

Transcribing the John Torrey Papers

Stephen Sinon

William B. O'Connor Curator of Special Collections, Research and Archives

Support provided by:

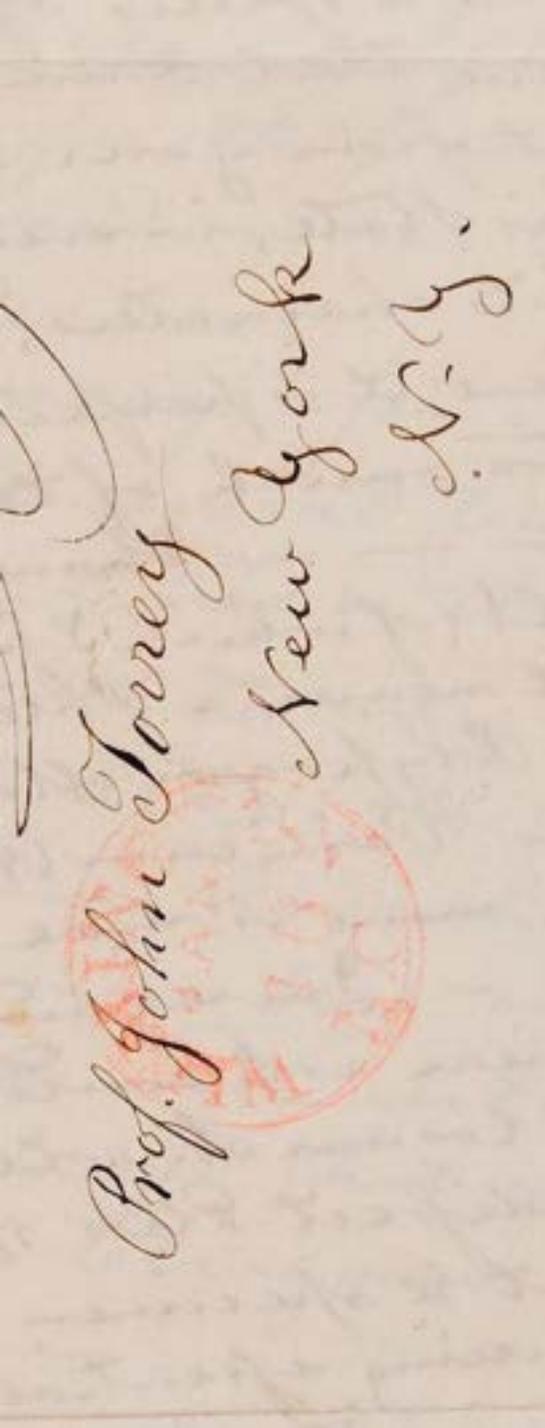


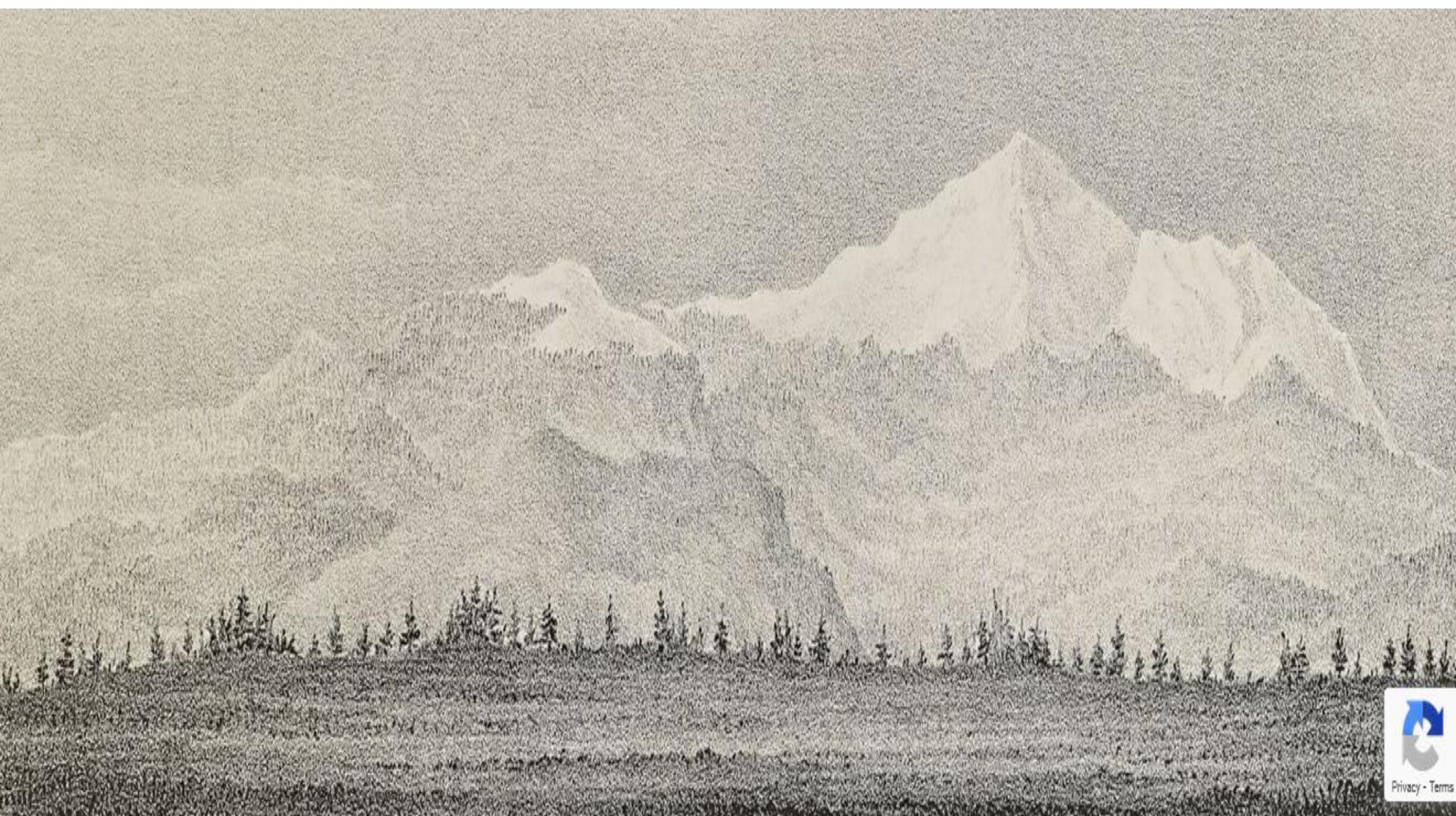
Carnegie Corporation of New York



John Torrey Papers

- Primarily incoming correspondence written between 1818 and 1873
- Over 350 correspondents:
botanists, educators, politicians,
explorers, engineers, surveyors,
geologists, curators, plant collectors,
nurserymen, chemists, physicians,
clergy, military officers, publishers,
surgeons, entomologists, ...





