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#### *About the Institute*

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.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Otto Degener  
24 East 82 Street  
New York, N.Y.

ATON FOREST  
NORFOLK, CONN.

1/21/54

Thanks Otto, for the two reprints recently  
sent me. Welcome additions to my Degeneriana.

Glad to have seen you that day at lunch time  
(tho sorry I had to bark so much. It was even  
worse later on; now better). I hope your  
trip for you and your wife to Hawaii is  
pleasant - and may the coming years be  
happy for you both.

Best wishes,

7—

Frank E. Egler

11/21/54

*Portrait of Fiji  
And of a Personality*

NATURALIST'S SOUTH PACIFIC EX-  
PEDITION, FIJI. Otto Degener. 303  
pages, illustrations, maps, index. Pub-  
lished by the author, P.O. Box 187,  
Waialua, Oahu, T.H. 1949. \$5. Also  
available from the New York Botani-  
cal Garden, Bronx Park, New York  
58, N.Y.

Otto Degener has a niche in botanical history for giving his name to the Degeneriaceae, the genus *Degeneria*, and numerous little "degeneri's" as specific names. He now has another niche: as the author of this volume, which recounts his explorations while with the Anne Archbold expedition on the motorized junk *Cheng-Ho*.\* Here is a book to take its place beside the classics of the 19th century traveling naturalists, thoroughly modern, yet in an established style and tradition that has a parallel in such compositions as Prokofiev's "Classical Symphony."

The author has a rare trait of choosing his native friends with discernment, and of gaining their affection with their confidence—a task difficult in a land where the race problem is no better (or worse) than in our own lynch-conscious southern towns. As a result, this delightful account of his wanderings about the islands, filled with the human side of his experiences yet presented with the impartiality of a scientist (even to a minutely detailed description of yangona drinking, with clocked notations, some at one-half minute intervals during the ceremony), all

give us an exciting picture of the islands of today.

The book is written with a complete lack of that "diplomacy" that often colors the words of professional lecturers and travelers and others seeking to climb success's ladder, and the narrative is backed by supporting chapters on the history of Fiji and its customs. When today has gone, the volume will serve the ethnologists of the future for its basic data of this age.

"Portrait of Otto Degener" might well be the subtitle of this unusual book, which is all the more pleasing since the picture appears unplanned and unconsciously drawn. A hundred little anecdotes, some uncomplimentary to himself, and the absence of such stories as many authors use to prime their pompousness, all have their cumulative effect. As one closes the book, one knows not only Fiji, but also Otto Degener the man—so sage and kindly that one wishes more of his kind would tread the earth.

FRANK E. EGLER,  
Aton Forest, Norfolk, Conn.

Reprinted from the

*Journal of the New York Botanical Garden*,  
November 1949. Vol. 50, No. 599.

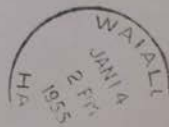
\*Parts of the book appeared originally in the *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden* for September and October 1943.

LC

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

POST CARD

Dr. Otto Degener  
Waialua, Oahu,  
Hawaii



1/3/54

3 January 1954

Dear Dr. Degenor, And a Happy  
New Year to you ... My return on  
the plants was 50%! Your col-  
lection of "Pouzolomon" grew  
nicely from seed, but the  
✓ Sanicula never recovered from  
its ocean voyage. I'm quite con-  
vinced that the former really  
belongs in Angalica, where no  
one has formally placed it to  
date. For eight months last  
year I was in Southern South  
America. If there is any  
urgency that I do something  
with the Hawaiian stuff, let  
me know. Otherwise, I shall con-  
tinue to procrastinate.

Cordially, Lincoln Constance



1/23/54 7419 Stewart Ave., Chicago 21, Ill., Jan. 23, 1954

Dear Dr. Degener:-

Your letter of Jan. 20th came yesterday. I at once looked into the matter regarding Mr. Witke. As you recall, you had requested two or three years back that I make up quite a valuable set for him out of your specimens. This I did and instructed our office here to send them to him as a gift from you. Somehow a slip occurred and the plants were entered as a loan. Dr. Just assured me that he had taken care of the matter in our Director's office so that Mr. Witke would no longer need to worry about being charged with them as a loan. I trust that this takes care of the matter.

Apparently you failed to receive the several letters that I sent you last year to Berlin. In brief, I suffered an attack of cerebral thrombosis on Good Friday and was laid up for a while. It was emphasized to me by the doctors that at all events, if my life was to be prolonged, I would have to cut down extensively upon all mental and physical exertion. This I did. During the summer I lay around at Hastings recuperating. In the autumn I was invited to take four classes at the Teachers College (the Ill. law had been changed to permit emeritus teachers to teach till seventy if they could pass the tests). I declined however, lest the work might bring further harm. Rather, I took the time to clean up a lot of left-over work at the Museum.---It is too bad but I just have to say good-bye to further monographing work. Naturally, my responsibilities to my small family come first with me.

