

TR-8: 1978 TRIP TO MOSCOW TO ATTEND THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL GENETICS CONGRESS

Aug. 20-Sep. 3, 1978

(JRH is 61 years old) Jack Harlan had been invited to the XIV International Genetics Congress in Moscow: “Well-being of mankind and genetics”, August 21-30, 1978, Moscow. [Note that this meeting was boycotted by a number of American scientists. See Adobe Acrobat news release in Science June, 1978]

Aug 20, 1978 (Sunday) Departed from Champaign and flew to Moscow (8-21-78). In Moscow was unable to attend the opening party because his paperwork was not completed. Couldn't even find a beer at the hotel (however his room was very nice.)

Aug 21 (PN) Moscow

Aug 22 Spent the day in jet-lag and contacting a few people for the next day, including Yurey Vavilov (last surviving Vavilov?). Barry Cohn called him. (PN) Moscow

Aug 23 He met with Yurey Vavilov, who gave him an autographed copy of a book just off the Saratov press about Vavilov's years in Saratov, 1917-33. (I WONDER IF WE HAVE THAT BOOK SOMEWHERE) Conference has started and JRH is a co-chair of something or other. The Soviet projector giving them fits, “Baklityrev came up to greet me ... he must have come just to see me.” At end of day he has some comments about Soviet TV. (PN) Moscow, C-25 co-ghm 14:30 club Hell

Done - MB

Aug 24 Went on a city tour, but first checked out the Metro so that he knew how to use it. He was very impressed with the subway system, then went on the tour: nothing of much interest there. Met Dick Lewontin and then Barry Cohn. Went to the conference for an hour then went out again with Otto and Jeff Grigg from Sydney to the circus, went to dinner and back to the hotel for 1:00 am. “A most pleasant evening”

Aug 25- Jack seldom went to the Congress, but went with his good friend, Otto Frankel, all over Moscow: to the museums and fine restaurants, to the ballet and all over, riding the wonderfully efficient Metro. Now, Jack could have brought Jean on this portion of the journey, instead of leaving her in Champaign. Was she alone at this time? Rich & Sherry were there in 1977. I will simply copy some of his more important comments to complete this log.

Aug 25 JRH, Otto, Jeff & Marina (the interpreter) drove, with a driver, to Kiln. Reflecting on this side trip JRH comments: “The old villages with their gardens & orchards are to be plowed down & replaced by ugly medium-rise apartments. What a shame! And this is considered progress.”

- Aug 26 After a long day shopping and trying in vain to make long distance phone calls: "Finally Otto called & needed a friend – a bad day as chairman of the board." AT the end of this entry is his log of the times he tried to call Jean and how he finally got her, but did not talk long.
- Aug 27 (PN) Moscow, Kremlin 10:30 Hotel He gives a good description of a museum he went to. He goes on and on in great detail. He is seeing some rather amazing jewel encrusted thrones, etc. Different world leaders gave the local world leader amazing things, for instance, "Potempin & Orlov who gave her very expensive gifts like coaches. She in tern gave a silver service weighing 2 tons!" Finally he says, "It was all an unreal world." There is some pretty good descriptions here, but not worth the time to transcribe since it is just the observations of a tourist.
- Aug 28 "We ate at the Nacional with 2 West German engineers. We talked in German & it wasn't too bad. They asked how was it American spoke German with a French accent." "I gave a copy of "Pathways" to Slickerbak who seems embarrassed that we had gone so much farther than he had." "Barry Cohn managed to locate a nephew of Bakhteev who gave me a Vavilov pin for my lapel and & will try to get his uncle to me hotel an hour before we leave for the Kremlin on Wed." "Petrov presented me with a book on genetic control of apomixes he published in 1964. No mention of us and by then we must have published 60-70 papers on our grasses. We are not communicating in either direction. (PN) Moscow, V-27 9:00 Lect. Rm 121-B paper & slides. 14:30 Roundtable on Apomixes.
- Aug 29 He & a group went to Zagorsk, the Moscow Theological Academy and he has some comments about that. That evening they go to the ballet. (PN) Moscow
- Aug 30 He skipped the Congress in the morning and spent time in his hotel room folding shirts: "I found I was just getting nervous, so walked to Red Square & went to St. Basil's. Interesting but amazing that all that architecture was not really made to accommodate people. The rooms very small & good only for private ceremonies. From the outside it's really wild, perhaps a little insane but not idiotic as Otto put it. Skipped lunch to wait for Balshteev if he should come. Barry came & waited a while too, but no Bakliteev, so pulled stuff together & caught a bus for the Kremlin and my big hour. I was glad that I had seen the hall the night before so I knew about what to expect. We assembled in a room off the stage which now had the huge podium used by the soviet Ministers and Party officials. Baklliteev came & Gustafson, Otto, Belyaev, Tsitaim and a bunch I did not know. Finally we went on to the podium & found places – none assigned, but Otto was in center because he chaired the session. After some opening remarks, Bakliteev gave his speech outlining Vavilov's career in some detail and the various ideas he had. Then I gave mine (I had added a phrase on the podium & wished I had added another). It went off well. Gustafson grabbed my hand & said "Brilliant!". Otto grabbed my hand and said "Damned good, Jack!" Praise from those two is hard to come by. Many others had kind words to say. I think mostly because of the paragraph I added after I got to the Podium [BOTT] I should fix up some good copies & send to a number of people. The next speech was to be Braghnew, but it was read by Dorofrev. "Later this becomes his "Big Hour", where he gives a great speech. I WILL LET THIS BE TRANSCRIBED LATER. Dimitri Belyaev gave the next speech

