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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
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NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

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TREASURER  
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DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

January 16, 1952

Mr. Otto Degener  
Mokuleia Beach  
Waiialua  
Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

Dear Mr. Degener:

I have heard from Prof. Dr. Felix Widder at the University of Graz that he has received 80 herbarium specimens from you in exchange for which he is most grateful. He asked us to transmit to you his best thanks and at the same time to enclose the herbarium label with his annotation which you will find herein.

We are grateful to you for continuing to remember the New York Botanical Garden in this way in your distribution of exsiccatae.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*David D. Keck*  
DAVID D. KECK  
Head Curator

DDK:ER  
encl.

11/16/52  
Please  
return to  
Daguer,  
Waiolu,  
Oahu, T.H.

Nihoa, 1952.

Dear Mr. Daguer,

I thank you very much for your kind letter and the enclosed postage stamps which I received by the last mail. The book will probably reach me by the next boat.

I see from your letter that Tago will have quite a lot of botanists as guests during the next months, and I had tried very much to meet you and Prof. Guichenot here. We could have exchanged our impressions and maybe even established a certain common place of work. Unfortunately, I have to go away from Tago with their same boat which will carry their letter to Fiji, because I am obliged to be back in forty days in April.

However, it may perhaps interest you to hear where islands I have visited and what I think about the flora. I spent about 5 weeks in Tago (mostly for preparing the collection, only a few excursions on their heavily cultivated island were made), 1 week in Eia (the most interesting island I have seen, with white to make a longer stay with a systematic search - I have only seen the southern part), 4 weeks in Nihoa (not very interesting, the highest hills reach only 105 feet, and cultivation has changed much of the original vegetation), 10 days in Tofolua (poor forest without human influence, but not very rich in species, interesting fog forest above 1500 ft. with tree ferns, ferns and mosses) and one day in Nihoa (it would be interesting for a better survey but is difficult to reach, as it is now almost uninhabited).

I could not see the island of Kao, the highest in the group, which would probably show a very interesting fog forest in the interior, and also not the most accessible island.

My collection contains about 680 pteridophytes and vascular cryptogams, 170 birds and hepatics (I am specially interested in hepatics) and 80 other cryptogams. Further I made some studies about the morphology of the forests, unfortunately the time was always hindered by limiting factors.

I do not think I can write a Flora of Togo. A list of the collection is probably all that can be expected. I shall be happy to collaborate with you in Prof. Guéhard, if one of you considers this preferable. An almost complete list of my pteridophytes and vascular crypt. collection is left at the Dept. of Agriculture to form a start for a Togian floristic you will find there my poor labels written in German and not quite reliable for what concerns the determination (as I had no descriptive literature and only few knowledge about Togianian plants). If you collect mosses, I should be very glad to see your specimens.

If you like to remain in contact with me, will you please write to my firm address:

Dr. H. HURLMANN,  
BURGHSTR. 6,  
WINTERTHUR  
SWITZERLAND

I should be very glad to hear about your expedition. My best wishes are with you.

Yours sincerely  
Heinz Hurlmann



## CHICAGO TEACHERS COLLEGE

~~DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE~~

Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 27th, 1952

Dear Mr. Degener:

The package of unneeded seaparates came back a week or two ago with the warmly appreciated greetings for a Merry Xmas to the Sherffs enclosed in the special envelope. I assure you that we always reciprocate with all our heart these expressions of friendship. As the days have slipped by, however, the thought came to me that if you were hurrying so precipitately to clean up on your surplus stocks of literature, specimens, etc., it might be because you had received alarming opinions from other medical or surgical quarters and felt in very immediate danger of an impending catastrophe in your personal affairs. I do hope that such cannot be the case.--At the age that Mrs. Sherff and I have reached (66 yrs. this year) it seems that catastrophes are to be expected or at least prepared for. But at your comparatively youthful age, I do hope the recent opinion or diagnosis received by you was ill-founded. Here in Chicago we have been trying all winter to liquidate our real estate, but the negro invasion is sweeping south so fast that nobody seems to want to buy. We may have to sell to negroes eventually in order to get out. Or, what is the more usual thing, we Gentiles, out of regard for our neighbors, refuse to sell to negroes but along comes an agent, usually a Jew, and buys the place, then he turns around and sells to negroes and pockets a good profit.

The University of Georgia recently sent me all of its Bidens and Coreopsis for examination and determination or confirmation. I have now finished them and turned them back for shipment to Georgia. Found two new varieties and a new forma, besides numerous range extensions.--This reminds me of one matter I forgot to include in my recent letter, because I was too badly upset, I suppose, by the news of the unfortunate turn your affairs had taken. I refer to a new Reynoldsia that grows not more than a mile or two from Waialua I believe. Rock found it in Makaleha Valley (he gave no further data), but so far as I know it has never been collected or even mentioned by anyone else. It has leaflets somewhat more slender than in R. sandwicensis, the branches of the inflorescence are more delicate and more suberect, and the flowers are fewer at their tips and considerably smaller and more delicate. The specimens are at Gray and at Arnold Arboretum. (I suppose they were a part of a large batch that Rock privately turned over confidentially to Gray Herbarium perhaps thirty years ago, according to Miss Mary Day the Librarian, to await his instructions at some future date. I know a year or two later she let me take a peek at the Bidens, since she then despaired of ever hearing from Rock about them.--Anyway, Bishop Museum does not have this Reynoldsia.) My thought was that since you are so near to it and since this is the time when it ought to have flowers and fruits, if you wanted to get any specimens for me to cite in the spring when I go into print, this would be a good time to get them. If you are able to continue on with your botanical activity, as I hope every day you may be spared to do, you will want to put into your Flora and additional sheet to supplement the one that you published with Nitta's fine plate for the only Reynoldsia heretofore known.--By this time you have had chance to look over my Cheirodendron species and varieties I hope. Miss Neal very kindly promised to send me the Marquesas species which F. Brown described, so that I can touch up my monograph to include the whole genus and not just the Hawaiian material.

(OVER)



I noted your remark about the New York Botanical Garden and its not having kept up with the distribution of your later specimens, or rather with mounting them. Dr. Keck was here last September and he mentioned how hopelessly submerged much of your material was at New York and gave me scant hope that they might be able to locate much of your unmounted material in the near future. A few weeks later, their regular herbarium sheets came along and to date nothing else has arrived. The U.S.Nat. Herb. sent an extra batch of about thirty sheets just recently and I think these had several of your plants, but nothing exceptional. So I did not feel it wise to tuck my ms. away and let it lie around unpublished. My paper appearing this spring will have a little more on Cheirodendron that did not find room in the last issue, and my monograph or complete revision should be published by our Museum in about a year. (This is stepping about as lively in paving the way for you to incorporate materials on the Araliaceae in your Flora as I can reasonably be expected to do.)

