

ZWEI WEITERE BRIEFE

Der erste Brief ist an Loy Marks gerichtet, in deren Haus Rock später wohnte, wenn er nicht auf Reisen war. Er hatte das Ehepaar Marks in China kennengelernt, als dieses sich dort kurze Zeit aufhielt. Der Brief ist von Bedeutung, weil er die Frage eines botanischen Gartens diskutiert. Heute gibt es mehrere botanische Gärten auf Oahu; in Honolulu selbst den Foster Garden, dessen Ehrenvorstand Rock später war, sowie das Lyon Arboretum, das der University of Hawaii angeschlossen und nach Rocks altem Freund Lyon benannt ist.

Seattle 5, Wash., April 9, '54

Mrs. Lester Marks
3860 Old Pali Road
Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Mrs. Marks:

In pursuance of our conversation re the establishing of a real Botanic Garden in Hawaii I would like to make the following suggestions: That there is a real need for a Botanic Garden in Hawaii is obvious. It is high time that such a Garden be established for the following reasons:

Hawaii is part of the United States possessing a climate unsurpassed where both tropical and semi-temperate plants can be grown, and there should be no need for institutions like the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard to support a Botanic Garden in Cuba, or Cornell in Trinidad, countries outside the United States. Honolulu was considered one large garden, but with the increase of population and high taxes the beautiful homes and large private gardens are being done away with, old and rare trees and palms are being cut down and the land cut up for the building of small homes on whose grounds it will not be possible to plant more than a shrub or two. Many rare palms and trees have disappeared as I had opportunity during my recent visit to verify. Mr. Jordan's place, where there were unique specimens of palms, has been cut up beyond recognition and so are many others. Bulldozers are in evidence everywhere.

The native flora is also gradually disappearing. On my recent trips on the various islands I learned to my regret the passing of many rare trees which formerly were plentiful. I refer for instance to the beautiful dry forests on the land of Auahi – Kahikinui on the southern slopes of Haleakala. I explored the region in 1909 and 1910 and paid visits to the area in 1953 and this year; I found that 13 genera not species, have disappeared. Cattle has again been let into the area after the disappearance of Pamakani. It is only a matter of very few years, perhaps even months, before that land will be entirely denuded of trees.

The slopes of Hualalai (Puuwaawaa) are another area where the trees are fast disappearing; where in 1910 a lovely forest existed at Waihau, one finds now single trees scattered over the landscape. And of certain species belonging to endemic genera only single trees are in existence. Some have already become extinct. The wet areas, although set aside as forest reserves, are not what they were. The building of ditches, the draining of the land by means of tunnels and flumes to get every possible drop of water for the irrigation of cane fields, etc., has wrought many changes. Even the summit of the Kohala Mountains has changed beyond recognition. The area was once one vast bog covered with sphagnum moss (in 1909), today the moss is found only in small patches while pests like Pamakani¹ (a species different from the one found on Maui) has taken a hold besides a still worse pest, a Composite shrub of the genus *Pluchea*, which can thrive in the driest as well as wettest areas in the islands.

The flora on the top of Kohala has completely changed. Where formerly there were beautiful species of *Lobelias* one finds introduced grasses and weeds.

The same condition exists on Molokai.

To help drain these reservoirs, *Eucalyptus* has been planted on the top of the Kohala Mountains to denote a boundary line as I was told.

I speak from experience and a knowledge of Hawaiian forests covering a period of over 45 years.

To preserve this forest flora, one of the most interesting on the globe, with an endemism of over 80%, which means that 80% of the native flora is not known from any other part in the world, is an urgent reason to establish a botanic garden in Hawaii.

¹ Wohl *Hibiscus arnottianus*.

Of all the places visited on Oahu, I have come to the conclusion that Kahana Valley on the windward side of Oahu is the most suitable. The valley has been little disturbed, its lateral ridges extend almost to the sea, on the drier areas such native plants (trees) peculiar to the drier slopes can be grown; such plants can be grown from seeds gathered on all the various islands and accommodated in similar locations in Kahana.

The Hawaiian Islands are rich in Lobelias, most of them are restricted to the wet forests of the various islands but of the 160 odd species only very few occur on more than one island. It is easy to propagate them and plant them in the wet forest at the head of the valley on the central ridge.

Exotics and palms can be established in the valley floor. The latter on account of its stream can also harbor aquatic plants, like *Victoria regia*, etc., while on the shore which is a part of the valley, a typical strand forest can be cultivated.

Kahana has great possibilities for a Botanic Garden and is to my mind the most suitable area where such a Garden can be established. It would serve both for the transplanting of Hawaiian species which are gradually becoming extinct, and also for the establishing of an exotic garden of tropical trees and shrubs. Such a garden would attract scholars and students from the various botanical institutions of the United States and abroad. Like the „Buitenzorg“² in Java, it would become a Mecca not only for Botanists but also plant lovers and horticulturists from all over the world.

