. I am sorry to say that Dr. Koelz has broken the trust of all those who assisted him in his work.

Perhaps an explanation of his peculiar conduct can be found in the strange state of his mind, for according to some local officials and residents, he is a bit off.

For the past two years I failed to obtain from Dr. Koelz a single scientific statement on the results of his work, for his brief annual reports and his diary, which is being published in Vol. II of our JOURNAL cannot be classed as scientific reports even of a very preliminary character.

I feel it my duty to inform you of the above facts, since we value your cooperation and are anxious to develop our botanical research along the lines of our programme.

Mr. Louis L. Horch will acquaint you with all further details of this sad case.

With best regards

Sincerely yours,

Director.

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Naggar,

April 14th 1932.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief,
New York Botanical Garden,
New York, USA.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of March 4th which has just reached me. I am extremely sorry that we have been unable to send you earlier the botanical collections gathered in West Tibet and Rampur Beshahr. These have now been forwarded to the Roerich Museum with a request to transmit the collections to you. This unfortunate delay in sending the duplicate sets to you was entirely due to Dr. Koelz's attitude towards our botanical research. Before his departure much precious time was lost by him on his private affairs, that had nothing to do with the scientific activity of the Institute. Dr. Koelz left India on the 10th of March with instructions to reach New York by the 4th of April, and a ticket had been bought for him on the SS Roma reaching New York on that date. He was fully informed of the above arrangements and at that date did not request for any change of route or date of arrival. Now I hear from New York that he did not arrive on the SS Roma, and the Steamship Company in Italy has cabled me that they are unable to trace Koelz. He apparently left the Indian boat at Naples and did not resume the journey to New York thus acting against our instructions, and causing delay in our plans. Up to now his whereabouts are unknown. The last I heard from him was a cable from Port-Said requesting his March salary to be transferred to Naples. This we did, and cabled the money to the SS Roma with instructions to pay the sum to Dr. Koelz. The Company has now informed me by cable that the money could not be paid, as Dr. Koelz was not to be found anywhere! I am at a loss to understand his actions or to give an explanation of his erratic movements. It is really incomprehensible that he should develop such a trend of thought. In view of his unauthorized actions, I do not know whether he will remain in the service of the Institute for the remaining period of his contract. He should of course hand over the collections, and he refused to do this at the Headquarters in Naggar. All your previous letters addressed to the Institute / attention Dr. Koelz / are kept here on file and will be shown to Dr. Koelz's successor.

I think a trained pharmacologist with a good knowledge of botany and a good native collector to do the collecting and the

the recording of native names of plants and their local usages, will meet our requirements. Following your advices I have communicated with Prof. Shiv Ram Kashyap, Professor of Botany in the Punjab University, and he has now informed me that he has two candidates possessing the necessary qualifications. If we decided to engage one of them, it is my intention to make him collect in the Kulu Valley during the months of June-July-August-September. As you have probably noticed, Dr. Koelz did not collect during the summer months in Kulu, and did most of his work north of the Pir Panjal Range / Lahul, Zangskar, Ladak /. The collector will be instructed to prepare adequate duplicate sets of all material gathered by him, and I trust this will meet with your approval. Contrary to Dr. Koelz's opinion that the ethnobotany of the region is well-known, I believe that there is still much work to be done in this field. For some reasons the Kulu Valley and the adjacent hill tracts of Bara Bhangal have received less attention than the neighboring mountain tracts round Simla, Kashmir and Jammu, Chamba and Kumaon.

For the past year I have been busy compiling a list of Tibetan names of medicinal plants (of course recording also the names of plants not used medically). This list has now several hundred entries, and I shall be glad to send you a copy of it. I have also secured the local names of the material identified by you. Many of the names given by natives apply to whole genera, but in some cases an attempt was made to distinguish species. The Botanical Survey of India has just published a very useful list of Indian drug plants.

The Institute can offer the following accommodations to a pharmacologist:- Salary - \$ 200 per month, of course under present circumstances it would be preferable to obtain a man willing to work for a smaller salary; field expenses paid by the Institute in the field and at the Headquarters in Naggar; first class ticket from NY to Naggar, India; quarters consisting of a bedroom, with bath and study. The candidate should be of course single. The period of work-one year with option to renew for a second year. A pharmacological laboratory is provided in our plan, and the laboratory building is now under construction and will take at least a year to complete. A temporary laboratory can be of course organized. At the outset the work will chiefly consist in recording local information.

