

To: William Dahl, Executive Director  
From: Lee B. Kass, Chair  
Date: 1 August 2005, revised 5 August 2005  
Re: Historical Section Report for 2003-2004

**Background:**

In 1992, as Chair of the Historical Section of the BSA, I reported that the section would discuss supporting a symposium to be held at Cornell University in conjunction with their centennial celebration of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) at Cornell in 2004. The Symposium titled "The Legacy of Liberty Hyde Bailey" had been originally proposed for Botany 2001, but was postponed for lack of funding and because some speakers could not make the event. The CAL S Centennial Committee had asked me to inquire if the BSA Historical Section might be willing to sponsor the L. H. Bailey symposium at Cornell in the fall of 2004. Larry Davenport, Vice Chair of the Historical Section, presided at our Business Meeting in 2003, and informed me by email that members discussed and supported the idea of the L. H. Bailey Symposium at Cornell in 2004.

**Current:**

I reorganized the symposium and it was held as part of the Agricultural History Symposium (Session B Liberty Hyde Bailey's Legacy of Scientific Outreach I & II; see website, <http://ahssym.mannlib.cornell.edu/program.html>) which took place on September 10-11, 2004, at Cornell University in conjunction with their CAL S Centennial. The Bailey Symposium was held on Sept 10, 2004. The section Historical sanctioned \$500 for this symposium and this support was authorized by the Executive Council of the BSA. The section awarded to Professor Sally Kohlstead, U of MN, a \$500 travel allotment toward her expenses to present a talk at the Legacy of Liberty Hyde Bailey Sessions/Agricultural History Symposium at Cornell on September 10, 2005. This left us \$300 in our budget. On Oct 1, 2004 the section again received a \$400 allotment giving us a balance of \$300.

Larry Davenport and I were also re-elected Chair and Vice Chair of our Section. I invited Carol Kelloff to be Secretary/Treasurer of our section and she generously accepted. I have not yet received her report and hoped that she will send it to you by the August 1, deadline date. In the 2002-2003 report, I requested an increase in our allotment, from \$400 to \$700, which was apparently rejected because on Oct 1, 2004, the section again only received a \$400 allotment.

Therefore, I again request an increase in funding, from \$400 to \$700, part of which I suggest be used to support the archival research of Dr. Betty Smocovitis for her project on writing a history of the Botanical Society of America in honor of its coming Centennial. Betty and I hope to propose a special centennial symposium for Botany 2006.

Although I was never notified of such, it seems that I am no longer associated with the Archives and History Committee and I suspect this is due to the information I included in last years report, which stated that "I have no funds to attend meetings and would need a co-chair who can attend."

I am a member of the BSA Centennial Committee, as representative of our section. Harry Horner asked me to offer Betty Smocovitis any assistance that I could towards her project on the History of the BSA for the Centennial. Betty has asked met to look for L.H. Bailey photos in the Cornell University Archives, which I agreed to do.

We received 2 of the 4 abstracts that were promised for the Historical Section for Botany 2005, and Jeff Osborn suggested moving them to another session, as was done for Botany 2004. There seemed to be a miscommunication and the Historical Section session for Botany 2005 was scheduled with only 2 papers. This is unfortunate because as experience has shown there may be few people attending that session.

I did not attend Botany 2004 and I have no report in my files about what happened at the BSA Historical Section Annual Business Meeting. While I was out of town, Larry Davenport, our Vice Chair/ co-Program Chair, suggested canceling this year's Historical Section Annual Business Meeting because none of the officer from our section will be present to represent us at Botany 2005. Larry suggested that business could be done via email and this is OK with me, although we probably should amend our by-laws if in future we cannot hold a business meeting. The officer so the Historical Section are planning to attend the Centennial in 2006 and to hold an Annual Business meeting at that event.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee B. Kass

Chair and Co-Program Chair, Historical Section, BSA

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