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THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

(BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P.O.)

New York, N.Y.

July 19, 1932.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann,
Vice President, Boerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

The two cases of botanical material were delivered yesterday and as soon as I can possibly do so I will render a report to you on the number of specimens included. I examined the material in two packages this morning, and I find that apparently the task of arranging the material is going to be a heavy one, because in one package, containing somewhat over 100 numbers, I found no labels other than the number slips so that I am puzzled as to just what to do in reference to having labels printed as to locality. I have an idea that this material is largely from Tibet, but, unfortunately, Tibet is a fairly large area and, of course, there is no evidence on the material examined and it was actually from Tibet. Have you any information as to the regions in which Dr. Koelz collected? Would I be safe in having the labels printed "Plants of Tibet"?

Before I can render a report as to the approximate number of specimens it will be necessary for me to have all the material in all the packages examined, the specimens laid out on single sheets, arranged serially by numbers, and then count the sheets. In the meantime, I hope that it may be possible to get some information regarding the locality or localities in which the collection was made.

EDM:CMS

Very truly yours,
E. D. Merrill

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
Bronx Park
New York City, N.Y.

October 5th, 1934.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann
Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

I checked up your inquiry yesterday and find that none of the species of Saussurea mentioned by you occur in the Koelz collection, although he collected perhaps a dozen or fifteen species of this genus.

We have specimens of S. lappa collected by Stewart in Kashmir and old specimens of S. obvallata collected by Wallach between 1820 and 1830. Koelz collected a number of specimens of S. sorocephala, a species that is very closely allied to S. gossypina; we do not have any authentic specimens of the latter species in our collections, but we do have excellent material of S. gossyphiphora from the Stewart collection in Kashmir. If you need material of any of the species that we have, I shall be very glad to loan you our herbarium sheets. For most of the Koelz collection I had only the study set, a single specimen of each species; there were some duplicates of the later collections but none in this particular genus.

Very truly yours,

E.D. Merrill,
Director.

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The New York Botanical Garden,
March 18, 1935.

Mr. Louis Horch,
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Horch:

You will remember that we agreed to make an intensive study of the Koelz plants collected for the Himalayan Research Institute. We have now finished the manuscript of the ferns and monocotyledonous orders, a total of 114 pages of 3-space copy. Of this I enclose herewith 43 pages for your inspection, and for a decision as to whether or not we should proceed. The completed manuscript represents a consideration of approximately one-third of the entire lot of material; i.e., without the introduction, which should be very short, the completed manuscript should be in the neighborhood of 350 typed pages, 3-space.

The point is this, if this can be printed in the Himalayan Research Journal, or otherwise either in the U.S. or in India where the printing costs are low, we will be glad to go ahead with the intensive study of the remaining material, and complete the manuscript as soon as possible. You will understand of course that progress is necessarily slow as much critical work has to be done and all references and synonymy have to be verified.

We could determine on a title and write up the introduction, so that actual publication could commence shortly if this is desirable, utilizing the manuscript already completed; the paper to be continued at a later date when the manuscript shall have been completed.

If funds are low, and chances of publication slight, we would prefer to postpone further work for the present, because we all have more than we can possibly do on other collections. Several months of intensive work will be required in which to complete this manuscript.

When finished will you please return the manuscript as we have no other copy other than the rough draft. You may have to send it to India: do not hesitate to do so. The pages sent give very general idea of what the text is like. We have aimed to include only essential synonyms, the references to the original places of publication, and supplementary references to standard works such as "F.B.I." - Flora of British India."

I am leaving at once for Cuba and will be away about two weeks.

Very truly yours,

E.D. MERRILL (per D.S.)
Director.

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New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.)
New York City.
June 17, 1935.

Miss Sina Lichtmann,
Himalayan Research Institute,
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York City.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

I have your letter of June 13 and will see what can be done regarding the completion of the enumeration of plants collected under the auspices of the Himalayan Research Institute.

In spite of the fact that I am resigning to accept an appointment at Harvard University early this fall, it is probably that through the cooperation of Mr. Wittrock we will be able to complete the manuscript enumeration of "Koelz" plants.

For the past month I have been rather upset scarcely knowing whether to accept or reject the offer of the appointment at Cambridge and finally decided on Saturday that it would be best for me to accept the appointment and transfer my botanical activities to Cambridge. This will be in October.

Very truly yours,

E.D. Merrill, Director.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

June 24, 1935.

Miss Sina Lichtmann,
Himalayan Research Institute
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

Thanks for your letter of June 21 and for the manuscript received today.

The logical title of the proposed "enumeration would be "an enumeration of the Koelz plants" etc. but I readily see reasons why this needs modification. We need a short descriptive title, perhaps "Himalayan plants collected for the Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum." I would like a shorter one if possible but it seems to be difficult to make a shorter descriptive title.

In the introduction I shall have to add a short statement to the effect that Koelz collected the plants, otherwise the cited numbers would be meaningless.

We will proceed with the preparation of the manuscript and I feel certain that it can be completed in spite of my impending transfer to Cambridge. It will be a joint paper by Merrill and Wittrock.

I still hope to get certain identifications on the basis of material sent to European specialists, but even without these, we will be able to account for most of the species.

Very truly yours,

(sig.)

E.D. Merrill,
Director

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