I received splendid cooperation from Dr. Just. He helped me get all of my negatives to date printed up and I have mounted the balance of my large set (upwards of 4,300 photographs) in my albums. So far as I am concerned, my albums, though loose-leaf, are closed to further entries, since I shall not be monographing.--The only exceptions that I can now foresee are novelties that may show up in collections of plants in genera already monographed by me. My records are all up to date in the fields covered in my monographs, so that it will not be too much exertion for me to report on miscellaneous odds and ends sent me in the future.

Mr. Chock wrote me a week or so ago and mentioned the matter of sending your Sophora collections to him for study. Jan. 21st I wrote him, after discussing the matter with Dr. Just, and advised him to have the Michigan University authorities request a loan of our mounted and unmounted material of the genus, in which case we could lend them to him. This will give you a chance to get authentic determination of your material, which is what I suppose is most important to you. ---Now, I wish you would tell me immediately where you want the Fagara and Szygium (spelling?) folders of yours sent. Dr. Just is going to have a big distribution of duplicates made late next week to Bishop, New York, Kew, Delessert, Berlin, Gray, Missouri, etc. etc., in fact wherever I have ear-marked your extras for when compiling my manuscript for the Leaflets, also for my final monographic revisions. Also, I promised him that I would ask you about what you wanted done with our big can full of Pelea that has been stored here for years. We have constant trouble here with beetles getting into our unpoisoned material. Several times the beetles have gotten into this can and I have personally gotten up and put big supplies of paradichlorobenzene crystals in the can, but I fear that when I am no longer around to protect things, the plants may get really damaged. ---Things move slowly here, and I feel that it is best if, once I have gotten the action from Dr. Just's office, we can go right through until all of your property here is properly disposed of.

If you have not seen my final leaflet, there surely is a copy in the Library of the New York Botanical Garden. You will see that this one (no. 9) has the index and was accompanied by a title page and preface. --I have drawn out of our Editor's hands the mss.

(OVER)



of my Cheirodendron and Tetraplasandra monographs and incorporated in them all of my more recent notes and additions, so that if anything pushes me aside abruptly the text will have been taken care of.

I am indeed glad that you and Mrs. Degener have at last gotten back this far, although it was a disappointment to learn from Mr. Chock and again from you yourself that you planned to take a southern route, so that it would be impossible for us to see and visit with you both. I trust that you will be getting back to ~~Maui~~ Waialua before long and that parcels of plants being returned to you should be sent there. You will recall that for a short while you sent me suites with one or two labels filled out, the idea seeming to be that I would put down a determination and you would do the writing of other labels and distributing of further duplicates later on at Waialua. Accordingly, I have a few pigeon-holes full of suites (except for a single specimen retained here) marked "Redurn to Degener." In each such case you will find one label at least giving you my determination (unless I was unable to give one). Unless I hear from you to the contrary, these will be forwarded to you at Waialua.

The school authorities have been after me to take four small classes at the Teachers College beginning Feb. 1st. Since I feel now in moderately good health, I expect to return there accordingly. My spare time will be spent in relaxation and loafing (Oh how I detest these words!--It is very kind of you to think of me and my family in connection with a sojourn on the Islands, but alas I would not dare just now undertake a voyage of such a nature. I have not the physical stamina to help with Miner as I would have to do, nor could Mrs. Sherff stand up under such responsibilities. (She has just come to my typewriter and urged that I be sure to thank you for the kind invitation extended us to visit Hawaii. We have sold all of our Chicago property and are renting here where you found us before. We have tentative plans drawn for an enlargement of our cabin at Hastings but are not sure just when we shall do anything about it.

Shall send this letter to you in New York and hope it is not too late to reach you there. We both hope that you and Mrs. Degener have a pleasant and enjoyable trip through the South and back to the Hawaiian Islands. It will indeed be a novel experience for Mrs. Degener.---With every good wish, I remain as ever,

Yours very truly,

*Earl E. Sherff*  
.....  
Earl E. Sherff

P.S. If you are around at the N.Y. Bot. Gard. possibly you can discover if any attempt is going to be made to continue the N. Amer. Flora. Dr. Rickett told me at Madison in Sept. that a meeting would decide the matter soon in Sept. but I have never heard from him since. (I have nine genera of the Ceroopsidaceae awaiting publication!)  
E. E. S.



1/3/54

Dr. Ernst Heinrich Schubert  
Mannheimer Str. 10, Augsburg  
Apostelkennzeichen 8  
Postfach 6010 München 25206

Augsburg 31 I 1954

Lieber Herr Dr. !