Your two previous letters have given Mrs. Sherff and me so much to think about and to worry about that life has been rather different ever since. There is a certain indefinable but thoroughly disturbing apprehensiveness lurking in our minds since then. As you must be well aware, the friendly correspondence which Mrs. Sherff, through the good offices of Mrs. Lee at Ithaca in 1926, initiated between you and me has affected the subsequent trend of my whole life for a full quarter of a century. Little did I dream then that I would find it possible to forge such an enduring and undiluted friendship with anyone whom I had never seen and who lived thousands of miles away. Yet such proved to be the case. We are hoping over and over again that the growth of which you wrote proves to be benign. I could not resist the suspicion that the local authorities there may have been still in the shadow of Dr. Buck's demise and its regrettable cause, and so been quick to suggest similar troubles in your case. I do know that physicians are but human, and that many many times they are inclined to color their advice or treatments in accordance with the chief topics of conversation at the moment. One month it is allergy, another, vitamins; then let articles come out about alkalinizing the body fluids and many of them urge soda etc. I remember the run on olive oil years ago for gall-stones. Spinach had its day.--Thirty years ago a surgeon in Woodlawn here said Mrs. Sherff must be operated on right away for some abdominal trouble or she would die. I must add however that St. Luke's Hospital immediately thereafter found that he was entirely wrong. So it is. Mrs. Sherff's mother years ago was in a bad way and was taken in turn to four doctors. They all found different causes, and since no two agreed her husband refused to believe any of them. She lived for years after that and died from something entirely different.--So you see, I am skeptical. All I mean to say is, do not let the first diagnosis you get be the final one but have by all means a check-up made in other quarters to get nearer the truth if possible.

Well here I have been pondering and pecking at the typewriter until past ten P.M. and must close and wish you good-night. Mrs. Sherff joins me in wishing the very best for you and will be as much interested as I to learn of any improvement in your health. Sinus trouble is a vicious thing. I know, because in 1920 and 1921 I was an invalid for fifteen months with it and not until certain turbinate bones were cauterized did I recover. One good thing about it is that with some tiny little correction you can often become well over night. (With me I went in an invalid and came out virtually a well man in less than one hour!)-With all good wishes, and thanking you once more for the generous offers you made us a few weeks back, I remain, as ever,

Yours very truly,

*Earl E. Sherff*

11/31/1952  
DR. ROBERTO LEVI, Presidente del Centro Agrícola Cantonal de Guayaquil.  
CASILLA DE CORREO No. 759  
TELEFONO C. 659  
CALLE TOMAS MARTINEZ No. 309  
QUINTA PIEDAD  
GUAYAQUIL-ECUADOR

Guayaquil, 31 de enero de 1.952

Señor Dr.  
Otto Degener, 2234 University Ave.  
HONOLULU, T.H.

Muy estimado señor:

Mi hijo el Dr. Roberto Levi Castillo, me ha pasado su carta y la descripción de la voivoi (*Pandanus caricésus*) y también me ha entregado algunas semillas que estaban incluidas en el sobre.

Suponemos que estas semillas son para la planta la cual da una descripción de una serie de tejidos hechos de las fibras de estas plantas.

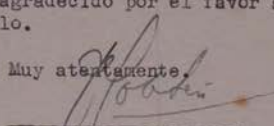
Hemos sembrado estas semillas pero hasta hoy no ha salido nada de estas. Por esta razón para estudiar esta planta y ver si puede producir aquí, le sería muy agradecido si Ud. me mandara de nuevo unas semillas frescas, con la perspectiva de que salgan las plantas y se presten para el estudio.

Le advierto que soy Presidente del Centro Agrícola Cantonal de Guayaquil y tengo mucho interés en ver si se puede introducir en la agri-horticultura del País una nueva especie.

Si Ud. necesita algún valor, tenga la bondad de decirme cuánto tengo que enviarle para cubrir los gastos que ocasione el envío.

Le quedo muy agradecido por el favor solicitado, y aprovecho la oportunidad para saludarlo.

Muy atentamente.

  
Dr. Roberto Levi  
Presidente del Centro Agrícola  
Cantonal de Guayaquil

ER/.



Gen. Del., Makawao, Maui.  
Feb. 6, 1952.

Dear Mrs. Schmidt:

Here is the troublesome letter! I imagine Mr. Levi wishes seeds of Pandanus or hala, but am not quite sure. Am I correct?

I am waiting here at Mr. Tamm's until a chaperon appears for the Molokai trip, while Mrs. G., who was chaperoning me and Miss Amy G., is waiting ~~for~~ in Honolulu for Miss Amy G. to appear to chaperon her. This is a confused world! I am taking the liberty of having my museum in N.Y. send you a copy of my National Park book.

Aloha, Otto Degener

(P.S. May I have this letter again, perhaps via Mr. Tamm?)



2/7/52

TELEPHONE LUDLOW 4-8500

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February 7, 1952

Mr. Otto Degener  
Waialua, Oahu  
Territory Hawaii

Dear Otto:

Some time ago through your efforts we received a collection of excellent baskets from the Island Trading Company in San Francisco, California. These baskets, as you know, are made by the natives of the Trust Territory (Micronesians) and apparently the Trading Company represents the agent for distributing them on a selling basis wherever a market can be found. I acknowledged the package and have written several times to the Island Trading Company but for some reason I have not received any answers to my letters, in which I inquired as to what percentage or discount the Garden could anticipate in selling this stuff. Our business administrator feels that we should have something for our services. It is possible that the person to whom I wrote originally and who sent the material, Commander S. J. Major, is annoyed with our request for a bit of a profit?

I am at a loss to know just what we should do because the public and many of the people in our building are extremely fascinated with these baskets and would like to purchase them. What I have been doing thus far is to give them the name and address of the Trading Company and let them send their individual orders to San Francisco. I am really anxious to be of service both to the natives in selling their baskets and to the people who are interested in buying them. Whether or not the Garden gets a profit is my least concern.

I notice that Commander S. J. Major has an office in Pearl Harbor and perhaps you could contact him for me and tell him that my letters are still unanswered. I repeat what I should like to know: How do we place these orders and may the Garden anticipate a discount? Perhaps Commander Major would like us to have customers write directly to him or possibly that we should sell the baskets we have on exhibit and then send him the money. This would be unwise because it would break down our exhibit. I would appreciate it if you could get some information for me as soon as possible and let me know.

AIR MAIL-POSTAL CARD



Mr. Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu, Hawaii Terr.  
Gen. Del.  
Hawaii

Chicago, 21, Sol., Feb. 7, 1952.  
Dear Mr. Degener: Was glad indeed  
to get the good news! Congratu-  
lations. Your package of plants  
came. - As far from clear as to the  
significance of tiny leaflets vs. large  
ones in Sophora. At present I do not  
have enough materials in Chi. on  
which to judge. - Do you know  
if Rock's Kamalo in Molokai is real-  
ly Kamalo? (Strange he always said  
Kamalo, but Coulter does not give  
that). Why did most collectors omit  
Reynoldia? It must be rare! or hard  
to collect? Aloha & E. S. S.



2/17/52

Odus  
Michelstadt, den 17. 3. 1952  
Heinrich Arz, Strass 24, Germany

Lieber Herr Segerer:

Ihre Karte bereicherte mich viel Freude. Herzlichen Dank  
dafür. Die „Silver Sword Plant“ ist ja prächtig. Handelt es  
sich um Compositae?

