

Exp. No. 17: East Asia and Jordan (May 1-June 22, 1979) JRH is 62 years old on June 7.

The trip to East Asia is to attend meetings, after which he goes back to Jordan for some collecting. There are no times, in the East Asia part, in which he just goes off and looks for things, however, he did take notes on the meetings. A lot of Tech Talk, but someone might be able to go through these notes and find something interesting. The Jordan trip is a bit more interesting. HVH2

5/1/79 Packed up and went to the airport: Chicago, San Francisco, Honolulu, Sydney, Brisbane. Travel time about 31 hours. Arrived Man 3. Met by Dick Jones, who took him to a nice hotel (the Terrace). At the end he says of the travel for this day: "... it is both physically and mentally dulling & numbing – one is drained of all thoughts and feelings."

He seems to be attending meetings at CSIRO. And for many pages he just has meeting notes. Not sure.

5/5 Sat/ "The day to myself": he went to the Queensland Museum, then to Botanical gardens, but they are not very good. The museum was good.

5/6 Sun. Flew to Townsville and taken to a dormitory until the 12th. Met Otto and had a good visit. Also, Hugh Bunting, but they kept their distance. "although Sat 12th he insisted on constesting ? a dry martini & did it very well even if a substituted vermouth and lemon peel instead of olive. Wed. aft was a field trip to Lansdown. We saw only a small part of the work which must be very extensive. I can see why the reviewers thought I had belittled the extent of theory and principles; they have already gone a long way towards developing what I thought should be done. Take care of the legume and let the grass come on its own. What you can do with the best legumes is impressive.

Next we have the meetings and he is taking notes: Tech Talk.

5/12 Called Jean 10:00 pm. It was 6:00 am in Champaign. (Pocket Datebook)

5/15 Tue. "Wrote short report of meeting. Packed up & went out to UQ (Univ. of Queensland?) Sorted thoughts a while & had a cup of coffee & gave seminar on "Origins of Indigenous African Agriculture." After lunch he went off to Redland Bay Farm and looked at what they were doing and it gets into Tech Talk.

5/17 Now he describes the Waite Agric. Rec. Inst., part of U Adelaide. He goes off into quite a little detail for several pages and it gets a little technical. Is he officially evaluating this school? No, it looks like he is taking notes again on several presentations by various people: Dr. Jim Quick, Calvin Driscoll, G. Lawrence & Robin Braham. "Eve. at home of Calvin Dirscoll – his wife from Missouri, but spent most of eve. w/ children. Taken by Ron Knight. Joined later by Colin Donald, David Syman, Ken Shepherd, Gary Lawrence & perhaps one other. Very nice eve."

5/18 Colin M. Donald. Retired, etc. "he coined the term: "harvest index". He talks about him. Then Ron Knight – ditto.

5/19 “Ron Knight took me for a ride into the hills behind Adelaide; lovely countryside & fine view of city., etc. I think they are in Perth, now because he says that “Perth has a magnificent setting for a city; one of the most beautiful in the world.” (I am thinking he should have brought Jean along.) Then he describes Ian D. Kaehne, then Murray J. Mathison, then Philip Cox. Is he taking notes at a meeting again?

5/20 John Hamblin came & picked him up and took him to his house in the country. He & his wife packed up a picnic lunch and they drove off to an Eucalyptus forest, and then he describes a lovely little outing that Jean would have enjoyed. (I am sure he had no way of anticipating that it would be like this, however, he was there for a meeting and not going into the boonies to find *Tripsacum* or something. He could have brought Jean. He keeps meeting other scientists who brought their wives along, but he never did that. Did he ask Jean if she wanted to go, or was he just neglecting her?)

5/21 John Gladstones on lumpin domestication. I cannot tell if these are lecture notes, notes from a paper, or what? (from Google: Gladstones domesticated lupins (nominally an ornamental flower type plant) to be both food for humans and feed for livestock. A lot of his work was done in Australia). He mentions other researchers. A good quote from Gladstones: “a lot of what is found around the Med. Is weedy, naturalized & escapes from cult. Still one can find things that are ‘apparently wild’”.

5/22 Discussion with students re breeding for disease resistance. No notes taken. Lunch with vice chancellor, no notes taken. He then lists some issues and then says: “Many questions posed about teaching agronomy in ecological terms – a good idea. Time ran out & over to lecture hall.” I think they are at Kingswood College. (Google tells us that the main Kingswood College is in Box Hill, Victoria, a suburb of Melbourne and it is a boy’s boarding school. Note he is giving his “Origins of Ag. In Africa” talk several times.)

5/23 A lot of Tech Talk for several pages. Last comment: “It was a good day & James & crew are doing good work – the only team on cytogenetics of WA (Western Australia or West Africa?) flora & wide open field.”

5/24 Reg Rossities & Bill Collins – Tech Talk. He still seems to be taking notes.

