

BRIEFWECHSEL MIT C. S. SARGENT

Rock an Sargent

1. 15. 7. 1924
2. 16. 7. 1924
3. 19. 7. 1924
4. 24. 7. 1924
5. 1. 8. 1924
6. 9. 8. 1924
7. 10. 8. 1924
8. 19. 8. 1924
9. 22. 8. 1924
10. 28. 8. 1924
11. 1. 9. 1924
12. 9. 9. 1924
13. 30. 9. 1924
14. 4. 10. 1924
15. o. D.
16. 5. 11. 1924

Sargent an Rock

1. 18. 7. 1924
2. 22. 7. 1924
3. 20. 8. 1924
4. 25. 8. 1924
5. 14. 10. 1924
6. 11. 12. 1924
7. 4. 4. 1925
8. 6. 5. 1925
9. 18. 8. 1925
10. 18. 8. 1925 an Endicott
11. 28. 8. 1925
12. 28. 8. 1925 an Endicott
13. 15. 9. 1925

14. 8. 10. 1925
15. 29. 10. 1925
16. 9. 11. 1925
17. 18. 11. 1925
18. 25. 11. 1925
19. 31. 12. 1925
20. 8. 1. 1926
21. 2. 2. 1926
22. 1. 3. 1926
23. 22. 3. 1926
24. 26. 3. 1926
25. 27. 4. 1926
26. 10. 5. 1926
27. 7. 5. 1926
28. 7. 5. 1926 Kellerman an
Sargent
29. 11. 5. 1926
30. 18. 5. 1926
31. 21. 7. 1926
32. 10. 8. 1926
33. 9. 9. 1926
34. 14. 9. 1926
35. 27. 9. 1926
36. 27. 10. 1926
37. 13. 11. 1926
38. 15. 11. 1926
39. 18. 11. 1926
40. 23. 11. 1926
41. 2. 12. 1926
42. 16. 12. 1926
43. 12. 1. 1927
44. 21. 1. 1927
45. 3. 2. 1927

Rock an Sargent

1

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.. C.

July 15, 1924

Prof. C. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum

My dear Prof. Sargent,

Your very kind letter and package of plants arrived safely. Allow me to thank you most sincerely for this gift for Hawaii. I can assure you that it will be appreciated as much as I appreciate it. If there is anything that I can do for you especially, while in the Orient, please let me know. My San Francisco address till the 26th of this month is Chancellor Hotel. After that in care of Dr. T. Burkill, Director Botanical Garden, Singapore, will reach me.

Thanking you again for the valuable gift and the courtesies extended to me at the Arboretum, I remain

Very faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

Please give my best regards to Dr. Rehder. ¹J. F. R.

2

ST. BOTOLPH CLUB
4 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON

July 16, 1924

Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent
Director Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain

¹ Alfred Rehder. 1863-1949, Botaniker am Arnold Arboretum. Vgl. Clarence E. Kobuski: Alfred Rehder. *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 31.1950, 1-38.

Dear Professor Sargent,

In compliance with your request I am writing you today regarding the proposed expedition into Asia. I have carefully considered, in the light of my past experiences in China all the necessary equipment for such an expedition especially into a region about which we know next to nothing and have come to the conclusion that the initial expense will naturally be heavier than for the successive years in the field. I would propose engaging again my seed & plant collectors who are thoroughly familiar with the drying of plants, packing & collecting of seeds etc. They have a fair knowledge of Tibetan, speak Chinese and Nashi. My cook will also be available, I found him a very valuable adjunct as he is half Tibetan and speaks Tibetan fluently, also Nashi and Mandarin, this makes it unnecessary employing a Tibetan interpreter. I could arrange to have these men meet me in Yünnanfu which town can be reached by train from Haiphong.

The equipment which would have to be bought here would consist of two good large strong tents, rifle and colt automatics for protection against wild animals. Photographic supplies, camera, lenses, films, developers, developing tent etc. I would propose buying light, wind proof airmen's coats lined with fleece for the high windswept regions north of the Kokonor, both for self and my men.

I would advise that the proposed expedition buy its own transport animals either yaks or camels as necessity requires. All other material can be purchased in Shanghai. The amount necessary for the first year including cost of equipment and salary of the leader would be about 14000 Dollars, the remaining years 12000 Dollars per annum. I would ask for salary the sum of 500 Dollars per month out of which I would buy my subsistence in the actual field but not while in transit to China or in Shanghai or Peking where Hotels will have to be frequented.

I propose to explore the Amne Machin range, the Mountains northwest of Hsining fu which place would serve as the basis of the expedition until such a time when it will be advisable to push on into Chinese Turkestan, the Altai Mountains etc. If it is desired I shall be willing to push on into Persia. The period required to carry

out the proposed journeys and carry on the work satisfactorily would at least be three to four years.

I sincerely hope that I shall have the privilege of leading such an expedition for the Arnold Arboretum into these unknown regions of Asia. I will do my utmost to bring such an expedition to a successful completion. Hoping sincerely that you will be able to soon inform me that I can start out next October, I remain very sincerely yours

Joseph F. Rock

up to 26th of this month
Samoset Hotel Rockland Maine
after that National Geographic Society, Washington

3

THE SAMOSET
ROCKLAND MAINE

July 19, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Prof. Sargent,

In response to your kind letter of June 18th I sent you a night letter which is self-explanatory. I just want to make sure that there is no further misunderstanding. I am sorry that I did not express myself more clearly. The salary of the leader which will be myself is included in the 14,000 of the first year and \$ 12,000 the second. It may be very likely that the second year's expense may be only \$ 10,000, and if so I will naturally carry that amount or any left over to the third year. I am not familiar with the cost of things in Kansu and beyond. In Yunnan it was a different proposition. The Yunnan currency was lower than Shanghai currency and therefore things were correspondingly cheaper. For example, I received the last year 115.00 dollars silver Yunnan for 100 Shanghai, but 153 paper in Yunnan for 100 Shanghai. But

paper is useless in the interior. The same will probably hold good in Kansu. I shall keep the cost as low as possible.

If you wish me to explore the Kansu range the first year I shall be glad to follow your wishes, much will depend on the condition of the country, and that will have to be decided on the spot. Whenever possible I shall follow your instructions.

Regarding the return journey from Kansu little can be said now and what you suggest may be the most feasible, but conditions change constantly in an unsettled country, like China.

I shall be stopping over in Boston on my way to Washington, which will be about the end of this month or possibly earlier. I hope that by that time you will be able to tell me whether our plans can be carried out or not. I hope sincerely that we will be able to arrange this expedition, as I am very keen to get back into the field. I love the work and shall be happy to do my best, for I am exceedingly enthusiastic in the carrying out of such work. The more difficult it is the better I like it.

If you wish me to come to Boston sooner I shall be glad to come at any time, just drop me a postal card in care of this hotel, and I will come at once.

With kindest regards and thanking you for your letter, I am,
faithfully yours,

Joseph F. Rock

4

THE SAMOSET
ROCKLAND MAINE

July 24, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Director Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Professor Sargent,
Your kind letter of July 22 just at hand. I am leaving Rockland for Boston by the Monday night boat on the 28th of this month which will get me in Boston on the 29th on Tuesday. I shall spend

a few days in Boston, say up to the morning of the second of August, to allow plenty of time to discuss matters.

I hope we will be able to come to some definite arrangements by that time. I would naturally like to know more or less definitely, as I have a good deal to do as yet which I shall have to finish ere leaving. It will also be necessary to make definite bookings as boats across the Pacific are very crowded.

With kindest regards and thanking you for your kind letter, I remain, faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

5

HOTEL MCALPIN
NEW YORK

August 1, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Director Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain

Dear Prof. Sargent,

I am leaving today or tomorrow for Washington, D. C., after a successful stay in New York. I booked on the *President Wilson* sailing from San Francisco September 30th. The next boat leaves October 15th which I thought perhaps a bit too late.

I also went to Abercrombie & Fitch, the greatest sporting goods store in New York and looked over tents and other camping outfits. It appears that the tents will have to be made to order, as all their stock-tents are too light a material. As my stay is such a short one I have wired you asking you to kindly send definite answer to care National Geographic.

With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

6

Washington, D.C.
Aug. 9th, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Professor Sargent,
Your letter of August 6th is at hand.

In regard to the expenditures to be incurred for the next fiscal year, and the allowance for the same as stipulated „Fourteen thousand dollars“, I would like to make the following statement.

In my previous dealings, as with the Government, the whole sum allotted was given to me before leaving this country. I became automatically temporary special disbursing agent for the Government.

I would rather that the whole sum for the first year be turned over to me and I shall render accounts for expenditures etc. through subvouchers. As distributing agent I was authorized to pay my salary every month from the fund allotted.

The only way possible to carry out the work properly is to turn over to me the sum for the first year. If you require a bond I can furnish one. This sending of moneys to China is not a good way of arranging matters. When in Peking I shall have to make arrangements with the postal authorities to buy my checks at stated intervals on Shanghai, the amount being paid in Kansu currency. If I have not the proper amount ready at hand it will be impossible to make such an arrangement. I must be able to satisfy the postal authorities that I have funds to say 5000 or 6000 dollars on hand in a bank before I can make such an arrangement.

I can only say from previous experience that the only way to arrange this without getting into trouble or handicaps is to advance me the whole sum, I shall act as disbursing agent and will be responsible for the money as far as possible, if you require a bond I will furnish one but if you think it cannot be advanced then I do not know how we can arrange this.

I am carrying at the present three accounts, one in Rangoon for Yunnan payments, and two in Shanghai, one in American dollars and one in Shanghai dollars. This is to avoid having all money converted into Shanghai dollars. The latter fluctuates considerably and hence would be a loss should all the money be converted into Shanghai dollars. I shift from one account to the other as far as I require Chinese currency.

To avoid mixups I would suggest that the whole sum be turned over to me in the form of draft or cheque on New York or Washington in my favor, with a statement for what purpose the sum is to be used, such as expenditures, salaries, etc. This I will sign, and at the end of six months, or at the end of the year will render you an account or an itemized statement as to expenditures.

This is the best way and has proved satisfactory to all concerned. It relieves you of the trouble to send part of it here and part of it there and it relieves me of worrying whether it has been sent to the proper place and if on receipt in China or Rangoon it was handled properly. Bankers in China exchange foreign currency first into taels and then into Shanghai dollars, so as to get a double exchange charge.

So please if you will allow me, to make this the least complicated I would ask you to mail me a cheque or draft on Washington or New York for the whole amount, say 14000 dollars. This is the best way of doing it, and practically the only way I would care to do it. This is for the safeguarding of the work. I shall be responsible for all expenditures and will furnish receipt for all items for which receipts can be obtained. I will give you at the close of the year an account for expenditures as I have done for the National Geographic.

I have wired to China re my assistants and have sent 300 rupees to Likiang, and 100 dollars to the American Consul in Yunnanfu. I have also sent a cable to Hongkong to my boy, an English-speaking assistant who has travelled with me for 2 1/2 years. He is in Hongkong and I asked him to await my arrival in October. I have booked for September 30th on the *President Wilson*. On my way back to Washington I stopped in New York and made

arrangements as to tents and other necessary camping outfit. I have received yesterday from Calcutta detailed maps of the region I am to explore. These I had ordered from Peking last May by letter. I shall bring these maps with me to Boston.

My connection with the National Geographic ends on the 15th of this month. I am not connected with the Department of Agriculture save in an honorary way. I would like to inquire what my title will be and when I will be considered as being in the employ of the Arnold Arboretum.

There is no hurry about sending the draft or check but I would like to have it sometime before leaving for San Francisco.

Hoping this to be satisfactory, I remain

Faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

* If attacked by brigands and robbed of cash carried on caravan will you hold me responsible?

7

HOTEL SCHUYLER
NEW YORK

Aug. 10, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Prof. Sargent,

I have come to New York today to make the necessary purchases which I will order to be sent in your care Arnold Arboretum. I will repack them on arrival in Boston into army trunks which I shall bring with me.

I thought it wise not to delay as some things, like tents, will have to be made to order, and the time is getting short. I will return to Washington probably on Tuesday when I hope to have finished with all my purchases. I shall temporarily advance the

money for these purchases for which I will submit bills in my accounts.

With kindest regards,
Very truly yours,
Joseph F. Rock

8

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 19, 1924

Prof. Charles S. Sargent
Director, Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Prof. Sargent,

I have just returned from New York where I had gone to make the necessary purchases for the coming Arnold Arboretum Expedition. I thought it wise not to wait too long as some of the articles, like tents, had to be made to order. The tents in stock were all of light duck and not strong enough for the remote regions where I expect to work. I ordered two small travelling tents for daily use while on the march and one larger tent while camping for the season in the Amne Machin and Richthofen range, and one tent for my assistants and equipment. I bought all such other articles here – that is, in New York – as cannot be procured in the Orient. I also ordered all my photographic supplies, as camera, etc. directly from Eastman.

My personal equipment chargeable to myself I bought at the Army stores in Washington. A number of things I can better buy in Shanghai and have therefore not bought them here in the U. S.