I am very anxious to hear from you about our collections from Western Tibet, which, I hope, will reach you in good condition.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

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Naggar,

April 21st, 1932.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief,
New York Botanical Garden,
New York City, USA.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Mr. Herch has acquainted me with your recent correspondence with Dr. Bartlett and the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology re the Koelz Case, and I deeply appreciate your stand in this unfortunate matter. We have just received a cable from the Roerich Museum announcing Dr. Koelz's arrival to New York.

I feel I owe you a word of explanation with regards to our Cancer research which seems to cause some misunderstanding. We have no intention of starting a Cancer Clinic at Naggar, but we have very definite information that Tibetan lama-doctors have been observed to treat with success the early stages of Cancer. Before the Great War experiments were conducted at St. Petersburg, Russia, during which Mongol and Tibetan lama-doctors treated Cancer patients in hospitals, and the whole treatment was closely watched by doctors and scientists. Unfortunately the Revolution brought to a stop these investigations. During the Roerich Expedition's stay in Mongolia, I had the good chance to observe the same facts, and believe that such investigations should be continued, and may bring some interesting results.

I fail to understand the allegation of mysticism put forward in connection with this Institute. The Him. Res. Institute is an institution dedicated to scientific research only, and its programme has been outlined by myself in my Annual Report, 1929-30, published in Vol. I of our Journal. Dr. Lozina, of the Institute's Staff, had conducted some investigations of the contemplative practices of the Indian yogis from the physiological and pathological points of view, but this subject has been already studied by a number of well-known scientists and can hardly be classed as "mysticism".

Dr. Koelz's allegations that the Institute has political aims are ridiculous and absurd. He knows only too well that this is the easiest way to throw a slur on a foreign institution in India! I am sorry that a man who pretends to be a scientist should adopt such means!

I am glad to inform you that Prof. Kashyap of the Punjab University has recommended to us an M.Sc. in Botany to work for the Institute. An ample study set will be forwarded to you, and I hope that this time it will meet with your entire approval. The man will also put

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in order the Herbarium left by Dr. Koelz. Due attention will be paid to native names of plants, and all your suggestions will be carried out.

Assuring you of our constant desire to cooperate with you, and appreciating at all times any suggestions or advice you may be kind to give us,

Sincerely yours,

SM

Director,

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NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB

Jan. 9, 1933.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief.
New-York Botanical Garden.
Bronx Park, NY.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of November 9th and Dec. 6th enclosing lists of identifications of the botanical material forwarded by us to the New-York Botanical Garden. We greatly appreciate your splendid co-operation and are looking forward to hear from you again on further details.

Vol. III of our JOURNAL is now in print and will be forwarded to you as soon as published.

With kindest regards

Sincerely yours,

Director.

NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, Br. India

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Gardens, NY.

April 3rd, 1933

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of February 10th enclosing pages 11-17 incl. of the botanical identifications, for which we thank you very much. We shall be very glad to come in touch with Dr. R. R. Stewart of Gordon College, Rawalpindi, when he returns to India.

The list of identifications in numerical order, which you kindly offer to send, will be greatest assistance to us.

With regard to the Koelz matter, you are of course right in expressing justified indignation that the University of Michigan permitted him to establish himself in our base. Not only has he lured over the Institutes previous staff of collectors, but every day local residents bring our attention to his impermissible and unwarranted saying which interfere with the work of our Institute, showing his ill-will and having nothing to do with scientific research. India of course is such a large place that there is ample opportunity for scientific work in other regions of the Himalayas as well as in the plains. The President of Michigan University has promised us an inquiry into the whole matter and I hope that they will succeed to discover the real facts of the

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case and will then take proper action and recall him or send him elsewhere. Dr. Koelz spreads everywhere that he is officially sent by the Michigan University, whereas the President of Michigan University has officially informed us that he is not on their paid staff and not financed by University Funds. He is said to possess a letter of introduction from his University which is however worded very much like a Pickwick Club paper and does not make clear on whose behalf he is acting.

Our Journal, Vol. III will be out shortly and a copy will be sent to you as usual. Should you like to have a Review copy as well, we shall be very glad to write to our New-York office to send you a second. An index table is enclosed herewith. You will be interested to see Prof. Shiv Ram Kashyap's article on the Gangotri region.

With kindest regards and thanking you once more for your valuable assistance,

Yours sincerely,

Director.

NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB, Br. INDIA

May 1st, 1933

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Gardens
New-York.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of March 18th and the enclosed three additional pages of identifications, for which we are very thankful. I appreciate your remarks about the Koelz matter. Of course in view of the excellent recommendation given to him by Dr. Bartlett, he seemed to be the best suited candidate at that time. It is only after two years of field work that one can tell of the true nature of an individual. But it is very deplorable that native influence seemed to have such a bad effect on him, and revealed his real inner self. He is still away from the valley and so far no adjustments have been made since the Michigan university seems to disregard all our representations. However I hope that Dr. Ruthven's inquiry will adjust the matter. I hope you have received the third volume of our Journal, which will give you a general idea of the work carried out by the Institute for the last year.

Thanking you once more,

Yours sincerely,

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NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB, Br. INDIA

July * 10 * 1933.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of May 23rd and the interesting reprint enclosed. We thank you for the identifications, which will be duly entered in our herbarium and we are extremely sorry that Koelz's peculiar method of numbering causes difficulty. We have the same kind of difficulty in cataloguing the ornithological collections gathered by Koelz, for on some of the labels he omitted to state the locality, where the specimens were collected.

At present Koelz has gone to Ladakh and is expected back in Kulu in October. We have heard that he has applied for a permission to visit Tibet, but that this was not granted. We have at last recovered from him the Institute's two guns with the help of the authorities, but the Tibetan books, and field equipment are still with him.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

Oct * 26 * 1933

Dr.E.D.Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
The New-York Botanical Garden
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.)
New-York, USA

Dear Dr. Merrill,

I write to acknowledge your letter of Sept.16th enclosing a numerical list of our botanical collection for which please accept our grateful thanks. We shall now be able to enter the identifications in our Herbarium set here at Naggar.

Your suggestion to prepare a publication on this collection is indeed most welcome and we shall be very glad to publish it when ready in our vol.V. of our Journal, to be issued at the end of next year. We could also prepare a certain amount of off-prints in form of a Monograph, however if your article will be full 200 pages, we will dedicate the whole issue of our Journal to it.

Permit me once more, dear Dr.Merrill, to thank you most heartily on behalf of our Institute for your valued co-operation and I am only sorry that Koelz's inadequate labelling of the collection, which you mention, has made the work unnecessarily tedious

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for you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Director.

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NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB

Dec. 4th, 1933

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Many thanks for your letter of October 6th with the enclosed specimen of a part of your manuscript on our collection. As stated in my letter of Oct. 26th, we shall be only too glad to dedicate part of our vol. V. to this important monograph. We highly appreciate your cooperation and look forward to this work with much interest.

With kindest regards and thanking you once more

Sincerely, yours,

Director,

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NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, Br. India

February 2nd 1934.

Dr. E.D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Gardens
New-York. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. M e r r i l l ,

It was with sincere pleasure that we learned the news of your appointment to the newly inaugurated Advisory Scientific Committee to the U.S. Government, and I hasten to send you on behalf of the Institute our congratulations. There can be no doubt that your participation in this important new body will greatly foster botanical and allied research in the U.S. and will help to steer across the present difficult times.

I hope you have received my two previous letters of Oct. 26th and Dec. 4th 1933 regarding your Monograph on the botanical collection, gathered by the Institute's Expeditions of 1930-1931.

We are preparing to issue volume IV of our Journal.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

Director.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Our Institute has recently augmented its botanical collections by some plants which we notice ~~xxxx~~ not ~~xxxx~~ amongst our previous collections and therefore also not in your identification lists. *(As for the Sassurea Gossypifera, probably Lappet)*

Mr. S. Roerich has been conducting extensive researches in the Eriocoryne group of the Sassureas and from various regions he has gathered a very interesting comparative collection of this group. ^{Comprising} Having studied over 5000 specimen, which are preserved at present here and some were grown closely approximating their natural habitat - a large and interesting material has accumulated.

^{David Presn} ~~xxxx~~ We have had some of these plants dried so as to preserve ^(bundles of the usual manner) their natural shape and appearance. We would with pleasure present to you some of these specimen, which may be of interest to you for a habitate group. ^{while} Since the Sassureas are protean in their variety ~~interesting~~ definite and interesting sub-varieties were found of the same group. *or*

Concerning the specimen which we have in our herbarium collected by our previous botanist, ^{Koeltz} which we have under the name ^u ~~Sassurea~~ ^u sacra #2691, we find that our specimen here has seeds over one third of an inch long, whereas the Sacras (according to Hooker, Edgew etc.) ^{would} ~~should~~ have them not longer than one eighth of an inch. Moreover the outer papus hair is completely absent and ^{and leaves slightly spatulate} we fear that ^{our present} the botanist ^{# D. Koeltz} sent you a different specimen not identical with the one left here. In our estimation our specimen #2691 is closer to tridactyla than to sacra. ~~the former~~ We have also come across a ^{some} variety of Sassurea gossypifora (sacra?) which has ^{light apple} green wool, and white flowers.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

