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

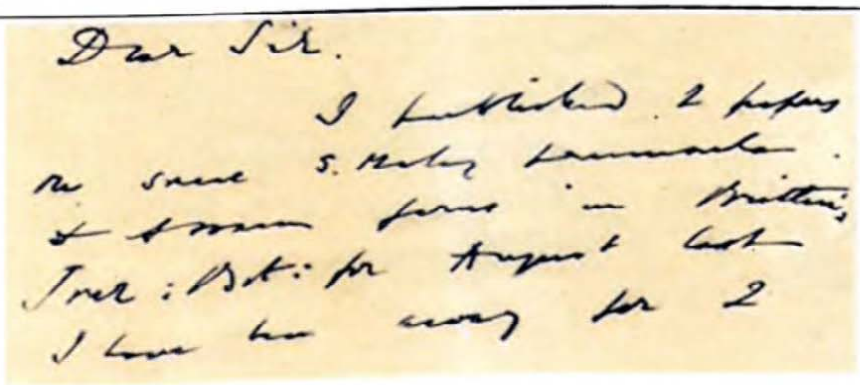
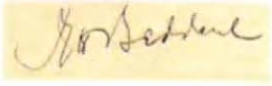
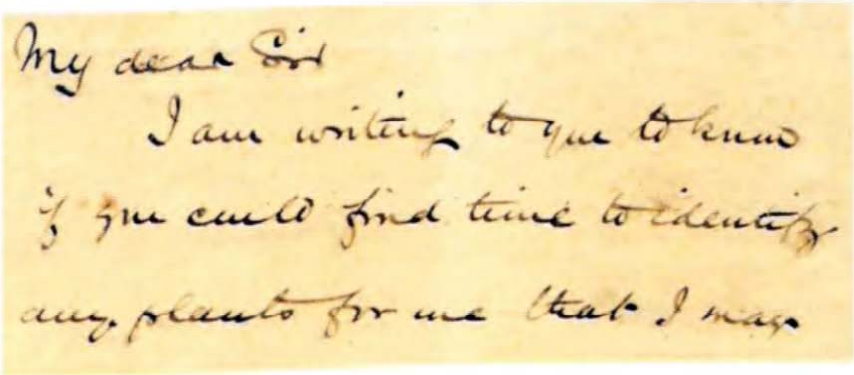
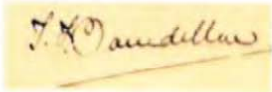
S. BANDYOPADHYAY, P.V. PRASANNA AND V. RANJAN

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah – 711 103

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

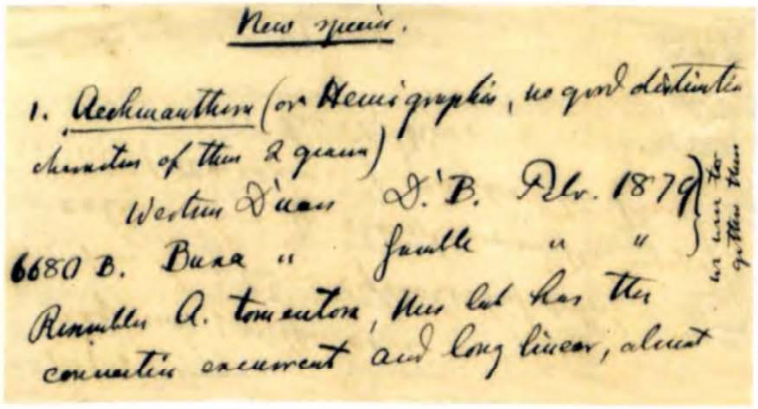
More than hundred years old handwritten correspondences of some eminent contributors in the field of Indian plant taxonomy like, Richard Henry Beddome (1830-1911), Thomas Fulton Bourdillon (1849-1930), Dietrich Brandis (1824-1907), Henry Collett (1836-1901), Theodore Cooke (1836-1910), John Firminger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

A scrutiny of Stafleu and Cowan's TL-2 1: 162-164, 304-305, 526, 543-544, 714-715, 907-908. 1976; 2: 545-547. 1979; 4: 46, 376-379. 1983; 6: 155-156. 1986; and Stafleu and Mennega's TL-2, Suppl. 2: 38, 391. 1993; 3: 13-14. 1995; 4: 269-270. 1997; 6: 209-211. 2000 reveals that the handwritings of the aforementioned personalities have not been published. The present article brings to limelight their handwritings and signatures for the benefit of the taxonomic workers.