I conferred with the Manager of the Far East Division of the American Express Co. in New York regarding the transportation of equipment directly to Shanghai and Hongkong. It will be much cheaper to send it through the Express Co. than by taking it along personally and paying the excess baggage rate. On the steamer the express charges and freight charges are practically the same. The

former way (express) is more convenient and I will not have to run about to handle the unloading, etc., of the trunks which otherwise would have to be done by Cooke & Son who are expensive. I have bought cheap but yet strong, serviceable army trunks I am sending to New York to Abercrombie & Fitch. Most of the equipment will be packed in these trunks, which will save buying wooden boxes and paying packing charges, besides they can easily be opened for customs inspection. I will personally supervise the packing in New York the first or second of September, the Express Company will then take charge and deliver them to me both in Shanghai and Hongkong; that is, I have divided the material which is to go to Shanghai and Lanchowfu and which is to go to Hongkong. This will not necessitate bringing all to Boston. I shall bring 350 lbs. baggage such as I am allowed free on train and ships as per transpacific ticket.

I have written Mr. Davis, the American Consul in Shanghai, re permits for landing a gun and Colt automatic, as well as regards courtesies from the Chinese Customs authorities to facilitate the quick landing of the material.

I have also written to Mr. Myers, the American Consul in Yunnanfu, to get certain permits there and to ask the French Consul, Mr. Bodard², to inform the Customs authorities at Hongkong to give me every facility and to extend to me such courtesies as they did when I passed through Indo-China last time.

I have also written the Standard Oil Company, Mr. Kirkman in charge, to be good enough and again help me with my baggage through the customs as he did last time without a hitch. There is neither an American Consul nor an American Express Co.'s agency in Hongkong or Hanoi.

So you can see, Prof. Sargent, I have taken all the necessary steps to assure a good beginning. I have wired to Likiang through Mr. Myers the American Consul at Yunnanfu, asking the Mission in Likiang to inform my men (8) to meet me in Yunnanfu the last part of October. I have sent a 300 rupee check to the Mission

² Césaire Auguste Albert Bodard, 1883-1969, war 1922-1925 Konsul 1. Kl. in Yunnanfu. Ab 1926 wirkte er als Generalkonsul in Batavia.

which can be sold to the Postmaster in Likiang for local currency silver. To the Consul I sent a check for 100 dollars Shanghai to be converted into Yunnan currency to pay for expenses for the boys and incidentals, should they arrive before myself.

Yesterday I had a letter from my head collector in response to one I wrote him from Peking last May, wherein he assures me that he will come either to Yunnanfu or Tengyueh or Bhamo with as many of my collectors as I should wish and when I wanted them. This is all very encouraging.

I am certain that the expedition will be very successful and beg to assure you Professor Sargent that I will do all in my power to make it a great success.

I hope that you have found time to write either to Dr. Taylor or Mr. Fairchild³ regarding my collaboratorship and special passport for China, Japan, Indochina and Hongkong. With such a passport I can prevail upon the authorities for assistance while with an ordinary passport I cannot do so to a great extent; besides it will facilitate matters when dealing with foreign customs, etc.

Will you kindly give me the name and address of the Belgian gentleman in charge of the Peking-Hankow Railway. I would also appreciate a letter of introduction to him and the necessary credentials „to whom it may concern“.

The financial end of the expedition we can arrange on my arrival in Boston the early part of September.

I am at present engaged in labelling the large collection of plants I brought back with me from my last expedition. It will, however, be impossible to bring the woody plants with me, as Mr. Maxon⁴ wants to check up the number of specimina etc. It will require many boxes to ship the woody collection to the Arnold

³ David F. Fairchild, 1869-1954, Botaniker, war eine Zeitlang am Bureau of Plant Industry tätig. Er ist durch seine Weltreisen, seine Bücher und den Fairchild Tropical Garden bei Miami bekannt. Vgl. *Plants & Gardens* NS 23.1967:3, S. 68-70.

⁴ William Ralph Maxon, 1877-1948, Spezialist für Pteridophyta. Assistent, später Kustos am U.S. National Museum. Vgl. Rocks Korrespondenz mit Maxon in: H. Walravens: *Joseph Franz Rock (1884-1962): Berichte, Briefe und Dokumente des Botanikers, Sinologen und Nakhi-Forschers*. Stuttgart: Steiner 2002, 153 ff.

Arboretum. The lilies are being laid aside and I shall bring them with me for Mr. Wilson.⁵

Hoping that you are well, I beg to remain

Faithfully yours,

Joseph F. Rock

9

Washington, D. C.,
August 22, 1924

Professor Charles S. Sargent
Director Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Professor Sargent,

Many thanks for your kind letter of August 20th.

If you desire, the date of the expedition shall commence on the day of my sailing from either Boston or New York. Re the check for 14000 dollars, I would be grateful to you if it could be sent to me the first week in September or on the first of the month to New York City, care of Mr. R. A. Foulks, General Manager Far East Development Dept. The amount will best be mailed in the form of a draft. I am asking you to send this to New York at that particular time because I shall have to stop in New York on my way up to Boston to check over all the material brought and see to it that it is promptly dispatched by the American Express Co. I will then not need to return to New York from Boston but will go directly from Boston to San Francisco. My last letter to you will have explained all this.

I shall make out a receipt in duplicate for the amount sent, one of which I shall send to Mr. Adams as you request and the other to you personally.

I am sorry to learn of the transfer of Mr. Hers⁶ which will

⁵ Ernest H. Wilson, 1876-1930, Botaniker und Forschungsreisender; er hatte durch drei Reisen auch Ostasienerfahrung. Seit 1919 war er als Stellvertreter Sargents Vizedirektor des Arnold Arboretum. Vgl. *Dictionary of American Biography* 20.1936, 321-322

⁶ Wohl Joseph Hers, 1884-1965, belgischer Eisenbahningenieur und

necessitate his absence from Peking. However, I have made many pleasant contacts with a number of people in Peking holding official positions and it will not be difficult for me to arrange matters. I will need no one in Peking or elsewhere to attend to botanical work, as all my shipments of plants and seeds will be in such shape that they will need no handling by anyone. I shall make arrangements with the American Express Co. in Peking and the Postal authorities to ship my herbar. collections directly from Peking or Shanghai to the Arboretum. I have always travelled alone and rather do so this time than engage European assistants, and as I stated I have many friends in Shanghai, Peking and Taiyuanfu who will be very glad to help me. I am certain that I can make satisfactory arrangements.

Both Dr. Marlatt⁷ and Dr. Taylor are out of town on vacations. I have spoken to Dr. Kellermann the associate chief and he will look into the matter. Dr. Fairchild has returned to Washington two days ago. Please write a note to Dr. Kellermann Associate Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, and to Dr. Fairchild asking them to speedily arrange the necessary formalities for a special passport which I think is imperative not so much for China proper as for the countries around China.

I am still obliged to write an article for the National Geographic to which I am devoting my time in the forenoon, while in the afternoon I am working on the collection of plants. We have labelled nearly all of the first lot, several thousand numbers, and will be beginning on the next lot next week.

I expect to be in Boston not later than the tenth of September, when I hope all my work here will have been brought to a satisfactory close.

Again thanking you for your letter, I remain,

Faithfully yours, Joseph F. Rock

P.S. Kindly inform me when draft has been mailed. If you desire it can be mailed to me to Washington care of the National

Amateur-Dendrologe, der 1919-1924 in Nordchina botanische Sammlungen anlegte.

⁷ Charles Lester Marlatt, 1863-1954, Entomologe, seit 1912 Leiter des Federal Horticultural Board.

Geographic 16th & M Street, Washington, D.C. and I can take it up to New York with me. J. F. Rock

10

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Aug. 28th, 1924

Dear Professor Sargent,

Many thanks for your good letter. I saw Dr. Kellermann, the Associate Chief of the Bureau. Everything is O.K. I received today a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture enclosing a letter to Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, in which Mr. Wallace requests that I be given a special passport. The latter I will receive next Saturday, August 30th.

I shall be leaving here about the fifth or sixth for New York. This will bring me to Boston about the tenth.

I have sent today to the Arnold Arboretum four trunks containing books, photos, supplies, etc. One is empty. Please hold same until my arrival. I will have to repack them there.

Everything has gone very smoothly. I am certain the trip will be a great success.

As ever faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

I gave the State Department my title as Botanical Explorer.

11

THE RACQUET CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sept. 1, 1924

Dear Prof. Sargent,

I have received your kind letter announcing the fact that the treasurer of Harvard College has forwarded the check for 14000 dollars to the American Express Co. New York. Mr. Foulks of the above Company wrote me yesterday stating that the check had

been received and is being held for me.

I am waiting for these holidays to pass and then will at once get busy securing the various visas and my passport. Owing to the visit of the Prince of Wales, the State Department, or Mr. Hughes did not find time to sign the passport. It was supposed to have been ready but he has not yet signed it. Special passports must be personally signed. The Department also gave me an engraved letter to various authorities giving this trip official status. This will facilitate matters greatly, especially with the French in Indochina. I am translating all this into Chinese, which documents I shall have certified by the Chinese Legation here in Washington. English written papers or documents, are of not much value in the interior of China.

I still have several thousand sheets of plants to label and I hope to get finished with that by the end of next week. There is an endless variety of things to be done ere starting on such a long trip.

Hoping to see you about the tenth of this month I remain, with kindest greetings,

Faithfully yours,

Joseph F. Rock

I shall send a receipt for the check (draft) as soon as I shall have received it from Mr. Foulk[s]. J. F. Rock

12

New York
Sept. 9, 1924

Prof. Charles S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Professor Sargent,

I acknowledge herewith the receipt of a cheque on a local Boston Bank for the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars \$ 14,000.00 from

the Treasurer of Harvard College to be used for the Arnold Arboretum expedition.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph F. Rock

13

San Francisco, Calif.
Sept. 30, 1924

Prof. Charles S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

My dear Prof. Sargent,

I had an uneventful trip across country and a very pleasant stay with Mr. Morton.⁸ His botanist, Mr. Teuscher⁹, seems to be of the opinion that I should collect seeds in large quantities, as they want seeds for distribution as an exchange. He wrote out a memorandum which I enclose herewith. I shall only take orders from the Arnold Arboretum and not from a young fellow like this man Teuscher. However, he is an enthusiast and means well. I hope you will let me know your opinion on this, but I suppose that I can shape my own plans and shall carry out the plans as I outlined them to you before I left. Too many cooks spoil the broth. I shall be guided by our arrangements as outlined. I shall do the best I can, but I can only serve one institution.

I had not known of the demands proposed by Mr. Teuscher, of whom I had never heard ere this. They shall get all the willows and poplars and all I can possibly secure and more. But if seeds are to be collected in large quantities for the planting of hundreds of trees of each species and still have seeds for distribution wherewith to

⁸ Joy Morton, 1855-1934, Besitzer der Morton Salt Company, gründete 1922 das Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Er wurde anfangs durch C. S. Sargent beraten.

⁹ Heinrich (Henry) Teuscher, 1891-1984, Landschaftsgärtner, Gartenbauspezialist, Botaniker (Spermatophyta). Er plante 1936 den botanischen Garten in Montreal, dessen erster Kustos er wurde.

establish an exchange, that will be another matter. As parcel post does not exist, the sending of seeds by letter post registered in large quantities will materially increase the cost. However, I suppose Mr. Teuscher is an enthusiast and thinks it all very easy. Of course he has no experience, being just fresh from Germany.

Please do not censure him or write him about this but simply write to me please and let me know what my status is in regard to the Morton Arboretum. So far I recognize only the Arnold Arboretum, under whose direction I am going out to China, and as I understood it the seed and plant collections will be divided between the Arnold Arboretum and the Morton Arboretum. Mr. Morton was very nice indeed. He certainly has a wonderful place there and a splendid opportunity of building up a fine institution, and I shall do all I can to help him by bringing in all that it will be humanly possibly to send and bring.

I managed to get everything off. I had to make additional purchases here in San Francisco and had to buy one more trunk. Everything has arrived with the exception of the Aneroid barometer which I had repaired by the Taylor Instrument Co. I suppose it could have reached me if sent by air mail.

One more point. I had a lot of difficulties regarding the shipment of firearms and ammunition owing to the war raging in China. The Pacific Mail had instructions not to take contraband, but I managed to persuade them to take them on board by making L. A. P. official business and having them addressed c/o American consul whom I have already notified. So everything is O.K. and I anticipate no trouble in China. I sent the Shanghai freight as unloading optionally either at Shanghai or Hongkong.

I secured from the Golden Gate Park a copy of Schneider's *Handbuch der Laubholz-Kunde* which will help me a great deal.

I wish to thank you dear Prof. Sargent for the splendid opportunity you gave me to make this exploratory trip to the Amne Machin and Richthofen range possible. I will do my best to make it a success.

Mr. Bangs¹⁰ need not fear that I shall return without birds.