This is just a rough outline, but the time has come, if we want to preserve what still can be preserved, for the setting aside of an area like Kahana and the establishing of a Botanic Garden which will be the pride of Hawaii.

Other areas on Hawaii or rather Oahu are not suitable. It is best to start properly with a comprehensive plan, then with an area like Foster Garden with many old trees many of which have reached their age limit, and also on account of lack of possibility to expand. The Manoa Arboretum³ is confined to the very head of that valley and is not suitable for the growing of dry district plants.

² Der historische botanische Garten in Bogor.

³ Das heutige Lyon Arboretum.

I would, therefore, urge that, if the people of Hawaii are really desirous of finally establishing a Botanic Garden, Kahana Valley be selected for the purpose.

Although I am on in years, I shall be only to glad to help to the best of my ability towards guiding and planning in the layout of such a garden.

I wish you all success in convincing the people of Hawaii that the creation of such a Botanic Garden is a must. It will preserve not only the most interesting plants of our native flora, but will be a haven for exotic plants from all over the world.

Very sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Rock

Der zweite Brief ist von Peter Goullart an Rock gerichtet. Beide kannten sich gut aus Li-chiang, und wie das folgende Schreiben zeigt, nutzte Rock Goullarts Hilfe und Beziehungen.

Peter Goullart (1896? Kiev – †1963 in Deutschland) studierte in Moskau und Paris; sein Vater war ein reicher Kaufmann, starb aber, als Peter 2-3 Jahre alt war. Nach der Revolution ging Goullart über Moskau nach Turkestan, von dort nach Vladivostok, dann nach Harbin und Shanghai. Er war als Führer für reiche Amerikaner, dann als Mitarbeiter der gewerblichen Kooperativen tätig. Nach dem Umschwung in China ging er nach Singapore. Er ist u.a. durch sein Buch *Forgotten kingdom* (London 1956) bekannt geworden, das inzwischen ins Chinesische übersetzt ist, und auf diese Weise wurde man in Rußland auf ihn aufmerksam. Vgl. D. Voskresenskij: V kraju dunba. *Vostočnaja kollekcija*. Sommer 2002, 84-96

Piter Gullart: Sjuńcin – obrjad „žertvennoj ljubvi“. Fragment iz knigi Zabytoe carstvo. Ebenda 97-103 (Hrsg. und übers. [aus d. Chin.] von D. Voskresenskij)

Im Gegensatz zu Voskresenskij gibt Wei Chien (vgl. Einleitung), S. 160 als Lebensdaten 1901-1975; als Geburtsort ist Moskau, als Sterbeort ist Singapore angegeben.

Kunming, April 4th 1947

Dear Dr. Rock,

I arrived here on March 30 at midnight after a five-day trip from Hsiakwan. Travel conditions are very difficult these days. Most of the trucks are worn out. We had accident after accident and had to

change three trucks. I had to leave one of the trucks behind. I do not know when it can arrive, if at all. Big bands of bandits roam between Hsiakwan and Yunnanyi and trucks are constantly stopped and robbed. Four trucks behind us were robbed and a driver killed. Transportation, owing to doubling of price of gasoline, became expensive too. The ticket from Hsiakwan to Kunming or vice-versa costs 80.000 dollars and baggage is now 50.000 per each 100 catties.

Prices here are about treble since your departure from Kunming. Carbide lamps were selling at 3000 during your stay here. Now they are 13.000 each. The city is flooded with them and I cannot understand why you could not find them. I got your two wires and most of the drugs you want, except Penicillin 100.000 which is unobtainable. But I bought two boxes of 200.000 instead. Each box has six bottles at 50.000 per bottle. Nobody knows what hypo is and there are no magnesium tablets. I walked my feet off trying to get all the items you want and at as cheap prices as possible. Mr. Arnold changed your drafts at official rate and is keeping the two banknotes of 100 each which I turned over to him. I shall get all those heavy items for you such as flour, nails, some carbide etc. but it will cost a fortune to bring them to Likiang at present rates. And I am very apprehensive of the bandit situation.

I am planning to leave on the 13th or 14th. On Monday I am going to Yuki on business visit.

I bought the rubber things for Ho Chi Hui but I am unable to buy the bicycle [!] for Chao Chuk Tien as it costs 2.500.000 and he did not give me that money.

*I have not yet gone to the black market but will do so this afternoon. Please tell Lao Wong that nobody is expected to come with me from the Head Office in Shanghai.

Hoping to see you soon.

Very sincerely,

P. Goullart

*U.S. army food supplies are sold there as coffee, dried milk, jam, baking powder. J. F. Rock

