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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park
New York, N. Y.

January 21, 1931.

Dr. George Roerich, Director
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu Punjab, India.

Dear Doctor Roerich:

The packages of plants announced in your letter of December 14 have been delivered and in the very near future I will commence the study of this material and will send a list of names and families by number to you or to Dr. Koelz.

I shall be personally very much interested in going over this material and will do the best that I can in reference to completing the identifications.

Yours very truly,

Ed Muill

Director-in-Chief.

EDM.HS.

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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

March 31, 1931

Dr. George Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu Punjab, India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I have been unduly delayed in examining the botanical material collected by Dr. Koelz, because practically all of my time in the past few months has been occupied in administrative details in connection with the creation of numerous positions to assist the present unemployment situation in New York; none of these temporary employees were trained for work in our field and a great deal of supervisions has been necessary.

Shortly after the collection was received in New York I had the specimens poisoned and mounted and then prepared the enclosed preliminary list of sight identifications; my next step was to have the specimens arranged by families, and yesterday I commenced the actual study of the material and prepared the first two sheets of the supplementary list enclosed. I shall be able to devote some time each day to a continuation of this work and will send you supplementary lists from time to time during the next few weeks.

I find that the flora represents one with which I have little familiarity so that in making the identifications it is necessary for me to compare specimens in the herbarium and to a very considerable degree to consult the extensive literature on the botany of northern India. I shall within the next month be able to supply you with the necessary supplementary lists covering the bulk of the material. There are a few families that are particularly critical such as the Umbelliferae, where I will probably be able to make very little progress. I could have worked to much better advantage had I been supplied with more abundant specimens; in many cases it is highly desirable that a specimen be divided and material supplied to specialists, but I have been unable to do this with Dr. Koelz's collection, because in no case was a sufficient amount of material supplied in the study set to attempt the necessary division. I have written to Dr. Koelz regarding this matter, suggesting that in future sendings that the study set be made more ample so that I will be in a position to enlist the services of specialists in critical groups.

I take advantage of this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy in having forwarded to me the package of seeds announced in your letter of January 31; we are indeed very glad to have this material and would greatly appreciate further sendings. I suspect that many of the species will thrive under our climatic conditions; naturally, I am interested in building up our collection of living plants in order that we can secure material from which colored illustrations can be made for ultimate publication in our journal "Addisonia."

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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park
New York, N. Y.

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Dr. Horch has been out to the Garden several times recently, and I showed him the material as mounted the last time he was here and discussed with him various matters appertaining to the work. I am to lecture at the evening series of the Roerich Museum the latter part of this month, having elected to give an illustrated talk on the Philippines and some of the problems in connection with this interesting group of islands.

Further supplementary lists of identifications will be mailed to you before the end of this week.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM/GMS

(Enclosure)

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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

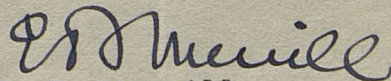
April 6, 1931

Dr. George Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu Punjab, India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

Continuing my recent letter appertaining to the identifications of the Koelz collection, I enclose herewith supplementary lists as far as I have been able to carry the identifications at present. I shall continue the work of determining the material as I have the opportunity and in the course of a week or two should be able to supply you with additional lists.

Very truly yours



E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM/GMS

(Enclosure)

5

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park
New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

April 22, 1931

Dr. George Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu Punjab, India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I enclose herewith a memorandum for Dr. Koelz, a summary statement of the specimens actually submitted by him for identification, and a third supplementary list of determinations by families. But for the fact that the last few families of our oriental material are not as yet organized, I could probably complete these supplementary lists of determinations within a week or so; as it is I must now wait until the families above the Labiatae are actually systematized. This work has been carried on for somewhat over a year, and is now very rapidly being brought to a close. As soon as possible I shall send you additional supplementary lists.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM/GMS

(Enclosures)

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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

June 9, 1931

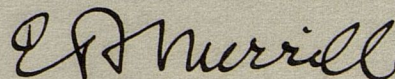
Dr. George Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu
Punjab, India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

Responding to your letter of May 7, I enclose herewith the missing page 2 of the preliminary list of identifications, and at the same time enclose another supplementary list carrying the identifications through to the end of the Compositae. I was delayed in making the final identifications, because our oriental material was not arranged, and the last genus cover was actually written only a week ago; I now have all of the oriental material arranged in order so that the specimens can be readily consulted.

Our Head Gardener reports that he is getting excellent results from the seeds sent by you; a great many of them have germinated, and we shall deliberately place the young plants out of doors this summer, with view to testing whether or not the perennial species will stand our winter climatic conditions. Needless to state, we shall be very glad indeed to receive further seeds from medium and higher altitudes in the Himalayan region and in Tibet. I am quite confident that many of the native species there will thrive under our climatic conditions.