Flechten aus der Lidsee würde ich gern bearbeiten, aber  
ich habe keine Literatur. Bitte fragen Sie doch einmal, was  
über die Flechten der Lidsee bereits geschrieben ist und schrei-  
ben Sie es mir. Ich will versuchen, es zu beschaffen, falls wenn  
Sie gelegentlich einmal Flechten auf Ihren Gängen finden  
und mir einige Proben zusenden, so bereiten Sie mir eine große  
Freude, auch wenn ich sie nicht gleich bearbeiten kann.

Wir haben hier im Odenwald viel Schnee, so daß Botanisieren  
unmöglich ist. Dafür sitze ich oft und lange am Mikroskop,  
um die winzigen Flechten genau zu studieren.

Ich würde mich sehr freuen, von Ihnen gelegentlich wieder  
zu hören.

Herzliche Grüße und Wünsche  
Ihr

Otto Behr

Hr. Otto Behr

(16) Michelstadt / Odus  
Heinrich-Arzt-Str. 24

2/-/52



**Marien-Apothek**  
 AUGSBURG, Dr. habil. ZIEGENSPECK  
 MITTLERE MAXIMILIANSTRASSE  
 GEG. 1346

POSTSCHECKKONTO MÜNCHEN 35205  
 BANKKONTEN: STADTSPARKASSE 7447  
 BAYER. VEREINSBANK 17311

AUGSBURG, den 6 II 1952

Sehr geehrter Herr Professor!

Heute hat mir Herter Ihren kurzen Artikel mit der Biographie von Hillebrand geschickt. Diese habe ich mit viel Interesse durchgelesen.

Sie hat für mich schon ein Interesse, da ich für die Neue Deutsche Biographie der Akademie in München solche von Botanikern schreiben. Von den Leuten, die in der Ferne wirkten und starben, bekommt man selten die Lebensläufe ungeschminkt. Leider kann ich nur kurze Biographien unterbringen. Besonders gut gefallen hat mir die bildliche Zusammenstellung des Bildes von Hillebrand und der nach ihm benannten Hillebrandia. Man sieht das nur für wenige durchgeführt wie es für Linne~~e~~ und der Linnaea-  
 Ich habe Herter animiert den Artikel in die Revista zu übernehmen, doch ist Herter finanziell nicht gut daran. Es ist eben nicht nur in Deutschland schwer eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift als Privatmann zu unterhalten. Herter tut das aus grossem Idealismus. Die Uruguayer haben wie alle ehemaligen Kolonialländer nur wenig Verständnis für solche nicht mit dem unmittelbaren Geldgewinn verknüpften Dinge.

Es verbleibt mit den besten Grüßen

Mr. Ziegenspeck  
 Diegenyck

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March 3, 1952

Via Airmail

Mr. Otto Degener  
Waialua, Mokuleia Beach  
Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

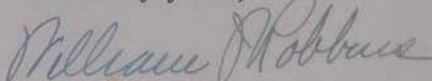
Dear Otto:

I can't tell you what a relief it was to have your letter of February 13th. Your earlier report has weighed on my mind and I kept wondering what plans you were making and whether you were going to come to New York for examination and perhaps treatment - a procedure which I felt was very desirable. Now that the diagnosis of your trouble has eliminated the earlier situation you can continue work much more satisfactorily. I hope you will let me know in due time what your plans are.

I think I mentioned earlier the American Philosophical Society. You might get favorable consideration if you were to apply for a \$1200 or \$1500 grant to support one of your expeditions. The application forms can be obtained from Dr. L.P. Eisenhart, American Philosophical Society, 104 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa. I hope you will give Mrs. Greenwell our kindest regards when you see her. It is very fine, indeed, that she maintains an interest in plants and I hope she will continue to do so. It is highly important that the younger amateurs should develop an interest in the plant kingdom.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



William J. Robbins  
Director

WJR:ew



Mal de Mer mi 1 white

(March 1952)

<sup>by</sup>  
Otto Spegner

Hunt

The once fabulous teak and campher woods junk-  
racket Cheep Ho, owned by Mrs. Anne Archbold of Washing-  
ton, D. C., was used for two scientific expeditions. Dur-  
ing the first, Mrs. Archbold, with Dr. & Mrs. Fairchild,  
as guests, combed the East Indies for plants of horti-  
cultural value for America. During the second, Mrs.  
Archbold, with a group of scientific workers, concen-  
trated on purely biological and geographical  
studies in and about Liji and neighboring archi-  
pelagos. It was during this expedition that the  
writer collected good flowering and fruiting material  
of a new plant family of the Order Ranales.

With advent of the Second World War, Mrs. Arch-  
bold sold the Cheep Ho for \$1,000 to the United States  
Navy. Anchored in Pearl Harbor, this vessel was  
used for some time as a weather station. Re-  
gaining ownership shortly after the Armistice, Mrs.  
Archbold next sold the Cheep Ho to the writer.

Impossible for a man of ordinary means to run  
a 99 ft. long, sea-going vessel like the Cheep Ho,  
the new owner formed the Cheep Ho Trading &  
Exploring Company, incorporating in Honolulu.  
He next sold the Cheep Ho to this company for  
shares on condition he retain the right to sail  
at least once a year on the vessel with some  
fellow scientist to botanize instructing

South Sea Islands while the crew unloaded and loaded cargo. He also reserved the option to purchase his former vessel in the same good condition in which he had sold her (appraisal value \$75,000) in July 1952 for \$15,000. Stockholders, besides the writer, were some of his former proteges who had botanized in the Fiji and Hawaiian Islands with him as plant labels in many museums attest; a few local carpenters, fishermen and mechanics; and a former French Consul. This last seave gentleman — with the freedom of the city at his command — was not only a skilled navigator but a skilled schemer as well. None of his companions knew that he was subject to deportation from the United States as an undesirable alien.

The Cheong Ho was finally loaded, and our Capt. commissioned to set sail with a mixed cargo, including \$10,000 worth of sugar, for Tahiti. He was to sell these American commodities there, returning within six weeks with a cargo of French wares. Instead of returning in six weeks, he returned to Honolulu after eight months, penniless and with but two tons of vanilla beans, then a drop on the market, and a pet pig named "Otto." He had squandered the company's resources, even to the extent of selling launch and equipment, on wine, women and song. Due



to his piratical mismanagement, a new appraisal by an expert showed the Chey Ho to be worth just \$60,000, a loss of \$15,000 in eight months! In Federal and Territorial Courts during the rash of trials that followed, it was established that the vessel had been registered in the captain's name in Tahiti "instead of that of the Co.," and that this "was due to a clerical error in the office of the Governor of Tahiti."

After the courtroom smoke had cleared, we find that gullible ~~Papuan~~ relatives of the ~~captain~~ ~~then current wife~~ Captain had bought up most of our shares, that we had accepted an S. O. W. for \$3,000, and that the winter had reaffirmed his option to purchase the Chey Ho for \$15,000 in July 1952 in the same good condition in which he had sold her. Then the undesirable captain, ordered a second time to be deported; and the friendly grunting "Otto," never permitted to root in Hawaiian soil, sailed from American waters for Tahiti. This transpired four or five years ago.

