When Alexander Eig met Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov – an influential meeting for Israeli botany

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Supplementary material



Figure S1. Grave of Alexander Eig on the Mount of Olives Cemetery with the inscription: *Founder of Plant Science in Israel*.



Figure S2. Photograph of Alexander Eig (sitting by table), Michael Zohary (standing) and Naomi Feinbrun (sitting by window) working with the Herbaria (Fig. 4. Division of Biology: Herbarium, from the book of Warburg, O. and Elazari-Volcani, I. (Eds.) 1926. First report covering period of five years 1921-1926. Tel-Aviv, Palestine: The Zionist Organisation, Institute of Agriculture and Natural History, Agricultural Experiment Station).



Figure S3. Photograph of Naomi Feinbrun from 1926 (Archive of the Feinbrun' family, courtesy of Prof. Uriel Safriel, HUJ).

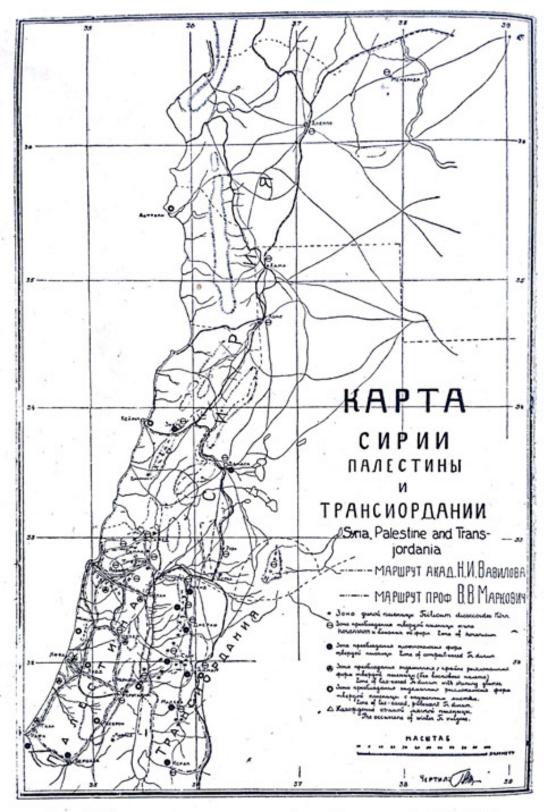


Рис. 25. Карта распространения пшенип Сирии, Палестины и Трансиордании. Fig. 25. Map showing the distribution of wheat in Syria, Palestine and Transjordania.

Figure S4A. Map of Syria, Palestine and Jordan – Vavilov and Marcowicz's wheat collections. Illustration no. 25 (on p. 70) from the book of Jacubziner, M.M. (1932). *Wheats of Syria, Palestine and Transjordan and their Agronomic Evaluation*, Leningrad: VIR.

- * Distribution area of *Triticum dicoccoides* Korn.
- O Domination area of durum wheat of the *horanicum* type and similar forms.
- ⊗ Domination area of durum wheat of the *T. durum compactum-eared* type.
- Domination area of durum wheat of the *T. durum lax-eared* with shining glumes type.
- Domination area of durum wheat of the *T. durum lax-eared* pubescent type.
- \triangle Area of soft wheat, winter wheat *T. vulgare*.
- △ Scale 10-100 km

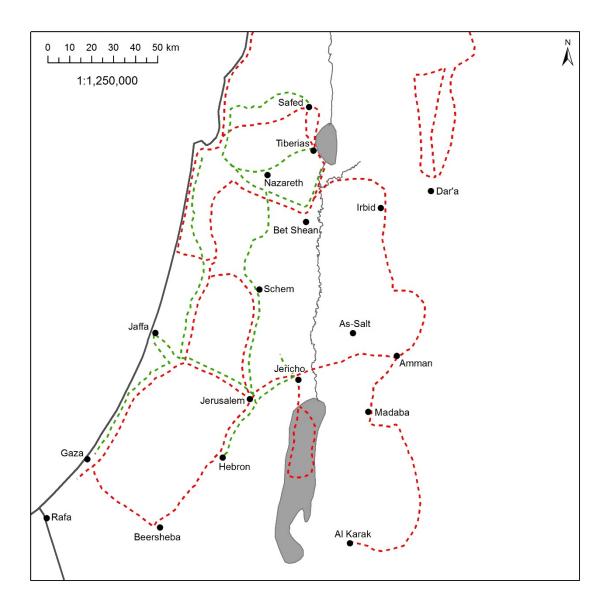


Figure S4B. Map of Vavilov and Marcowicz's wheat collections in Israel and Jordan (based on Supplementary Fig. S4A). Translation of the symbols follows Jacubziner's concepts.