Digital Collections



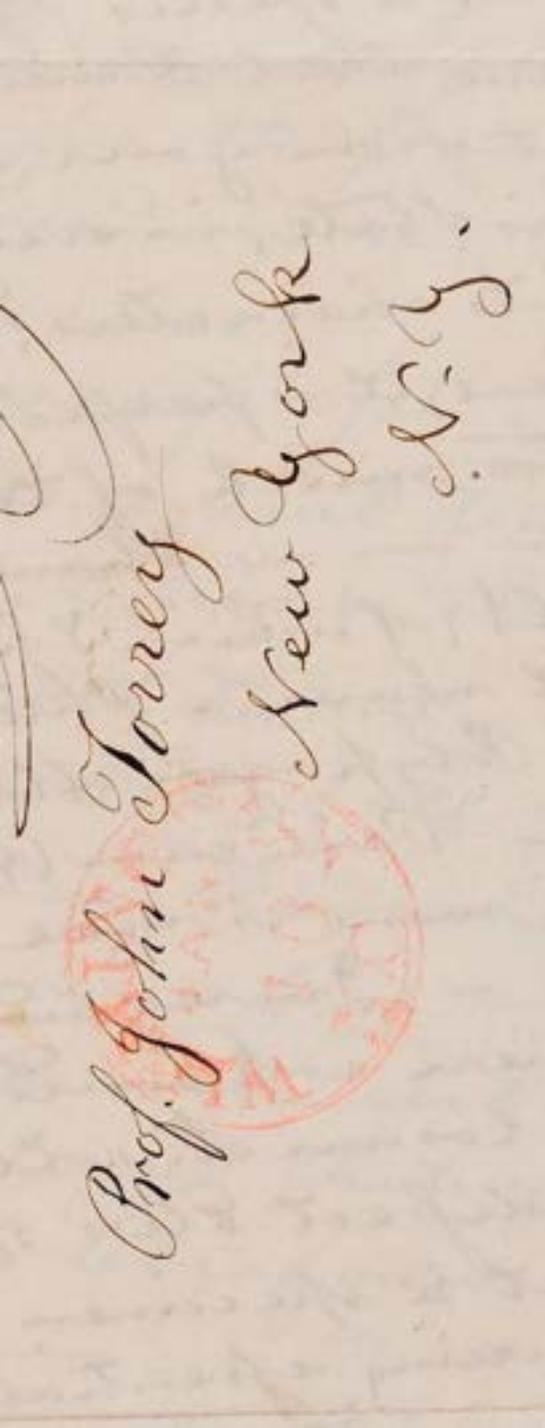
- 11 million books and texts
- 4 million audio recordings
- 3 million videos
- 1 million images



- 6 million text documents
- 5.5 million images
- 46,000 sound files
- 30,000 moving image files
- 13,000 physical object images



- 130,000 titles
- 220,000 volumes
- 54 million pages



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 049 VXGA
 100 1 Frémont, John Charles,|d1813-1890.
 245 10 John Charles Frémont and John Torrey correspondence,|f1842-1848.
 300 1|ffolder|a(35|fletters)
 351 |bArranged chronologically.
 506 This collection is open for research with permission from Mertz Library staff.
 520 2 Incoming correspondence from John Charles Frémont to John Torrey, for 1842-1848. The correspondence discusses Frémont's expeditions to the American West and Torrey's work identifying and describing plants collected on the expeditions.
 524 John Torrey Papers (PP), Archives, The New York Botanical Garden.
 544 1 |3Forms part of:|dJohn Torrey Papers (PP), Series 1, Correspondence, Incoming Correspondence, Folder 4.12.
 546 In English.
 555 8 Finding aid available from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden and online|uhttps://www.nybg.org/library/finding_guide/archiv/torrey_ppf.html.
 600 10 Frémont, John Charles,|d1813-1890|vCorrespondence.
 600 10 Torrey, John,|d1796-1873|vCorrespondence.
 600 00 ~~Frémont, John Charles,|d1813-1890|vCorrespondence.~~



THE JOHN TORREY PAPERS



The John Torrey Papers is the largest and most important collection of documents in the United States of pioneering American botanist John Torrey's (1796-1873) correspondence, manuscripts, notes, and botanical illustrations. The physical collection resides in the Archives of the New York Botanical Garden.

John Torrey is considered one of the most important taxonomic botanists in the early development of scientific botany, horticulture, and agriculture in nineteenth century America. He corresponded with botanists and natural historians throughout America and Europe. His wide network of botanists and natural historians enabled Torrey to collect, describe, and classify plant specimens from around the world. While the correspondence contains important information on Torrey's botanical work, the documents are also a valuable resource to scholars, students, and members of the public studying American history, including North American expeditions, westward expansion, and the evolution of American science in the nineteenth century.