Failing to receive either principal or interest on the \$3,000 loan, we Americans engaged an attorney in Papeete to represent us. We paid him, as requested, \$100 to translate Chey Ho documents from English into French to facilitate their use in the Papeete Court where our French attorney was to plead for us. Then we paid him, as desired, an additional \$50 for



some seemingly good reason. With that last payment,<sup>4</sup> replies from Papeete to our anxious inquiries became conspicuous by their absence. After about a year's frustrating wait, we learned our \$150 had been paid in vain.

Wishing to see to the collection of the \$3,000 debt personally in Tahiti and to take over the Cheng Ho according to contract its use as a cargo vessel and historical headquarters for the collection of the fast vanishing native flora of the South Seas, the writer wrote for visas to Tonga, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

The Queen of the independent Kingdom of Tonga now will allow him to reside in her realm for six months. The French Governor of New Caledonia, where the writer owns no assets, will allow him to reside in his islands for one year. But the Governor of Tahiti, in whose office "by a clerical error," a former French Consul fraudulently registered the Cheng Ho as his own property, has denied the writer a visa to visit his islands! By such a conspiracy, he very ~~effectively~~ effectively sabotages the writer from collecting for himself and other American citizens a \$3,000 debt, and abets and perpetuates a swindle begun by a twice-deported French ex-consul.

Because of the rapacious interest shown

in the future ownership of the Cheep Ho apparently<sup>5</sup>  
by a French ex-consul, by a <sup>French</sup> clerk in the Office  
of the Governor of Tahiti, by a French Privy Council,  
and a French passport official, the writer is re-  
questing \$60,000 from the French Government.

Whether the writer can continue to flood  
your botanical institutions with herbarium  
specimens of living plant fossils from the South  
Seas depends on the outcome of l'affaire Cheep  
Ho.

4/9/52

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 9, 1952

AIR MAIL

Mr. Otto Degener  
General Delivery  
Makawao, Maui  
Hawaii

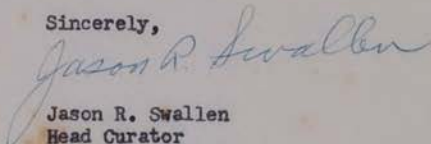
Dear Mr. Degener:

I am enclosing this note in a letter written to you by Dr. Walker. There seems to be some doubt as to how many packages of plants you have sent us. It seems to me that it is very likely that the plants mentioned in your cards of January 18 and January 30 refer to the same shipment, while that mentioned on your card of March 23 is a separate lot. We have received so far two packages, so I assume there is still another one to come, especially since there has scarcely been time for the one mentioned on your card of March 23 to have arrived. It would probably be a help to us if you would inform me just how many packages you have sent so we may know when we have received them all.

The grasses contained in the two packages we have received look to me to be very interesting. I am very pleased to have them for study, especially when you have included so many duplicates which will be very useful to us. I hope that it will not be too long before I have time to thoroughly study all the grasses which you have kindly sent me from time to time.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jason R. Swallen  
Head Curator  
Department of Botany



4/18/52

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

18 April 1952

Dr. Otto Degener  
General Delivery  
Makawao, Maui, T.H.

Dear Dr. Degener:

*Angelica* ✓  
I was especially glad to receive your letter of April 14th, because I had not acknowledged the safe arrival of the umbel seedlings in uncertainty as to just how and where to reach you. The package of specimens arrived today, so I now have living seedlings, hopefully viable mature fruit, and a grand set of dried material of this remarkable plant. As you doubtless know, it is Hillebrand's Peucedanum sandwicense; he described two species and one variety of the genus from Hawaii, one each from Molokai, Kauai, and Maui. "Peucedanum", which is the old classical catch-all for any umbel with dorsally flattened fruit, has been driven out of the New World and, I think, New Zealand. What your Hawaiian plants are generically I am by no means certain, but I suspect that they are not Peucedanum. It looks as though I shall have to make a careful study of the generic problem, however, so I guess I had better sit tight on the specimens until the seedlings grow to maturity and I get Oreomyrrhis and a few other assignments out of my hair. The Sanicula, I am happy to report, is thriving; we defoliated it upon arrival, and it now has three nice new leaves to its credit. I shall endeavor to furnish you with descriptions and line-drawings of both plants for use in the New Flora Hawaiensis in due time.

Of course, I shall distribute the duplicates as you wish, when I have drained them of any information that I can.

The poor Cheng-Ho seems to have come down sadly from her happy, carefree days in the "Garden Islands"! I'll admit to considerable confusion from poring over her clippings, but they suggest that some rodents got aboard the ship despite the usual precautions. I shall be glad to put in my nickel's worth with the French Consulate in San Francisco, but I am afraid I have no influence so formidable as your uncollectable \$3000. and possession of the boat.

A couple of anthropologists (Professor Gifford, et al.) plus a graduate student in botany (Calvin McMillan) are expecting to work in New Caledonia this summer. I hope you may have the opportunity of seeing them there. I certainly hope you may be able to find means to carry out your plans.

We are having an excellent year in the California deserts, so I managed to sneak down there for a week; now I hope to get back again in a week or so before it all dries up.

I certainly appreciate your enthusiastic cooperation in digging out these Hawaiian rarities, and hope that I can provide you with descriptive material that will repay you for your efforts on my behalf.

Cordially,

*Louisa Constantine*

P.S. Let me know if you wish your photostated clippings returned.

4/23/52

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

April 23, 1952

Mr. Otto Degener  
Makawao, Maui, T. H.

Dear Mr. Degener:

The several envelopes containing ferns spores have all arrived. The first lot have been planted, and the last lot will be in momentarily. We are certainly glad to have these, and you may be interested to know that the Sadleria and Asplenium horridum you sent in January ~~are~~ have germinated like grass. If it doesn't inconvenience you too much, go ahead and sent anything else that you happen to come by. I think, however, that some of the material is well past maturity, and all the spores have been shed. This has been the case with Marattia Douglasii which you have sent on two occasions. I suspect that the spores all mature at once and are shed immediately. Some of the Cibotiums were in the same condition. But nevertheless, most of what you have sent has been good, and we are very happy about it. I think that I could reimburse you to the amount of the postage, ~~post~~ plus a bit extra. I am trying to get this idea planted, and to do so, I am having to go pretty much on my own at the moment. Perhaps later the Garden will see fit to put some money into it. So long as we have a pteridologist at the Garden, we should have a good fern collection. And at the moment it is terrible! Since the beginning of the year I have planted nearly a hundred pots with fern spores, from many sources, and I am having very good luck so far. Several are ~~p~~/now producing young sporlings.

Happy collecting,

Very sincerely,

*F. G. Meyer*

F. G. Meyer  
Dendrologist

P.S. For the rarest species,  
do you think you could make just one  
herbarium specimen.

5/2/52

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HARVARD FOREST  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

May 2, 1952

Dear Otto:

I was glad to hear from you again, although the news was not good. I can understand very well your indignation at the way you have been treated by the French. From your letter and from what you have told me before, it is clear that you have been swindled. Also knowing your strong sense of justice and your dislike of being cheated, I can appreciate your wanting to fight this matter. I realize that it is almost hopeless for me to try to dissuade you. Nevertheless, I really think I ought to tell you what I think about it.