¹⁰ Outram Bangs, 1863-1932, Kustos für Säugetiere am Museum of

Again expressing my sincere appreciation I remain as ever,
Faithfully yours,
Joseph F. Rock

Kindest greetings to Mrs. Potter¹¹, Mr. Wilson and Rehder and the ladies. J. F. R.

P. S. I have always taken complete notes on the components of a given forest and have at all times made notes on the phytogeographic aspect of a range. When travelling I am taking notes as to the plants encountered en route. These notes are of course augmented by herbar material.

What I said about seeds in this letter Mr. Teuscher told me personally and is not found in the memorandum. J. F. R.

My address will be
J. F. Rock c/o American Consul Yunnanfu, Yunnan, China (up to about November)
Then c/o Y.M.C.A., Chengtu, Szechwan, China

I enclose another letter from Mr. Maxon of the Smithsonian which is self explanatory. I do not think that this should be looked upon as an exchange, but we may say that we will send them a set of the plants I shall collect in China on this trip. J. F. R.

Comparative Zoology der Harvard Universität. Rock sammelte Vögel im Auftrage des Museums. Vgl. Birds collected by Dr. Joseph F. Rock in Western Kansu and Eastern Tibet. By Outram Bangs and James L. Peters. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College* 68.1928,311-381.

¹¹ Nathalie Potter war Sargents verwitwete Tochter.

244

Joseph F. Rock

14

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.
S.S. PRESIDENT WILSON

October 4th, 1924

Dear Prof. Sargent,

We are to arrive in Honolulu on Monday the 6th. The weather has been fine and everything went well. All my trunks and boxes including guns and ammunition are on board. I hope everything will be alright in regard to landing the same in Shanghai. Please inform Miss Sawyer that the American has arrived before the departure of the boat so that I have everything that was sent to me to San Francisco. I have sent the remainder of the amount due to the Eastman Hockhouse Co. in case Miss Sawyer should receive a bill from them she can refer to my letter stating that I have paid the seven dollars due them by check on Washington. I have also sent a check to the Taylor Instrument Co., New York, for the repair of the Aneroid Barometer.

I have received a very kind letter from Mrs. Potter which I appreciate very much indeed. I have answered it and I hope Mrs. Potter will have received my letter promptly.

With kindest greetings and best wishes I remain, as ever, faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

Plase give my best regards to Mr. Wilson, Rehder and the ladies. J. F. R.

15

S. S. EMPRESS OF CANADA

[no date]

Prof. C. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Prof. Sargent,

Just a line to advise you that I had no trouble in landing my freight, ammunition etc. in Shanghai. A permit had been obtained from Peking, the Customs had already been informed and all was passed without examination. I only had to pay duty on the arms and ammunition. Arrangements were made immediately for the transshipping of the material to Chungking, Suifu and Chengtu through the American Express in Shanghai and the Canadian Methodist Business Agency in Chungking. Arrangements were made with the Mission Treasurer in Chengtu to honor my checks. A permit had been secured from the Hongkong police through the Pacific Mail Agent in Hongkong to land my other arms and ammunition (for bird collecting) in Hongkong for transshipment to Haiphong. A wire was waiting me in Hongkong from Likiang informing me that 8 men had left for Yunnanfu on Oct. 1st. A letter from the American Consul at Yunnanfu stated that the French authorities at Haiphong had been informed through the French Consul at Yunnanfu regarding my arms etc. and a permit had been obtained from the Chinese authorities at Yunnanfu to import the same. My boy and Tibetan cook are at Hongkong and are awaiting me there. I remained six days in Shanghai to arrange for transshipping goods, made personal contacts with various people and institutions which will be of assistance to me in the interior. I also arranged all of my financial matters.

The day I arrived in Shanghai the war came to an end, only Peking was still in trouble. The situation in Peking did not clear until the day of my departure for Hongkong yesterday. All wires were cut, no trains were running and no mail could be sent, hence I could not get into communication with Mr. Hers.

Everything was so far gone without a hitch and according to schedule as I planned it in Boston and Washington. It was very wise that Mrs. Potter did not go East for there was or still is grave danger. However, the situation may clear up now since the Christian general¹² has taken charge of Peking. Tsao Kun¹³ the

¹² Feng Yü-hsiang 馮御香, 1882-1948, einflußreicher Militärführer in Nordchina. Vgl. Howard L. Boorman: *Biographic dictionary of Republican China*. New York, London: Columbia Univ. Pr. 1967-1971. II,

President has abdicated or resigned and Wu pei fu¹⁴ has been degraded and cut off from his army, the latter of which is surrounded. Word was sent from Yunnanfu that Tang Ki Yao¹⁵ the Governor had been assassinated by his own men but was later stated to be only a rumor. Sun Yat Sen has declared a Soviet republic in Canton and looted and burned the city. Damage is estimated at 50 million dollars and a thousand people were killed. What will happen there since the Christian general is in command in Peking is problematical. There is however a bright ray appearing on the Chinese horizon and things may become settled. There is the danger however that Szechwan will once more declare its independence since Wu peifu [!] its subjugator is out of office and power.

It seems an endless and interminable struggle. The surrounding country of Shanghai is in ruins and thousands of people are homeless and have fled to the International settlement. The International settlement was barricaded and surrounded by barbed-wire entanglements, all wooden bridges connecting the settlement with Chinese territory had been demolished to prevent Chinese troops from rushing the city. Shanghai is indeed a city of paradise and contrast, while war was raging outside and machine guns and tanks were guarding the boundary of the settlement symphony concerts were going on, theatre, dancing, etc. Shanghai itself was quiet. The Red Soviet flag is now flying on the Russian consulate opposite the Astor House. The present Soviet Consul general, who has been twice sentenced to jail by the Mixed Court (by an American judge) is now up again before Court and will in all

37-43.

- ¹³ Ts'ao K'un 曹錕 (1862-1938) war Präsident von Oktober 1923 bis November 1924. Vgl. Howard L. Boorman: *Biographical dictionary of Republican China*. New York, London: Columbia Univ. Pr. 1967-1971. III, 302-305.
- ¹⁴ Wu P'ei-fu 吳佩孚 1874-1939, Militärführer in Nordchina. Vgl. Howard L. Boorman: *Biographic dictionary of Republican China*. New York, London: Columbia Univ. Pr. 1967-1971. III, 444-450.
- ¹⁵ T'ang Chi-yao 唐繼堯, 1881-1929, Militärgouverneur von Yünnan. Vgl. Howard L. Boorman: *Biographic dictionary of Republican China*. New York, London: Columbia Univ. Pr. 1967-1971. III, 223-225.

probability pay another visit to the Shanghai jail; then Shanghai will be without a Russian Soviet Consul general. Consuls do not enjoy immunity and since Russia has given up extritoriality rights he comes before the Mixed Court whose word is final and there is no appeal. Pleasant prospects for the representative of a great (in territory) country.

I will keep you informed regarding m successional movements from time to time.

With kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Potter, Wilson, Rehder and all friends, I am

Faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock

16

Haiphong, Nov. 5, 1924

Prof. Ch. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

My dear Prof. Sargent,

Just a line from this place to tell you of my safe arrival with all my belongings. I had no trouble with the French Customs and they passed everything without examination and free of duty, even the guns and ammunition. I wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Customs in Hanoi, and he granted me free entry of everything. I am asking the same of the Chinese Customs at Yunnanfu. In Shanghai I only had to pay duty on the rifle and cartridges, all else went free.

I am leaving Saturday for Yunnanfu and thence my long voyage will commence. My boys are all up there waiting for me. I did not take my Siamese boy along as he was very impertinent to me in Hongkong and so I am going to make one of the Nashi boys number one boy. It will also be much cheaper.

Will write you again soon. I have not forgotten about the Pine from Indochina and will inquire in Hanoi.

With kindest regards and good wishes for your continued good health, I remain
Faithfully yours,
Joseph F. Rock

Kindest greetings to Mrs. Potter, Mr. Wilson, Rehder and all the ladies at the Arboretum. J. F. Rock

I made good time from S. Francisco to this place – one month and four days.

Angkur Gomba, a monastery 60 Li from Taochow old city. May 26, 1925

My dear Prof. Sargent.

As I wrote to you I went once more to the present headquarter of the Living Buddha of Labrang at Angkur gomba or Djrakur gomba as the Tibetans call it. I am exceedingly sorry to say that the Regent of Labrang the father of the Living Buddha declared war on the Mohammedan general of Sining. The camp I had intended visiting had broken up and the Tibetan chiefs have all returned. War has been the decision and this on the strength of word that came from the Lanchow Tuchun that the Chinese will be on their side and will wipe out all the Mohammedans. The fight is expected to commence in six days. 70,000 Tibetans have assembled with their weapons. The Chinese general of Pingliang is also joining the Tibetans who have been bled white by Machi. What I am going to do I am unable to say. I came mainly to find out what they had decided and I am of course exceedingly anxious; it is difficult to know what to do. We have such a lot of things and my men, mules cannot be had and with 22 yaks we cannot move very fast. I had hoped that Kansu was to be a peaceful place but I have been sadly mistaken. It was providential that I did not go to Sining and further north as that will be the center of the fight. The Mohammedans of Liangchow are about ready to come down and

attack Lanchow. But I have been told that now the Mohammedans are all very much afraid as the Chinese are joining the Tibetans and this will mean a general massacre of all the Mohammedans. It is most difficult to decide what to do. The Labrang Regent gave me a feast today and we discussed the situation from every angle. He said if I once get to Radja on the Yellow River I would be all right. He said if I would take the Mohammedans along they would surely be killed on the road as the Tibetans would spot them immediately. He said he would procure me 5 Tibetans who can handle yaks and would send 2 Lamas with me who would explain my presence etc. to Tibetan troops we would be bound to meet en route. He said I would have nothing to fear from the Tibetans but the Mohammedans now dress in Tibetan clothes and do most of the robberies and now with the war on he fears for my life should I go in. He said that two lamas would go with me to Radja gomba on the Yellow River and would thence return. He is also giving me three letters to the three tribes of the Ngoloks which live at the Amne Machin, one is the Rimong, the others are known as Konser and Konkai, they are now very friendly to Labrang as Labrang is fighting Machi, and they are joining in the fight for Machi has made them pay a water and grass tax.

In five days I will know what we will do, go in to the Amne Machin and risk it or if it is too dangerous. I have to think of my 12 men who have families. There will be no alternative but to retreat as fast as possible towards Sungpan. My money has not yet come from Lanchow and I fear that it may be too late. I am assure you my dear Dr. Sargent, that I am exceedingly grieved at this awful tragedy that is hanging over us or rather over Kansu. I can only hope that we will escape safely somewhere, but where that somewhere will be no one knows. I will write again as soon as I have decided what we *must* do.

With kindest regards and best wishes I remain faithfully yours
Joseph F. Rock

Let us hope for the best.

Kindest regards to Mrs. Potter, Wilson, Rehder and all the friends at the Arboretum.

P. S.

Even here at Angkur gomba elev. 10,500 ft. not a shrub has a single leaf on. We had since I left home, continuous snowstorms and we had an awful trip to this place. But I am glad I came, travelling was so uncomfortable in those blizzards over passes that I almost wanted to return, but we pushed on and I am glad we did for we learned much.

J. F. R.

There may be one other alternative and that is go into the Tebbu country, west of Choni. From here (Angkur gomba) I can overlook the mighty snowrange which lies southwest of Choni, it is an enormous rocky range about 17,000 ft. in height and is said to contain much forest, no one has worked there. At the present the range is covered with snow and I do not think that the plants found there will be too tender for Massachusetts. May be I will have to go in there to escape the bloodshed and murders that will soon take place in this region. At any rate I will do the best I can under the circumstances which I can assure you are more serious than any I have yet had to face.

J. F. R.

10 p.m.

We had another consultation this evening, word has come that the missionary at Labrang has left the place also the postmaster. They now asked me to wait ten days longer, by that time things will have come to pass. They said Choni will be safe and if it comes to the worse I could cross the Tao River into Tebbu country. They have agreed however to escort me to Radja they fear however that Mohammedans dressed in Tibetan clothes may attack us, and they wish me to give them a letter stating that I am going in on my own responsibility and in case of my being murdered or looted they will not be held responsible. I am writing such a letter in Chinese and English and am placing my seal (Chinese seal) upon it.

We have spent so much money by this time that it would be a shame not to go in. I realize the responsibility to enter a country which is in the most peaceful times, a nest of nomad robbers, and

in times of war it is more than hazardous. I had left money with the people in Labrang to do some buying for me, sheepskin coats etc. for my men. They have now fled and I have neither coats nor money. In Hetso I was only able to get four coats made. This is not the time for buying sheep skins, as the grass is still too short in fact it has just sprouted and sheep are not killed at this time as they are too thin. And yet we cannot wait as by the time we shall come out of Radja it will be bitterly cold and these garments will be needed.

Such trips take more thought and time as is realized. A poor community like this where one cannot even buy the cheapest kind of grass paper and where things are sold on the instalment plan so to say it is mighty difficult to fit out a dozen men with proper clothing and buy the necessary things for the road. Everything has to be talked over and discussed for days until one can get anything done at all. I will continue my letter later.