about domestication of foxes to become like dogs. FOLLOWING THIS IS A MOST INTERESTING EVENT. (THIS IS GOOD STUFF HERE THAT NEEDS TO BE TRANSCRIBED LATER) In his notes for that day he says: "Finally, we went on the platform & found places – none were assigned, but Otto was in center because he chaired the session. After some opening remarks Bakliteev gave his speech" (NOW, I AM HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING INFO ABOUT THE CONGRESS TO SEE IF OTTO WAS REALLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WHOLE THING OR WHAT, HVH2) (PN) Moscow, Vavilov. 14:00 Kremlin, Palace of Congress. Papers & slides

Aug 31 He seems to have flows without much problem to Denmark. He mentions the Glyptotek Art Museum, which is in Copenhagen. (PN) (someone else's handwriting, "In August Nan & Steve Humphreys Ice Cream Social")

Sep 1-2 He took in some museums and Tivoli Square. "Have seen enough for now & ready to go home."

(PN) Friday, 1, September "PODOLSKAYA, ANNA / VIR / Leningrad Herteen 4*4 Department of Maize our papers Send s=Shaherbols a set of maize – Tds papers also [the * may have been some kind of messup, which someone tried to erase]

Now the Notebook changes gears. The next page is entitled: Start of ICRISAT Review Mission. ICRISAT stands for **International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics** (Asia & Africa). ICRISAT is a part of CGIRA ??

HE IS BACK IN CHAMPAIGN FOR ABOUT 3 WEEKS BEFORE GOING OFF TO THE ICRISAT REVIEW IN SENEGAL & INDIA (This is Exp. 15) Evidently, he did not start a new notebook, but just turned the page in the one he had used for the Moscow meeting and began with what turned out to be a real expedition in that he did a little collecting. However, this was more of a meeting trip.

Sep 20, 1978. "Jean had called (FROM NEW ORLEANS) the aft. before about Harry & Kathy & a new 8 lb boy David Patrick or Patrick David. So, I called Mildred & the other three, packed and sorted. Lots will be left undone as usual. In morning went to field & selected some plants for Mark to harvest. To bad we could not have done more, but too green. Last minute letters & all that. Visited Mildred, lunched back to finalize packing. Started reading ICRISAT material. NOW THE REST OF THIS IS HIS REFLECTIONS ON ICRISAT MATERIAL AND THE QC REVIEW HE AND SOME OTHERS ARE TO DO. HE WILL GO TO DAKAR, SENEGAL AND THEN HYDERABAD, INDIA AND RETURN ON ABOUT NOV. 1, 1978.

From Pocket Notebook:

Sept. 21: Arr. Paris ca 11:30 am; traffic jam en route Slavica ca 2:00 pm

Sept 22: Jacques Barriare ca `10:00 am & 3-5 pm after move to Hotel de France by metro // good day