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Thank you for your kind letter
concerning you of our ^{best} course
with best wishes

Yours sincerely

We enclose 3 photographs
which may be of interest to
you — —

Dear Dr. Merrill

Mr. Shibayev has transmitted to me contents of your letter of Oct. 25th together with the fragments of the plant ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which you kindly enclosed.

I take pleasure in sending you by parcel post two boxes, containing SAUSSUREA specimens as per list attached. I also enclose a short memorandum of these and should you be interested in having more detailed material I shall be very glad to send more on hearing from you.

Whilst the memorandum is self-explanatory, I would like to add that the few specimen preserved so as to keep their natural shape may be not be the most pytical examples of the groups, but knowing altogether how these will travel, I consider it an experiment and have shosen those which are best calculated to stand the transportation. We ~~already~~ had ~~an~~ many sad accidents with ~~these~~ ^{is} delicate material ~~but~~ that we shall consider it lucky if at least part ~~arrives~~ ^{is} in a useful shape. The pressed specimens I have chosen as being the most representative from the large number collected . All these S.gossypiphoras are not perennial, there size does not depend on age, but represents definite variations. The ~~flowers~~ ^{plants} are usually dead at the end of the third year. It seems that there are groups of definite varieties ~~and~~ according to the district, and these may again cross to produce endless sub-varieties. I have found them ~~most~~ to be gregarious in habit, when in enclosed areas. In the flora of British India by Hooker, there is a reference to s.sorocephala ~~glabrata~~ ^{it}, but I have never come across any grabrous sorocephalas and ~~it~~ ^{there} may be that some variety of gossypiphora was described? Sorocephala is a true perennial and can be propagated by division of roots, tiny bits of roots ~~springing~~ giving shoots within a few days. The question of Saussurea sacra is interesting

because I have myself encountered yogis who referred to the small
s.gossypiphora as to their sacred plant, but naturally such a great
authority as yourself will be able to settle this point once for all.
The specimens in our former collection seemed to ~~belong to different~~
belong to different groups of the Eriocoryne. The seeds of sacra are usually
described as about one eighth to one tenth of an inch, ~~and if the variety~~
~~of one third of an inch would be also considered as s.sacra, this would~~
of one third of an inch would be also considered as s.sacra, this would
indicate a rather wide range of this group. I have found among s.sorocaphalas
a great variety in the size of seeds, and it may be that it is true of
all the groups.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and should there be anything
that may be of interest to you, please do not hesitate to write, as I note
from your letter that there are certain plants of British India, which
you do not find satisfactorily represented, in your collections.

I regret that I was unable for the present to enclose the whitw flowered
variety, since the snow blocked the passes. ~~This~~ This plant constitutes
a direct variation, as in colour, so also in its general shape, since the
wool is much more abundant, and the outer pappus hair very long and nume-
rous.

Yours sincerely,

Sept. 22nd 1934.

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Gardens
New-York, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Our Institute has recently augmented its botanical collections by some plants which we notice are not amongst our previous collections and therefore also not in your identification lists (as for instance: *Saussurea gossypiphora*, *obvalata*, *pappa*).

Mr. Sv. Roerich has been conducting extensive researches in the *Eriocoryne* subgen. of the *Saussureas* and from various regions he has gathered a very interesting comparative collection of this group, comprising over five thousand specimens, which are preserved at present here and some were grown closely approximating their natural habitate. While the *Saussureas* are protean in their variety, definite and interesting sub-varieties were found of the same group. Thus we have also come across a variety of *Saussurea gossypiphora* (*sacra*?), which has dense apple green wool and white flowers.

Besides pressing, we have had some of these plants dried so as to preserve their natural shape and appearance and we would with pleasure present to you some of these specimens, which may be of interest to you for a habitate group.

Concerning the specimens which we have in our herbarium, collected by our previous botanist, which we have under the name of *Saussurea sacra* #2691, we find that our specimen here has seeds over one third of an inch long, whereas the *Sacras* (according to Hooker, Edgew., etc.) would have them not longer than one eighth of an inch. Moreover the outer pappus hair is completely absent and the leaves spatulate, and we fear that our previous botanist Dr. W. Keelz sent you a different specimen, not identical with the one left here. In our estimation our specimen #2691 is closer to *tridactyla* than to *sacra*.