Als ich neulich einen Vortrag über meine Reise in die Landes und Pays basque hielt, kam ich wieder einmal mit Dr. Buchegger zusammen, der mir Ihren Brief zu lesen gab. Sie haben die überall <sup>bekannte</sup>, aber bei der Cliguen wirtschaft nur zu verständliche Publikationsschwierigkeit. Ich leide selbst daran. Dabei ist Ihr Buch noch nicht einmal ein streng wissenschaftliches, sondern auch für andere Leute von Interesse. Das geht immer folgendermaßen: Der Verleger selber ist und will mehr oder minder ein Geschäftsmann sein. Er mutet sich fast nie zu ein Buch beurteilen zu können. Dazu halt er sich „Fachleute“ und diese senden solche an ihre Spezialn und Cliguenossen. Zumeist sind letztere ganz undülsam und lassen nur Arbeiten ihrer Schüler Vettern Basen und sonstigen Günstlinge drucken. Es ist eine verfluchte Wirtschaft. Man kann sich darüber toll ärgern, ich habe nun selber gar keine Beziehungen zu den massgebenden Stellen. Herter in Bern ist arm wie eine Kirchenmaus und druckt gar nicht mehr. Unser hiesiger Verein hat ein Gremium an der Spitze, das einiges Verständnis hat. Ein armer Verlag, der ab und zu druckt wäre vielleicht Dr. Findeisen Augsburg Klinkenberg. Er ist ein Völkerkundler und hat für solche Dinge Interesse, nur mangelt ihm Geld. Manchesmal hat er aber Möglichkeiten zur Publikation. Ich würde Ihnen raten, an ihn unter Berufung auf mich zu schreiben. Vielleicht kann ich Ihnen helfen. Wir überlegen uns selber, wie wir zum Drucken kommen, jedoch sind das ganz andere Gebiete und Anforderungen.

Wie mir mein Freund Dr. Boas München mitteilt, existiert in München eine Rotafix-Druckerei der Universität, in der man 100 Exemplare so drucken kann, dass die Seite auf 5 DM kommt. Dann hat man den Vorteil, dass man von keinem der „Redakteure“ abhängig ist, die meist nicht zu viel verstehen, aber desto mehr schikanieren. Ich gehe selber mit dem Gedanken, um eine kleinere Arbeit so drucken zu lassen. Das ewige Herumbetteln um seine guten Arbeiten ärgert jeden. Warum sind wir nicht irgend einer Clique zugeboren? Es ist überall dasselbe. Auf diese Weise lassen solche Geister andere für sich arbeiten. Team nennt man diesen Schwindel.

Ich schaue gerade jetzt in eine Berufung an eine höhere Stelle hinein und da kann man das Brechen bekommen, wenn man dieses Getriebe beobachten kann. Gegenwärtig komme ich nicht zum Bearbeiten von Stomata. Ich muss bei der Arbeit meines Sohnes mithelfen, damit er auch fertig wird. Die jungen Leute werden durch die russische Kriegsgefangenschaft, den Krieg und die Studiumschikanen heute alt, bis sie fertig werden. Er ist nun auch schon 32 Jahre alt und hat seinen Dr. noch nicht fertig. Doch Sorgen hat

heute jeder. Früher hat man die Leute mit der Partei herumschikaniert, jetzt  
hat man dafür andere Dinge. Es kommt allmählich auf dasselbe hinaus.

Mit den besten Grüßen

Ihr ergebener

A. Ziegner

# Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

2/4/54



IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE :

B.5/1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SUVA, FIJI

4th February, 1954.

Mr. O. Degener M.Sc.,  
Erchholzstr 64,  
Freiburg,  
GERMANY.

Dear

I write to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of your contribution 'Nutzpflanzen der Eingeborenen von Fidschi'. I have found this a most interesting enumeration of the useful native plants; and am also glad to see the various local names recorded.

Dr. A.C. Smith has just returned to Washington after nine months' collecting in various parts of the Colony and appeared to be well satisfied with his collections. He should now be able to go ahead with his major work on the flora of Fiji.

We now have quite a fine Botanical laboratory and Herbarium built at Suva and are now in a much better position to care for the collections which have been made over the years and to carry out special studies, most of which will, in the first instance, have strictly economic value and interest.

May I take this opportunity to send greetings to your wife and yourself from us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. P. ...'.

Deputy Director of Agriculture.



Berlin - West, den 12. Februar 1954.

Liebe Irma!

Unsere Neujahrsgrüsse wirst Du ja wohl bekommen haben und ich hoffe, sie haben Dich bei bestem Wohlbefinden erreicht. Inzwischen kamen Deine lieben beiden Pakete an Lilo und mich an und wir möchten Dir dafür recht herzlich danken. Du hast uns damit wieder eine grosse Freude bereitet. Die offizielle Bestätigung über den Empfang der Pakete haben wir gleich an die Hamburger Firma gesandt. Unseren persönlichen Dank sende ich erst heute, da ich mich für einen Tag in Westberlin bei Familie Schauer aufhalte und von hier aus doch freier und ungezwungener schreiben kann, als aus unserem Paradies. Wir haben das neue Jahr in Leipzig in engem Freundeskreis recht nett und gemütlich angetreten und uns von ihm sehr viel erhofft. Leider sieht die Berliner Konferenz bis jetzt ja sehr betrüblich aus. Aber wir wollen die Hoffnung noch nicht sinken lassen, solange die "grossen Vier" noch beieinander sitzen und beraten. Von Isa und Otto wirst Du wohl erfahren haben, daß wir uns leider in Freiburg nicht gesehen haben, obwohl wir im Oktober einen Tag dort gewesen sind, allerdings ohn zu ahnen, daß beide auch dort sind. als wir von unserer Reise aus Westdeutschland zurückkamen, fanden wir von Otto einen Brief vor aus Freiburg, dem wir entnahmen, daß sie beide schon in Freiburg gewesen sind, als wir auch dort waren. Wir waren zuerst in Stuttgart zum Röntgenologenkongress gewesen und anschliessend bei meinem Freund Dr. Wilhelm in Schwenningen, der mit uns in seinem Auto einen Tag nach Freiburg gefahren ist. Wir haben es sehr bedauert, daß wir