Very truly yours



E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM/GMS

(Enclosure)

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The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx Park

New York, N. Y.

Telephone Sedgwick 3-3200

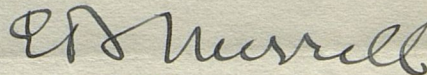
July 27, 1931

Mr. George de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Mr. Roerich:

I have recently received three packages of botanical specimens representing additional collections made by Dr. Koelz. I find the specimens to be in good condition. The material has already been poisoned and will be mounted at once. As soon as the specimens are mounted I will commence the actual identification of the material and report the names to the Himalayan Research Institute by number as promptly as possible.

Very truly yours



E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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JOHN L. MERRILL
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HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

February 16, 1932.

The Director,
Urusvati,
Himalayan Research Institute,
Naggar, Kulu,
Punjab, India.

Dear Sir:-

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a package of seeds forwarded by you to The New York Botanical Garden. This material is very greatly appreciated, and from these seeds we will undoubtedly be able to secure a considerable number of species to add to our living collections. Incidentally, the seeds forwarded by you about a year ago have been propagated here, and it has been suggested to me that it might be desirable for the Garden to make an exhibition of Himalayan seedling plants at the International Flower Show to be held in the Grand Central Palace, New York, in the early Spring. I am considering this matter now but do not know whether or not such an exhibit would qualify under the rules of the International Flower Show.

Very truly yours,

EDM-HS

(enclosure)

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director.

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March 4, 1932

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

A few days ago I received your letter of January 21, which was the first intimation that I had that Dr. Koelz was about to cease his work with your institute in India. A day or two after your letter reached me, Mr. Horch and Miss Lichtmann came out to the office to discuss the situation with me, and I learned from them that Dr. Koelz was under orders to return to New York, leaving India in March; and further that there was apparently some dissatisfaction with his work and attitude more particularly, perhaps, in reference to his desires to prosecute zoological field work rather than botanical field work.

In thinking through the situation, it seems to me that what you need primarily is the services of an individual well trained in pharmacology, and, if possible, an individual with botanical proclivities, that is, one who is not only interested in drugs and drug plants, but one who is interested in the botanical problems associated with a study of drug plants. I do not know whether or not I can locate a properly qualified individual in the United States, but I will do the best that I can. Assuming that you will add to your staff an individual qualified in pharmacology, I think that you can carry on the necessary field work in botany most productively by utilizing the services of native collectors. Whether or not they have a knowledge of English is immaterial, as they can compile their field notes in the native dialect, and these can readily be translated into English. If a properly qualified native be employed, I think that you will find that he will do just as well as a field collector as would a highly trained and experienced American or European. He would have the further advantage of knowing the country, the habitats, the native names of plants and their economic uses, and will, of course, be in a position to secure information that ^{he} does not possess from his own countrymen. If you can select the right type of man for this field work, he will need comparatively little supervision. After all, the mechanics appertaining to the preparation of good botanical specimens are simple, and as long as the material is consecutively numbered, accurate identifications can be added to your retained set from numbered lists of identifications whether the material

be identified in New York or at some other place.

I have frankly been rather disappointed in Dr. Koelz's field work in botany in that he apparently gave little or no attention to native names and local uses of plants; and after all, the native name is most essential in case other members of your staff desire to secure material in bulk for chemical studies in connection with possible medicinal uses. Most of Dr. Koelz's specimens that were sent to me were well prepared as specimens, but, unfortunately, the material was usually altogether too scanty for a study set, as he gave me no opportunity whatever of dividing the specimens in order that I might enlist the cooperation of various specialists in critical groups in Europe and in America. I wrote him a number of times regarding this point, but the collections showed no improvement whatever along the lines of my suggestions. It is, of course, a manifest thing that no botanist is in a position to handle all groups of plants, and he must, to be most productive, be able to enlist the cooperation of specialists in particular groups. It is an accepted thing among botanists that for identifications they receive a set of duplicates of the specimens they actually identify. This could very easily have been arranged here if the study set, as to individual specimens, had been sufficiently ample so that in case of necessity I could have divided the material, retaining a part here, and sending a part of individual numbers to various institutions particularly in Europe.