We enclose 3 photographs, which may of interest to you.

P.T.O.

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Thanking you for your kind interest in the past and assuring you of our
best cooperation,
with best wishes

Yours sincerely,

FRIAR BOND
MADE IN SWEDEN

50014

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Jan. 5, 1935.

E. D. Merrill, Esq
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Garden.
New-York, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill,

Mr. Shibayev has transmitted to me the contents of your letter of Oct. 25th 1934, together with the fragments of the plants, which you kindly enclosed.

Our specimen, which is single, is unfortunately not in a very good condition. Its leaves are divided only towards the apex, though the pappus hair seems similar to the fragments you enclose. Our plant appears to be a bi- or triennial, like the *Gossypiphora* in general, but is likely to come from places where the monsoon does not reach. Unfortunately our specimen here is devoid of any field data whatever and I can judge by general characteristics only. We would appreciate any data for this number (#2691) you may have.

With this letter I take pleasure in sending you by parcel post two boxes containing *Saussurea* specimen, as per lists attached. I also enclose a short memorandum on these and should you be interested in having more detailed data, I shall be very glad to send same on hearing from you.

While the memorandum is self-explanatory I would like to add that the few specimen preserved so as to keep their natural shape may not be the most typical examples of the groups, but knowingwing altogether how these will stand transportation, I have chosen a few that are best calculated to survive the trip. We had so many sad accidents with this delicate material that I shall consider it fortunate if at least part *délicareashterjak* in a useful shape.

As to the pressed specimens they were taken from a very large number collected. It is interesting to note that these *s. gossypiphoras* are not perennial but usually triennial, thus their characteristic cannot so much depend on age, but must represent variations within the group. The *s. sorocephala* is of course a true perennial and can be easily propagated by division of roots.

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K
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B
S W E D E N

The *s.gossypiphora* usually blooms at the end of the third year and withers away after seeding. Wherever conditions permit, they are gregarious in habit. I have found up to 300 plants within a short radius. The great variety seems to be determined by locality and cross pollination, as they cross quite easily. However when large numbers of plants are compared four groups at least become quite distinct.

It is also of interest that I have myself met yogis (holy men) who pointed to the smaller plants as being sacred. This is quite interesting, since the designation "sacra" was apparently made after popular tradition.

I regret not to be able to enclose in this sending the white flowered variety. The early snow-fall has completely blocked the pass leading to the isolated plateau where this variety was found. While this plant is not large, about 4-5 inches, the pappus is longer than in others, and so is the seed. There is also a marked abundance of long outer pappus hair. The flower heads are not concealed. I hope to be able to procure a specimen next season and if so will be glad to add it to some sending.

The average size of the seeds of the specimens of *s.gossypiphora* sent to you is from 1/16th to 1/10th of an inch long, none of 1/6th as Hooker has it. The colouring is very remarkable in some cases, as some specimens have a magnificent ruby tint above changing to a purple lower on the stem.

I also enclosed two specimens of *s.sorocephala*, as you may be interested in having this variety.

I hope this small gift will be of use to you. If there is anything you may need as regards some additional material or datae, I shall always be glad to send it on to you.

With all best wishes for the New Year

Yours sincerely,

D
Z
E

Vice-President
Roerich Museum.

P.S. I notice Kew Gardens were gathering seeds of *gentiana argentea*, should you be interested in having some of these, I can always send them to you. They are very hardy plants and very beautiful for borders.

B
Z
S

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

-3.JAN.1935

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23

R. P.-13(b).

CUSTOMS DECLARATION.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS. The nature and value of the contents should be fully and accurately stated. (See Instructions on reverse.)	Value in Indian currency.			Gross weight.		Net weight.	
	Rs.	a.	p.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
BOTANICAL SPECIMENS for Herbarium	NO			116	2	-	-
	commercial						
	value						
Country of origin or of manufacture of the goods	India						

For use of Post Office of Exchange.

No. of tolas rates prepaid

Letter Parcel Bill No.

Date-stamp of office of exchange.

Entry No.

Signature and address of sender.

[Signature]
URUSVA TI
Himalayan Research Institute.
NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB, INDIA

R. P.-13(b).

CUSTOMS DECLARATION.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS. The nature and value of the contents should be fully and accurately stated. (See Instructions on reverse.)	Value in Indian currency.			Gross weight.		Net weight.	
	Rs.	a.	p.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
BOTANICAL SPECIMENS for HERBARIUM	NO			32	0.4		oz
	commercial						
	value						
Country of origin or of manufacture of the goods	INDIA						

For use of Post Office of Exchange.