J. F. R.

Taochow Old City
May 29th, 1925

We have returned to Taochow yesterday.

Sargent to Rock

1

July 18, 1924

Mr. Joseph F. Rock
Samoset Hotel
Rockland, Maine

My dear Mr. Rock,

I have read carefully your letter of July 16th. You speak of expenses for the first year as \$ 14,000, and the other years as \$ 12,000. This is not quite clear to me because you say „the amount necessary for the first year including cost of equipment and salary

of the leader would be about \$ 14,000." Later you say, "I should expect a salary of \$ 500 a month." Is this \$ 500 a month or \$ 6000 a year in addition to the \$ 14,000, making the whole cost of the first year \$ 20,000, and if so, who is the leader who is to get the \$ 6,000 a year? I take it for granted that you are the leader.

If the cost of the whole expedition, including your salary, is \$ 14,000 for the first year and \$ 12,000 for the two following years, I think we could manage a three year expedition, but if it is to be \$ 20,000, and \$ 18,000 it is more than we could afford.

My understanding is that you would devote the first year to the Amne Machin Range in Thibet, the range in which you are especially interested; the second year, I should like to have you devote to the Richthofen range in Kansu, or possibly it might be more convenient to devote the first year to the Kansu range, in which I am most interested in; the third year would be devoted to the Southern slope of the Altai Range, and you might perhaps much more easily come out by the Trans-Siberian Railway, either coming East or West, than undertaking the long and difficult route out by Persia, which perhaps had better be left to another expedition.

I think on your way from Rockland to Washington you had better stop for a further discussion of this matter. I am anxious that an arrangement can be made by which a plan can be carried out.

Yours faithfully,
Director

2

July 22, 1924

Mr. Joseph F. Rock
Hotel Samoset
Rockland, Maine

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was very glad to get your night letter and your letter of July 19th.

I think there is no doubt but what we can make all the necessary arrangements for this expedition.

The Wilsons are going away on the first of August for a few days, and I should like to have him here when you come. Would't it be possible for you to come, say on Thursday of next week, as I suppose we shall have a good many things to talk over.

Yours faithfully,
Director

3

August 20, 1924

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have your letter of the 17th of August. Don't you think that the date of the beginning of your expedition should be the date of your sailing from New York? The check for \$ 14,000 could be dated a few days before and sent you in time to reach New York on the day before you sail, and then you could pay from it the amounts you have already expended for material, time, etc.

I wrote several days ago to Dr. Taylor about the passport. If I do not get a favorable reply from him I will write to Fairchild on the subject. I have also written to Professor Marlatt about authority to get things in without examination at Washington but I daresay we shan't accomplish much with him.

If you will let me know if the check, which I think should be sent in the form of a draft on New York, shall be sent to you two days say before you sail I will attend to it. You will, of course, make out a receipt for this amount and send to the Treasurer of Harvard College, Mr. Charles F. Adams, 50 State Street, Boston, and also one to me here.

I had a short note a couple of days ago from Joseph Hers, our Peking friend, saying that he had left the military service in China and joined what he called the *financial services*, whatever that may be, and that this would take him away from Peking into another part of China. His address is in care of Société Belge d'Entreprises en Chine, Peking. Whether he will be able to attend to botanical work I do not know. Probably he would not have as many men in

his employ to use for this work. I shall of course give you a line of introduction to him. Possibly you may not think it worth while to make that long journey unless you have other friends in Peking whom you can depend on for help. We can talk about this and many other things when you get here.

I will write you another letter tomorrow telling you just what we want to obtain. Let me know as soon as possible when you are likely to be here.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Nat. Geographic Society
Washington, D.C.

4

ARNOLD ARBORETUM HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

August 25, 1924

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have your letter of August 22nd and have asked the Treasurer of Harvard College to send you the draft for \$ 14,000 on September 1st in care of the American Express Company, 65 Broadway, New York City, attention of Mr. R. A. Foulks, General Manager Far East Development Department.

Yours very truly,

Mr. J. F. Rock
National Geographic Society
Washington, D.C.

5

October 14, 1924

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am much obliged to you for sending me the correspondence from Morton. Of course it is perfectly impossible to send seeds in large quantities, and foolish to send seeds of Chinese plants already established in the United States and Europe, except in cases where seeds can be obtained from species growing much further north than they have before been collected, as there is a chance of such seeds producing hardier plants.

I have told Morton that our plan was to send everything here, herbaria, seeds and cuttings, in care of the Arboretum to the Department of Agriculture in Washington; and that on the whole I think he had best withdraw from the plan of paying half the cost of the expedition and allow it to be paid by the Arboretum. If this is done I should send him, as I should Kew and the Garden in Edinburgh, one of the herbaria and as many seeds as ought to be sent him. Of course it is desirable that the distribution of these should be as large as possible both in this country and Europe, especially those which have not been collected before. I hope he will agree with this plan.

In thinking the matter over more carefully, I am convinced that it was a foolish idea to think that an expedition of the difficulty and delicacy of yours could be generally managed by more than one person under the immediate supervision of one leader. If you had to receive orders or even suggestions from Morton as well as from me you would, I am afraid, soon get into hopeless confusion. Wilson and I have had so much experience in Chinese matters, about which nothing is known at the Morton Arboretum, that I hope we shall get on without trouble if he accepts my suggestion.

I hope you are having a pleasant voyage and will reach China safely. With kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock

Yunnan, China

6

December 11, 1924

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am glad to get your letter without date written from the steamship *Empress of Canada* and to hear that you have had no trouble at Shanghai, also that everything was progressing favorably with you. I do not feel very sure that this letter will reach you, and fortunately I have nothing important to say.

I suppose that we shall not get any material from you before the middle of the winter of 1925/26 for it will be too late to send out cutting of Willows and Poplars before the autumn of 1925. I hope you will number in one series everything you collect, including cuttings, herbarium specimens and seeds, and in the case of the seeds if you can add the genus it will be an assistance to us in distributing them. The number, the generic name when possible and the locality are all the information we need. The species can be worked up later from the herbarium specimens which I suppose will not come until you return yourself.

There is no news to send you from here. Every one is well, and so far we have had little winter and practically no snow.

With kind regards and all good wishes for your health and success,

I am

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Chengtú, Szechwan, China
(c/o Y.M.C.A.)

7

April 4, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was very glad to receive yesterday your letter of February 15th from Chengtu and to learn from it that you were still well and in good spirits in spite of your hard journey and many trials and tribulations.

In any case you need not give the Morton business another thought. He understands fully the situation and agrees entirely with

me in the wisdom of giving up my first suggestion that your expedition should be a joint affair between this Arboretum and his. Of course we shall send him a portion of the seeds and cuttings we receive from you and do everything else we can to help him.

Wilson seems to think that your troubles in reaching your destination are nearly over and I hope he is right in this. You will of course be late for early spring flowers in Tibet but that cannot be helped. The seeds and fruiting specimens are more important, and the cuttings of Willows and Poplars would of course be made in the autumn.

Rehder has just called my attention to the fact that Komaroff¹⁶ has described a *Picea crassifolia*, a new species found in the Kukunor region, latitude 37°98'40". This he says grows in the forests of *Picea Schrenkiana*. The latter is a tree which we know little about and are not at all sure if the species cultivated under that name in Europe and the United States is the real thing. Of course these two species are good plants for you to look out for.

We are having what promises to be a very early spring here, and as yet there is no indication that much damage has been done by the winter which, with the exception of a few extremely cold days, has been a mild one. There was no snow unfortunately, but lately we have had a good deal of rain and if we get through the next ten days all right I do not think we shall have any trouble.

It is delightful to have dealings with a man as intelligent, brave and cheerful as you are, and I shall be greatly mistaken if your journey does not turn out to be the most important botanical expedition which has ever gone out from the United States.

Let me hear from you as often as you can, and with all good wishes, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

¹⁶ V. L. Komarov, vgl. *Bulletin de la Société des Naturalistes de Moscou* NS 45.1936, 67-75, mit Porträt; B. V. Skvortsov: Vladimir Leont'evič Komarov, 1864-1945. *Proceedings of the Harbin Society of Natural History* 5.1946, 5-8, 1 Taf.

Mr. J. F. Rock
Si-ning Fu, Kansu
via Peking, China

8

May 6, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received your letter of the 21st of March from Mienchow. You are certainly having a hard time and I am surprised at your courage. Wilson and I both agree that you are going to get through all right. A man as energetic, intelligent and courageous as you are is sure to overcome the kind of difficulties you encounter, but it is a slow and troublesome business.

I communicated at once with the Museum about the \$ 2000 they were to pay in July and enclose a letter written by Barbour which explains itself. I have therefore asked the Treasurer to make the draft \$ 12,000 instead of \$ 10,000 as you certainly ought not to be short of money. This he has done and I have no doubt that the draft is already in Shanghai. I gave Mr. Adams your direction as follows:

„Drafts are to be sent in U.S. Currency to the credit of Joseph F. Rock with the American Express Company of Shanghai, China. This draft must be on New York, American Express Company, 65 Broadway, and in transmitting the same the Shanghai Express Company's office must be directed to credit the amount of the drafts to the U.S.Dollar Account of Joseph F. Rock and not the Shanghai Dollar account.“

Every one is well here, and we have a wonderful spring with more flowers than I have ever seen in the Arboretum before after what has proved a mild winter for the plants. Mrs. Potter is now somewhere between Honolulu and San Francisco, and I only hope that she has not heard of the death of her cousin John Singer Sargent, the great artist, who was a particular friend of hers. If she heard of it, as she might have in Peking or Japan, the news I fear has greatly interfered with the pleasure of the last part of her journey. She leaves the ship at San Francisco and is coming home by rail via Santa Barbara.

Let me hear from you as often as you can for we are naturally worried. If there is any trouble about the money sent by Mr. Adams better send me a cable.

With all good wishes for better luck in the future, I am
Faithfully yours,

Mr. Joseph F. Rock
c/o The Reverend F. D. Learner
Sinningfu [!], Kansu

9

August 18, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I received a few days ago by the same mail your letters of May 20th and 26th, and yesterday there came (I do not understand why) from the Department of Agriculture your letter of the 24th of June which is the latest word we have had of you. They fill Mrs. Potter and me with the greatest admiration for your courage, patience, energy and wise management, and it begins to look now as if you would pull through all right and make a great success of the expedition.

The cable announced in your letter of May 20th reached me. When I received your letter of May 20th I sent a cable to Dr. John Ferguson¹⁷ in Peking telling him the situation you were in and asking him to do anything he could to help you. On the 8th of August I received this reply from him which was in cipher: „Telegraph immediately through foreign office to Governor who has replied <Luetan>, Magistrate has been instructed to investigate and report by wire. will inform you.“ Ferguson will I know do everything he can to help you.

I am having § 540.30 mentioned in your letter of June 29th deposited in your account in the American Security & Trust Company of Washington, D.C., this being the amount of your salary which you had to expend for the expenses of the expedition.

¹⁷ John Calvin Ferguson, 1866-1945, Berater der chinesischen Regierung. Vgl. R. H van Gulik: Dr. John C. Ferguson's 75th anniversary. *MS* 6.1941, 340-356.

I suppose it is a little too early to talk about getting seeds out of Kansu. Do you think it would be advisable to send them to our Embassy in Peking to forward? I have no doubt I could manage this if you think well of the plan, or I daresay that Dr. Ferguson would attend to it for us. We are on very friendly relations with the Southeastern University at Nanking. Three persons in the botanical department there have studied here in the Arboretum, and Professor H. H. Hu¹⁸ has just left here after two years of study. He will be the head of the botanical department of the University, which I hope to be able to help become a great institution as there is a chance of obtaining money for the purpose and they already have twelve hundred acres for an Arboretum and Botanic Garden. I do not know if Professor Hu could be of any assistance to you in any way but he knows about our expedition and some of your troubles, and as he is very devoted to the Arboretum I am sure he would do anything to help you if his assistance would be of any value. I believe him to be a man with a great botanical future.

I hope I shall hear from you again soon and that the news will continue to be as good as when you last wrote or even better. I cannot give your message to Mr. Wilson as he is away on a vacation until the 1st of September, but I am sure he will write you on his return. Every one else is well and the Arboretum has never looked as well at this season as we have had unusually heavy rains during the summer.

With kind regards and good wishes, I am,
Always faithfully yours,

10

August 18, 1925

Dear Mr. Endicott:

Will you please have deposited for the Arboretum \$ 540.30 in the American Security & Trust Company of Washington, D.C., to be

¹⁸ Hu Hsen-hsu [su] 胡先驕 1894-1968, Botaniker, war 1923-1925 an der Harvard Universität tätig, 1925-1928 als Professor an der Tung-nan-Universität.

placed to the account of Joseph F. Rock, and charged to our expedition in China.

