

Prof. Rosa Gray, Cambridge, Mass.

Flaegenfurt, 1. III. 1871.

Dear Sir!

Your honoured letter of Decbr 16 1870 has reached me in consequence of the fatal war the 15. January 1871. It has pleased me very much, being only the second answer I received of my invitation letters and parcels of 1868. I than addressed following botanists: Mr. W. S. Ingham, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. Georg Engelmann, St. Louis, Miss.; Dr. Charles Sartorius, Mirador, Mexico; Dr. Philippi, Santiago, Chili; Dr. Schisch de Capianema, Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Ferdinand Müller, Melbourne, Vict., but only the latter deigned me an answer.

I send you through the Smithsonian. Instit. "Fosch, flora von Kärnten" that you will see what a rich and fine alpine flora grows in our country and a few popular compositions in our periodical Carinthia. — Since my last letter of 30. VI. 1868 I collected at Raibl on the frontier between Italy, Gorizia and Carniolasome rare plants as *Rhysium Kützianum* var. *Rochelii*, *Asperula longiflora*, *Galium aristatum*, *Aquilegia thalictrifolia*, *Pucedanum roblense*, *Woodisia glabella* (only 4 specim.) and many others, which I will be glad to send you in autumn with others to be collected in the season 1871. Pamphlets on the botany of Raibl and the new cryptogamic Discoveries in Carinthia, as *Dicranum fulvum* c. fr. a. v. are in press and you will favour me by their acceptance after their edition. In my next parcel you will

also find a eulogy of Dr. Franz Unger, the physiologist and phytogeologist by Prof. Dr. Alexander Reyer, at present out of Catania, Sicily (whom I tempted to collect these ferns and mosses) which is in press and I corrected in consequence of the wide remoteness of the author.

Our small country only by German miles (1 = 5 English miles) is like Switzerland, Tirol, Salzburg etc. a very alpine land, the deepest depression in the Southeast at Unterzumburg is 1059' of Vienna, the highest eminence the Grossglockner with 12013' over the level of the Adriatic. On the frontier of sunny Italy we have an almost arctic winter from October to March, but in summer the land is very fine, the lower mountains all wooded with pines (Abies exelso), the limestone Alps rise in the south in whitish and barren rugged rock masses 7-8000', seemingly inaccessible, in North the Slate Alps with their rounded summits, in Northwest the glaciers and peaks of the Central Chain of the Alps. You could send any of your countrymen, which love nature, to us with the best conscience.

Works and papers on American Botany are not in my possession and my knowledge of it founds only on articles in various botanical reviews, gardenflowers and some dried specimens. You would therefore very much oblige me by sending me some pamphlets on it.

For your kind offer to procure for me correspondents in mosses, ferns and phanerogams as well as for the Dionicea I thank you heartfully. I need not direct your attention that the more minute the statements of the habitat are the more the specimens gain on scientific value.

I will at once to Mrs. Henry N. Bolander at San Francisco and Dr. Bruhn

at New Coln, Milwaukee City, Wisconsin. I shall see if they will enter in relation with me.

From the Smithsonian Institution I received through Dr. Felix Plügel at Leipzig the reports 1863-67. Of its publications I wished of course the botanical parts, but they will not be so have. It would be very agreeable to European Botanists to have a history of botany in the United States with the whole literature on it as well as a statement of the present state of it and a list of all botanists, living or dead, who have cultivated it with information of their favourite families or other branches. By this it could be seen which countries are already well explored and which are but incompletely known. A praiseworthy pattern of such a labour, quite adequate to the purposes of the institution, is "Kämpelhuber's Geschichte der Pflanzenologie".

Pardon, Sir, the long delay of my answer, which is depending on the insecurity of sending letters in January and February last before the peace between Germany and France. Also you will kindly pardon my very incorrect English. With hopeful expectation of a rich root of American plants I remain,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

Franz Josef Rößl,

Assistant Museum of natural history, Tübingen, Carinthia, Austria.



Zwanziger, Gustav Adolf. 1871. "Zwanziger, Gustav A. Mar. 1, 1871." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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