Isa und Otto somit nicht noch einmal gesehen haben. Sind sie noch bei Dir in New-Jork oder schon nach Hawai abgereist? Otto schrieb uns kurz vor ihrer Abreise aus Deutschland, daß sie über Weihnachten bei Dir sein würden und im Februar nach Hawai gehen wollten.

Uns geht es gesundheitlich gut. Lilo und ich arbeiten fleissig im Institut und wir würden recht glücklich und zufrieden sein, wenn endlich einmal der politische Druck und die Ungewissheit von uns genommen werden würden, die immer unerträglicher werden. Lutz hat in diesem Winter sich intensiv mit dem Schlittschuhlaufen befasst, was ihm verhältnissmässig leicht fällt, da er ja schon lange Rollschuh läuft. Auch ich habe nach vielen Jahren wieder die Schlittschuhe hervorgeholt, um mit meinem Sohn gemeinsam auf dem Eis zu fahren. Das erste Mal war es für mich etwas ungewohnt, aber dann bin ich sehr rasch wieder hineingekommen. Es ist eine gute und gesunde Ausspannung bei meinem Beruf.

Familie Schauer geht es leider garnicht gut. Sie hatten ja schon die letzten Jahre mit sehr viel wirtschaftlichen Schwierigkeiten zu kämpfen. Jetzt sind sie aber den krisenhaften Wirtschaftsverhältnissen in Westberlin völlig zum Opfer gefallen. Sie haben Konkurs anmelden müssen und ihre wertvollen Maschinen sind für einen Spottpreis weggenommen worden. Sie verzagen aber nicht und wollen versuchen, sich eine neue, kleine bescheidenen Existenz wieder aufzubauen. Ich fürchte das wird sehr schwer werden.

Sonst gibt es nichts Besonderes zu berichten. Bitte grüsse Isa und Otto recht herzlich von uns.

Dir selbst senden die allerherzlichsten Grüsse

Dein

Hans-Kobus, Lilo  
und Lutz

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

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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

February 18, 1954

Mr. Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto:

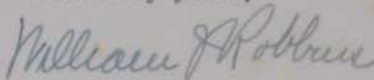
Just a note to acknowledge your report dated February 14th. I really did not expect you to make a report in view of the various occupations which have taken a large part of your attention during the past year.

I also wish to acknowledge your letter written at the Grand Canyon. It is the only natural object which exceeded my expectations. I think it is so nice that you could take this trip and give your wife an opportunity to see something of the variety and extent of this country before isolating yourselves in Hawaii. I am especially pleased that you were able to see Dr. and Mrs. Seaver but regret that you were not able to include Coconut Grove and the Fairchild Tropical Garden on your tour.

I quite agree with you that it is extremely difficult to write while you are traveling and sight-seeing. I think you can do a much more satisfactory job with less wear and tear if you wait until you are settled in your own home. I hope that nothing comparable to your earlier experience will occur with the new article.

With kind regards and best wishes from all of us,

Sincerely yours,



William J. Robbins  
Director

ew

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TREASURER  
R. GORDON WASSON  
DIRECTOR  
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

February 18, 1954

Mrs. Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Isa:

How nice of you to write us the letter from the Grand Canyon. I am shocked that Otto would not let you go to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I think, if he looked up the record, he would find that no mule has failed to come back from the bottom to the top.

Don't worry about your houses in Hawaii. You don't need any house there anyway - a Navajo rug on the beach is really all that is required.

I think it is particularly nice that you had the opportunity to see something of this country before you settled down in the Islands. My offer of a laboratory still stands so if you find taxonomy too boring and Hawaii too peaceful, prevail on Otto to come back to New York and bring you with him.

Mrs. Robbins joins me in sending you our kindest and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

*William J. Robbins*

William J. Robbins  
Director

ew



4/1/54

April 1, 1954

Dear Otto:

Uncle Harley asked me to ask you if he could reprint some of your articles in the newspapers. He was thinking of your article on Hillebrand.

Do you by chance have a reprint of it that you could send me?

Am going to be in Washington next week and plan to see Ray Fosberg and the others that are there.

HAB sends you his best regards  
And give my best to Isa, and to the people at B.P.B. Museum.

Hoba,  
H

Honolulu Book Shops  
Oct 22, 1953 bill. pd. me \$50.50

April 8, 1954

14/54  
Established  
1876



# Johnson Cactus Gardens

PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA

[From CACTUS LAND, April 4, 1954]

Dear Otto:

Well it is good to hear from you again. You seemed to have dropped out of existence. French told me you had gone to Germany and that you were married. May the Johnsons congratulate both the bride and the groom?