More information about John Torrey can be found [here](#).

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library and Archives of the New York Botanical Garden has embarked on a project to make the John Torrey Papers available online through the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#). The project will preserve, digitize, and transcribe 3.5 linear feet of the collection, which consists primarily of correspondence received by John Torrey.

Help the New York Botanical Garden transcribe the John Torrey Papers:

[Sign In and Start Transcribing](#)

[Guidelines for Transcribing the John Torrey Papers](#)

[Complete the Volunteer Transcriber's Time Sheet](#)

GRANT FUNDING

The preservation, digitization, and transcription of the John Torrey Papers is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities, as a part of the Common Good initiative to make historical documents publicly available to promote the role the humanities and sciences have played in the history of the United States.

Support provided by:



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

Carnegie Corporation of New York

John Torrey Papers: Transcribing the John Torrey Papers

[Introduction](#)[John Torrey Biography](#)[John Torrey Publications](#)[Transcribing the John Torrey Papers](#)

TRANSCRIBING THE JOHN TORREY PAPERS

Why Transcribe the John Torrey Papers?

Researchers have long valued and used the John Torrey Papers to study the life of Torrey and the cultural, social, and scientific history in nineteenth century America. However, for many researchers and the public, the collection is unfamiliar and underutilized because it is not easy to search the content of the papers. Transcribing these historical documents avoids the deficiencies in Optical Character Recognition of handwritten documents, and makes the John Torrey Papers more searchable and readily available to a wider audience interested in American history.

Transcribers will not only find the John Torrey Papers fascinating, they will be contributing to science and humanities research. Transcribers learn about Torrey, and can make discoveries that shed new light on his work and community, and the historical figures with whom Torrey corresponded.

[Transcribe Now](#)

Clicking on the button above will direct you to FromThePage, our partner software platform being used for transcription.

- [Guidelines for Transcribing the John Torrey Papers](#)
- [Printable Guidelines](#)

Contact the Transcription Coordinator for the John Torrey Papers via email

RESOURCES



- [NYBG Archives Finding Guide for the John Torrey Papers](#)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Torrey".

- [John Torrey Papers in the Biodiversity Heritage Library](#)

FLORA
John Torrey
BOREALI-AMERICANA,

Paris, June 19th 1833

SISTENS CHARACTERES PLANTARUM

quas in Americâ septentrionali collegit et detexit,

ANDREAS MICHAUX,

Instituti Gallici Scientiarum, nec non Societatis Agriculturae
Caroliniensis socius.

TABULIS AENEIS 51 ORNATA.

EDITIO NOVA.

TOMUS PRIMUS.

PARISIIS.

BIBLIOPOLA JOUANAUX JUNIOR,
VIA SCHOLE MEDICÆ.

M. DCCC. XX.

*The original edition was
published in 1803. This is an exact reprint*



Fit to Height



Hide OCR

TO BERKHAM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Soutela House Oct 2nd 1850

Dear Dr Torrey,

As my being hard at work with the
Wentham, has necessitated me to write for him to
you & ask you where the papers can be had for
satisfied that Wentham has had sent to Mr Dr. McKee
They have not yet arrived & they wish to know how they
were sent - in case of possible the cause of the delay -
The answer was not necessary coming & we finally re-
luctant for the present in this regard & present the house.
There is something quite right for an American to
bring on a house built less than 100 years ago. The 1st Mrs Wentham
the charming people & indeed the most beautiful - and Dr
Gray & Mrs Wentham are already deep in exploring Egyptian
Lentils

We had a delightful hour on the continent, though
in some things, & the great disappointment, to your wife's
Patriotic Lake & the year for want of time - & the rest seems