5/25 “Berndt – Aruben Land they don’t dig all their yams but leave some for next season.” HE MAKES SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT INDONESIAN AGRICULTURE THAT GOT INTO ONE OF HIS BOOKS: TRACK THIS DOWN. REALLY GOOD STUFF HERE. 3-9-18 – I LOOKED THIS ENTRY OVER AGAIN AND COULD NOT FIND WHAT I SAW BEFORE. I RECENTLY READ LIVING FIELDS AND CANNOT REMEMBER READING THIS STUFF. (From Google: Ronald Murray Brendt (1916-90) in Australia and Catherine Helen Webb of New Zealand. Both were social anthropologists and have a vast collection of stuff on Australia. I suppose that Ronald B. gave a lecture and these are Jack’s notes.)

Off to Singapore.

5/26 Went to Bot. gardens in oppressive heat and his feet are hurting (but still he walked). Walked around, worked on paper for AIBS.

5/28 (what happened to 5/27?) Flew to Manila. He is going to IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) office, and someone takes him there. Anyway, got settled in a rest house in Calamba and met several people.

5/29 Breakfast at 6:30 with Nyle. There he got a complete report on the IRRI activities in east Asia. Some Tech Talk and IRRI talk – this page is badly copied. More Tech Talk on next pages. He may be taking notes again.

5/30 D. V. Seshee ?, more Tech Talk. Gomez, J. A. Heinrichs, this seems to be talk about IRRI. Listsinger, Dr. Mamicpic, Emil Javir,

5/31 Went to IRRI library in am. Now, here is a pretty nice description of Flores de Mayo celebration. This was the last day of May and there were a lot of parades in every village. They got lost, however, and got back late in the dark and gloom.

6/1 A lot of noise about the plane reservations getting changed. He is trying to get to Bangkok then Karachi. Then took a tour of the “lovely villages underneath bright neat colored houses w/ lots of ornamentals...”

6/2 at library – then we have notes from the library. After this there is a long detailed description of an ordeal at the various airports and airplanes taking him from Manila to Bangkok to Dubai to Aba Dubi to Amman, then (after 36 hours since good sleep) they go off to the Castle area for supper. “like coming home! So many of the old gang back,” then he lists them. “It was all great. Then 8:30 sack out after 48 hours up – to get up at 2:40 local time.

6/4 In Jordan now at the same archeological dig he was at in 1977. He gets the grand tour of the facility and remarks: “They are being too conservative & too much by the book.” He makes a few other observations.

6/5 Up at 2:40 again and down to the Ghor and hiked the Wadi Karak. “My Australian tennis have soles too thin & the rocks hurt the feet.” Later “hiked to the waterfall. The experience of the day was a pair of beautiful jackals early in the a.m. long graceful white-tipped tails. They signaled each other & ran w/ undulant movements on the skyline – in sight for 5 minutes or so.”

6/6 “Set out to collect things I had not identified before, then decided to be more comprehensive since I was not sure of many of them. By second breakfast at 9:00 I had used 49 envelopes.” That night he hosted a big party.

6/7/79 (JRH’s 62 birthday), flew to Amman and drove back. They had a big birthday party for him.

6/8/79 He got a car for himself, a Renault, which he drove out to his favorite terebinth tree and then took a long, long hike...hoping to find --- THE COPY CUT IT OFF. NEED TO GET ORIGINAL NOTEBOOKS. Anyway he found a whole lot of interesting plants (I think) and the hike went well: “Hot & steamy & desiccated but happy...Beginning to get some ideas about the vegetation.”

6/9/70 Took off at about 4:30. “hiked to some shrubs that turned out to be almond – they look wild and are treated like wild. i.e. chopped w/axe.” He got a few “very immature fruits. This at village just before Ai (Alagan), thence on past Iraq on roads not on map. Came back to el Major & took road to Khazera along a ridge between W. Nmeira & W. Hassa. Spectacular. Lots of hitchhikers this day but did not interfere too much. Thence on through the Hasa fighting sleep. Very hot & I was drouzy & had trouble keeping on road. Wanted to get to top where it would be cooler & promised myself a nap. Finally made it: could not find shade & parked in the sun, racked the chair back & snoozed. Recovered shortly and wide awake. Left rear tire flat. I opened the back gate – no tire jack or anything. Got out the booklet manual – all in Arabic. Photo shows tire under bonnet. Now, I’ve got to get into it – had tried several times because of noises in cooling system. Pushed & pulled everything I could. Nothing worked. An Arab in pickup stopped w/o my flagging or anything. He pushed & pulled – I showed him the manual. He couldn’t find anything. Finally shrugged, shook hands & drove off; what else? But said: “Wait. Somebody comes – one man know one car.” Very good. But no one came. I pushed & pulled & felt & finally found the latch cleverly hidden under the bonnet was the tire w/air, jack & crank. A good system & I had tire changed in 10 minutes. What a difference a little knowledge makes!” He went slowly back to the castle and found most everyone had gone to Petra. Then he took note of vegetation types beginning to form and he lists some.

On next page are notes from 6/8/79, which are Tech Talk.