My impression was that you had your heart set on one last fling in the South Seas before you retired to your serious writing. For your own sake and for the good of botany I think you should put that first. What will you gain from this litigation? DeBisshop will never be able to pay the damages. The most you can hope is to put the scoundrel behind bars. This helps you and the cause of botany little. On the other hand, a trip to New Caledonia would be a revelation to you and would help you no end in writing your flora of Hawaii. I know you would enjoy the trip. You certainly deserve it after the privations to which you have subjected yourself. Take the trip while you are physically capable of



doing it. Please.... this is really important.

I have a letter from Dr. Skottsberg. The violet "is doing well, but it hasn't so far announced that flowering time is approaching." He suggests you get in touch with Andre Guillaumin, in Paris. He will be able to tell you about the least known districts in New Caledonia. "G. is a most obliging person." He will name your plants for you. Skottsberg says "In 1949 I collected a number of specimens in New Caledonia, and shortly after Prof. Salling added very much." You will remember that Noel Krauss said that a couple of collectors were working there when he was collecting insects.

I will probably be in Washington some time after May 20, so I may see you there if you persist in your Quixotic venture. You can reach me c/o Ray Fosberg or the Pacific Science Board. But I'd much rather see you in Honolulu.

Please don't take the time to answer this, unless you want to tell me of a change of plans or a definite date when you will be in Washington. I realize you are busy, and I don't want to take any more of your time than is absolutely necessary.

*With all best wishes,*

*Edo hui*

*Bill Hatheway*

6/20/52

L/No. 132/52.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA.

20th June, 1952.

Dr. O. Degener,  
Waiialua, Oahu  
HAWAII, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Degener,

I apologize for the delay in replying to your letter dated 20th April 1952.

We had an invasion of the Rhinoceros beetle in Vava'u and I spent some weeks there to organise the campaign. Then, I went around to Pagopago, Apia and Suva in order to find out the latest about fumigation.

I sincerely hope that you can still come to Tonga for your botanical explorations. I think that you can stay here much longer than 6 months if you require more time to see the outlying islands.

I thank you very much indeed for the books you sent me and I shall be glad to do as much as I can in return by sending your friends Mr. Gus Wittrock stamps from Tonga. The first lot will go by this same mail.

Dr. Huerlimann is back in Switzerland. He had to go through a lot of trouble of re-drying and re-packing of his dried plants when they were flooded in the recent hurricane in Fiji. The collection was in the Custom shed on the wharf in Suva. But everything is alright now, high and dry in Winterthur.

*affair*  
I hope that you are making good progress in the Cheng Ho and I should certainly like to join you on your explorations in Tahiti because I have never been there. I did some botanising in New Caledonia, assisting Prof. Base Becking in 1950. A most interesting country from a floristic point of view with 80% of endemics.

If there is anything I can do for you here, please let me know. I may be away on a tour of duty to Ceylon in September but you will hear from me again.

Reiterating my thanks, I remain,

Yours truly,

7/8/52

# FLORA MALESIANA

ISSUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE KEBUN RAYA INDONESIA (BOTANIC GARDENS OF INDONESIA)  
BOGOR, JAVA, AND THE RIJKSHERBARIUM, LEYDEN, HOLLAND, SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION FLORA MALESIANA

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C. A. C. M. VAN OPPEN, Econ. doct., Djakarta.

July 8, 1952

Dear Degener:

Thanks for your letter of bank ( recent) date giving me the several references which I will look up. Just now I'm re-reading journals of Cook's Voyages, etc. and it is particularly interesting to note how few food plants were available in Tahiti ( still fewer in New Zealand) up to 1769; and on the whole how poor these, for the most part, were. Small sustenance for the crews and the passengers on the so-called Pacific Regattas by which is meant the races from Asia to America beginning several thousand years ago! You know I have an idea that primitive men, like Napoleon's armies, travelled on their stomachs. The same point is made in Bank's Journal. and one Capt. Cook was all the time looking for antiscorbutics. Now there ~~are~~ are the data in the unpublished Banks-Solander Fl. Tahiti and there are the same data in Forster's Prodrromus, but no fool geographer or equally foolish ( or ill-informed) representative of the lunatic fringe among the anthropologists could possibly interpret the data properly. Same old situation ---minds made up in advance and it makes no difference what may be published to the contrary---it it makes no impression whatever. ~~The~~ The worst sinner today is the Prof. of Geography at Johns Hopkins, and he is a recent convert to early pan-Pacific distribution of plants and cultures---and you know as well as I do that a recent convert is absolutely blind to factors that may be opposed to his pet theories.

This is not my typing day---can always tell. It means, when I hit too many ~~traps~~ <sup>traps</sup>, that the HBP is up, so I won't further tempt fate at this time.

Sincerely

EDM



7/30/52

Dr. H. E.venterly  
schubert @ D.

PAUL O. SCHALLERT, M. D.

P. O. BOX 282

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

7/30-52

Dr. Otto Degener,

Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Friend Otto; At last I have  
succeeded in getting a few of your  
Bryophytes identified by Dr. LeRoy  
Andrews at Ithaca, N.Y.; and  
today I have mailed 16 pkts  
to Bishop Museum and 19 pkts  
to N.Y. Bot. Garden. This is only  
a small part of your herbarium.  
I have also sent a lot to Miller  
and his Prof. Grem at Stanford, and  
hope they will help out in the  
identifications. Thus far I have  
rec'd only promises of other material  
from Miller as he stated he was  
working on Hawaiian material and  
would send me specimens as soon  
as these were available.

We are all quite well here and I  
am still in the VA Services now  
working in St. P. 140 m. from  
home to which I can make  
weekends. I still see Dr. Seavers  
frequently; and recently Fred spent  
an entire week in the N.Y. B. Bar.  
Renewing old friendships, etc.  
Since I travel about 300 m. a  
month I usually stop to collect  
and thus have increased my potential  
exchanges a great deal. What I am  
to do with all of this material I  
still don't know? But I do sell  
some once in a while, to relieve  
the "pressure". However I do enjoy  
every minute I spend with my  
plant specimens.

How are you getting along  
with your "Boat" investment?  
I am afraid it will be some time  
before the Hative Area is again safe  
for travel. Yours very truly *Phyllis Hall*

8/12/52

TELEPHONE LUDLOW 4-8500

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
BRONX PARK  
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

wjr/ew

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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

August 12, 1952

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Mr. Otto Degener is Collaborator in Hawaiian Botany of The New York Botanical Garden. He has been associated with this institution for many years. Mr. Degener is well-known as a collector and student of plants and as an author.

Any assistance which may be given to Mr. Degener will be appreciated by this institution.

Signed:

William J. Robbins  
Director





The four working places are intended for scientific visitors both from Indonesia and abroad. The place offers a nearly unique opportunity for biological research in the Tropics.

It appears to me that the official opening celebration, which will take place about October of this year, will doubtless substantially gain in importance if the international scientific world took an active part in outfitting this international biological station with a useful reference library, consisting of cyclopaedias, standard works, floras, journals, reprints, containing studies on the flora and fauna of the tropics generally and on cultivated or ornamental plants. Also photographs and pictures serving for decoration would be appreciated as gifts, as well as belles-lettres for recreation during the evenings.

This international participation would certainly in the first place be intended as a token of gratitude towards the Indonesian Government which agreed to the rebuilding of a scientific station of no mean importance serving international biology, and in the second place as a gesture of good-fellowship to the Bogor Botanic Gardens.

