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1950

Letter From Raymond E. Hollenbach to Alfred L. Shoemaker

Raymond E. Hollenbach

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ROYERSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

53-28

Himmelsbaum = ailanthus, also called
"Tree-of-Heaven" and "Chinese sumac."

This tree is a native of China and
was not introduced into this country
until sometime around the middle of the
last century.

If this is the "himmelbaum" to
which the Penna. Dutch attribute protective
powers against lightning, this
belief must be of local origin.

This tree is not mentioned in
any of a number of British and German
books on plant lore.

The tree has leaves something
like a sumac, and grows on
almost any ash pile - there is one
of these trees in many back yards
in the old part of Philadelphia
RSH