In order that I may be able to negotiate intelligently with botanical candidates for appointment, I need more specific information than that supplied in your letter. I think I know the qualifications the man should have to receive appointment. I would like to know, however, the minimum and maximum salary that would be allowed, the expected term of service (presumably two years), what traveling allowance is provided, and what allowances are made for quarters and subsistence in Naggar. With these data in hand I would be in a position to enter into correspondence with various individuals with view to locating a number of men who might be considered for appointment, requesting them to supply all the information you desire in order that it may be transmitted to you through the New York office.

Mr. Horch and I have discussed this matter in some detail and doubtless will have other conferences in the not distant future. I am sending him a copy of this letter for his information.

If Dr. Koelz is to remain in New York for the remainder of his contract with your institution, I will do the best I can to direct his work along the lines of classifying in detail and reporting on the collections already available here. I do hope, however, that it will be possible for you to supply me with a good study set of the collections made during the past year, as nearly a year has elapsed since any botanical material was received from Naggar. Doubtless you will have seen the last letter that I addressed to Dr. Koelz, which was enclosed in an envelope addressed to you. I assume that Dr. Koelz is much better qualified by training and experience to identify his zoological material than he is to do

Dr. Georges de Roerich

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March 4, 1932

intensive work on his botanical collections. The point of view and the literature involved, as well as the technique, is very different as between zoology and botany, and I do not think that Dr. Keolz has ever prosecuted any botanical investigations other than the comparatively simple matter of preparing botanical specimens.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

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April 22, 1932

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

Mr. Horch gave me your letter of March 8th, and I had a long conference with him and with Miss Litchmann regarding the unsatisfactory situation that has developed in India regarding Dr. Koelz. Dr. Koelz arrived in New York a few days ago, and I had a personal conference with him. Doubtless Mr. Horch is keeping you posted regarding developments in this case.

I regret exceedingly that the matter has turned out in such an unsatisfactory way. I shall naturally keep in touch with the situation, and sincerely hope that in the not distant future a settlement will be reached that is reasonably satisfactory to both parties concerned. In conversation with Dr. Koelz, he appears to be reasonable in his attitude, but he impresses me as being distinctly erratic, and I gain the impression that statements that he may make to me in person may not agree at all with statements he makes to other individuals.

Expressing my deep regret at the turn events have taken in this case, I am,

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

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November 9, 1932.

Dr. Geo. Roerich
Himalayan Research Institute
Naggar, Kulu
Punjab, British India.

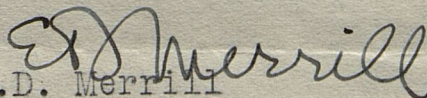
Dear Doctor Roerich:

Referring to our previous correspondence, I enclose herewith a list of identifications of the material in several families, representing the Koelz collection.

The groups covered are particularly the grass family, the Cyperaceae, the Boraginaceae, and the relatively Hepaticae and Algae.

I have had the assistance of Doctor Hitchcock in identifying the grasses, that of Doctor Johnston in identifying the Boraginaceae, and that of Mr. Kückenthal of the Cyperaceae. We are making good progress in identifying the material in other families and from time to time I will forward the lists of identification to you.

Yours very truly,


E.D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM.HA
ENCL.

cc Mr. Horst.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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December 6, 1932.

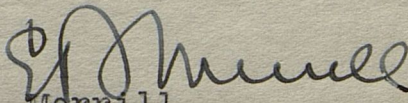
Dr. Geo. de Roerich,
Himalayan Research Institute,
Naggar, Kulu,
Punjab, India.

Dear Doctor Roerich:

I enclose herewith sheets 7-10 incl. covering identifications of the Koelz material in part. In the Plantaginaceae the identifications are by Doctor Pilger; in the Primulaceae and the second genera of Compositae reported on page 7 by Doctor Handel-Mazetti; the specimens of Polygonaceae by Doctor Samuelsson; the other genera by Doctor Rechinger; and the Cruciferae by Doctor O. E. Schulz.

Additional identifications will be forwarded as rapidly as possible and eventually, when we shall have worked through all of the material, I hope to be able to supply you with a list in numerical order.

Yours very truly


E. D. Merrill
Director-in-Chief

EDM.HA.
ENCL.

cc Mr. Horst^{ch}
Roerich Museum
New York N.Y.

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THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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TREASURER
JOHN L. MERRILL
BUSINESS MANAGER
HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

February 10, 1933

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I enclose herewith a continuation of the identification of the Koelz botanical material covering pages 11-17 inclusive. The work is being prosecuted as rapidly as possibly and most of the larger groups have now been covered. From time to time as identifications of the specimens in natural families are completed, continuation lists will be prepared and forwarded to you. Eventually I hope to be able to supply a list of identifications in strictly numerical order for your convenience.