Name	Facsimile handwriting	Facsimile signature
Richard Henry Beddome		
Thomas Fulton Bourdillon		

Date of Publication : 15 September, 2009

Dietrich Brandis

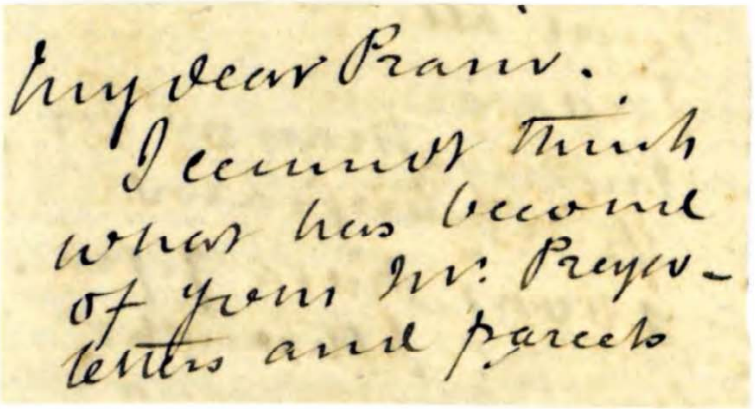

New species.

1. Acrochaenthera (or Hemigraphis, no good distinctive character of these 2 genera)
Western D'ness D.'B. Dec. 1879
6680 B. Burma " forests " "
Resembles A. tomentosa, from which it has the corolla narrower and long linear, almost



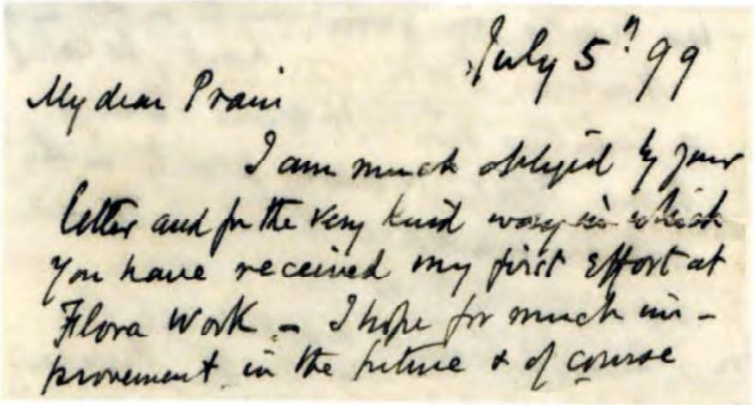


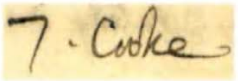
Henry Collett


My dear Prain.
I cannot think what has become of your Nr. Prayer- letters and parcels

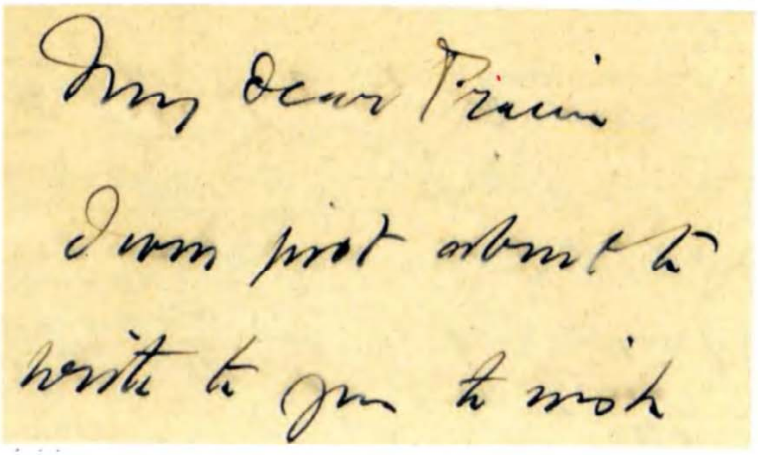


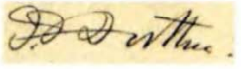
Theodore Cooke


July 5? 99
My dear Prain
I am much obliged by your letter and for the very kind way in which you have received my first effort at Flora Work. I hope for much improvement in the future & of course



