SAMPLES OF FACSIMILE HANDWRITINGS AND SIGNATURES OF SOME EMINENT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FIELD OF INDIAN PLANT TAXONOMY

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Botanical Survey of India, Howrah – 711 103

The style of handwriting in many cases is crucial to plant taxonomists facing difficulties in identification of collectors where their names were not written on the herbarium label or for solving taxonomic problems while typifying the names [Steenis (ed.), Fl. Males., Ser. I, 1: CXLVII. 1950; Stafleu and Cowan, TL-2 1: XII. 1976].

More than hundred years old handwritten correspondences of some eminent contributors in the field of Indian plant taxonomy like, Richard Henry Beddome (1830-1911), Thomas Fulton Bourdillon (1849-1930), Dietrich Brandis (1824-1907), Henry Collett (1836-1901), Theodore Cooke (1836-1910), John Firminger Duthie (1845-1922), James Sykes Gamble (1847-1925), Robert Pantling (1856-1910) and William Alexander Talbot (1847-1917) were located during verification of the Central Library of the Botanical Survey of India, Howrah. These correspondences were made to David Prain, the then Curator of the Herbarium / Superintendent / Director, Royal Botanic Garden, Shibpur, Calcutta. Besides these, there was also a letter written by David Prain (1857-1944) to Mr. Holderness and a note by George King (1840-1909) on a letter of Augustine Henry written to him.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Facsimile handwriting</th>
<th>Facsimile signature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Henry Beddome</td>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td>[Image]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Fulton Bourdillon</td>
<td>[Image]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Dietrich Brandis

New species.

1. Acacia* (or Anemone) *specimens, collected distinct
   characters of the B. genus
   Martin Piper, J. B. D. 1879
   6880 B. P. Bass " funebre " "
   Roentgen A. tenuis, new and this
   common, cement, and long linear, almost

Henry Collett

My dear Prain,

I cannot think what has become of your two previous letters and parcels.

Theodore Cooke

My dear Prain,

July 5th, 1899

I am much obliged for your letter and for the very kind money in which you have received my first letter at Flora Bank. I hope for much improvement in the future and of course.

John Firminger Duthie

My dear Prain,

don't fret about it

writs to you at much
James Sykes Gamble

18 Janf. 1898.

My dear Rain

I was delighted to see your handwriting again - your letter was awaiting me on my arrival.

George King

My fair Rain

I think this should be with you and I therefore send it to you here.

Robert Pantling

26th April 1899.

Dear Dr Prain, I am sending returning the packet of Pashins' debts after having named them.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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