Dashed line, collection path of N.I. Vavilov (in red).

Dashed line with two dots, collection path of V.V. Marcowicz (in green).



Figure S5. The convoy of Vavilov's mission in Palestine on the way from Jerusalem to Nablus (Archive of VIR, from the book: Vavilov 1962).

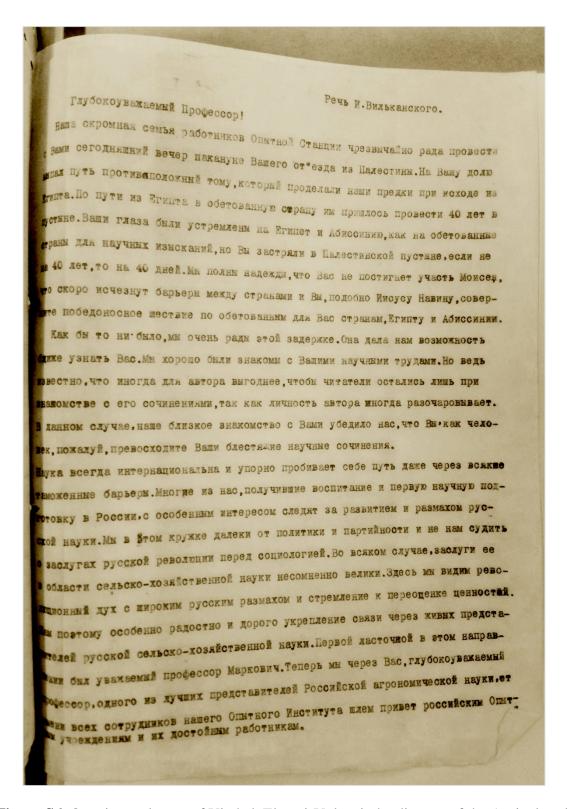


Figure S6. Opening welcome of Yitzhak Elazari-Volcani, the director of the Agricultural Research Station, for the lecture of N.I. Vavilov (The Central Zionist Archives A210/57).

(nocre persepana njego Dulandoba le Mesto abube bookpeeense, 21-userofus, 1926. gour pagoennais aringannoeme, npalem albertorlyoniombersion Rolorujasin Cionumera dredymulae le Maileamusel. He use à nfiedemabilité Hauser bullorgro wern't Delupal Halka reemby am Hard Meregeneela domarurection realism Mas lice cordrermende perfequent Norghenhobaded paquar un portare processar Mae Saure recitaristo paporapobarere, rmo nama Maderestas compa na romopilso une a gabient depende neutallien amonfemble Mall na "nefn Jedhu", w rms Nadesmuna, emdurasoulaired channel coramendiare prescoodpagies, se jasennaem le neofin nopodo Haberoba o gelempat pajreodpajus ocoderenam meema to me markodoro ymetrus granence ncomo, generose le modochoù redpachin mo reprenegenose paementin Astacen escede reuleen, e dongoù rece clir zocharom brenoumaris o yefunge Caberlan, somofair mospe nor quemo nochemula lany confrasy man yncuennelosco vieno y grand, uno no Aparineen reche

Figure S7. Closing afterward of Shlomo Kaplansky, the director of the Zionist Organization Settlement Department, on N.I. Vavilov's lecture (21 November 1926, The Central Zionist Archives A210/57).

Hotel "HERZLIA"

JAFFA, TEL-AVIV, Palestine P. O. B. II TELEPHONE 325. מלון הרצליה' פנחם הורביץ יש. חלאמים. איי מ. ה. 11 משן 220.

Tel-Aviv, the 24 November 1926 -

Глубокоувадна смый комма!