Yours very truly,

A. L. Endicott, Esq.
Cambridge, Mass.

11

August 28, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I received yesterday your letter of July 10th from Choni describing your troubles on your trip into the Tebbu country and saying that you had decided to pick up and leave for the Kokonor with the expectation of reaching the northern mountains of the Kokonor the end of this month. You certainly are having a horrid time. Something I am afraid has interfered with this plan for I received on August 19th a cable from Ferguson in Peking stating „Magistrate reports 13th of August Rock well, working, located Choni“, which looks as if you had returned to that city. I do not understand it but I have no doubt that you will overcome all your difficulties.

I shall ask the Bursar of the University to add to his deposit in Washington the sum of \$ 35.14 which I understand is still due.

Let me hear from you as often as possible. With all good wishes, believe me

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. Joseph F. Rock
Choni, Prov. of Kansu
China

12

August 28, 1925

Dear Mr. Endicott:

The other day I asked you to deposit in Washington for the account of Joseph F. Rock \$ 530.30. Will you kindly add to that

deposit the sum of \$ 35.15 and charge to the expenses of our Chinese exposition [expedition].

Yours very truly,

A. L. Endicott, Esq.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

13

September 15, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

You wrote me on June 29th that you had packed up everything and was just starting for the Kokonor region, but I have a cable from Mr. Ferguson stating that he had heard from the Chinese magistrate that on the 13th of August you were well, working and located in Choni. I can only account for this that you failed to reach Kokonor and returned to Choni. I suppose that I shall get a letter from you in the course of a few days now. Naturally I am anxious about you and about what happens to make you change your plans.

You speak of sending your material via Chinese Turkestan. This may be all right and you no doubt know more about the safety of this route than we do here. In any case I believe you had best retain herbarium specimens and bird skins until next year when conditions may be more favorable, and send this year only seeds. These should be numbered of course, with the same number which will be on the herbarium specimens. I suggest that you separate the seeds into three different sendings, one lot to go via Chinese Turkestan if you believe in that route, one by mail in small packages directed to the Arboretum, and the third also in small packages addressed to John C. Ferguson, 3 Hsi-Chao Hutung, Peking, China.

I am writing today to Mr. Ferguson asking him to attend to reforwarding these packages to the Arboretum direct. I feel quite sure that he will do it but if he is unwilling to undertake this I will suggest by cable another method of sending them. I do not think that any of the seeds which will be in such small packages need be sent to Washington as we at one time proposed. I think we can get

them through all right without this formality.
Trusting that all is at last going well with you, and with my kindest regards, I am
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

14

October 8, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock,

We have been immensely interested and pleased at the receipt of the five packages of seeds addressed to the Arboretum which came via Shanghai and were delivered to us here without any examination or trouble. They came apparently in about two months and arrived a little more than a year after you sailed from San Francisco. I feel very encouraged.

A short time ago I wrote to the Federal Horticultural Board and have now received from Dr. Marlatt, the Chairman, the following:

„In the case of seeds collected by Mr. Rock, we will furnish the addressed tags (12 enclosed herewith) which you will kindly mail to him for use in connection with shipments that he may wish to make from time to time. He can combine as large a package of different kinds of seeds under each tag as he finds convenient. The address on these tags has been changed to the Board's Boston office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, and Mr. Smith, in charge of that office, has been instructed, promptly on the receipt of any such parcels, to deliver them to the Arnold Arboretum and make the examinations at the Arboretum so that your or your assistants can see the goods on delivery and as they are unpacked, and can if necessary assist in the disinfection of the seeds. I feel perfectly sure that you have no objection to treatment of the seeds if such treatment should be necessitated by any conditions of infestation or probability thereof, knowing of course that your interest is just as much as our own to exclude any new foreign pests.“

This is certainly very satisfactory to me and I do not believe

that the disinfection under these conditions will amount to anything, while if they went to Washington there would be long delays. I enclose the tags as Dr. Marlatt requests and I think in future that instead of sending the seeds via Peking, as suggested previously, or via Turkestan, that you send them all addressed to the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Massachusetts, with one of the enclosed tags placed on the package. The difficulty about sending to Washington is shown by the fact that the seeds sent directly to the Arboretum arrived nearly a week ago but we have heard nothing yet of those which you sent to Washington.

Our plan is to distribute your seeds to Kew, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh, the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, the German Botanical Garden near Berlin, the Botanic Garden in Sapporo, northern China [!], and the Southeastern University at Nanking where I hope eventually an important botanical establishment will be built up. I think also that if there are seeds enough to around we should send a few to Dr. Morton who at my suggestion agreed to bear half the expenses of the expedition. This arrangement I canceled after your visit to him as I was afraid it might make complications which would be disagreeable for you. I should like to know if this disposition of your seeds is satisfactory to you for of course it can be changed.

On September 5th of last year, Mr. Kellerman, Acting Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, wrote me as follows:

„We have discussed with Mr. Rock the matter of obtaining plant material for us incident to his explorations for the Arboretum. Mr. Rock is familiar with our work and in general with our plans because of his past experience with us. I would suggest that instead of specifying the plant material we desire, we leave it to his judgment to send us such plants as he may be able to obtain incident to his explorations for the Arboretum, forwarding the plant material with his shipments to the Arboretum. The plants can then be forwarded to us from the Arboretum. If you prefer, Mr. Rock can make the shipments direct to the Department.“

I do not know that this discussion entails anything on you but I hope not. Of course the sending of plants will be out of the question, and I haven't a very high opinion of the work done by

the Bureau of Plant Industry in Washington. If you feel committed in any way, or would like to have us do so, we can send a few of your seeds to this Bureau as they arrive. As you know, I want to make your expedition as useful as possible, and to carry out any of your ideas which may relate to the accomplishment of this.

I have read, of course, your article in the National Geographic Magazine relating to your present journey. I am not sure that it is a good plan to write too much for publication at present about this expedition, and in any case I think such articles should be sent via the Arboretum in order that we can read them before they are published. Of course we shall want to preserve in the Arboretum a set of all your photographs, and your films will be the property of the Arboretum just as those taken by Mr. Wilson on his various journeys for us are preserved here.

I am very anxious to get your next letter and to learn if you have gone to Tibet or are still at Choni. It is evident that you are discovering a lot of new and probably extremely valuable conifers and we hope that we may receive seeds and cones of these this year.

I have been writing for the Journal of the Arboretum a short note about your expedition and tried to join to it a biographical note about yourself. This, however, I was not able for want of information to make very satisfactory. We ought to have all the information we can get about you on file here, and if you can find a spare half-hour some day I hope you will jot down answers to the following questions: The date of your birth, the nationality of your father and mother, your age when you made the journey to Egypt with your father, and if you made any other journeys as a boy. We have no information at all about you between your journey to Egypt with your father and your appearance in Hawaii in 1919 as we make it out. Will you tell me what you did before you went to Hawaii and where you obtained your botanical education and training? I have the dates in the preface of one of your books of your journey around the world when you were working on the Hawaiian flora and I am not sure that you left Hawaii late in 1919 or early in 1920. All I know about this is that

I received from you in August 1920 a note written in Washington. When did you leave Washington that year for your employment by the Department of Agriculture, and when did you transfer to the Geographic Society? And was all your work in Yunnan done for this Society or partly for the Department of Agriculture? For such a distinguished man, it is astonishing that so little has been published, or if more about you has been published that it has been so completely overlooked in our library, where I am happy to say we have what I believe is a complete set of all your published works.

I send you hearty congratulations on your safe arrival in the north after certainly what was a most terrible journey, so terrible that I think it would be wise for you to remain in north central Asia until you have completed the work in Kansu, Tibet and on the southern slope of the Altai mountains. You will never want to go back there again and now that you are there it is wise to finish as much as you can, always provided your good health holds out. With my sincere thanks for all you are doing for the Arboretum, and with all good wishes for the New Year, believe me
Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

15

October 29, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have recently received from you letters from Hsiningfu dated September 4th and 12th. That of the 12th arrived two or three days before the letter dated September 4th.

I regret all the difficulties you are having and especially the sickness of your cook, which must be a serious interference with your work. I hope he will recover. I feel so uncertain about your plans that I am sending this letter in duplicate, one copy to Lanchow and one to Choni.

As I have written you, the five packages of seeds which you

sent direct to the Arboretum arrived quickly and in excellent condition, but I have heard nothing as yet from those which you sent for the Arboretum to the Department of Agriculture.

I enclose copies of my correspondence with C. C. Thomas of the Department of Agriculture. When I wrote him on October 16th I did not know that you had sent seeds to the Department directly and supposed that this seed had been taken by him from one of the packages which you had sent to the Arboretum in Washington. I do not know what your obligations are to the Department but if you wish any of your seed to go there it should be sent through the Arboretum and avoid future confusion as you will see by Thomas' first letter. They are giving your seed an entirely different number from the one we have used in planting it here and distributing it to our correspondents. Personally I should never think of sending valuable seeds to the Department of Agriculture as there are many more important and better conducted horticultural and botanical institutions in the world able to make better use of the extremely rare seed we hope to get from you. Of course we shall be governed by your wishes in this matter, but I think I can properly insist that everything you send from China should pass through the hands of the Arboretum.

This letter, if it ever reaches you, as I feel sure it will in time, ought to be in your hands not long before Christmas. I cannot venture to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, but I can hope that your health will remain good and that you will be able to accomplish all that you expect to accomplish in 1926.

With kind regards from us all, and all good wishes, I am,
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

A copy of this letter to Mr. Rock was sent to Lanchow, Kansu, China.

P.S. The people at the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge would be glad to have the bird skins sent by parcel post at any time which may be convenient to you. The packages should

be simply addressed *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

16

November 9, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have just received your letter of September 16th from Tankar announcing the sending to Washington on that day for the Arboretum of seven packets of seeds and I am writing there today asking them to hurry them forward as rapidly as possible.

The first lot of seeds you sent came here direct so quickly that I am sorry the lot sent by you on September 16th did not come in the same way as I haven't yet received the seeds of the first lot which I understand you sent for the Arboretum to Washington.

You say you haven't heard from me for several months, I wrote you on October 14, 1924, to Yunnan-fu, on December 11, 1924, to Chengtu, on April 4, 1925, to Sinning-fu, on September 15th to Choni, on October 8th to Choni and Lanchow. I suppose the only letter of mine which you could have received previous to your writing on September 16th was the one written on May 6th.

My letter of October 8th was the most important one for it included labels to be put on the packages of seeds to insure their direct delivery to the Arboretum. Lest this letter may not have reached you I am enclosing a copy and am asking them to send me from Washington another supply of the labels. With good luck my original letter of the 8th of October and the one I am writing to you today ought to reach you early in December, and I think it would be wise to delay until then sending any more seeds so that you may use these special labels. If they leave Kansu by the 10th of December they ought to be here early in February, early enough of course to sow the seeds both here and in Europe.

We have had rather a poor autumn with less beautiful autumn foliage and fruit than usual, and I see by the papers that a hard winter is predicted.

I hope you are well and that all goes well with you.

With kind regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Tankar, Kokonor Border, Kansu, China

17

November 18, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock,

I am very glad to be able to report that the six packages of seeds which you sent via Washington have arrived safely and in good condition. I received from Washington fourteen more of the tags to put on your packages of seeds and as I do not feel very sure about your winter address I am sending half of them to Lanchow, Kansu, and half to Choni, Kansu, by registered mail.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Ferguson which I received this morning. I am sure we can count on his help if it is needed.

With kind regards and sincere good wishes for the New Year, I am
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Tankar, Kokonor Border, Kansu, China

18

November 25, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock:

the following is from a letter received from Smith of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden which I think may interest you:

„If I can be of any service in identification of some of the herbaceous material of Rock's Kansu collection I trust you will afford me the opportunity. I am particularly interested in *Primula* and would very gladly examine and report on the Primulaceae of his expedition if you wish me to do so.“

Probably there are species of *Primula* in the regions you are going to visit which are still undescribed and may prove valuable garden plants. It might well be remember his interest in them if the opportunity offers.

I hope all is going well with you and that we shall soon hear from you again.

With kind regards,
Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Tankar, Kokonor Border, Kansu, China

19

December 31, 1925

Dear Mr. Rock,

I have your letters of October 9, 25th and 28th which all came by the same mail. As this is the last letter I shall write in 1925 I will begin it by wishing you a happier time, or at least a more comfortable one in 1926 than you had in 1925, which I am afraid you will look back on as the most disagreeable year of your life. There is one thing to be said, at any rate, you cannot possibly have a worse time in the future than you have had in the past.

I am sorry to say that the package of Willow cuttings which you sent directly to the Arboretum and the seeds which you sent via Washington have not yet appeared. I am sorry that you sent seeds to Washington rather than direct to the Arboretum where we have facilities for getting them now, and if they go to Washington the authorities there always help themselves liberally to your seeds. As I have written you, Washington is not the best place to handle such valuable seeds, and we have numerous correspondents in the extreme northern part of the world where they will be appreciated and I hope will be well taken care of. In the future I hope you will send everything directly to the Arboretum.

I agree with you that it is a surprising thing to find Rhododendrons growing so far north and in such an inhospitable region. The discovery seems to me very important for if these species do not have value as ornamental flowering plants they may prove of immense value when crossed with more southern or handsomer species in producing a new race which will prove hardy in regions like this where we can grow none of the southern Chinese species.

