

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

B. L. ROBINSON, Curator

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

19 Nov. 1909.

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

This afternoon we have had at the Gray Herbarium some very good news and I feel sure you will rejoice with us in it. Mr. Kidder came out to see the new wing and after looking it over told me that he should like to pay for that part of our proposed building and have it called the Kidder Wing. He asked how we were situated in regard to the matter and I explained that we had received one thousand dollars from an anonymous donor on the understanding that it was to be applied on this much needed addition. He seemed a trifle disappointed at this and said he had hoped to pay the whole cost of the wing, exclusive of the furnishings. The structure will cost about eleven thousand dollars, and except for your very kind gift of one thousand I had anticipated that we should have to cover the cost from such yearly savings as we could effect from our income. You can readily imagine how greatly Mr. Kidder's offer relieves the situation. Although I felt that some extension of our quarters had become absolutely necessary I confess I was a good deal chagrined at the idea of having the Herbarium run into debt even for a few years. This was especially awkward just at a time when we must expect some unusual expenses in connection with the furnishing of the new wing, the removal of the Gray dwelling, the grading of its site, refinishing our wall on that side, etc. Thanks to Mr. Kidder's generosity we can be relieved of the expense of the new wing and devote our savings to these other matters.



In consideration of Mr. Kidder's wish to defray the entire expense of building the new wing, I am anxious to know if you would mind letting the one thousand dollars of your gift last spring, which we had intended to use on the building, be applied on steel cases for its furnishing. I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me know about this within a few days as Mr. Kidder has desired me to ascertain whether the anonymous donor of the thousand dollar subscription would mind having <sup>it</sup> applied to some other need of the Herbarium than the construction of the new wing.

You will remember that you gave another thousand dollars last spring to be used in the purchase of books for our library. I want to tell you that this has meant a great deal to us in the last few days. Weigel, the Leipzig book-dealer, has just issued a catalogue of the library of the late Franz Buchenau. This catalogue contains a very large number of the smaller and rarer European floras and other papers on systematic botany, the carefully selected accumulation of years of scholarly botanical activity and including many which rarely come on the market. Such private libraries are becoming few and this is an exceptional opportunity to fill up little lacunae (as well as a few larger ones) in the library of the Gray Herbarium. Thanks to your liberality I have been able to order freely from this catalogue, in fact several hundred titles.

With kindest regards and the feeling that you will rejoice with us, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*T. B. L. Robinson.*

*P.S. Until the business arrangements in connection with Mr. Kidder's gift are entirely settled I suppose it will be best for us not to mention it.*



Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln. 1909. "Robinson, Benjamin L. 19 Nov 1909."  
*George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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