I don't remember whether I wrote you that Hugel and I spent several months in South America on an explorational trip in 1951 and 52. We were in Ecuador twice but spent most of the time in the back country of Peru. I bought a car there and went north and over the Andes to the Marañon just above the Pango de Maseriche. Found a lot of interesting plants including 3 new cacti genera there. On the southern trip from Lima south we crossed at 16,000' at Anticona Pass and then about 500 <sup>miles</sup> down the central "valley" of the Andes to Lake Titicaca north at 12,000' to 15,000'. Dropped down to the Peruvian side to check the flora there. Most interesting. We crossed the wondrous cordillera at Muzo 16,200' along the Bolivian and Chilean border to La Paz and La Paz then along the western flank of the Andes via Moquegua to Arequipa then to the Coropuna snow range and then to the coast stopping along the way to climb to 14,000' several times on the road back to Lima.

We got close to 40 or 50 new species of cacti and several new genera. In some of the new genera we got 3 to as many as 6 new species. Quite a thrill.

Hazel and I have been quite well. We now have 4 grandchildren and another due in fall. Halito is still a bachelor but Pat and Ethan are both married. Patricia has 2 boys, Ethan 2 girls.

Sorry you failed to locate us. We are listed in the phone under both Johnson Cactus Gardens and Johnson Water Gardens. Hynes has had its name changed to Paramount. Phone if you ever again get to the mainland, Metcalf 3-7315.

Do you ever see Walter Kretschmer in Honolulu? They were in Calif about 3 years ago. We went out to dinner with them and they gave us their Hollywood phone. We have never been able to contact them again.

When you write tell us the news and introduce us to Mrs. Degener.

Regards,

P.S.

am sending the plants to your brother.

Hancy



NY 6

Honolulu Beach, Wai'alua,  
Oahu, Hawaii.  
April 8, 1954.

Hon. Mr. Herbert Brownell, Jr.,  
U. S. Attorney General,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I request that you assign a number to my claim for Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) against the French Government. This claim is the result of a breach of contract, depriving me of possession of my former 98 foot long, teak and camphor woods, junk-yacht "Chang Ho", according to the agreement recorded in Book 2156, pages 247-249, Registry of Conveyances for the Territory of Hawaii at Honolulu, T. H. This agreement was signed July 7, 1947, the option maturing five years later. The individuals preventing me from exercising my rights according to the contract being mainly past and present French Government Officials located in Tahiti and vicinity.

The vessel "Chang Ho" was built by Mrs. Anne Archbold of Washington, D. C., in Hong Kong at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

In 1940-41 the vessel was used for a scientific expedition to the Fiji Islands in which Mr. Otto Degener, American citizen resident in the Hawaiian Islands, took part as botanist.

Mrs. Archbold sold her vessel, the "Chang Ho" for \$21.00 and loaned to the U. S. Navy in July 1941. The vessel was used as a Weather Station in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during the Second World War.

About the end of the War, namely February 5, 1947, Mrs. Archbold regained possession of the "Chang Ho" from the U. S. Navy under Public Law 306, Otto Degener being her agent.

Shortly thereafter Degener purchased the "Chang Ho" from Mrs. Archbold.

With associates, most of them American citizens, Degener formed the "Chang Ho Trading & Exploring Company," incorporated as an American corporation in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1947.

Degener sold his vessel, the "Chang Ho", then appraised at \$75,000, to this corporation for shares on condition, however, that he own the option to purchase the "Chang Ho" for \$15,000 five years later according to the agreement recorded in Book 2156, pages 247-249, of the Registry of Conveyances for the Territory of Hawaii at Honolulu.

The Company sent the vessel, stocked with sugar and trade goods, to Tahiti under command of Capt. Eric d'Almeida, former French Consul in Hawaii. At the time it was not known to Degener and most other shareholders that d'Almeida had a criminal record in France and even then was waiting for deportation from the U. S., by our Government as an undesirable alien.

Upon Capt. deBisschop's return from Tahiti to Honolulu with the "Cheng Ho" considerable litigation followed which, however, does not concern the present case. What is pertinent, however, is the evidence shown in the Court Proceedings before Federal Judge McLaughlin and again before Circuit Judge Pence in Honolulu that the Frenchman Capt. deBisschop had registered the vessel fraudulently under the "French flag as his own property" in the Office of the Governor of Tahiti. The vessel actually was an American vessel belonging to a company incorporated in Honolulu, Hawaii, U. S. A.

In his attempt to collect a bad debt owing him and associates by deBisschop and to exercise his option to gain ownership of the "Cheng Ho" according to his contract, Degener wrote for visas to visit New Caledonia (on the way to French Oceania, or Tahiti) and French Oceania.

The Governor of New Caledonia, where Degener and associates own no assets whatever, granted Degener a visum good for one year. The Governor of Tahiti, in whose office the former French Consul deBisschop had fraudulently registered the "Cheng Ho" under the French flag as his own property, refused Degener a visum. Incidentally, M. Gallois, Member of the Governor's Privy Council, at that time had chartered the "Cheng Ho" from deBisschop for interisland trading.