Вы просеми меня, как мицо вможь стоящее к организации научно-исследовательной фагрономинской работа, висказать минии о плане и организации селимо-чизуйственной опытной станции и се домолов

Насколько смог ознокомиться со строной, когорую Глегодаря годействию Департоменто Земядемя, Сионист ской экзекутивы и Дашей Станции я водел уравнимино помы, попыташи удовлетворить Даше желания.

У строне ролонизуеной индущей новых путей от примитивного землядемы к антехнивены современиям дограна сельского хогубетва, в страна, где с.х. наука, исмотр на тыскамить дер пылоност землядения, тыбка начинает прокладывать пути, в пытью дело долучно быть поставлено в основу всех сельно-хогубетвенных мери призтиши.

Насколько мог. уведило гто еврыская колонинацая прилиуществения контовизатия в рабони вомстини до сий пор им совершению мевывения в культуру им слобо использувания. Уревший землядели инили в горах. Вы каправизет йсторически совершению правально- доше виплания в домин, к вереговой полого, на существу ковим рабония до жидавами верегом до кодавами верегом до кодавами верегом и земляделя вемения, в рабони до кодавами верегом верегом до кодавами верегом и менения невоступни менения верегом вемения.

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Ітови и било рапогарований, возмоденостий встретитьми с модина посворий (ман. зесолений посв), репушной колонинущи должен прединествовать опыт. Сом колонист в теких услових почевым становится экспериментетором, тротя виродко бесплодко больших средетва, как эк имею местики, в уроня, в уроня, в уроня.

ист, во врещузский Аррике. Спонистская организация, по нешему глубоницу убечения поступия соврщение правилию, создав в семи напеле серьопици исследова тильскую организация.

Знакомство с постеновной опнтить дела в Помения, убедило мям, в том, гто куре взут узавилими. Вы ставить дель на основания опнта зат Европи и Америка запа представизется собершению верина мобудимость углу бленной и серьюмой научной постановки. Кустарии опити дело, которого еще придерживанти многи страни Срединия, как покапивант Дорская деметвительность на удовлетворуют на селеского хогушна, ни органи руководящи с.х. политиков.

Перибу к детегзи прасничения.

Вы грепвиданно удать выбрам как балу для робот по ноловодетву и селенуми больших угастой (160 чего ры) в давата. Довершение разверстивания сети опитник угастью в водения ших колоникуемих рабонау и проведения всей камеренной программы даст возму

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מלון הרצליה' פנחם' הורביץ ישר חלאמים. ארי היה זו משת 255

| Tel-Aviv. | the | 277 | הליאבים |
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посте спорть и практического решения основния вогри

Лоборатории существующие вистория время, конегию, являющих далеко неудовлетворительними по обородованию. Необходом стребиний превод с. к лобороторию види к помы, к деревае, подальние об асфельто. Меобходом создение специальных вызыващимими домиков для работ по агрономической диниономи. Энтомомоческой и микомо, инментациальной в спициальной оборудования инсектория, теплицами, термосгороми.

Приклодная ботоника, что би удовлетврять непиредитенным измен агрономии догуст перевести центр внимания от герберая к. помо, к посеван, к живому растению

Слекунонна работа в основе немегнико правали. Тугобуст зимини висисии селендии отродит и плодових кулогур и соответствущий обрудование маторытория.

Меобродимо усимения внижания специальным и интенсав,

, до сих пор моло исплидованных Как ни дорогиоборудование зоот химпеской лоборатории и скитимо двора, к пему нешобедию придется подойти опитион станции

Уществрицая библичника на может удовитворить инсерователя и требуется дополняние се основными андамиями.

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То концентрация интелментя, которы харовя ригум современную Налессину, исличие огромного интелмендельного каповоло, и мочеток бите убевитвории испоредственным прилочением своей дермемности « Reformany specificacity. Damen unclusy som mondemen chopo bus me so sa apidera Bamed enerebend empara. I most ydepress somewar our lacosayer bean apaxoduses compour subories goue lacosayer bean apaxoduses sodynasion o condomin y nobus der some unipokus pesoma. Do cux rop l'emparen Gedunanch a me sorgan, se acamerement eparoroun, vostress accaedolamencias negruer pasoner rocmaliena eraso. Parmumencias a muso mense un a les queste xamencias a muso mense un a les que xamencias de meste la la existipar orar xamineckes quela angrena craso. Ha existipar orar xamineckes quela angrena craso. Ha existipar orar xamineckes some los unhaces l'aceccus, doracie sum lonso una los some lonso una some some la unipokes success univalenta a success univalenta a success univalenta successo univalenta success univalenta success univalenta success univalenta success univalenta successo univalenta success univalenta success univalenta successo univalenta succes