6/10/Sunday “Almost everyone gone to Petra.” After breakfast “we took another drive through Ifranj – Ai, El Magar(?)¹ – then the Hasa, Tafileh, past Busuiere(?) to Dana(?), turned off to my favorite Terebinth tree. It was lovely. Had our lunch there & loafed a little then back picking up rocks. A basalt flow 24.25 km fr Tafileh mosque. The good woodland is all on sandstone. This may make a difference in reconstruction of the vegetation. Getting late for Tese who had homework to do so tooled on back ca 3:00 pm. A pleasant day.”

6/11/Mon. (6/11/79 was a Monday.) Off at 4:00am to take Jack D. to airport. Went along the Kings Highway. He was impressed, collected a few basalt rocks and took pictures. They had a real messy time finding the airport. Finally got there, got ticket for the 23rd. Called Jean. (it was about 3:15 am in Champaign). “Day not to productive but necessary. I’ll see if I can keep the car a second week.” (what is he supposed to be doing here, anyway? HVH2)

6/12/Mon (Really Tues) Got a late start and “coasted down to the Ghors & started an inventory of crops currently grown in the Ghors.” Then he lists a lot of crops with comments.

6/13/Tue (really Wed.) “Got off in the dark ca. 4:00 w/ Paul T & drove straight to the terebinth tree. Paul sketched & photographed until a little before 8:00 and we drove to Shamback. Hiked over the castle and Paul sketched some more.” As they drove the red engine light kept coming on, indicating over-heating. He would force it to the top of a hill and coast down the other side. “Made it to Karak & the light finally came on gong up ‘Castle Drive’. We left it steaming & came to lunch, another birthday

¹ Here the (?) means that I could not find this location on Google.

good Arab meal & a try at folk dancing – German tourists gawking the while.” Some of the men worked on the car that night and it should be better.

6/14/Wed (really Thurs.) Drove to the cemetery site, with red light coming on. He helped identify a grass that someone had collected for the Smithsonian exhibit. Meanwhile someone fixed the car problem.

6/15/Fri. (Fri. is correct) He went with Paul to some places so that he could sketch things and makes this comment: “I was watching an old woman with a distaff spinning mohair into threads to make tenting. Across the grove was a black tent & somewhere was thumping on a drum & others clapping hands & there was singing & downslope I could see the shreds of an ancient thorn bush woodland. It occurred to me that one did not need to excavate a site to find out how people lived 5,000 years ago.” After Paul finished his sketches he took him back to the castle and “I chilled in a cool wind & organized some notes for lecture on natural resources in eve. Paul & I took a drive after 2:30 along Iفرانج, Ai, Iraq, El Mazar road & looked at a mosque & came on back to cocktails with Tese & some of the other young people.” In the lecture he used the illustration of the old woman spinning. (My, what a life. I would have liked to have been there. HVH2)

6/16 Sat. Drove with Mahammad Derwish to various places, talking with various people about how their crops were doing. Generally they found out that things are better than in 1977. Everyone doing well.

6/17/Sun Went with Paul to a church with mosaics from the 6th Century. They were having services, which went on and on with chanting. The chief priest “looked like the patriarch of Constantinople or the Metropolitan of Moscow or at least what they should look like. Very large full white beard & elegant robes etc,” Then they went to Mt. Nebo & more mosaics. “Back to resthouse and lunch. I’m feeling a touch of Karak Caper & ate little.” Then to the Greek Orth. church & a big mosaic map of the holy lands.

6/18 Mon This was his last day on the site. He went around and “inspected” the site. (I don’t know what his role is in this dig.) That night they had a farewell party with a movie from last season with popcorn.

6/19 Tues Went with Paul to Amman, got a room at a hotel, (they only had one room left, with no ventilation) hiked to the airport and got the tickets straightened out. He is set to fly out on Friday.

6/20 “For the Record” he gave a little sketch of a map of Amman.

Then we have a few pages of Tech Talk, beginning with “How did it look before the ox and the goat or at least when the ox and the goat were fewer.” What he has here is an inventory of seeds collected (see 6/21, below)

6/20 (another one) He went to the university and the herbarium. “Came back to the oven & tried to rest.” (the oven being the hotel room with no ventilation) 4:00 took the car back, but now was running low on JD (Jordanian dollars) and had to hike down to a money changer and spent too much on supper and “to the oven for bed & propped the door open for ventilation. Fitful night w/heat & mosquitoes.”

6/21 Did some sorting of collection – that is what the Tech Talk pages were about. No beer or liquor stores open, but he has its own whiskey. “To the oven again. This time I not only propped open the door, but pulled the mattress off on to the floor between the window & door. Much cooler but still mosquitoes. This should be the last of it.”

6/22 “It wasn’t that easy.” Now he describes one more battle with the airlines. “Long and sordid story, but one does NOT hurry an Arab.” Finally made it to Boston, missed flight to Chicago.

Sun 24 Came in “in good shape but w/ little sleep. Mark Hughes due at Indy in aft so drove over to meet him – a long drawn-out homecoming.”