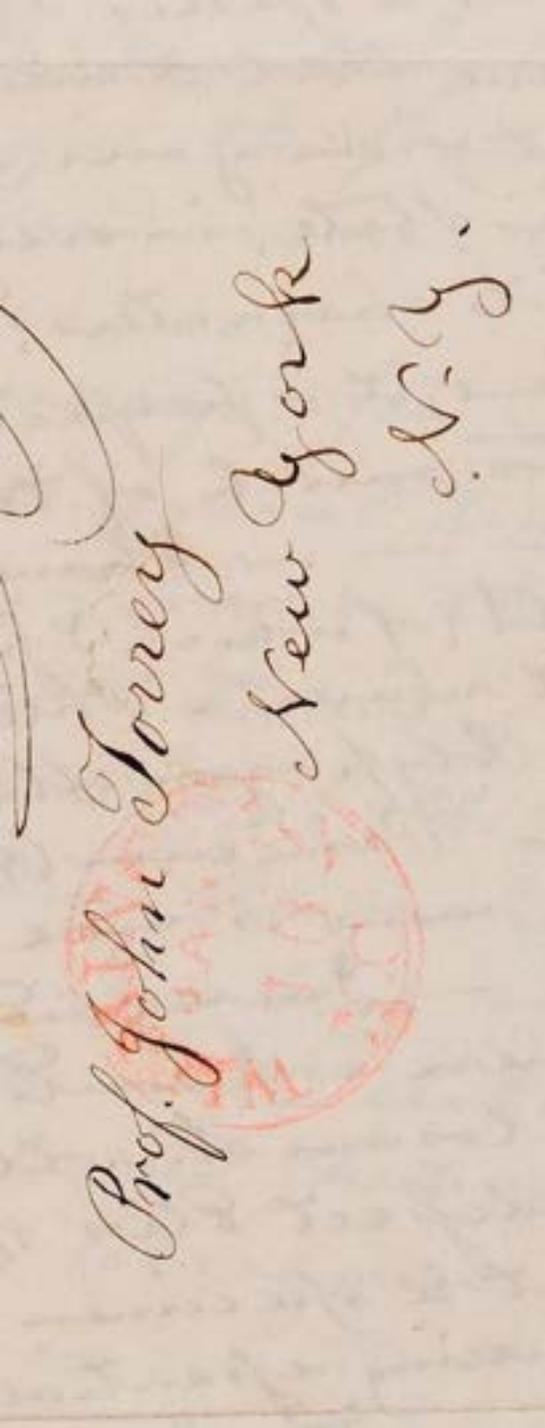
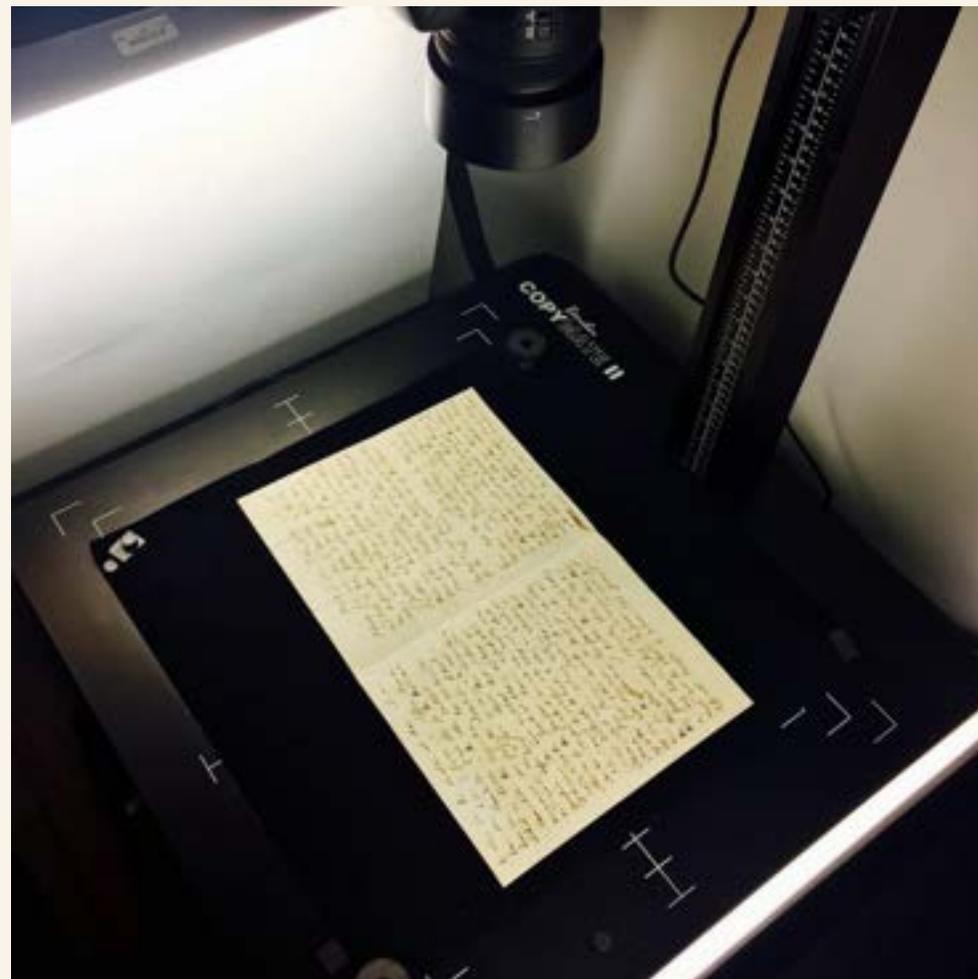
Viewing Page as Text