Degener, through protests to Mr. Farrington, Delegate to Congress from Hawaii, and to the French Ambassador, was later granted a visum to enter Tahiti for three months.

Degener proceeded from New York to Europe, engaging passage on the "Marschallaise" from Marseille, France, for Singapore, on the first leg to Tahiti to take possession of the "Cheng Ho" according to contract.

Degener cancelled passage when he received word June 11, 1952, that the Governor of Tahiti would permit him to take possession of the "Cheng Ho" only on condition:

1. Degener pay the \$15,000 according to option contract.
2. Degener give 51% of the shares or interest in the "Cheng Ho" to the Frenchman, Oscar Wordman, of Papeete, Tahiti. This man solicited by the Governor spent two years in jail as result of an insurance swindle involving the sinking of a vessel.
3. The "Cheng Ho" remain under the French flag and under French registry.

In conclusion, I request that you assign a number to my claim for Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) against the French Government because past and present French Government Officials are depriving me of possession of my vessel, the "Cheng Ho", contrary to contract recorded in Book 2156, pages 247-249, Registry of Conveyances for the Territory of Hawaii.

Yours respectfully,

*Otto Degener*  
Dr. Otto Degener



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
HONOLULU 14  
TERRITORY OF HAWAII

HAWAII MARINE LABORATORY

April 6, 1954

Otto Degener  
Mokuleia Beach  
Waialua, Oahu

Dear Mr. Degener:

It was nice to hear from you again and to learn that you are still interested in "hermits". You will recall that shortly after my paper on Dardanus asper came out you wrote me about the taxonomy of the group and, if I recall correctly, you mentioned your collection at that time.

I have heard Dr. Hiatt say that he has your collection but I have never seen it and know nothing of its whereabouts. I have never heard him say anything about a manuscript or drawings. At present he is in Washington, D. C. or I would have turned your letter over to him. I do not know what he intends to do with your collection but were I you, I should ask him. I do know that someone in his course is working up the local "hermits" as a special project.

Again I can only say that I wish someone would straighten out this group for Hawaii. As you will recall my primary interest lies in the development of the spermatophore; to me, taxonomy is only secondarily important.

If you wish I could speak to Dr. Gosline, our new chairman, about your collection or you could put it off until Dr. Hiatt returns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Donald C. Matthews

DCM:smt



4/30/54

15 Everett Street  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

April 30, 1954

Dear Otto:

I just answered a letter from Alvin Chock in which he said he saw you two in New York and that he heard from you last week. I had no idea ~~where~~ you were. The enclosed Christmas card was returned months ago, and for all I knew you were on the Dalmatian coast or in New Guinea.

Merilyn has been reading your Fiji book in what little spare time she has, and judging from the chuckles I hear every now and then, she is enjoying it. She has a full-time job as a stenographer at MIT, and besides that and doing the cooking, laundry, and the like, she is taking an extension course in botany at Harvard on Saturdays. So now I am asked to explain why *Potentilla* is not in the *Ranunculaceae*, and I must say it seems like a fair-enough question.

I am in the process of winding up my last two courses ever. In a month I will have my general orals, and if all goes well, we will be off to Cuba again to finish up that project. It should be perfectly straight forward. Plans after that are to try to get a permanent job someplace in the mountainous tropics or subtropics where there is enough of the native flora and vegetation left to play with on weekends. Looking back, I realize that my time in Hawaii was the happiest I have yet spent, and I'd like to do more of the same sort of thing. The trouble is, how does one make a living? And the answer seems to be, doing something useful like agriculture or forestry. So if I have to prostitute myself to the extent of doing corn or cane breeding during the week so that I can enjoy my weekends, I am willing to do it. I don't want to continue in this wretched city and climate any longer than I can help, and I don't like expeditions because they are such a rush and one only skims the surface. I don't know where we will go, but don't be surprised if I end up working on a coffee plantation. Merilyn, of course, spent five winters in Cuba and speaks excellent Spanish. She was brought up in a small town where her father did a good deal of farming, so that it's not surprising that the city gets on her nerves too. She is an H.F. Clay-type extravert and is happiest when there is some one around to talk with.

My mother just returned from an automobile trip through Central America, which apparently she enjoyed very much.

Dr. Rollins told me he expects Dr. St. John to come through in June, on his way to the Botanical Congress.

*What's new in Moku? Any interesting  
finds? Aloha,  
Bill Stathman*



5/12/54

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

May 12, 1954

Dear Otto and Isa:

I got your April 19 letter a week ago. The photos are now in the hands of H.H.B. If I get a chance to do it, I might take some photos of your photos - that will be done if I have the time, then you need not worry about the handling of the photos. We will see about that later.

Regarding the Kauai material: I have not had time to do anything more with them since I left the islands. All of the specimens are at the Kokee Natural History Museum. If should care to look them over at Kokee, you're welcome to do so. Unfortunately, about 1/3 of them (the best specimens) caught on fire, so quite a bit was lost. Did not get a chance to collect as much as I wanted to due to certain difficulties. I also had to identify the things there and then, so that killed more of my time. If you think that anything is worth doing, when and if you get over there, let me know, then maybe we can get something going. Right now I have too many irons in the fire, and can't get much done. I have all the data here, and must send them a copy of my list of specimens and localities, and also the "botanist's report."

