

5403 Reno Road,
Washington, D.C.

Rec'd Oct 15
Cms
enclosing *Festuca*

Oct. 13, 1926

Dear Mr. Deane,

I enjoyed your letter of May 16, but I did not get around to answering it. As the years go by I seem to be buried ever deeper and deeper under the things I plan to do and fail to execute. I look forward to the time when I shall be old and retired and have time to read all the books I do not get time to now. It must be really delightful.

I think that Prof. Hill and I first found *Psilocarya* in the Dune region, but it was in 1897, first, I think. The dunes seemed to be inexhaustible in those days.

A herbarium of 40,000 sheets is an enormous one for a private house. I gave mine to the University of Illinois in 1909 when (excluding grasses, which I gave to the Grass Herbarium) it numbered 10,000 sheets. I couldn't pay rent for space to house it, and I found so much to do in grasses I realized I would never use the general herbarium again, and I wanted it used. I recall that Dr. Millspaugh told me of the great detail in your herbarium. He said that you had seedlings of a great many species. It impressed me, because I had been collecting seedlings myself.

Before and after the Ithaca Congress we enjoyed visitors from abroad for a few days. Dr. Briquet, director of the Botanic Garden, Geneva, was here. Every American botanist who goes to Europe has things to look up in the Delessert Herbarium (in the Bot. Garden) and has to thank Dr. Briquet for many courtesies. We were so very glad to have him here. The weather was very hot--and of course he was not

dressed for it, but except for the weather ~~he~~ I think he thoroughly enjoyed his short stay. After the Congress Mr. Sprague and later Dr. Hill, both of Kew, were here, and Dr. Rendle of the British Museum.

A few days ago I received from Frau Hackel Prof. Hackel's collection of botanists' photographs, about 100, covering some 40 years, including Casimir and Alphonse DeCandolle and many others of very great interest, authors and explorers. There are a good many whose names I do not recognize (some I have not even made out yet) who are probably local botanists of Austria and Italy. We already had a fair collection of portraits, to which you added two besides your own; this is a wonderful addition. Frau Hackel sent me, besides a number of botanists' letters. Prof. Hackel seems not to have saved many of his botanical letters, I am glad to have what there are, and appreciate his wife's sending them to me. I greatly enjoyed the correspondence carried on with them after my visit to them in 1922.

Prof. Hitchcock told me to give you his kind regards when I wrote. He is busy on his Manual. It is slow work, of course. I am back at Paspalum, at last. With routine work and Prof. Hitchcock away most of the summer I had not touched it for months. We have a hopeful (promising, I mean) young assistant who is already saving us much time and will save still more as his knowledge increases.

This year I am biological editor of the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences. There is no salary so we have to take our turn. There are three editors at a time, each of whom ~~takes~~ ~~charge~~ is managing editor for a third of the year. It is my job now and it takes more time than I expected it would.

I have lately finished the Life and Letters of John Muir. Have you read them? If not I know you would greatly enjoy them. Muir is my idea of a superman. I have all his books published as yet. Have you ever been to the Pacific Coast? Dr. Hill seemed to be more impressed with the redwood forests of California than anything else he saw in this country.

I hope you will find time to write again, some day.

With best wishes for your continued good health,

Yours sincerely,

Agnes Chase



Chase, Agnes. 1926. "Chase, Agnes (née Merrill) Oct. 13, 1926." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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