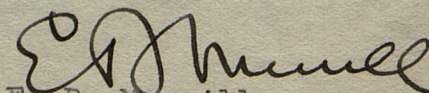
I learned with deep regret of Dr. Koelz return to India but sincerely hope that satisfactory arrangements can be made whereby his stay will not seriously interfere with the operations of your Institute. It is to me, however, a rather surprising thing, in view of what has occurred in the past, that he was permitted by the University of Michigan to return to Kulu. India is such a large place that there would seem to be enough to do in natural history exploration in other parts of that vast country, rather than Koelz electing to locate in the immediate vicinity of your base.

Dr. R. R. Stewart of Gordon College, Rawalpindi, is spending his sabbatical year in New York and is now at The New York Botanical Garden engaged in working up his own extensive botanical collections from the northwestern Himalayan region. He has been of very much assistance to me in making the identifications of the Koelz collection because of his familiarity with the salient features of the flora of the region involved. I shall get him in touch with Mr. Horch before he leaves New York, for I believe that he is in a position to be of the very greatest assistance to you in India in a consulting capacity in reference to the possible development of your proposed botanical work. He has a wide working knowledge of the species characteristic of the entire region and would be in a position to give you very prompt and accurate identifications of current collections.

Very truly yours

EDM/GMS

(Enclosure)


E. D. Merrill
Director

29 16

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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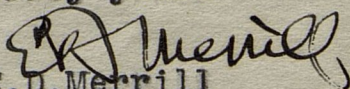
March 18, 1933

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I enclose herewith three additional pages of identifications of the Koelz collection, by families. We still have a number of groups to study, but the determinations will be forwarded to you as rapidly as possible. Unfortunately we have had some serious budgetary troubles in the past few weeks and much of my time has been devoted to adjusting our problems to a reduced budget.

I sincerely hope that satisfactory adjustments have been made in the Koelz matter. I cannot understand why he was permitted to return to India to take up headquarters in immediate proximity to your institution in view of what has transpired; and particularly so, because India is such a large country and from which material would be desirable from almost any part of it. The situation is indeed an exasperating one, and my great personal regret is that I was the man who, on the basis of excellent recommendations however, recommended Dr. Koelz to you for appointment originally.

Very truly yours


E.D. Merrill

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THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab, India

May 23, 1933

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I enclose supplementary lists of Koelz identifications; also a reprint of a paper by Hitchcock in which he treats a few interesting grasses from this collection. Our chief delay in completing the task of determining the material is because the time it takes for various specialists in Berlin and elsewhere to make their identifications of material in special groups where duplicates were sent for this purpose.

A serial numbered list of current identifications was impossible because of Koelz peculiar method of numbering; he frequently used a system like this 2156, 2156a, 2156b, occasionally running through nearly the entire alphabet. Accordingly our preliminary reports could be by families only, as we could not "set up" a numbered sequence as we could have done had he used strictly serial numbers without the letters. A simple series would have enabled us to list by numbers, writing in the names as determinations were made, and from time to time sending you lists in numerical sequence. It is my plan to prepare such a list when the determinations are more nearly completed.

I enclose a reprint for your use, based in part on some grasses collected by Koelz.

I can only express my sincere hope that the Koelz matter may be adjusted by his transfer to some place other than Kulu. It must be exasperating in the extreme to have him so close to your base in India.

Dr. Stewart plans to return to India in August or September. He is remarkably well posted on the flora of your region and he has made very many of the Koelz identifications, studying the material in connection with his own specimens.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Director

Enclosures

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JOHN L. MERRILL
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HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

Sept. 16, 1933

Dear Dr. Roerich:

After various delays of one kind or another I have at last succeeded in preparing a numerical list of the Koelz collection from 1800 to 3239, copy enclosed. If Koelz had used a single number series, or rather a simple number series, partial lists in sequence could have been forwarded from time to time, but with his unfortunate use of letters from a, b, to the entire alphabet in some cases, it was impossible even to "set up" a number sequence here until practically the entire collection was studied; and even then, you will note that I have, on each sheet, been obliged to attach supplementary lists.

I have not received determinations from several European specialists, so there may be some additional lists later; corrections and additions. I decided not to delay longer, under the circumstances, and so personally made approximate determinations here, even when duplicates were in the hands of specialists.

Missing numbers in this list may be explained by the fact that the mosses are not included, no determinations yet; by some specimens (few only) not determinable from lack of essential parts; by specimens named and through error distributed into the general herbarium before the names were listed, etc.

I have not tried to list by number the earlier numbers as the sheets are long since distributed into the general herbarium and it would be a time-consuming task to look them up for listing.