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7 но вышту зкаги как трудно что сами трудное up oprawo ague espono surs chos accedolames cones prosoner - cooperal someonintenent represes. De mes I Suice emaples l'anson ensurement reparadures horsolans emerculation a omegmenture heodyodustax enequented Вы проши самы прудни Вперова вымии метеристочни трудност. Серьопил исследовательских апрополитеског работа, при слоденова се имени в cuucie apeksunaour nocscuolan ce, rapedyens sosonnes [48 der lex weard] so receil very asig Kompeter [1825] doleder, oruses quedeparalune a resasure modure queloste вудан до Я 200.000 Доленя в вода Европе и выш пруби collysemics c Baensionsweekens Permybures, no miss scapulant siere se mo 7mo opremneges argrenus une per kandelle unmerculous grope excessor xospecto, nospecto pulvines Espectos apromospectos, mpidy the new peo es coomlementyway ux 30 mpem. DOT THE MINUSCOP, THE YOMELOU DEL LUCKSTOTAL Kpumukolami u luceorulami nomeramus seeno, Bunosula mygous leve for whenous war singerin groundatures За полоще в озновомения с врашей инпересневием compand THAYSUOSA, KOMOPHA HOLKE COMPARS, 4500 OLLET la ripyducina (your sinendy N. Vosilor) Duperson long depositionen beduszte Onusans Agonomia lemenged . Poccus.

Figure S8. Letter by N.I. Vavilov to Y. Volcani, 24 November 1926 (The Central Zionist Archives A210/57).

Text S1. English version of the letter by N.I. Vavilov to Y. Volcani, 24 November 1926 (HUJI Archive file 80, Jerusalem).

Tel-Aviv, November 24th, 1926

Dear Sir,

you have desired me as one who is connected with scientific agricultural research to report on the plan and organization of the Agricultural Experiment Station and its sub-stations. From my acquaintance with the country – and, thanks to the assistances of the Agricultural Department, of the Zionist Executive and of your station I saw it fairly thoroughly – I shall try to meet your request.

In a country which is to be newly-settled and seeks way of transition from primitive farming to modern intensive agriculture, and in which agriculture sciences, in spite of land-cultivation during a thousand years is only just beginning to develop, <u>experimental research must</u> be the basis of every form of agricultural activity.

As far, as I was able, I satisfied myself that Jewish colonization is proceeding mainly in regions which have been until now unworked, or else but little exploited. The ancient cultivators dwelt on the mountains. According to accurate historical knowledge, you devoted your attention to the valleys and to the coastal plains, areas until recently completely inaccessible to Jewish farmers. To prevent disappointment and general unforeseen happenings (as for example the formation of salt lands), rational methods of colonization must spring from experimental work; otherwise the settler himself must perforce in such conditions become experimentator, and he thereby frequently loses large sums of money as for example for the case in French Africa.

I am firmly convinced that the Zionist Organisation proceeded quite correctly when it created from the outset earnest experimental work. My acquaintance with the conditions of experimental research

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in Palestine convinced me that the right course was adopted. The work is based on the experience of Europe and America. The idea that the production of thorough and penetrating scientific experimental research is a necessity is well founded. Experimental work on a miniature scale, to which many Mediterranean countries still adhere, satisfies neither the farmer himself nor controlling agricultural authorities, as bitter experience has shown.

I turn now to details of organization.

The choice of an area of 140 hectares at Gebatah was a very happy one. By the creation of a network of experimental fields in the more important centres, and the carrying out of the plans projected it will be possible to arrive at rapid and practical solution of the main agricultural problems. – The existing laboratorias have not been satisfactorily equipped. Their removal from the street pavement and the establishment of agricultural laboratories near the fields and the village is especially necessary. Further the erection of plant-houses for work in agricultural physiology is needed. The entomological, mycological and especiall[y] the physiological divisions require special equipment, including Insectarium, hothouses and Thermostats.

