

7. 6. 64.

Dear Frank,

This is just a note to accompany two presents from Turkey. The spindle came from a bazaar in Bursa - we bought it from the actual turner.

The last six weeks of our visit were very successful - we managed to hire a car (with driver) & we went south, north, & east of Ankara. The first trip was through Konya, over the Taurus mountains to Silefke, then along the coast to Mersin & back over the Taurus mountains on the Adana-Ankara road. Superb country both ways, with natural rock gardens in the Taurus mountains (at places the road was at about 5000 ft). Second trip was north to Amara on the Black Sea coast (& incidentally, at Bastin we found a turner who makes spinning wheels complete). The valley from Gevrek to Devrek is another lovely patch - the nicest we saw in Turkey - and is carpeted with wild flowers, bulbs, orchids, and alpenes. Third trip was to Kayseri & back via Urgub and Goreme, rather dull country, but exciting for the buildings.

In the end we brought back some 7 dozen bulbs (including 2 dozen grape hyacinths brought for sentimental reasons) and several dozen plants, mostly unidentified alpenes. I don't know (& haven't been able to find out) what an Eremurus is, so don't know if we have one. I have built a screen in the rock garden (on the horizontal) to give good drainage, & hope at least some will live.

Should you be north before you go to the States we would be delighted to see you. We hope you enjoy your visit, and I'll keep my fingers crossed for your mathematics.

Yours

Tom.