This text is generated from uncorrected OCR and as such, may contain inconsistencies with the actual content of the original page.

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Work Flow

Conservation
Digitization
Cataloging
Authority records
Upload imaged pages
Transcription
Upload transcribed text



Project Progress

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 272 | completed Works |
| 85 | pages transcribed in the past week |

New Old Word

This week we have two **new old** word's from the same letter. The first is **laciniate** and the second is **rhizome** from John H. Redfield's letter to Dr. Torrey on 30 Mar 1870 [2]

Many of the Polypodii were very curious, especially the dimorphous species, of which I would recall to you *P. rigidulum*, with a sterile found hardly even **laciniate**, while the fertile one is so absolutely & remotely pinnate, that if we did not see them growing from the same **rhizome**, it would be difficult to credit their identity.

laciniate (adj)- bordered with a fringe

especially : cut into deep irregular usually pointed lobes

rhizome(n)- a somewhat elongated usually horizontal subterranean plant stem that is often thickened by deposits of reserve food material, produces shoots above and roots below, and is distinguished from a true root in possessing buds, nodes, and usually scalelike leaves

A painting of an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark blue coat and a white cravat, pulling a heavy red curtain with gold fringe. The scene is set in a grand interior with a balcony visible on the left.

museums from the inside out



TORREY BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The Torrey Botanical Society 150th Anniversary Symposium

September 15, 2017

Founded in 1867, The Torrey Botanical Society is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2017! This day-long symposium features a range of speakers addressing the past, present, and future of the flora and natural history of New York City and the region:

- Jessica L. Allen: *Lichens of New York City: Past, Present, and Future*
- Robert Naczi: *What would Torrey do? Floras and floristics in the northeastern U.S.A. and adjacent Canada*
- Eric Sanderson: *The Welikia Project: On the Historical Ecology of New York City*
- Lena Struwe: *From Vasculums to iPhones: 150 years of botanical field research technology in a nutshell*
- Peter del Tredici: *The Introduction of Japanese Plants into North America (with a Torrey Botanical Club Footnote)*



JOHN TORREY: AMERICAN BOTANIST

Early Influences

Natural Scientist

JOHN TORREY: AMERICAN BOTANIST

Botany, the study of plants, helps us understand the variety of plant life with which we interact every day.