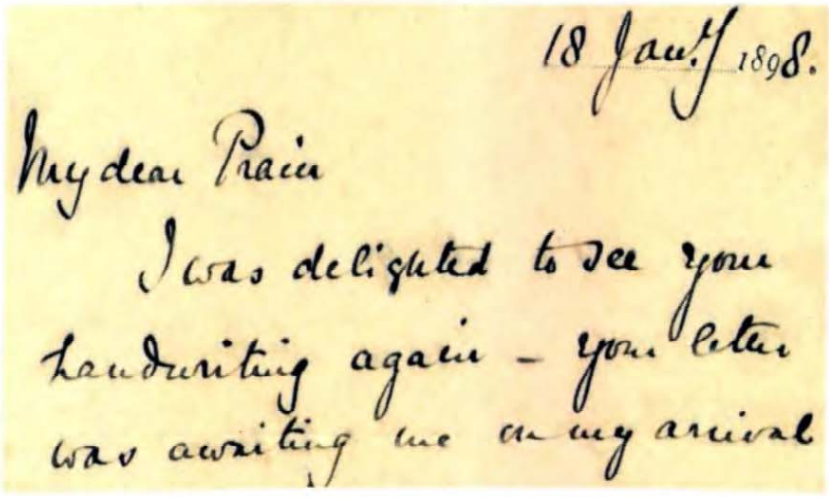
John Firminger Duthie


My dear Prain
I was just about to write to you to ask



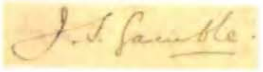


James Sykes Gamble

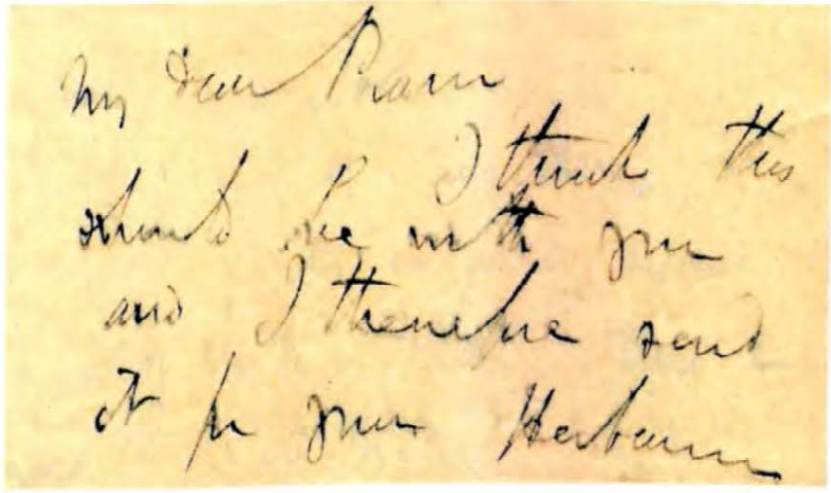

18 Jan.y 1898.

My dear Prain

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

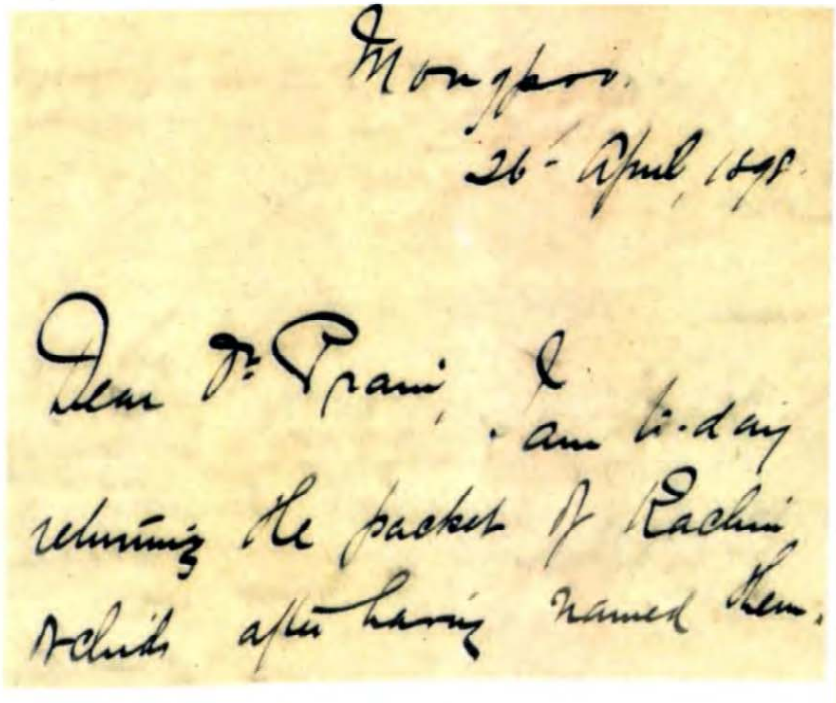
George King


My dear Prain

I think this should see with you and I therefore send it to your Herbarium



Robert Pantling


Mongpoo.

