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# Smithsonian Institution

Woods Hole, Mass.

SPENCER F. BAIRD,  
SECRETARY.

~~Washington, D. C.~~ July 28, 1883.

Dear Dr. Gray:

I have sent <sup>you</sup> ~~an~~  
~~estimate~~ <sup>proposals</sup> in regard to the  
commencement, by the Insti-  
tution, of the publication of  
your Flora, to Dr. Rees; asking  
him to look over the ground  
carefully, and to let me know  
what allowance, in his  
opinion, we can spare for the  
current year and the coming one.

This limitation will be most  
convenient for our purposes —  
you getting as much out of the  
allowance as the fund will admit of.



There are two conditions, however, now that will seriously affect our ability to act. The first is that we have just commenced the long-expected renewed edition of <sup>Guyot's</sup> Lill's tables. They have been promised by him year after year for ten or fifteen years past, but he has only just commenced to furnish the copy, and the work is now going on quite rapidly. Everybody is clamorous for the book; and it was with great willingness that, a few months ago, we authorized the work to be commenced and prosecuted with



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(3) Washington, D. C., \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_\_\_

energy to its completion.

Another problem relates to the matter of our International Exchanges. As you know, within a few years past, Congress has made increasingly liberal appropriations for the purpose, and we have reorganized the service by adding the necessary additional force, and somewhat increasing the very inadequate salaries of the old corps. The latest appropriation was \$7,500-, and our



plan brings us up to the expenditure of the full amount, leaving a surplus still to be met by the Institution.

Quite recently, however, the State Dept has made a claim upon us for the Bureau, and although conceding that the work could be done by the Institution, claims the right to organize the service; apparently intending to appoint a more or less stock of new men. To this I cannot consent, and am preparing an elaborate rejoinder, claiming entire immunity from any dictation or supervision, and



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simply assenting to a nominal relationship to the State Dept, in its interest, rather than ours.

Unfortunately the appropriation of \$7,500- is expendable under the direction of the State Dept; and if we are in any way contraindicated, it may refuse to give us any part of the money, and we may consequently be obliged to run <sup>maintain</sup> ~~it~~ at our own expense until Congress meets and is called upon to decide between us. I have



not the slightest fear of failure in getting a satisfactory expression from Congress; but in the meantime, or until next winter, our employees must be paid, and possibly out of the Smithsonian fund.

I hope, however, that neither of these contingencies will oppress us, and that the problem will be simply what we can spare from the publication allowance, in view of engagements already entered into.

Yours truly,

Spencer Baird

Dr. Lisa Gray,  
Cambridge,  
Mass. }





Baird, Spencer Fullerton. 1883. "Baird, Spencer F. July 28, 1883." *Spencer Fullerton Baird letters to Asa Gray*

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