However, it also serves a very practical aim, viz of extending the scientific equipment of this laboratory with an all-round library which will be of benefit to all future visitors.

Tentative suggestions for bibliographic gifts have been made in a PS.

Gifts should be addressed to the Direktorat Kebun Raya Indonesia, (for Tjibodas Library), BOGOR, Indonesia.

Jl. Haw (1-4) 22.2 } Sept. 1952  
J.P.H.

Sincerely yours,

*C. G. J. van Steenis*

P.S.: *One of your books  
on the Pacific Flora.*

Prof. Dr. C. G. J. van Steenis  
Marsaan 55, Dordrecht Holland

10/26/56, 2/15/57, 4/26/57, 8/18/58, 4/30/59, 5/11/59, 7/11/59, 4/7/60.

*Van Steenis*

8/16/52

## FLORA MALESIANA

ISSUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE KEBUN RAYA INDONESIA (BOTANIC GARDENS OF INDONESIA)  
BOGOR, JAVA, AND THE RIJKSHERBARIUM, LEIDEN, HOLLAND. SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION FLORA MALESIANA  
GENERAL EDITOR: DR. C. G. J. VAN STEENIS

Leyden, August 16th, 1952.

Dr. C. Degener,  
Waialeale,  
OAHU T.H.,  
Hawaii.

Dear Dr. Degener,

About 1860 the Curator of the Botanic Gardens J.E. Teysmann founded on the N-slope of the volcano Gedeh, above Buitenzorg (Bogor), at c. 1400 m altitude, a mountain garden called "Tjibodas", covering some 300 acres. Subsequently the later director of the Gardens, Prof. Melchior Treub added to it a large, adjacent, primary mountain forest area and in 1890 had built a laboratory and a guest house. In the course of time numerous prominent botanists and zoologists stayed in Tjibodas for research purposes.

In 1917, at the occasion of the centenary celebration of the Botanic Gardens, scientists from all over the world contributed funds towards an erection of a modern visitors Laboratory, which was finished in 1921 and which has served as a unique research site in the tropical mountain vegetation.

Unfortunately nearly all buildings, including the laboratory (containing the local library, herbarium, and zoological exposition), the guest house and the curators house were completely burned down by unauthorized persons in July 1946. The Garden itself remained wholly intact.

Since, a new curators house and office have been built, and plans were made towards the building of a new laboratory combined with a guest house.

It is with exceedingly great pleasure that I can now announce that the present Director of the Botanic Gardens, Prof. Ir. Kusnoto, has succeeded in getting authorization for the building of a new laboratory. The building actually started early in March of this year and is expected to be finished in some months from now.

It contains 4 working rooms (each 5.15 m square) and 4 adequate sleeping rooms, a dining room, a lounge, a darkroom for photographic purposes, and rooms for botanical and zoological specimens, for a herbarium, a library, a kitchen etc. A new local herbarium has already been assembled through the care of the Herbarium Bogoriense. New laboratory equipment has been furnished through a generous gift of Unesco some years ago.

The four

To open cut at top

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL

Dr. O. Degener,

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO. INC.

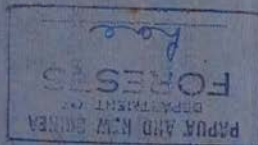
BERLIN ZEHNDORF

2 Onkel Tom Strasse am Potsdamer Strasse  
(Attémagne) *Berlin* BERLIN

Third fold here

First fold here

Second fold here



If anything is enclosed, letter will be sent by ordinary mail.



9/11/52

33-1A

File No. 8

JSW/EDL.

Botanical Sec.  
Department of  
LAE, New Guinea  
11th September,

Dr. O. Degener,  
Mokuleia Beach,  
Waialua,  
HAWAII.

Forests

Dear Dr. Degener,

I have recently been discussing your proposed visit to New Guinea with Mr. J.B. McAdam, Director of Forests. We have been wondering how your plans are developing and when you hope to arrive in the Territory.

You may have heard that the Archbold Expeditions are planning another visit to Papua for 1953. We shall be co-operating closely with this party and our resources of field staff may be somewhat strained. If your visit did not clash with that of the Archbold party, we could probably assist you to a much greater degree.

Thank you very much for the aluminium corrugate you so kindly sent. I have forwarded this to Australia for quotes from manufacturers. I don't think that Aluminium sheet is very difficult to obtain in Australia, but all the wrecked aircraft here have been stripped and the aluminium smelted then shipped to Australia and United States of America.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future regarding your plans.

Yours sincerely,

*J. S. Womersley*  
(J.S. WOMERSLEY)  
Forest Botanist.

answered plans  
in sketch of forest  
10/28/52

10/16/52

Michelstaedt (Odor), 16. 10. 1952

Lieber Herr Degener!

Es ist mir eine ganz besondere Freude, Sie hier bei uns in deutsches Land begrüßen zu können. Bitte schauen Sie unser Land und unsere Leute genau an, damit Sie in Ihrer Heimat berichten können!

Wenn Ihre Flora hier weiter gedruckt werden könnte, so wäre das für die Wissenschaft sehr wichtig, denn an moderner floristischer Literatur, sogar noch mit instruktiven Abbildungen, besteht ein beträchtlicher Mangel.

Mit den Hawaii-Flechten ist es eine schlimme Sache, wegen der Literatur. Ich arbeite inzwischen durch:

- 1) "Primitiae Fanae hawaiiensis" par H. Durand et H. Pittier 1891
- 2) "Lichenes Knightiani in Nova Zelandia lecti" H. J. Müller 1896
- 3) "Etude sur la Classification naturelle et la Morphologie des Lichens du Groenland" par Dr. E. A. Wainio 1890

Ich hoffe, Sie ist weitere "tropische" Literatur durchgearbeitet, damit  
ich erst einmal weiß, was bereits beschrieben wurde.

Ferner beschallte ich bei meinen Antiquariats

1.) Howard, Lichens of the State of Washington. Seattle 1910

2.) Fink, The lichen flora of the United States. Compil. by J. Hedrick,  
San Francisco 1950

Aber leider konnte er Sie noch immer nicht liefern. Obwohl ich Zugabeversuche  
habe erhalten Sie Abscheide. Ich freue mich ja selbst auf das Festmessen.  
Sollten Sie Literatur kennen, bitte ich um Angabe, vielleicht werde ich  
sich auch einmal an die Bibliotheken in Göttingen.


Sie sind also in Berlin. Sicherlich bleiben Sie länger hier bei  
uns. Können Sie nicht einmal hierher nach Michelstadt kommen?  
Das wäre natürlich eine große Freude für mich! Nur bitte ich Sie,



mir genau mitzuteilen, wann Sie kommen, damit ich Sie am Bahnhof  
erwarten kann. Meine Frau liegt seit 14 Tagen im Krankenhaus, ich  
bitte Sie also, mir vorher zu schreiben, wann Sie kommen können.  
Von Frankfurt a. M. ist es nicht mehr weit, es gibt von dort einen  
direkten Zug nach Michelstadt (Frankfurt - Stuttgart, Halbzug.)

