

Telegrams: *Nathismus, Southkens, London*  
Telephone: 01-589 6323



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Cromwell Road

London, SW7 5BD

JFMC/AMD

21 June 1978

Dr. H. Eichler,  
Herbarium Australiense,  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial  
Research Organisation,  
P.O. Box 1600,  
Canberra City, ACT 2601,  
Australia.

Dear Dr. Eichler,

You may have heard that some years ago, a number of duplicates from the Robert Brown collection came to light in this Department. Since then, we have re-curated much of this collection and have been able to provide additional data for the specimens. We have decided to send the first set of these specimens (1069) to Canberra as the Federal Botanical Institution, and we hope that they will be of value in the Flora Australiense project which would be of such great interest to botanists throughout the world.

I notice that we have a considerable exchange deficit with your institution, and it may be that you will feel that the Brown specimens merit more than the usual one to one basis for exchange.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

J.F.M. Cannon  
Keeper of Botany

28 JUN RECD

Department of Botany  
British Museum (Natural History)

To: The Quator  
Herbarium Australiense  
P O Box 1600  
Canberra City  
A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

Date: 11.7.78

The Department of Botany, B M (NH) is sending/~~acknowledging receipt~~ (of)  
herbarium specimens as indicated below.

The material contained in (8) parcels is:

- (a) a gift (b) a loan at your request  
X (c) in exchange (d) for examination at our request  
(e) return of material for identification  
(f) return of material borrowed

In the case of a loan the Keeper will appreciate:

- (1) the annotation of every sheet of the loan
- (2) the receipt of a copy of any publication in which these specimens are mentioned
- (3) the offer of material to add to any of our incomplete collection

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SPECIMENS

1069 specimens of Phanerogams.

Area collected: Australia

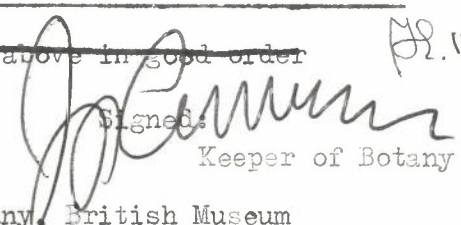
Collector: Robert Brown.

Loan No (s):

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~~Received the above in good order~~ 16.8.78

Date: 11.7.78

Signed: 

Keeper of Botany

PLEASE RETURN DUPLICATE COPY TO: The Keeper of Botany, British Museum  
(Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, England.

  
16/10/78

HERBARIUM AUSTRALIENSE

HjE:LM  
Ref: HER/41/BM

18 October, 1978

Mr J.F.M. Cannon,  
Keeper of Botany,  
British Museum (Natural History),  
Cromwell Road,  
LONDON, SW7 5BD, ENGLAND.

Dear John,

I was very pleased indeed, when I received your letter of 21 June 1978 in which you informed me of your decision to send the first set (1069 specimens) of the duplicates from the Robert Brown collection which came to light in your Department some years ago.

The specimens arrived recently and have now been unpacked. I had only a short glance into a few boxes and noticed the great number of type collections before I give them for mounting as a high priority task. We all are delighted to have this historically most valuable set of Robert Brown's collections which I am sure will be made best use of in any revisionary work carried out anywhere in Australia; our Flora Australiensis project will not be forgotten, though the hoped-for financial support has not yet come up, and we do hope that CANB can take a leading role therein. You have done a very great amount of work in preparing the additional information and naming of the R. Brown collection, and this is making the set all the more valuable.

On behalf of our Herbarium Australiense I wish to convey to you our sincere thanks for this most valuable addition to our collections which, apart from its great scientific significance, contributes much to emphasize the status of our Herbarium as a national heritage which the Australian Government is committed to preserve and further develop.

Please do not worry about a possible numerical exchange deficit BM may have with Canberra, and we certainly do not reckon with our exchange material with you on a one to one basis. We are glad if we can contribute to your institute, but feel with your generosity in sending us this large set of Robert Brown specimens greatly in your debt.

I just received the first papers of the Perpignan Symposium last year from Marie-Thérèse Cerceau-Larrival and regret that I was unable to attend. Australia is just too far away to participate more actively in such events. No doubt you will be coming to Sydney in 1981 and I am already looking forward to show you some of our interesting umbellifers.

Best wishes and again many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Hj. Eichler)  
CURATOR