It does occur to me, however, that you might wish prepared for publication in your Journal an enumeration of this collection. If you are interested in this I would be glad to supply a few sample entries and give you an estimate of the time it might take to prepare the paper; such an enumeration, even a comparatively simple one, would make a fairly extensive paper, possibly 200 pages or more depending on what was included. My idea would be to enumerate the species giving the original citation to place of publication and merely enough synonyms to explain the accepted names, including, of course, a reference to the Fl. Brit. Ind. List the collections by numbers, giving the most essential of important field data, and the altitudinal and geographic distribution of each species; if I undertook this I would follow the International Code of nomenclature. Again my undertaking the task would of necessity involve securing the determinations from specialists who have not yet reported. I couldn't do it alone, as my time is too much taken up with other matters, but would make a joint authorship affair with one of the

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younger staff members, depending in him to handle the details in preparing the MS. under my close supervision. The number of new species in the collection is very limited, for the reason that the flora is a relatively "poor" one as compared with the more humid tropical regions, and that most of the species are of relatively wide geographic distribution. I note the same thing in Pampanini's recent Flora of the Caracorum region, a flora rather closely allied to that of the regions explored by Koelz. There has, of course, been rather extensive botanical collecting done in the region that Koelz worked in the past 125 years or more.

If you should wish the MS, and can publish it, please let me know at your convenience and I will see what can be done regarding it. I could only wish that Koelz had collected and added vernacular names, which he did not!!-- it would make a technical enumeration more useful locally.

When I started on this Himalayan work some three years ago I had no knowledge of the flore of that region or its literature. It has been somewhat of a task to master the details, but we now feel that we have sufficient accumulated knowledge to go ahead on a technical enumeration with confidence that most of our determinations are correct if such an enumeration is desirable.

I regret the delays in reporting on these collections, but they were unavoidable, partly due to numerous other things I had to do, partly due to lack of authentic material for comparison, partly due to delays on the part of certain specialists to whom I sent material for study, and partly due to the fact that very much of the work I had to do personally as no other member of our staff has any working knowledge of the Asiatic flora or its literature. Dr. R.R. Stewart of Gordon College, Rawalpindi, has been of very great assistance to me, making many of the determinations in connection with his study of his own material from floristically closely allied regions. Incidentally should you need local botanical advice, please communicate with him, as he sailed for India only about two weeks ago after spending his sabbatical year here.

Very truly yours

E.D. Merrill

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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NEW YORK, N. Y.

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

October 6, 1933

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

In continuation of my last letter to you in which I discussed the matter of the possible preparation of an enumeration of the Koelz botanical collections for publication in your Magazine, I enclose herewith a write-up of two genera - Rosa and Rubus - to give you some idea of how the manuscript might be prepared. I believe I explained to you that if an enumeration was prepared, it would involve a considerable amount of space for printing. Naturally, we do not wish to take the time here to prepare such an extensive manuscript unless it may be printed, as all of the specimens cited will have to be critically examined as the enumeration progresses, and all of the citations to literature will have to be checked in the library to volume, page, and date of issue in each case to guard against possible errors.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

Enclosure

P.S. There might be as many as 1000 entries like the samples enclosed, for each separate species would take one some amount, some longer. An enumeration much more abbreviated than my outline is worth very little EDM

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August 12, 1935

Dr. Georges de Roerich
Urusvati Himalayan Institute
of the Roerich Museum
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab
India

Dear Dr. Roerich:

I enclose herewith a brief report on the *Saussurea* material forwarded some months ago for examination. The material reached me at a time when I was exceedingly busy with other matters, and, unfortunately, when I did find some spare time in which to examine the material the painters and plasters were at work in the herbarium room, and I could not get at the reference collections until this task was finished.

I am no specialist on the Compositae, and the genus *Saussurea* is a peculiarly difficult one to study from dried material as the differential characters are sometimes obscure. The number of species in central Asia and in China and Tibet is particularly large, and, again, unfortunately, many of the original descriptions are inadequate. My situation is further complicated by the fact that we have relatively little reference material from India for purposes of comparison. My advice would be to send material to some specialist, but, unfortunately, I do not know of any specialist in this particular genus. Over two years ago I sent a set of the Koelz Compositae to Berlin for identification in order to check our preliminary determinations but so far have received no report.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill
Director

EDM/GMS

Enclosure

Change of Address

Dr. E. D. Merrill, Director, New York Botanical Garden, announces his resignation effective September 30, 1935 to accept the position of Administrator of Botanical Collections, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 1, 1935. His future address will be Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.