Got a letter from Bill Mathaway, He's going to Cuba this summer. I had written him to tell him that you were back, and inquired about pictures of Drypetes, since I'm thinking of publishing a paper on the wood anatomy. If you should have some decent specimens (herbarium), send them; at least that would get your name in print and maybe by saying "Dr. Otto Degener, author of "Flora Hawaiiensis," sent specimens. . ." that could help you out. I doubt if I'll have time to do anything on it until the fall. I have a couple of slides of the wood, and asked Tuthill to send me the wood specimens that I loaned him so that I could have more sections made.

The Sophorareprint is now in the hands of the editors, having been there a month and a half now. It should get into print by the end of the year. I have examined some of your specimens that were sent via Sherff via the Chicago Museum. Things got bawled up and they took a hell of a long time to get here.

I wish I could wangle some cash, Otto - you know my damned situation here. I'm living, but not the way I should be - and I don't mean wine, women, et cetera, either!

I've got a summer job at Glacier National Park, as Ranger-Naturalist. My address there will be (after June 15):  
c/o Naturalist Division  
Glacier National Park  
West Glacier, Montana

My tour of duty starts on the 21st of June, and I'll be there until Labor Day. Then, back to Ann Arbor if I can manage to wangle some cash somewhere, and somehow. Maybe I'll find a wife to support me?

H.E.B. says that he will give you some free advertising, and I supplied some material for him to yak about you. If you have more, send it. No telling when the thing will be in print - you know how he is. He's a wonderful person, tho. Uncle Harley also said that he got letters from E. D. Merrill, and it seems that E.D., with numerous strokes, and everything, is now on his death bed, although he goes to the lab at Arnold Arboretum every day, but gets nothing done. Uncle Harley just got back from the East where he gave some talks to the American Philosophical Society.

Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua -

Merrie Stacey was telling me (in a letter, of course) that she saw you and your wife at the Museum -

Pau, must go to Uncle Harley's class in a few minutes.

Aloha,

al

5/25/54  
Answered  
June 12

PAUL O. SCHALLERT M. D.  
P. O. BOX 252  
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

May 25-54

Dear Degeners, — No word from you since you left us months ago? I am beginning to get worried about you two. I haven't noticed anything about accidents in the papers that could have claimed you two on your trip back!

Short time ago a A-M Special letter fr. Archibald came here addressed to you and I forwarded the same to Haxx. Did you get it?

I have several things in mind about which I want to write to you.

About that Miller boy? Is he now in Haxx? Dr. LeRoy Andrews thinks that since Miller is working on Haxx, Hepatoes to get his degree, that Miller should now undertake to work up your Hepatias.

I still have all of your Hep. in my possession with only about half dozen named so far. There has not been a good publication on H. Hepaticae & Miller is working in a good new field.

If you can locate him I will gladly send him <sup>all of</sup> your Haw. Hepaticae for study and <sup>send the</sup> report to Bishop's Museum.

I also noticed that your Mrs. Green fr. W-P. has collaborated with my good friend Dr. Hugo Blomquist of Duke on a book on S.E. Flora. I do not have the Book but a very good friend of ours brought it in for us to see.

I hope when you two go out collecting you will collect more lichens and bryophytes. Dr. Albert C. Herre formerly of Stanford U. now living in Olympia, Wash. is anxious to get more Haw. and other lichens for study. He is now 85 yrs. old but still very active. Dr. Dodge of Mo. Bot. Garden will also help on lichens. Dr. Crum at Stanford will always help with your moves.



PAUL O. SCHALLERT M. D.

P. O. BOX 282

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

I will Retire next Sept. and stay in my  
 home here - and will then have more  
 time with my Botanical hobby, I hope.  
 Recently I bought a Jap. Botany Book (now)  
 by Dr. Makino to 2400 illustrations in pocket  
 size book, costing \$3.00. The descriptions are  
 in Jap. but the names are given in Latin.  
 I contacted the Bot. Exch. Club of Sweden  
 and sent them several hundred duplicates.  
 I am now trying to contact other exchange  
 clubs? Do you know of any in U.S.A.  
 or abroad? Leo Fischer of the Tex. Exch.  
 club recently died - so I have not learned  
 of his successor. There surely must be such  
 a club in the East - as well as in the  
 West? I have Cassino's Naturalists Directory  
 but only Fischer's name is in that as running  
 a Bot. Exchange.

After my Retirement next Sept. I expect to  
 do more of this collecting than ever before.  
 I may even come to Hawaii next year as  
 I expect to visit relatives in Calif. Then too.