No. of tolas rates prepaid

Letter Parcel Bill No.

Date-stamp of office of exchange.

Entry No.

Signature and address of sender.

[Signature]
URUSVA TI
Himalayan Research Institute.
NAGGAR, KULU, PUNJAB, INDIA

These plants are specimens growing within the monsoon area or on the ridges where the monsoon breaks. Four varieties are clearly distinguishable:

1/a,b,c - dwarf, flowerheads many, small, hardly perceptible through white wool, with which they are densely covered, thus giving the plant the appearance of a snow ball. Leaves numerous, forming a rosette, i.e. the radical leaves are very developed in contrast to the short, thickly woolled stem leaves. The leaves are above glabrous, thickly woolled on under-surface; strands of wool may be also found on the upper surface of the radical leaves. Root stock usually long, spongy, not much divided. Pappus hair scabrid, seeds about 1/10th of an inch, or less.

2/a,b,c,d - the white woolled large leaved variety, flowerheads concealed, numerous & small as a rule. Central flowerhead not much larger than others, flowers deep blue-purplish-black. The flower may be entirely surrounded by heavy leaves. Plant up to 10".

3/a,b,c,d - small, rarely above 6 inches, often 3-4 stems on one root, sometimes but rarely stem branches. Central flower head much larger than the rest, which are not numerous. Pappus hair often extends beyond involucre bracts, in little tufts.

4/a,b,c - flowerheads not concealed, wool usually pink or ruby red, and often passing through shades of purple. Leaves deep purple or purplish green, very narrow and often distinctly toothed. I have seen specimens with wool extending almost to the tip of the leaf's upper surface. Size up to 6", but often stemless, like *s. sorocephala*. The flowers red or red-purplish in colour; invol. bracts dark purple extended forming a star like effect. The pappus hair also extends in small tufts of a white colour, contrasting with the deep purple of the bracts and pink wool.

These varieties become very obvious when a large number of specimens are examined. The ~~above~~ mentioned number 4/c, from the border of Spiti range, have the appearance of *s. sorocephala*, but leaves are glabrous and are not perennial, like the *sorocephala*, which is a true perennial.

S. Roerich.

SAUSSUREA GOSSYPIPHORA.

- 1/a, b, c - a and c are from Malana Valley, Kulu District, altitude 15,000 ft.
b from Guru Guri Dhar range, towards Chamba border, alt. above 15,000 ft.
c - a sub-variety of a and b - has very narrow leaves.
- 2/a, b, c, d - all four from upper Parbati Valley, between 14,500 - 15,000 ft.
- 3/a, b, c, d - all four from Spiti Range towards Rotang Pass, 15,000 ft.
- 4/a, b, c - a and b from Phuta Sar Lake district, a closed-in morene plateau, 15,000 ft.
c - from Shamsi towards Spiti border.
- 5 - a two year old *s.gossypiphora*, usually flowers on the 3rd year.
- 6/a, b - SAUSSUREA OBVALLATA - from Malana Valley, elevation just below 13,000 ft.
- 7/a, b - SAUSSUREA SOROCEPHALA - from Lahul, about 14,000 ft. The local people make a distinction between this tall few-leaved variety and the short *s.sorocephala* found elsewhere. This variety has often much larger seeds.

- - - -

All the above specimens were collected during August 1934.

Smaller Box
(Specimens dried in natural
shape.)

SAUSSUREA GOSSYPIPHORA.

#1 corresponds to 4/c from Shamsi, about 15,000 ft.

#2 and #3 correspond to sub-varieties of 4/a,b , the larger plant being
artificially coloured, as well as #1, but in life their colour
is still brighter.

#4 and #5 correspond to 3/a,b,c,d.

#6 and #7 correspond to 1/a,b,c.

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May 14 1935

Kulu, Punjab, Brit. India.

E.D. Merrill, Esq Ph.D.
Director-in-Chief
New-York Botanical Garden
New-York.

Dear Sir,

This Institute had pleasure in sending you on Jan. 5th under registered cover a letter under signature of Mr. S. Roerich, Vice-President of Roerich Museum, as well as by registered parcel post 2 boxes with plants as referred to in the letter.

Having received no acknowledgment to this, we write to inquire whether this sending had safely reached you?

Yours very truly,