

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON

FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION

October 29, 1930.

Mr. C. W. G. Eifrig,
1029 Monroe Avenue,
River Forest, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Dr. Taylor has referred to this office your letter of October 24 in which you ask for information relative to the official connection with the late Henry Nehrling with the Bureau of Plant Industry. Since the writer had some personal acquaintance with Mr. Nehrling, from meetings and correspondence, at intervals between 1908 and the time of his death, your letter has come to him for reply.

Mr. Nehrling's official connection with the Department of Agriculture was that of regular collaboratorship. During the first five years, beginning in 1906, while propagating on a small scale in Florida certain tropical and sub-tropical root crops (taros and yautias) for the Department, in connection with his private horticultural work, Mr. Nehrling received compensation of three hundred dollars a year. After the termination of this special work the appointment as Collaborator was continued for one year with merely nominal compensation - one dollar. In line with the Department's policy of discontinuing inactive collaboratorships, the official connection was severed in 1911. Six years later, however, in recognition of the continued service of Mr. Nehrling to the country in his ceaseless efforts to enrich the horticulture of the lower south through the introduction and adaptation of tropical and subtropical plants, he was again made a dollar-a-year collaborator. This appointment continued in effect until Mr. Nehrling's death, November 22, 1929, though after 1925, under a new law, it was without the nominal compensation which the government previously had insisted on paying as a minimum to regularly appointed collaborators.

It was the same activities which caused the reappointment of Henry Nehrling as a collaborator of the United States Department of Agriculture that made him an outstanding personality in Florida horticulture. His interest and zeal in the introduction of new kinds of ornamental plants from abroad, with endeavors to acclimatize and disseminate them, were unflagging. He had a great affection for tropical and subtropical plants. It would perhaps be unsafe to say that he loved one group more than any other, but it is certain that he was particularly devoted to the palms and bamboos. He was also especially interested in plants of the genus Ficus, to which the edible fig, the common rubber plant of conservatories, and many other species belong. He named his place at Gotha, Florida, Palm Cottage Gardens, and palms almost hid his cottage from the public road which passed the gate.

and in plants of the Compositae, the Araceae, and the Bromeliaceae

The Frank N. Meyer Memorial Medal for distinguished services in plant introduction was awarded to Mr. Nehrling in 1929 by the Council of the American Genetic Association.

We have no knowledge of Mr. Nehrling's ever having received a doctor's degree. His name, with history in brief, appears in American Men of Science and in Who's Who in America, but there is no mention of his having received an academic degree.

Very truly yours,



R. A. Young,
Associate Horticulturist.

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