Ich wünsche Ihnen viel Freude und Erfolg in Deutschland und  
würde mich von Herzen freuen, Sie hier begrüßen zu können!

Kurzliche Grüße

 H. M. M. M.

Hr. Otto Behr

Michelstadt i. Odenw.

Heinrich-Hof-Platz

Dr. Matlack

Dear Dr. Degener:

Your letter of Nov. 27th came to hand and I was delighted to hear from you. Mrs. Sherff is now getting her Christmas cards ready to mail and invites me to take this opportunity of putting a little note in the envelope for you. I had not heard that the Berlin Botanical Garden had a new director. Is Dr. Pilger still among the living? Perhaps he has merely reached retirement age?

I have been working rather continuously upon the Hawaiian plants and hope to have Tetraplasandra finished up in two months or so. As I see it I shall then be able to get all my photographs of important sheets made, labels written, prints made, loans of exsiccatae sent back, and be ready to do whatever the spirit prompts.

I am saving your letter especially for the concise directions it contains regarding your extra specimens. However, I am sure that you will not wish on second thought to have me follow it literally but in spirit rather. Here is the reason: I have already in all cases up to the present (and that means to nearly the last of your plants, except for the untouched batch of Pelea material) followed your former admonition and saved first one for Chicago, then one for New York and one for Bishop. So you see it will simplify matters all around if Dr. Werdermann simply omits New York and Bishop (and of course Chicago). If you do not plan to return in the predictable future to Honolulu, you doubtless will prefer that I include the batch of Pelea intact and this I shall be glad to do. In this latter case, however, please tell me if you wish me to lay out first say three specimens of each number, one each for Chicago, New York, and Bishop. I suspect it would be better not to break up the suites at all until they have been worked over.

I have no record of additional herbaria to whom I have given duplicates. Generally speaking, Kew, Gray, Delessert were favored when you had a large suite and I wanted to get a few specimens placed in reliable depositories for record purposes.--It occurs to me, however, that since all recent work has been embodied in my leaflets, beginning back with Nototrichium, your assistant might ~~be~~ might through the first seven issues (the seventh should reach you in say three weeks) and check the herbaria cited for Degener or Degener et al. plants.--As soon as I finish Tetraplasandra I shall get back to all of your odds and ends that remain to be determined. They should go fast. Only one snag arises as I see. A Mr. Alvin K. Chock (do you know him?) has been working up Sophora for a Master's thesis and this thesis is about to be published. So I cannot waste any time on Sophora until I see his paper. (When you sent me your S. grisea material a couple of years ago, the flowering clusters seemed to have gotten mixed up in packing or rather in unpacking, so I took the description of the flowers right from your detailed description that you furnished me. Sooner or later, it will be necessary for you to take our type folder of unmounted material of S. grisea and the concomitant folders and lay out a suitable inflorescence to be mounted on the type sheet when they do the mounting here. So far, I have never dared send this number to our mounter, lest I make an error.)

Yes, I believe I must be wrong about the number of new taxa to be discovered as yet in the Hawaiian Islands. Or rather, I must have been wrong. My work in the Araliaceae reveals a horrible amount of collecting yet to be done. But of course, it is just as well, I suppose, that we leave a little to be done by those who come later on.--Well, this is the end of the page. The three of us here join in wishing you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and all the joys of the coming season.

Yours very sincerely,

Earl B. Sherff

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Wailua, Oahu, Hawaii  
96791 U. S. A.

Lieber Herr Heinrich Degener:

Ich dachte ich würde probieren wie ein Leichtbrief zu Ihnen kommt. Er geht in die 11 April Post - Wie viele Tage hat es genommen für Sie diesen Brief zu erhalten?

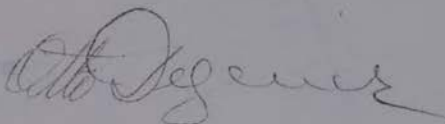
Ich danke Ihnen dass Sie MICH als Ehrenmitglied genannt haben ABER dieses ist eigentlich ein IRRTUM. "Isa" Irmgard Degener (née Hansen) ist eine Botanikerin mit einem Doktorat summa cum laude. Seitdem wir Jan. 10, 1953 heirateten hat sie natürlich mit mir gearbeitet. Wir haben keine Kinder - oder ist das falsch? Ich habe vergessen dass wir eine Tochter haben die Flora Hawaiiensis heisst und jetzt beinahe mit dem siebenten Buch fertig ist. Isa ist keine "Hausfrau".

Die erste Edition der Fl. Haw., ist schon längst ausverkauft und sonst verzeichneten per Geschenke, Termiten, Tsunami, etc. Aber wir haben doch noch Ed. 1 Bücher 1, 2, 3 (kein 4) in Staub gefunden. Diese schicken wir Ihnen mit Buch 5. Sieben ist beinahe fertig. Wir müssen Geld sparen um weiter drucken zu können. Wir zwei, alleine und zusammen, haben vielleicht 500 Artikel bis jetzt gedruckt. Dubletten von beinahe allen sind schon längst an Botanikern & Museen verteilt.

Mein Bruder Armin, gestorben 14.X.72, hatte einen Degener Wappen auf seinem Briefpapier. Ich weiss nicht wie echt alles war. Ich erinnere, kein Löwe aber ein Schaff war darauf weil die Familie in Braunschweig im Wollengeschäft tätig war. Es hat uns etwas amüsiert.

Hat ein Degener eine Druckerei? Meine Tante John Degener (Née Rimpau aus Braunschweig) was von solcher Firmafamilie. Für uns hiess sie Tante Ellie, also höchst wahrscheinlich Eleanora. Meine Frau und ihre Mutter hat mein Fiji Buch ins Deutsche übersetzt. Jemand sollte vielleicht das viele Wissenschaftliche heraus nehmen und dann das Ms., als Paperback drucken lassen. Können Sie das tun, wir dann ein Procent von Verkauf bekommen.

Aloha nui.





"An Artificial Lake for MOKULEIA"

Dear Sir:

The Advertiser's article "Mokuleia Sand-Screening protested," of May 25, 1956 interests me, resident of the region involved. It stated the company requesting a zoning variance plans to excavate sand from a 15-acre plot, creating "an artificial lake around which a 25-acre subdivision will grow." A pretty bucolic vision in a rosy sunset setting.

I was a student of Dr. James B. Pollock at the University of Hawaii in 1922 when he investigated reef formation on the Island of Oahu. It may interest some readers to know he was one of the pioneers to discover that our reefs are not built entirely by coral animals but that coral-like plants also contribute to their formation. Of these lime-secreting limu, honorable mention is due the beautiful red Corallina and Lithothamnion, and the panini-shaped pea-green Halimeda.

I do not wish to seem to criticise our City Planning Commission's intention to "seek a ruling from the city-county attorney whether H&D legally has a right to remove sand from the area" when the company itself after a stock-holders' meeting may choose to withdraw its ill-advised petition for a variance to keep the good will of over 100 potential customers in Waiialua and their many relatives and friends elsewhere in the Islands. The average stockholder and successful business executive of today, realizing the cash value of good will, may spare the city-county attorney much time and work.