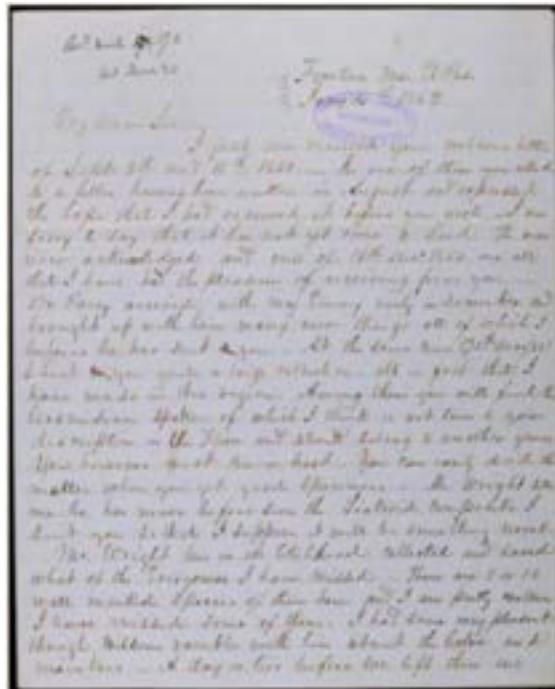


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Overview Transcribe Versions

Facsimile



Transcription

Recd. [Ræive d]l\larch [crossed out: 18th]17th

And. (Answere d)\larch 20

Pron era S'ear El Paso

Jany Uanuary] 15th1852.

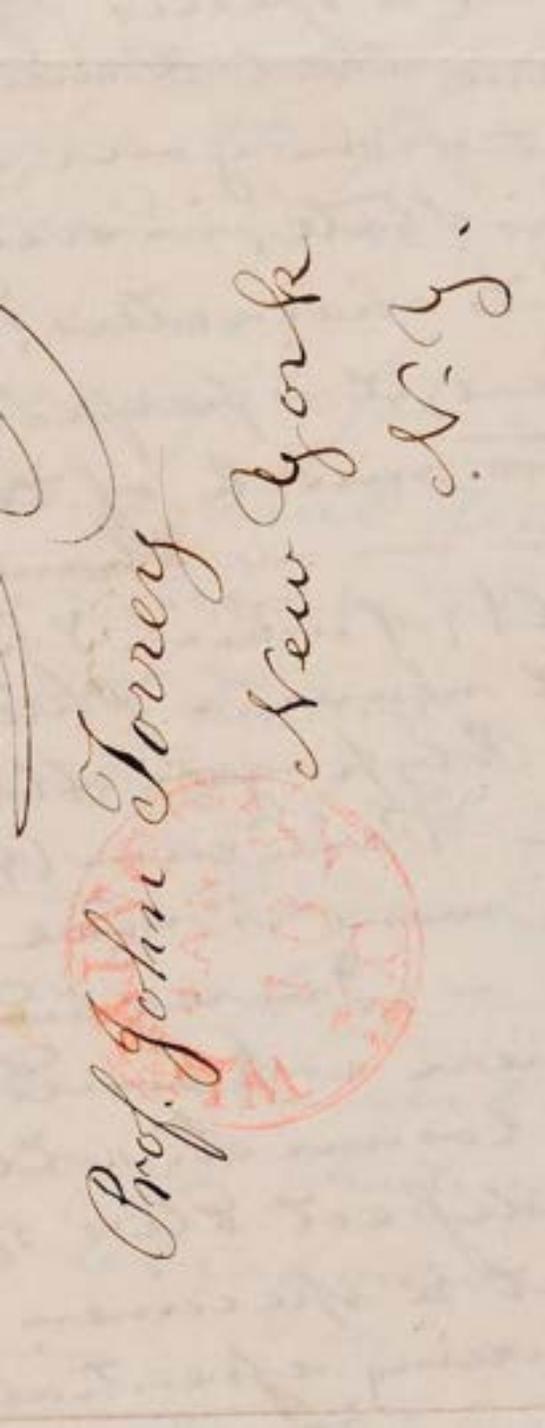
ly Dear Sir:

I just now received your welcome letters of Septr (September) 4th and 15th 1851. In one of them you allude to a etter hanng been written in August and expressed the hope that I had receiYed it before you wrote. I am sorry to say that it has not yet come o hand. The ones no,Y acknow edged and one of 16th Deer [Dece mber] 1850 are all that I have had the pleasure of receiving from you. Dr. Parry arrived with Maj [Major] Emory early i December and brough up"ith him many new things all of which I believe he has sent you. At the same time (20th Deer (December/ 51) I sent (crossed out: to) you quite a large collection- all in fact that I ha,e made in this Region. Among !hem you will find the Cos midium spoken of which I think is not true to your description in the Flora and should belong o another genus. You however mus know best. You can easily decide the matter when you get good specimens. Mr. Wright tells me he has never before seen the Liat roid [compo site?] I sent you so that I suppose il will be something nove .

Mr. Wright has in all likelihood collected and sa,ed what of the Rriogoneae I have missed. There are Sor 0 well marked species of them here and I am pretty certain I ha\ve missed some of them. I had some ,ery pleasant though toilsome rambles with him about the Cobre and A\limbres. A day or two before we eit there we

Page Notes

S dar, so In the at pa.-.agcaph. Bigelow is likely tal king about the town of Sa-'lla Rita del Cobre a.r.d the near by ?i.limbres Rier: EL ow MEXICO.



Outreach

- Citizen Science Day
- High School student group
- Educational website constructed by museum studies graduate students
- Presentations at local library schools





Full text searching

- Biodiversity Heritage Library now features full text searching launched April 2018
- All transcription text now searchable
- “search inside a book” functionality allows you to search for terms within a book
- Narrow search results by subject, format, date and language



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY



BARNARD



240 *Villosium nudiflorum*
frondosum
axillare
Hypnum erica Andreae
parvifolium (amplexifolium)
hypericoides
Delphinium exaltatum
Cimicifuga palmata
Leonitum concinatum
Maianthemum tripartitum
acuticulatum
condifolium
acuminatum
Toninia triloba
 250 *Stemonea tripartita*
Ranunculus subdus
nepesin
amphibius Not
Pagiaria simplex
Arium dracontium
fragillifolium
Rachis hypophyllum
Thymanthemum aristatum
Melissa reptans
 260 *Dioscorea virginica*
Ganthus coerules
Scutellaria marginata Not
silvestris

320

Filago americana
Erigeron pubescens
altissimus
Senecio
Cineraria heterophylla
asper rugosus
foliolosus
puberulus
serotinus
virgatus
dicranus

330

multiflorus
obtusus
fulvifolius
sericeus
patens
platyfolius
undulatus
complanatus divergens
mutabilis
laevis

340

Solidago serotina
reflexa
rugosa
scabra
virginica
juncea
elliptica

410 *Lycopodium mundinatum*
carolinianum
Ophioglossum vulgatum
Botrychium obliquum
Polytrichum incanum
Asplenium thelypteris
montanum
 414 *Thelypteris septentrionalis*

II. List of plants mentioned
 in New York Catalogue
 which I should be desirous of procuring
 as they are not in my collection or
 uncertain

Salicornia herbacea
ambigua
Blechnum maritimum
Polypodium medianum
Lindium dilatatum
Utricularia macrocarpa
striata
Lycopodium macrocarpum
Crucianus sambucifolius
platycarpus

NYBG

TRANSCRIBING THE JOHN TORREY PAPERS

Join the Mertz Library to help make the John Torrey Papers full-text searchable in the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

Our collection includes letters from over 350 correspondents and gives insight into botanical expeditions and scientific discovery in the 19th century.

Learn more and start transcribing at libguides.nybg.org/JohnTorreyPapers

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