26 April 1898.

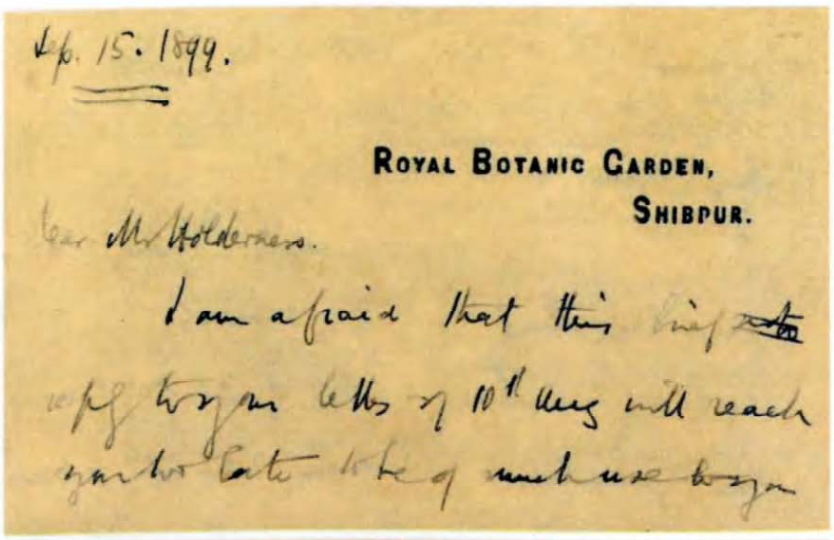
Dear Dr Prain, I am to-day returning the packet of Rachis which after having named them.








David Prain



Sep. 15. 1894.

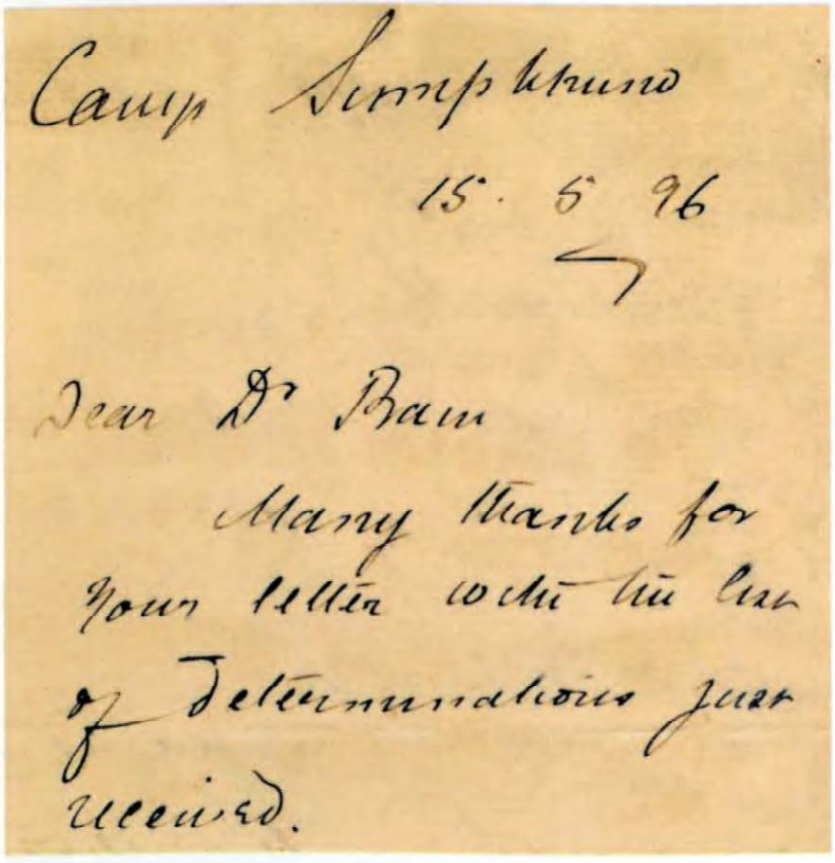
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
SHIBPUR.

Dear Mr Holderness.

I am afraid that this ~~letter~~ copy to you letter of 10th May will reach you too late to be of much use to you



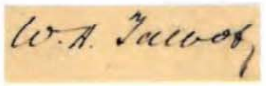
William Alexander Talbot



Camp Sempstrund
15. 5 96

Dear Dr Bain

Many thanks for your letter with list of determinations just received.



All these correspondences have now been preserved in the archival section of Botanical Survey of India, Howrah.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for his help and encouragement. We are also thankful to the staff-members of the library for their help and co-operation and to Shri V. Ramesh for his assistance in composing the manuscript in the computer.