In order that applied botany may meet the immediate requirements of agriculture it must direct its main attention to the field, to the seed and the living plant instead of the herbarium.

Good selection work is established on the right lines. Increased attention should be paid to the selection of farm and garden plants, and to the requisite equipment of a seed-selection laboratory.

Further careful consideration should be given to special

p.3

and intensive cultures which have so far very little investigated.

However expensive the equipment of a zootechnical laboratory, with the maintenance of stock-keeping may be, the experimental station cannot but proceed with its formation. The existing library is inadequate for the research worker and requires completion with essential books.

Publications. In a short period the station has already published a large number of works, some of which represent fundamental researches concerning Palestine published for the first time. I cannot refrain from especially mentioning the extraordinarily interestin[g] and penetrating essay of the Directior on "The Transition from Primitive to Modern Agriculture in Palestine", and also very valuabl[e] work in entomology, mycology and a comprehensive monograph on the "Sugar industry". The chemical laboratories have started on the publication of the very necessary analyses of agricultural produce. Much valuable information concerning important questions will be available when work is published which I have seen in manusript. (Researches on Palestine Wheat, Geobotanical Studies, Soil analyses, Analyses of figs and other agricultural products, comprehensive phytopathological investigations).

The system of publications, that of issueing side by side monographs and works for general information appears to me correct. Literature for the general public must only be the outcome of profound research, and cannot precede it.

I must here express the wish that the Station in its forthcoming publications of collected essays might turn its attention to the knowledge of the present position of agriculture which already exists. The experience of Russian agricultural science demonstrates

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the advisability of introductory general descriptions of the various zones in connection with natural history as well as with agriculture. Up till now outstanding archaeological, historical and also geogogical researches and surveys have been published.

The agricultural aspect of the country on which colonisation work is being built up, and experimentla science developed is yet unknown. Individual workers a the Station know the country excellently, but their knowledge is scattered and inacessible. So far, a map of the agricultural areas is lacjing and there is no agricultural description of the various districts. The Station would perform a great work if in its next publications it would direct its attention to the compilation of such surveys.

In organising collected scientific researches according to my firm opinion, they must not be confused within the limits of present-day Palestine. Although local and contemporary problems are of prime importance, the station's laboratories must now prepare plans for scientific research on a broad basis in the Near East and Mediterranean regions.

The concentration of intellect which characterises modern Palestine is an immense intellectual source which cannot be satisfied by activity within a small space. The Institute will soon have to reach outwards beyond the boundaries of its small country. For Eretz-Israel to retain its great intellectual powers, it will have to contemplate the creation of conditions for work on a broader basis. Up to the present day with the exception of archaeology, history, and to some extent geology, scientific work in Mediterranean and Near Eastern countries is very feebly developed. The plant and animal world and the whole field of physic-chemical phenomena is hardly explored. The task of exploring the Mediterranean

p.5.

one and the Near East is incumbent on the new cultural centre which is springing up in Palestine.

The serious and adequate study of botanical and ecological classification is impossible when it remains restricted within he accidental limits of an area of a few ten thousand square kilometres. In the process of creating a firm agricultural settlement as the foundation of the National Home, New Israel must do as the old and undertake a portion of the task of a universal world mission. This must be borne in mind in organizing agricultural experimental research.

You have succeeded in a new country where no specialized staff of workers was available, in assembling within a short time a large group of well-trained research workers. As we

know well from experience, the most difficult thing in organizing agricultural research is this formation of a reliable personelle. Also in older countries one is constantly meeted with difficulties is this direction, and often the much-needed specialist is lacking at the station. The greatest problem has been overcome. There are however, big economic difficulties before you. Serious agricultural research calls for large investments of money on account of its complicated character and especially in view of its practical application. The average budget of the American experimental stations (48 for all the States) drawn up according to the last Farnell Act passed by Congress (1925) and funded by the Central, Government amounts to \$200.000 per station for the year. Europe and Asia can with difficulty kie with the United States; one cannot, however, ignore the fact that it is just the study of intensive forms of cultivation, adopted by Jewish colonization which entails special expenditure.