I am addressing this letter to Kansu, although I am not sure that you will make this your winter headquarters, but probably if

you do not you will leave directions there to have letters forwarded to you. We have sent you, as requested, a quantity of oiled paper by letter post, as I agree with you it is absolutely necessary that you should have it. I should suppose that material packed in sphagnum and enclosed in oiled paper will require an outer covering, but I don't know whether burlap is the best material or not, for this. I should think that wrapping paper and cotton cloth for the outer wrapping would be sufficient.

There is not much news to write you. We have had as yet no snow but a few days of excessive cold, that is the thermometer has been down during two or three nights to 7° Fahrenheit. This is bad as the plants need a covering of snow in such cold weather.

Everybody at the Arboretum seems well and I think we have been busier here than ever before, so many demands are made on us for material and information, and we are preparing for a great deal of spring planting. Mrs. Potter is well and passing the holidays with her daughter in Brookline. She has taken an apartment in New York for the winter but in February is going to Italy for a couple of months, and next summer expects to go to Paris with her daughter. She is certainly a restless person. She is much interested in your trip and very often asks what I have heard from you.

Good-bye for the moment, and with all good wishes believe me
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Kanchow, Kansu, China

20

January 8, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I received several days ago your letters of November 10th and 18th. They were followed by two packets of Willow cuttings and the seeds of the Juniper and *Picea* sent direct to the Arboretum. The Willow cuttings were dried up and dead on arrival I am sorry to say; the seeds were all right. I am particularly glad of this Juniper seed which is either a new species or possibly *Juniperus*

saltuaria Rehder & Wilson which appears to be a widely distributed species at high altitudes in western central Asia, although we have never succeeded in getting seeds and it is not in cultivation. This tree was collected by Purdom on the Peling-shan in Kansu, by Wilson on the mountains of northwestern Szechwan, and it is probably the Juniper collected by Przewalski in the Kokonor region and on the upper sources of the Hoang-Ho. Your seed seems to be in condition to germinate I am glad to say.

The seeds which you sent to Washington arrived only today. These are Nos. 13, 284-12,304, inclusive, 13,307, 13,308, 13,309, 13,310, 13,311.

When you wrote on November 10th and 18th my letter of September 15th was the last you had received, and the letter of October 8th, the important one in which I told you why I had made an arrangement with Washington to have all your mail sent here direct and examined, enclosing special tags for your packages had not been received. You have, I hope, received it before this. In case of an accident I enclose an extract from that letter of October 8th which tells you about my arrangement with the Federal Horticultural Board. I sincerely hope that you will send nothing more to Washington. They appear to help themselves liberally to the Arboretum seeds and to give them new numbers. These seeds are too valuable for the Washington people to handle and I want to save them all for the botanical gardens and forest stations in the colder Parts of the northern hemisphere.

I note that you are going to send everything except your mail packages to the American Consul-General at Shanghai. Please charge him to put everything on one of the steamers which sails from Shanghai direct to Boston, coming of course through the Panama Canal. There are two of these lines and each of them run good steamers. I think it will save trouble if the bird skins as well as the Arboretum material are shipped in this way to the Arboretum, and we can arrange to have the skins sent to Cambridge. The Consul-General at Shanghai should be asked to have a bill of lading for the freight shipped from Shanghai to the Arboretum sent to me here by mail.

You have certainly had a bad time and I hope you are now

somewhere where you can get the much needed rest and have comfortable quarters. You don't say where you expect to pass the winter but I take it for granted it will be in Choni, at any rate I am sending this letter to you there and shall continue to write you there until I get instructions to the contrary.

There is no news from the Arboretum to write you. Everyone is well here, and we have so far had no snow and only a little cold weather but a great deal of rain and fog, and on the whole an unsatisfactory autumn. We badly need snow and a great deal of it to protect the plants which are not entirely hardy.

I hope that I shall hear from you again, and with all good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

21

February 2, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am very glad to report that I have received your letter of November 29th from Labrang and finished December 8th at Choni, also your two letters from Choni of December 9th and 13th, and to learn from them that after all your hardships and hard work you were still cheerful and full of hope for future achievement.

We have now received the numbers of the seeds sent by you on the list enclosed. By this you will see that only a part of the seeds of the last sending are here but I expect the remainder by the next mail. The following is a list of the seeds which had germinated before the end of January:

Caprifoliaceae #13275, Fraxinus #13243, Berberis #13256, Berberis #13263, Berberis #13272, Berberis #13273, Berberis #13295, Cotoneaster #13269, Cotoneaster #13270, Nitraria Schoberi #13240. Rhododendron #13278, Rhododendron #13279, Rhododendron #13302, Rhododendron #13303.

I shall share your seeds, as you suggest, with Dr. Lyon¹⁹ at Honolulu, the Department of Agriculture at Washington, the Golden Gate Park at San Francisco, and Frank L. Morgan at Hoquiam.

It is needless to say that the Arboretum Journal will be more than glad to publish anything you may care to write about the features of vegetation you have seen. I hope you will do this for us.

I hope you will not be shy about sending me a biographical note about yourself. It is not for publication but we should have on file some account of a man who is doing so much for the Arboretum. I shall write today to Dr. Ferguson and to the American Consul at Shanghai in the hope of securing authority for the latter to ship your birds and herbarium specimens without the necessity of opening the boxes or paying a duty.

I can well understand the cost of traveling has been much higher than was contemplated before you started on this journey when all the difficulties you have encountered and the attendant expenses were not expected. Do not let this worry you. The Arboretum will be only too glad to meet all your financial requirements, and I feel confident that you will use such economy as may be necessary.

I see by papers that William E. Brigham²⁰, who was a classmate of mine at Harvard, has died in Honolulu. I suppose you knew him well. He was a man of energy and a great deal of ability but unfortunate sexual peculiarities made him unpopular in this country at least, and his real ability I do not think has been appreciated here. I have heard a great deal about the Bishop Museum of which he was Director. I suppose you know it well. There has been much said in its praise.

We have been having some very cold weather here lately and

¹⁹ Harold Lyon, 1879-1957, Gartenbauspezialist für die Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association.

²⁰ William Tufts Brigham, 1841-1926, A.M. der Harvard Universität 1865, 1888-1918 Direktor des Pernice M. Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Er starb am 29. Januar 1926. Vgl. *Who was who in America*, 1897-1942. (1943), 139.

only a very little snow, and I am afraid a good many plants in the Arboretum will suffer between now and the 1st of May.

Hoping that this will find you well and somewhat rested, and with all good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

22

March 1, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

Since I last wrote you I received your letters of January 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 8th and your accounts; also your five packets of seeds which came here direct (Nos. 13,744, 13,202, *Betula* species, number 12131 and 12799) and your photographs and cones. In all we have received 397 packets of seeds and 27 packets of cuttings, all in good condition and a good many of the seeds have already germinated. I suppose that all your collections of last year, with the exception of the cases containing the herbarium specimens and the birds, have now been received. I will write today to our Minister in Peking and see if we cannot get some help from him. We have sent you \$ 2000. to Shanghai. This is the additional amount, I understand from your letter, which you need for this year; and I have a memorandum to send you in May \$ 15,000 for your next year.

We have sent you all the stationery and material you have asked for with the exception of the brown wrapping paper. If this is sent in quantity by registered mail it will cost so much that the Arboretum would be put out of business. The opinion here is that China is a much better country than the United States in which to obtain wrapping paper. We have had printed and sent to you a set of your photographs.

Your first year, in view of all the difficulties, dangers and hardships, has certainly been a wonderful success and I have nothing but admiration for what you have accomplished.

Your photographs are wonderfully taken and most interesting

and valuable. I don't know how you got the idea that we didn't want to get photographs of the scenery. These are always important and interesting additions to our collection, and you may be sure you cannot send us too many of them. Photographs of the bark of large trees close to the tree are valuable for they give a better idea of the bark than any description.

It is impossible to give any advice at this distance about your future movements, and all I can say in a general way is that now you are in that part of the world, which may never be reached by a botanist again, or certainly not for many years, we ought to get as much information and material as is possible in the time you are willing to devote to it. I shall be disappointed if you are not able to visit the Amne Machin for I have an idea that this will prove a very interesting region. I think that this would occupy the rest of 1926, that you would not get to the Altai before the spring of 1927, and that if you come home via Chinese Turkestan, where there may be much to collect, you might not be back here until the late autumn of 1928, that is four years from the time you left.

You understand, I hope, that having entire confidence in your judgment I leave all plans to you with the understanding that you will be supplied with money needed for a longer or shorter stay.

We have had a very hard February with more snow and worse roads than we have had for years, and today it looks like anything but the first day of March. Every one is well, and Mrs. Potter called Saturday for Spain with the idea of being back the first of May and returning to Europe again next summer. I shall hope to hear from you again soon.

Always faithfully yours,

P.S. The Lily bulbs came at the same time as the cones and, as you request, some of them have gone to Washington.

23

March 22, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

Your letters of January 18th and 19th have been duly received. Like all your letters they are most interesting and give me the greatest pleasure. Do not be afraid of writing too many of them. We have also received in excellent condition seven packages of *Salix* and *Populus* specimens and the new consignment of your photographs, a set of which will be returned to you next week. We have also the specimens of herbaceous plants which I think will enable us to determine or have determined the plants raised from your herbaceous seeds which we have distributed with those of the woody plants.

It may be interesting to you to know that we have distributed among the best cultivators in the northern part of the three hemispheres three thousand seven hundred and eighteen packages of your seeds, a good result for your first season's work I think. Some of the seeds here which Judd has have germinated well and our gardner Sander, who is the best man so far as I know anywhere for seedlings, Rhododendrons and Azaleas, has already picked out from the first pan of *Rhododendron* seeds which he planted fifteen hundred plants which are growing well. I am looking forward, as you know, with a great deal of interest to the Rhododendrons which you have discovered for it is possible that they may not have large of handsome flowers but they will certainly be of immense value to cross with more tender species which are not hardy in this part of the world.

I find that in my recent letters to you I did not send Marlatt's latest instruction about forwarding your seeds. The following is a quotation from his letter of February 17th:

„With respect to your second communication of the same date the Board is perfectly willing to allow Dr. Rock to send the plant material to which you refer by letter mail in registered sealed packages, in view of the restrictions which are placed on the Post Office Department to permit entry and delivery of such material when so tagged that it will come via the inspection service of the Federal Horticultural Board of this Department, it would seem to

be better to have Mr. Rock instructed to address this material to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Horticultural Board, Boston, Mass. Mr. Rock's name on the package will be a clear indication that it is intended for you, and any additional information can be placed inside the package. Such action will, in the first place, be a compliance with the requirements, and, in the second place, will avoid any risk of the package being diverted by some postal official en route. Furthermore, if any packages not properly marked reach Mr. Smith he will be instructed to see that they are promptly turned over to you. As hitherto, the opening, inspection, and any necessary treatment can be made at the Arboretum after they are freed from Customs, unless some of the material is so infested that it would seem desirable to have it given more technical inspection."

This means that the tags which we have sent you will not be needed on the seed packages but they will be addressed as Marlatt directs in this letter. We are in close touch with him and I am sure that he will not subject it to any injurious treatment. Of course things like photographs, herbarium specimens and anything not requiring action by the Federal Horticultural Board should be addressed to the Arboretum.

I am afraid it is still cold where you are. Here it is a very late spring, and this is really the first day that feels like it.

Don't forget to write me as often as you find time to do so, for your letters give me great pleasure.

With kind regards,
Always faithfully,

J. F. Rock, Esq.

24

March 26, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

Since I wrote you the other day I have had a visit from Bangs who came over to read some of your recent letters and talk over the bird situation. He agrees with me that this bird collecting business must not be given up even if you have expended the 200 pounds

contributed by the Cambridge Museum for the purpose. Barber, the man who furnished the money, is away and will not be back until next month. I think there is no doubt, if the 200 pounds is already expended, that an additional sum can be obtained from friends of the Museum, so I hope that you will be able to continue this work as the region is of course a most important one and the birds which are there are entirely unrepresented in any museum. Perhaps you will let me know how much of the 200 pounds you have already expended when you are writing.

It is astonishing how successful your seeds are germinating, and there are already up here and at my place in Brookline thousands of your plants. It doesn't look as if a single seed has failed. We shall certainly have our hands full in taking care of the plants in a few years. Glad to see, too that some of your cuttings have already started to grow, and at this end of the line the situation is most satisfactory.

I hope everything is going well with you, and with kind regards and all good wishes, believe me,

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o Postal Commissioner
Lanchow, Kansu, China

25

April 27, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received your letters of January 26, February 12 and 26. According to the request in your letter of the 26th I have written to Taylor in Washington and urged him as strongly as I possibly could to have your passport hurried up and sent to you. I think he will probably attend to it.

I still hope that you will visit the southern slope of the Altai mountains, and I do not expect you home before the autumn of 1928 as it will be of course be possible to do some collecting in Chinese Turkestan and other places on your way home.