During teaching days in 1925-27 at the University of Hawaii and thereafter while living in Manoa, I remember clouds of dust emanating from the stone quarry at Moiliili. The nuisance was so great that even our most diffident Honolulu residents were forced to complain. Nevertheless this nuisance, as well as the danger to residents from pulmonary ills such as tuberculosis and silicosis, continued for years. At length complaints be-

came overwhelming. With hoomaliwali, so I thought, the justifiable hulla-baloo was stifled by the promise of installing a machine - of 25 horsepower, if I remember correctly - to reduce the flying dust. According to my observations the nuisance continued as before until about every commercial usable ton of rock had been sold, making further operations unprofitable. This tale, in more detail, can be gleaned by interested individuals by perusing newspaper files of the time. As personnel and ownership in a company may change, I have little faith in promises of a company official unless a contract is signed and money passed, and a high cash performance bond posted.

Coral is killed by water that is not properly salty. Hence where streams empty into the ocean, the reef is absent. Likewise, where fresh water wells up from the ocean bottom (as observable on any flight over the reef flanking southeast Molokai), deep, green holes occur where the fresh spring water exerts its killing influence. Coral and allied reef animals simply cannot survive under such conditions. As we note neither channels through, nor deep holes in the reef, we are reasonably sure that no crystal-clear springs of sparkling fresh water will bubble up in HC&D's dream lake, the unique, central attraction for the proposed subdivision.

Where, may we ask, will the "artificial lake" get its supply of water in this rain-poor area, and what will the water be like? The area is not many feet above sea level. In fact, when storms and spring tides coincide once in two or three years, the happy purchasers of residential lots may have the pleasure of gathering a mess of edible marine limu, crabs and fish from their front lawns. That the water table in the area under discussion remains at a uniform level, as stated in the meeting of May 24, is blarney. Ordinarily, the level of the lake will rise and fall with the tide, lagging a bit in time and in vertical distance. The water will be definitely brackish at lower depths, sweetened, to be sure, at upper levels (according <sup>to</sup> the principle of the \*Ghyben-Herzberg lens), by fresh water rich

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\*Footnote: The lighter fresh water floats on the heavier salt water.)

in nitrogen and detergents. This fresh water for the lake, depending on whether the realtor subdivides the 25 acres into ~~one~~acre or quarter-acre lots, will slowly ooze from an encircling ring or two of 25 or 100 nicely hidden cesspools not far distant. How many thousand gallons of cesspool seepage the lake will gain daily depends on the number of souls living in the tract. It would certainly be equivalent to that gained from a sizable irrigation ditch.

In this lake, practically a glorified cesspool, our children can wade, swim, sail their boats and fish for aholehole and mullet to their hearts' desire. We know that the water flowing from a properly constructed septic tank is sufficiently germ-free and, excepting for the revolting idea, suitable for drinking purposes. I have never seen figures that the seepage of sewage from a nearby cesspool in the Islands is similarly harmless.

A channel dredged to the open ocean will hardly purify the lake or lagoon with cleansing ocean water especially as the waves will barricade such an opening with sand almost as quickly as it is removed and sold at the current price of about \$5 per cubic yard. This action of ocean waves is strikingly obvious at Haleiwa and beautiful Waimea Bay, distant but a few minutes' drive by car.

Though the water entering the lake from these cesspools will appear crystal<sup>clear</sup>, its high concentration of plant food derived from "night soil" or sewage, will encourage the growth of microscopic and visible plant life by leaps and bounds. The more obvious limu will not be the kinds mentioned above but will be sea-lettuce (Ulva lactuca) and the gut-like green seaweed called, for want of a proper common name, Enteromorpha intestinalis. In addition, there will be various kinds of blue-green algae, and iron- and sulphur-bacteria. Such an aquatic flora when alive produces a pilaiu stench, and when stirred about in the act of removal by man or when poisoned with copper-sulphate or some other herbicide, a stench many times worse.



What will become of the lake after fatherly HC&D has abandoned the subdivision six to ten years hence? Will the taxpayers of the Territory be obliged to keep up the good and costly work of cleaning up this sump every few weeks as the thriving limu crowds its waters, or will they choose once and for all to abate the noisome nuisance by filling the hole with expensive earth or sand purchased from HC&D and hauled in HC&D trucks?

I and most of my neighbors came to the Mokuleia region, because it lies in a Rural Protective Zone, years before HC&D ever set its profit-sager eyes along its narrow strip of golden beach. No thank you, we old-timers prize our wise zoning and resent any one, no matter whether he is an old resident or a newcomer with hoomalimali, blarney and high-priced lawyers, attempting to deprive us of our rights. We are confident the City Planning Commission, being composed of men very much like ourselves, will appreciate our justified fears regarding the shrinkage or even loss of our beach lots and the additional fear of having a filthy, stinking, stagnant swamp - a public nuisance - in our midst. We hope the Commission will decide in our favor; to do otherwise would be hardly just.

Aloha,

Mokuleia Resident

*(Permitt. Degener & Co.)  
4544 E. 1st St.  
Mokuleia, Hawaii  
Hawaii*



Absender:

Dr. habil. Herm. Ziegenspeck  
Mantelapotheke, Augsburg  
Apothekersassistent &  
Postcheckkonto München 35205

Strasse, Hausnummer, Gemarkung, Stadtwerk oder  
Postfachnummer  
bei Unterschrift auch Name des Veränderten

im großen Aufwache der Erde  
alter Familien, welche wieder heute  
weitgehend vernichtet sind. Es wäre  
aber ein Irrtum die Kultur  
keine Welt allein zu rufen, fast  
mehr wird die Kultur in alten  
Bürgerfamilien gepflegt, welche  
sich jedoch mehr oder minder ab-  
schließen. Mit besten Grüßen

H. Ziegenspeck.

Postkarte

Genauere Zeit  
durch  
Vorgesprecher



Herrn Prof.

Dr. Degenet.  
Botanischer Garten & Museum  
Berlin Dakh. m.

Zeugnisstrasse.

Strasse, Hausnummer, Gemarkung, Stadtwerk oder Postfachnummer  
bei Unterschrift auch Name des Veränderten

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17/23/52

Chigaburg, 23. XII. 52.

Sehr geehrter Herr Professor!

Gestern wurde mir die Zusammenstellung  
des Protokolls von Lobelia, welche mir in Ihre  
Hand ist. Heute kann das für Ihre bestimmte  
Gold durch Postanweisung, 22 Mk. Sie hätten  
es aber billiger durch Postcheck senden können.  
Dann brauchen Sie nur 102 statt der sonstigen  
zu zahlen. Ich habe als Geschäftsmann ein  
Postcheckkonto. Würden 352.05. [Wenn Sie  
Zürcher hier wären, würden Sie sich ein Postcheck-  
konto selbst einrichten, dann kostet Ihnen der  
Umsatz gar nichts. Falls Sie hier ein Bank-  
konto haben, können Sie auch Gold durch Postcheck  
senden, aber das wird mir nicht helfen.]

Heute noch schreibe ich den Empfang an. Gestern  
bei mir ist alles immer möglichst verwirrt, das  
ist mir einmal die Lösung der Zivilisation. Die Kultur  
läuft bekanntlich wo anders an, aber diese ist bei  
uns wie überall nicht so auf dem Wege gelassen und