This represents the least that I can say. It is easy to in//gle in criticism and to express wished, but to make reforms is difficult.

Once more, I beg to express may deepest thanks for the assistance rendered me in becoming acquainted with your extremely interesting country. The enthusiasm which pervades in it, will overcome all difficulties.

Yours faithfully

N. Vavilov

Director of the State Institute for Experimental Agronomy and for Agricultural Research.

p.6.

Jordan - 1926, October 27-28

Coll.: A. Eig & M.I. Vavilov

Hoav: Ha'daba, Al Karak, El Catrani, E. Dead Sea shore-Callirhoe, Wadi Majib (Armon river).

Figure S9. A note with a list of the points in the tour of Vavilov and Eig in Jordan (Herbarium archive, HUJ, Jerusalem).

Всексам Гранция.

Загу на Замин помых культур от евсекоюзный институт прикладной ботаники и новых культур от евсеком и государственный институт опытной агрономии.

INSTITUT DE BOTANIQUE APPLIQUÉE ET D'AMÉLIORATION DES PLANTES! 123/2/26

LENINGRAD.

ПРОФ. Н. И. ВАВИЛОВ

ЦЕНТРЫ ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЯКУЛЬТУРНЫХ РАСТЕНИЙ

Prof. N. I. VAVILOV

STUDIES ON THE ORIGIN OF CULTIVATED PLANTS

Figure S10. Photograph of a personal dedication, in the author's handwriting, from Vavilov to Eig: Dear Alexander Grigorievitch Eig, for a good remembrance, from the author. 23 November 1926 (Herbarium library, HUJ, Jerusalem).

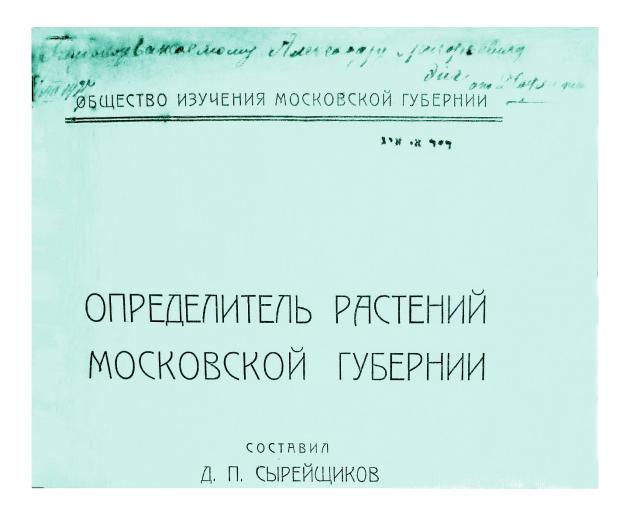


Figure S11. Photograph of a personal dedication, in the author's handwriting, from Syreischikov to Eig: To the most honorable Alexander Grigorievitch Eig from D. Syreischikov. 8 August 1927 (Herbarium library, HUJ, Jerusalem).

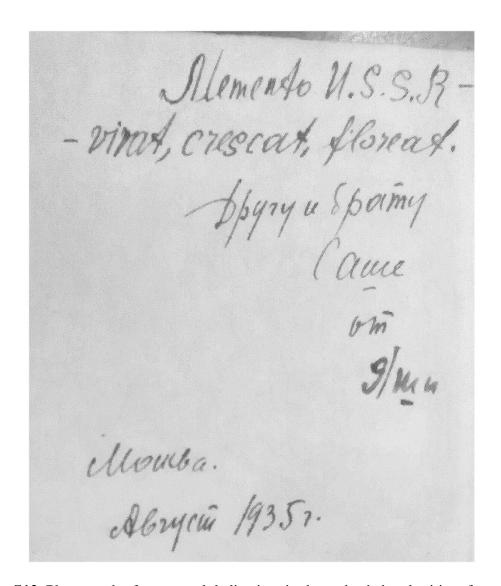


Figure S12. Photograph of a personal dedication, in the author's handwriting, from Korovin to Eig: Remember the Soviet Union, live, grow, flourish, for Sasha from Genia. Moscow, August 1935 (Herbarium library, HUJ, Jerusalem).