I enclose a copy of a letter which originated in the United

States Legation at Peking and I suppose has been sent to me from Shanghai. We certainly cannot furnish information here they are looking for but possibly you will be able to do so.

I am glad to say that your seeds are germinating in the most satisfactory manner and that from your first year's collection there should be more than a million plants distributed through the northern United States and northern Europe. I hope you will be equally successful this year in Tibet.

With kind regards and all good wishes for your health, believe me,
Faithfully and gratefully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Lanchow, Kansu, China

26

May 10, 1926

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o Postal Commissioner
Lanchow
Kansu, China

Dear Mr. Rock:

Since writing you on Saturday, I have received this letter from Mr. Kellerman, a copy of which I am enclosing along with photostat copy of your passport, in the hope that it may reach you.

I have not heard yet about the best way to send money to you but I am doing my best to find out. I will be able, I hope, to write again on this subject in the course of two or three days.

Faithfully yours,

Director

27

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry
Washington
Office of the Associate Chief of Bureau

May 7, 1926

Mr. C. S. Sargent
Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Sargent,

In a letter just received from Mr. Rock, it would appear that he has not yet received the passport which was forwarded to him by registered mail on February 10 to the address given in his letter requesting the passport, namely, c/o Postal Commissioner, Lanchowfu, Kansu, W. China. Mr. Allanson also wrote to Mr. Rock regarding the passport on March 6 and again on March 9; apparently none of these letters have reached Mr. Rock up to the time of mailing the letter, just received, on March 8 from Choni, Kansu.

I am enclosing herewith a photostat copy which we had made from the original passport before it was mailed. If there is any address that occurs to you that is likely to be reasonably prompt in reaching Mr. Rock, I would be very glad if you would forward a copy of this letter together with the passport direct to Mr. Rock.

Very truly yours,

K. F. Kellerman
Associate Chief of Bureau

28

May 7, 1926

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o Postal Commissioner
Lanchow, Kansu, China

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received your letters of March 6th and 9th from Kansu. You have evidently failed to receive several of my letters, and I am sending, by registered mail to the Postal Commissioner at Lanchow, copies of my letters of November 13 and 25, December 31, January 8, February 2, March 1 and 26, and April 27. If you ever get these, you will see that on March 2 we sent you \$ 2,000.

to Shanghai as you requested, and we have tried to do everything you have asked us to do.

I am trying to arrange to cable the \$ 2,000. you failed to receive to the Postal Commissioner at Lanchow but it seems doubtful if this can be accomplished. Then there is \$ 15,000. which will be sent to you in May, and I have not found out yet how this is going to reach you. It is quite evident that things are in a very poor condition in eastern China. I have every faith, however, in your tact, ability, and courage, and somehow or other you are going to pull through.

Faithfully yours,

29

May 11, 1926

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

Dear Mr. Rock,

I received this morning letters from you from Choni dated March 13, 18 and 23, the last in answer to the receipt of my letters of December 23, 1925. On the 7th of May, I sent you copies of my letters of November 13 and 25, December 31, January 8, February 2, March 1 and 26, and April 26. c/o Postal Commissioner at Lanchow, and on May 10 sent you, in his care, a copy of letter from F. K. Kellerman with photostat copy of your passport.

We know that the check for \$ 2,000. which we sent you reached Shanghai but have been unable so far to trace it any further. We are doing our best to discover the best way to get money to you, and I shall hope to write you again on the subject both to Lanchow and Choni in the course of two or three days. I am sending this letter to Choni although in your letter dated December 29 you wrote „Address all letters for the next ten months or so in care of the Postal Commissioner at Lanchow.“ Although you say you are not going to Lanchow, and that there may be difficulty there, you have given me no new address, and I think we should continue to write you there. This I am sending to Choni as there is nothing more to write to Lanchow.

Of course I want you to carry out the plan of visiting the southern slope of the Altai Mountains but I fully realize that without sufficient money this cannot be done. If there is any way of getting the money to you, you will certainly have it.

Faithfully yours,

Director

30

May 18, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have this morning your letter of March 26th and 29th. I am glad to hear that at least the wrapping paper has reached you and I hope you will get the check before long. I am worried, of course, lest you should be short of money but I don't know what more we can do about it. You haven't changed your address from Lanchow but from what you write of conditions there I will send this letter to Choni in the hope that it may sooner or later reach you. What surprises me is that you are so cheerful and apparently little discouraged by all the hardships and anxieties which you have met with on this journey.

I enclose a copy of a communication which I received from Peking this morning and which looks encouraging, but whether it means that your cases of specimens can be shipped from there at once or not I do not know. Judging from your telegram, you won't be back in Choni before November but possibly you have made or can make some arrangements by which letters can be forwarded to you.

We have had a cold and late spring but the flowers are beginning to appear slowly. So far nothing has been injured in the Arboretum and everyone here is well.

With kind regards and good wishes, believe me,
Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

31

July 21, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

My last word from you was your cable dated at Shanghai May 13 and received here the same day, and my last letter was received July 13, dated at Labrang and was written consecutively from April 29 to May 4, the day before you left Labrang for Tibet.

Your courage and cheerfulness and certainty of future success fill me with the greatest admiration, in view of all you have had to endure. The results of your first year are remarkable and most satisfactory to us here.

After thinking carefully over the situation and the condition of affairs in northern and central Asia, I have reached the conclusion that it would be wise to abandon the journey to the southern slope of the Altai mountains with the long journey home through Chinese Turkestan and India, and after your return to Kansu to remain there until the early spring of 1927, devoting the winter to shipping your seeds and other material by mail and packing the remainder, then during the season of 1927 further exploring the Tebbu region and returning as soon as the work connected with this is finished. This is one plan. Another is that you consider your exploration finished when you get back to Kansu from Tibet. By adopting the first plan you would, if all goes well, be back here during the winter of 1928, and by the second a year earlier.

At this distance I do not feel that I can decide which of these plans is the wiser and I will leave it to you to decide. There is money enough for either, and you need not worry about money. The difficulty is to get it to you. It is my hope and intention that you will find at Lanchow when you get there \$ 16,000. unless I hear that you will need a larger sum.

December 29th last you gave as your address for ten months c/o Postal Commissioner, Lanchow, Kansu, and I shall consider this your address until I hear to the contrary. Choni I now understand is only a small suburb of Lanchow which therefore would seem to be a safer place to address money and letters.

Did I write you that we had received from you in good condition four hundred and two packages of seeds and forty-two

lots of cuttings, and that we have distributed three thousand three hundred and eighteen packages of your seeds, sending them to every important botanical and horticultural establishment in the northern United States, northern Europe and eastern Siberia. Instead of giving Judd any of your *Rhododendron* seeds I gave them to Sander who must have raised many hundred thousand plants which are doing well and will certainly more than supply this part of the country. Your photographs, too, are very interesting and I think well worth the cost of your expedition up to the present time.

I hope you will find this letter when you get back, but I hardly expect to hear from you again before January.

With every good wish for your safe and successful journey this year, I am

Faithfully and gratefully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o Postal Commissioner
Lanchow, Kansu, China

32

August 10, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was delighted to receive yesterday your letter of the 8th of June from Radja Gomba on the Yellow River. Its receipt surprised me for I had not expected to hear from you for some time to come. You certainly have had a difficult but I should judge a most interesting trip, and so far are getting on with your usual courage and cheerfulness for which I heartily congratulate you. The account of the big mountain you have seen is most interesting, as is the prospect of new Spruces from regions never before visited by a white man.

There is nothing new in regard to your specimens or nay acknowledgment of the draft for \$ 2000. which I suppose is still in Shanghai; nor have I been able to make an arrangement to send you additional money which certainly should leave here no later than September.

We have had some very hot weather, but not a great deal of it. July started with what promised to be a serious drought but abundant rains have done away with this danger to the Arboretum which I think looks remarkably well, better perhaps than it ever has before.

I do not suppose you will get a letter from me now until you get back to Choni as the only address I have for you is in care of the Postal Commissioner, Lanchow, Kansu.

I should be very glad to see you and I take this opportunity to congratulate you again on what you have already accomplished, and on your skill in dealing with the troublesome natives.

With all good wishes, I am as ever

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o Postal Commissioner
Lanchow, Kansu, China

33

September 9, 1926

J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu
China

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was delighted and surprised to receive your letter of the fifteenth of June as I had not expected to hear from you during the summer. This came two or three days ago and this morning your package of seeds arrived having come here direct and escaped the government abuse.

We are going to send your money now through the Hongkong-Shanghai Banking Corporation, being assured that this institution could deliver it to you if anyone could do so. Kidder Peabody & Company of Boston will cable six thousand dollars to you at once through the Hongkong-Shanghai Banking Corp. and the balance of six thousand dollars by mail. I hope that this will reach you by November 1st or earlier and the Hongkong bank has promised to

let us know if the money was delivered. Apparently this Hongkong bank seems to be a more enterprising institution than any at Shanghai or Pekin[g].

I feel now very strongly that you should return to the United States next winter, bringing with you probably all your seeds rather than sending them by mail and all your other material. You have been in that rough country long enough and borne more hardships with greater cheerfulness than anyone I have ever heard of. It won't do to overdue [!] it, and if you can get your herbarium back here you will have work enough at the Arboretum for I should think some years. If you want to travel again I don't think you should go to China, and we can find an easier region for you to explore. I should like to feel, however, that your connection with the Arnold Arboretum was to be a permanent one if possible.

I shall address this letter to Choni, which I hope you will reach in November. This means that you ought to be here by the early spring with your material. I want of course very much to see you again, but although I am pretty well I am getting older every day and may have to drop out before long. I certainly don't want to do this until you are back and arrangements are made for your working here.

Mrs. Potter has been in Marimbar taking the cure which I don't think she needed. I suppose she is now in Switzerland and returns to Paris with the expectation of being here late in October. I have given her your message and she said she was going to write to you at once.

With all good wishes for your safe return to Kansu and later to the United States, I am
Always faithfully yours,

34

September 14, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received through the Secretary of Agriculture copies of correspondence which came to him through the Department of State in Washington, including a 10 g letter written to you by E. F.

Stanton, American Vice Consul at Kalgan, China, urging upon you the danger of trying to visit the southern slope of the Altai Mountains, and saying that it would be very problematical if you would be allowed to proceed direct from Kansu to these mountains as it is usually necessary for a foreigner to proceed to Urga and after being looked over by the Secret service either to be allowed to go on or turned back. I do not know whether you have ever received this letter. As I hope you have given up the Altai Mountains it makes no difference. If you are still anxious to go and have not received the letter I can send you a copy of it.

I am more than convinced that the wise thing for you to do is to come home as soon as possible after you return to Choni from your trip to Tibet.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, believe me,
Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Lanchow, Kansu, China

35

September 27, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received this morning your letter of the 10th of August written at Choni. I am very sorry that you did not have a more successful journey in Tibet, but I cannot tell you how glad I am that you are back in Kansu and that you will have time this autumn to finish up the Tebbu country and so be ready to return to America next winter or in the late autumn.

I realize all the troubles you have had and are having, and I congratulate you on being safely back in Choni, although judging from your letter you may have serious difficulty in getting away from there. As I have already written you, the money has been sent to the Hongkong bank and I shall hope to hear that you have received it. Of course it will be impossible for you to leave China until those funds reach you.

There is no news here. I am glad to say that your seedlings are

doing well and that we shall have an immense crop of the Rhododendrons at Brookline, to say nothing of those which will be raised by persons to whom we have sent the seeds.

I cannot tell you what a relief it will be to shake your hand again, and this I shall hope to do before 1927 has passed.

With all good wishes for your health and further success, I am,
Faithfully yours,

J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

36

October 27, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received your cable of October 20th asking me to remit funds immediately to the American Express Company at Shanghai and no one else. We had already sent \$ 12,000. for you to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and have now cabled them to send this money to the American Express Company at Shanghai. As this may be a slow proposition we shall cable you tomorrow \$ 6000. to the American Express Company at Shanghai.

Your letter of the 22nd of August reports that you are downhearted for the first time. No one certainly has a better reason to be disheartened than you. Do not forget that it is as important to discover that no plants grow in a country as it is to find what grows in it, and for this reason I consider your Tibet journey a great success. Altogether we have distributed about five thousand packets of seeds collected by you among all the northern botanical and horticultural establishments in North America, northern Europe and extreme northern Asia. The photographs which we have already had from you are worth what the trip has cost and you will probably have a lot more to send us.

Mrs. Potter is now in Brookline and has been reading with the greatest interest all your letters received since she left America for Europe on July 1st. She agrees with me that it is time for you to get out of China and come back to America where you will have

several years' occupation, I fancy, in working up your collection. I had hoped that you would be able to start home this winter as soon as you had put in order the material collected this autumn in the Tebbu country, but it has occurred to me that if you find there are any trees or important shrubs of which you have not already collected elsewhere flowering specimens it might be wise to make a spring campaign in the Tebbu for the purpose of collecting flowers of these plants. This means, of course, the delay of your return until next summer. This matter must be left to your judgment. I only want you to understand that I am perfectly satisfied with what you have already accomplished and that we want you back to the United States as soon as possible.

