

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

June 24, 1920.

Dr. B. L. Robinson,
Gray Herbarium,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I have your letter of June 21st concerning the British Guiana plants. I am very glad that you find them of use and that they will be a valuable addition to your collection.

You, of course, understand that I went to British Guiana primarily to study and collect the grasses. The collection of other plants was incidental from my standpoint. For this reason I have no especial interest in the miscellaneous collection after they are distributed to the contributing institutions. I think it would not be worth while to send me a list of the identifications, though, of course, the National Herbarium would be pleased to have such a list. It seemed to me that it would be the best thing to turn over to you the responsibility of having the plants determined since you, probably more than the other institutions, are interested in the flora of North and South America. Therefore if you are willing to undertake this I shall be very glad to turn the whole matter over to you to

2--Dr. B. L. Robinson.

do as you wish. That relieves me of all further responsibility as to the collection other than grasses. It is for this reason that I sent you the fourth set and also the most complete of the other sets. In this case it will be for you to determine how the various groups should be distributed to specialists for identification and I think the reports should come to you rather than to me. If I had had time to penetrate to the mountainous districts of the south, Roraima for instance, the results would have been much more interesting. This, however, was impracticable with the time and funds at my command.

I am thinking some of undertaking a similar trip to Venezuela or Colombia the coming winter. It may be too early for you to indicate whether you would be in position to contribute towards such a trip. I shall probably go soon after the first of January and remain about four months. What I say now is only tentative as I cannot yet formulate my own plans. I am wondering if it will be possible to have as much as \$500. each from your institution and from the New York Botanical Garden? I might be able to provide as much from here.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

Systematic Agrostologist.

New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York City.

July 6, 1920

Dr. B. L. Robinson

Gray Herbarium, Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

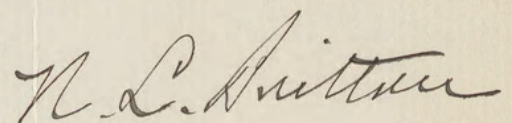
My dear Doctor:

Thank you for your letter of July 3rd. I expect the fourth set of Hitchcock's Guiana plants is quite as well left with you as it would be at Washington. I have been so much occupied with my own Trinidad collection that I have not had time to overhaul Hitchcock's material at all yet, but will have it organized during the summer and named up along the lines you suggest. Yes, we should like to have a copy of the list of determinations you have made, and we will send you a list of whatever we can name here. Pennell can do the Scrophulariaceae as you suggest; I will do the sedges; Small will do Malpighiaceae; Barnhart will do Lentibulariaceae; and there are various other small families that we can take care of.

I am likely to have to go to Europe in August, and thought I would like to take along some of this northern South American material for comparison with named material at Kew, in order to help the job a little to that extent.

Yes, if you will send the Trinidad collection made by Johnston along I will look it over right away and return it to you.

Yours faithfully



Director-in-Chief

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 12, 1920.

Dr. B. L. Robinson,
Gray Herbarium of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dear Doctor Robinson:

Your letter of June 29th relating to the identification of Mr. Hitchcock's British Guiana plants was duly received. Mr. Hitchcock had discussed with me the determination of the collection before his last letter to you, and we were agreed that while the identification of the collection might very properly be cooperative, it would be best on all accounts to have the work directed by some one person,--in this case yourself. Such help as we can give here will, of course, be very gladly given, but Mr. Standley is already pretty heavily loaded up with work and except for families in which he is particularly interested or engaged in monographing, I doubt if he would feel that he could be of very much assistance. I shall be glad to name the ferns as soon as the plants are mounted and of course you can count upon Mr. Blake for those groups in which he is especially interested. I would suggest, therefore, that you take the matter up directly with Mr. Blake and, in the case of the Umbelliferae, with Doctor Rose. Mr. Standley would probably look after such of the Rubiales as are not easily recognizable.

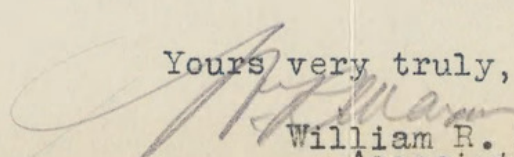
We should be very glad to have the partial list of identifications to which you refer. As an alternative to sending out partial lists, how would it do to prepare a single list of numbered entries for circulation among the three institutions, the names to be written in by the botanists making the identifications? This would merely mean a little extra postage. The fact of evident lacunae to be filled might serve as a spur on everybody's part.

As to the other groups I should certainly think it would be a good idea to send the orchids to Ames, the Senecios to Greenman, and the Loranthaceae to Doctor Trelease, who, I presume, would be glad to look after the Pipers also.

I am engaged just now in laying out a set of my Jamaican ferns, and hope to get them off to you within a few days. The flowering plants, which will be listed separately, ought to follow within a short time, but it will take some time to get identifications for the ^{lower} cryptogams.

With best regards,

Yours very truly,


William R. Maxon
Associate Curator
Division of Plants.

New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park,
New York City.

October 1, 1920

Dr. B. L. Robinson

Gray Herbarium, Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

My dear Dr. Robinson:

I shall be very glad indeed to identify Professor Hitchcock's specimens of Vernonia and Elephantopus. I should also like to look at his collections in the family Lobeliaceae. I have been engaged with these plants for two or three months past and find it very difficult to make any progress. Northern South America seems to be full of new species in this family. Of twenty-four sheets sent to England with Dr. Britton, not one can be matched with anything in the Kew Herbarium. It is doubtful, therefore, whether I can identify all of his lobeliads but I would at least do the best I could.

Very truly yours

H. A. Gleason

Acting Director

October 2, 1920.
Urbana, Illinois.

Dr. B. L. Robinson,
Gray Herbarium,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Robinson:-

I have not authentic collections here that warrant me in supposing that I can name without too much waste of time any of the Loranthaceae except Phoradendron. Of course I shall be more than pleased to look over any thing in that genus - even if uniques that you want returned.

Just now I am trying to round up Piper, north of the Isthmus. Ultimately it is probable that I shall go over the South American species: but as yet there are very few of them that I should care to name.

Unfortunately I do not know of any one who would do adequate work in either group.

Probably you have none of my friends in Liliaceae or Amaryllidaceae, but if you have I could attend to them promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. D. C. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

October 7, 1920.

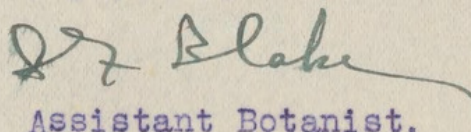
Dr. B. L. Robinson,
Gray Herbarium,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I received your letter regarding the identification of some of Professor Hitchcock's collection from British Guiana and shall be glad to help in it to the best of my ability. The Compositae which you ask me to name are not accessible at present here, as they are being mounted by outside parties. Mr. Standley tells me that they will probably be returned very soon, when I shall be glad to name them, or I could name them now if you are in a hurry and care to send down your material of the numbers mentioned. I could also look after the Polygonaceae and Lauraceae.

I have not had a chance to look over any of Professor Hitchcock's plants as they were all sent away to be mounted.

Sincerely yours,


Assistant Botanist.

SFB/HT



Hitchcock, A. S. et al. 1919. "Correspondence to B.L. Robinson." *Plant lists : British Guiana*

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