With kind regards and my highest appreciation for all that you have accomplished on this journey for the Arboretum and the world, believe me,
Always faithfully yours.

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

1 copy of this letter sent to him at Shanghai, China, c/o American Express Co.

37

November 13, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

There is now or there should be in the hands of the American Express Company at Shanghai \$ 20,000. for you. On October 21st Kidder Peabody Company cabled the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation to pay \$ 12,0000. to the American Express Company in Shanghai, and on October 28th the Bursar was instructed to cable a draft for \$ 5000. to the American Express Company in Shanghai for you. In addition to the \$ 18,000. there are \$ 2000, which ought long ago to have been in the hands of the American Express Company at Shanghai but which apparently has been lost if it has not turned up recently.

I hope you will cable me when you receive any money from the

American Express Co. at Shanghai, and make any other suggestions you can by which you can be helped. I do not know that there is anything which can be done from here until we hear from you.

I am glad to read in your letter to Wilson that you have returned from the Tebbu country and, as I have already written you, it is up to you to decide whether you will return to America this winter or make a spring trip to the Tebbu to get flowers of the plants of which you have collected fruit this autumn. It would be a great relief to me to have you safely back in this country.

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

38

November 15, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

Since writing the enclosed I have received your letter from Choni dated September 22nd. I do not see that there is anything further I can say or do to relieve your financial difficulties. By this time you must have received money from Shanghai. I shall be very glad to write to the Postal Commissioner at Lanchow thanking him for his kindness and assistance to you.

In your letter from Choni of September 22nd was enclosed your letters of September 9th and 14th from the Tebbu country which, according to your accounts, must be a wonderful place. Of course it is up to you to decide whether you should stay and return there in the spring for flowers or return to America as soon as you can settle your affairs and get the money from Shanghai to pay what you owe. I am most anxious that you should get back here as soon as possible but of course it would be a mistake not to get as much complete material as you can from the Tebbu country.

I wish I had something better to write you about your money affairs but I hope you realize that we have done and are doing everything we can to get money to you.

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

39

November 18, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have received this morning the enclosed which means, I hope, that you have at last received some money.

We received on the 16th 52 packages of seeds, a package of 11 cuttings of *Populus* (No. 14859) and another package of 16 cuttings of *Populus* (No. 14646). I haven't seen the seeds as yet, but I understand they are in good condition. They were inspected by the Government people in Boston and sent out here for inspection, and the inspector has allowed our man here to do the fumigating, so I think there is no question but that they will be all right. I am very anxious to see the list of seeds as I shall hope to now in the course of a couple of days.

I hope to hear from you again soon and that you are in less trouble financially. Let me know if there is anything more I can do.

With kind regards,
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

40

November 23, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have your letter of the 28th of September describing your plan of sending the collections of dried plants and birds by registered mail directly to Boston. This under all the circumstances, although expensive, seems the thing to do and I hope you will carry out your plan this winter. I suggest that the herbarium specimens be addressed to the Arnold Arboretum and that the packages containing the birds be sent to Dr. Outram Bangs, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. I will write him

that I have written you this and will write you if he does not approve of the plan. We shall be very glad indeed to get the herbarium specimens for if anything should happen to them we could not determine your plants until they flower and fruit here, which in the case of trees might be twenty-five or thirty years. I believe I have already written you that we have received this autumn in excellent condition fifty-three packets of seeds and two packets of Poplar cuttings.

I agree with you that it would be wise to remain another year in China so as to explore as thoroughly as possible the Tebbu country and get as many specimens of flowers in the spring and fruits in the autumn as possible. This I hope will enable you to get home early in 1928 when you may be sure of a warm welcome. We are very anxious to have you safely back in the United States.

With kind regards and all good wishes,
Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

41

December 2, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

We have received your letters dated October 7th and 10th from Choni which are still unanswered, one hundred and seventy-one photographs, fifty-three packets of seeds in excellent condition, and two packets of Poplar cuttings.

I was strongly advised by a banking firm in Boston in which I have the greatest confidence to send the \$ 12,000. for you to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, supposing that it was in Hongkong. The money was sent not to Hongkong but to Peking. On September 11th, Kidder Peabody & Company of Boston cabled \$ 6000. and mailed \$ 6000. to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, and this firm on October 21st cabled to the same Corporation to transfer this money to the American Express Company at Shanghai, requesting you to cable when you received it or any part of it. On October 29th, fearing

there might be some mistake in this, the American Express Company cabled to you at Shanghai \$ 6000. which you should have received long ago.

Political matters in China seem to be getting worse and worse, and I am getting seriously worried about you and cabled you today to the American Express Company at Shanghai to tell you that it would be all right to return home at once or as soon as possible. You have had a very long and hard journey, and I do not want you to be entirely broken down by it. You are too valuable for that and the sooner we can see you in this country the better we shall be pleased. Of course I realize it is an important matter to complete the Tebbu collection next year, but I do not think what you would gain by it would justify your running further risks and the danger of a breakdown. You have made already a magnificent collection, and I think you have been long enough in China for your own good and the general good of the world.

If you do decide to stay over another season I hope you will be able to send, as you have suggested, the herbarium specimens by mail. They are of course the valuable part of your collection for without them it will be impossible to determine any of your plants until those which are growing here have produced flowers and fruit; this might mean a period of forty or fifty years, which under all circumstances would be a most serious misfortune. If you come home this winter you probably could bring the specimens more safely than you can send them by mail, but this is a matter which you on the ground can decide better than any one else.

Your plan of sending the birds by mail in small packages is highly approved by Bangs and the other Museum authorities. Bangs says in his note to me: „Rock should keep account of what the packing of the birds costs and we will of course pay that also. I am very anxious to see his birds as he must have some very choice things. One thing, please tell Rock, and that is to ship his birds to us addressed simply to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and not to me personally, as the Customs people pass anything so addressed O.K., but I personally often have to go to some trouble when things come addressed to me.“

Of course you realize how highly I value the work which you have done for the Arboretum. I realize fully all the trouble, anxiety and danger you have been submitted to, and I will say again it is for this reason that I think it would be wise for you to come home just as soon as you can get there.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. We have received since this was written 132 negatives from you in two packages. I am arranging to cable at once \$ 12,000. to the American Express Company at Shanghai for your use, fearing that you may never receive the money unfortunately sent to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation at Peking. If this money reaches you, or any part of it, please cable me. If you haven't succeeded in obtaining any of the money from Peking I shall ask them to return it to Boston.

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

42

December 16, 1926

Dear Mr. Rock:

The last letter received from you is dated October 12th. You will see by the enclosed that the American Express Company at Shanghai should now have received \$ 24,000. for you. I hope this is true and that you are able to get what you want from Shanghai. The American Express Company have not cabled me here on the subject and of course I want to know that you have received the funds. I do not know what else I can do in this matter but if there is anything do not fail to let me know by cable.

I agree with you that it is desirable that the Tebbu forests should be fully explored, but Mrs. Potter and I have worried about you. You have had such a hard journey that we have dreaded a nervous breakdown for you, so I cabled you to use your own judgment about coming home and I hope you will do this. Your health is more important to the world than the exploration of the

Tebbu forests. On the ground you can judge of such matters much better than we can here.

Since October 1st, 1925, to date we have received 476 packets of seeds and after planting a full set we have made up 3790 packets and sent them to all the principal botanical and horticultural stations in the extreme northern part of North America, Europe and Asia. We have also received 521 negatives; those which came recently have not been developed. As soon as they are will be sent to you, also copies of your maps.

I am writing Bangs what you say in your last letter about ammunition and I am sure he will attend to it. I notice, too, what you say about your change of plan in sending the herbarium material to Boston and I only hope it will work well.

Conditions in Western China appear to be getting worse and it will be a great relief to see you safely in this country again.

I notice with much interest what you say about your diary and your proposition of writing a travel journal giving descriptions of the country, etc., also your suggestion of writing a preliminary article for some widely read journal. Just now I do not feel very enthusiastic about the *National Geographic Magazine*, for they have recently included in their list of explorations for 1926 your journey in China and Tibet, claiming it as their enterprise and saying nothing about the Arboretum. I wrote the President of the Society on the subject and he does not appear to have been very enthusiastic about my letter. Certainly it was a low down trick on their part. If you want to publish a preliminary article I think the Royal Geographic Society of London would be much better.

I understand fully that this expedition has added immensely to the geographical as well as to the natural history information of the world, and I think this information should be published after your return to the Arboretum, but this matter of course I am willing to leave with you. I do not think that with the present condition of things in western China another expedition from any country will visit the region which you have explored.

I notice what you say about the bad packing of envelopes and will see in the future if we cannot do better in this matter. Under the new arrangement with our Government your packages of seeds

come here now unopened and are examined here at the Arboretum, so I see what an excellent packer you are. I am most anxious for your herbarium material, for if anything should happen to it either in China or en route it will be impossible to determine your plants until those raised from your seeds flower and produce fruit here, and this may be in twenty-five to fifty years or more. This would mean that many persons to whom I have sent your seeds would get tired of caring for plants which they could not name and that many of them would be lost.

With the compliments of the season and all good wishes for the New Year, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

43

January 12, 1927

Dear Mr. Rock:

We have lately received from you letters dated October 30th (containing a wood specimen of a Juniper), October 31st, November 4th and 6th. We have also received from you in good condition one hundred and sixty lots of seeds, thirty-four packets of cones, and five bundles of Poplar and *Salix* cuttings. The five parcels announced in your letter of November 6th containing maps, diaries and other personal belongings have not yet arrived and will not be opened until your return.

I of course I am always anxious about you and most anxious to see you safe in the United States before I pass into the next world. For this reason, and as a matter of economy, I do not think we can consider your plan of making specimens of the wood of the trees from which you have collected or may collect seeds.

I understand that you are ready to devote the spring and autumn of this year to further exploration in the Tebbu country in order to make the collection of the seeds and herbarium specimens in that important region as complete as possible. If you do this I hope you can leave China in time to be back here in the spring of

1928. Since your letters were written, political affairs in western China are certainly much worse, but I believe the foreign powers will prevent the Cantonese force from attacking Shanghai.

I hope that the attack of flu is over by this time, but it is a bad thing and I fear that you haven't been able to take very good care of yourself.

I am very glad to find that you say nothing in recent letters about a shortage of funds, so I hope the money sent to the American Express Company at Shanghai reached them all right and that you are able to get what you need. Do not hesitate to cable here if anything is going wrong that I can help you about. You have certainly made a wonderful success and I am more than pleased with what you have accomplished.

I am showing your letter to Mrs. Potter and she will write to you. Cheer up (not that you need this advice), and with all good wishes, believe me,

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
Choni, Kansu, China

44

January 21, 1927

Dear Mr. Rock:

I received this morning your cable of January 20th and I am much relieved to hear from you again, as affairs in China seem to be in a worse condition than ever and I do not see much chance of improvement in that benighted country.

Your packages of personal belongings have not arrived yet but I think we have all your seeds and cuttings in good condition.

We are having a most disagreeable winter with very changeable weather and already have had thirty-seven inches of snow. Now it is as warm as summer and sickness in this country is unusually prevalent this year.

Keep well and do not take any unnecessary risk.

Always faithfully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o American Consul
Tatsienlu, Szechwan, China

45

February 3, 1927

Dear Mr. Rock:

We have received recently letters dated Choni, October 24, 25, and 28, November 18, 22 and 28, December 14 and 16, 1926. we also received on December 31, 1926, thirty bundles containing one hundred and sixty packages of seeds and twelve packages of cones, one wood specimen and five bundles of cuttings; on January 15, 1927, eleven bundles containing forty-three packages of seeds, and on January 25 eleven bundles containing forty-three packages of seeds and two packages of negatives.

In your letter of October 25th you ask for my approval of your selling surplus or unneeded material. This I think would be a very wise thing to do.

The additional draft for \$ 3000. was sent several days ago to the American Express Company at Shanghai for you, and I have today asked the Bursar to have deposited in the American Surety and Trust Company at Washington \$ 1000. for you.

On November 22nd, 1926, you wrote that you had sent via Lanchow eighty-six boxes of herbarium specimens and twenty boxes of birds to the American Express Company in Shanghai by registered mail, but I haven't heard from Shanghai that any of these have reached the Express Company. I cabled them yesterday on the subject, asking them to wire me a report, but as yet have received no answer. I confess I feel a good deal of anxiety about these collections, still am hopeful for the best.

I am sending this letter in duplicate to the two addresses you sent me, and I shall hope to hear soon that you are progressing well on your journey toward Boston where you may be sure you will be very welcome.

No news here. The weather is mild for this season of the year and the snow has entirely disappeared.

With kind regards and all good wishes, I am,

300

Joseph F. Rock

Faithfully and gratefully yours,

Mr. J. F. Rock
c/o China Inland Mission
Tatsienlu, Szechwan, China

Note: One copy of this letter sent to Mr. Rock, c/o Mission,
Likiang, Yunnan, China