When your book on Haw. Flora is out, I will  
also buy one. Are you going to include  
any of the lower Cryptogamia? Recently I  
sold all my *Hyperaspis* (1180) to Univ. of  
Montreal. So I will be glad to get some  
grasses and *Hyperaspis* from Hawaii.  
On June 19th our two families will leave  
for a 3 wk vacation trip to Mts. of N.E.  
and I hope to do a lot of collecting there.  
If you know of a Botanist interested in  
exchanges in Haw., let me know as I  
have on hand a doz. boxes of 100 each ready  
to send out. Leopold Charette of Vt. who  
once met you in N.Y. is now stationed  
in U.S.A. in Japan. He is getting Jap.  
specimens ready for me.

Did you get the Figian pictures I mailed  
to you? I felt your wife should have  
them and not me?

Now please write me about all these  
questions I have asked?

Yours Sincerely  
Chittenden

P.S. This is the 3rd letter written to you since you left  
us? Can't you think these deserve an answer? P.S.





6/11/54

Riksmuseum, Stockholm, June 1, 1954

Dr. Otto Degener,  
Waiialua, Oahu, T.H.

Dear Degener:-

AFROGRAM

You are getting tired of waiting for news of the specimens of several nasty genera sent me some years ago. On your request I sent you back Wikströemia to Berlin, where I hope you got the bundle. I told you that I had retained a specimen of perhaps most forms for further study. The reason why I have been so slow is the following. The Verleger (there is no correct or adequate word in English) of the Nat. History of Juan Fernandez lost patience and told me that if I did not get that series complete pretty soon, he would have nothing more to do with it. So I was forced to do my best. From June to October 1952 I worked on the plant communities and got out a paper in 1953; then I wrote the Geographical Sketch, printed this year, and now only a concluding paper is wanting, which I shall finish this fall. It came to a standstill some little time ago, so I took the chance to go over part of your plants, Gahnia, Astelia Vaccinium and several more, and named them the best I could. As a rule a duplicate was available, and if of use here, retained. Of Astelia I have laid aside 2 nos, of which there are no duplicates, for further study. They will be returned to you. Pipturus will come next.

Kind regards, and compliments to Mrs. Degener.

Sincerely

Shottsborg



6/30/54

10408 Fleming Ave  
San Jose 27, Calif.  
June 30, 1954

Dear Mr. Degener:

Amy Suehiro called on us recently. She had been on an auto tour with her mother across the country to Washington, D.C. She told us of your return to Mokuleia. No one else has ever mentioned that you were back from Germany. I had your letter from Germany a long time ago. I didn't write to you at that time as you had mentioned possibly soon returning to the Islands. I anticipated hearing from you if you made the return trip. How the time does slip away. We are now in our second summer here at San Jose. We have enjoyed being here, where we live a lazy life without responsibilities, yet we are busy all the time as my wife takes care of the house and sees that we eat enough and the right kind of diet. We have considerable time for reading and a bit of gardening on our 55 by 170 foot lot. I have spent much time in handling the weed situation. The lot was bulldozed out of lower corner of an old apricot orchard, and had grown up to weeds for a year before we came here. It has been of botanical <sup>interest</sup> to keep a list of the weeds, using Jepson's "Flowering Plants

of California", and also a "California Weed Book".  
At present my list contains 89 species, including  
also roadside weeds - being a corner lot with a  
total of 235 feet of roadside weeds, many of which  
were not in our garden area. Mostly strange to me.

Also, I have made a collection of insects which  
we have found on our premises. Most of these  
are strange to me, and I have not the literature  
to find the names of all of them. There are 20  
butterflies, which I have names for as I have a  
book of California's butterflies. There is a much larger  
number of moths, as I have caught most of  
them as they came to our porch light on favorable  
evenings. A few, I have reared from caterpillars.  
My miscellaneous collection is composed mostly of bugs,  
beetles, flies, bees and wasps. Some are pests, as  
for example: Argentine ant, leaf beetle, mealybugs, bugs  
and plant lice. We have caught 2 Black Widow  
spiders, so have to be on the lookout for them.

I had hoped to collect insects on forest trees,  
but the forests are not close, and would need to get  
to them by auto; but when we have taken some  
auto trips, there wasn't time enough to stop for  
insect collecting.

Are you again making botanical collections  
in Hawaiian forests?

With best wishes,

Aloha O. H. Swezey



# AEROGRAM

GODKÄNT AV KUNGL. GENERALPOST-  
STYRELSEN (III 1683.49.) FLYGBEFORDRAS  
ÖVER HELA VÄRLDEN UTAN TILLÄGGSS-  
AVGIFT

LUFTPOST  
PAR AVION



Dr. Otho Sjöberg,  
P. O. Box 187,  
Waiānae, Oahu  
Terr. of Hawaii  
U. S. A.

SENDER  
EXPÉDITEUR  
ABSENDER

Professor Olof Sjöberg  
Banérstratan 79,  
Stockholm 6  
Sweden

OBS! BEFORDRAS ICKE SOM AEROGRAM, OM NÅGOT LÄGGES INUTI



OPEN HERE • OUVREZ ICI • HIER OFFENEN

Ljungström, Trybro

Stockholm. July 2.  
1954

Dear Otho,

VEROGRAM

Your Freiburg letter I put aside pending the arrival of further news; you also suggested my holding onto the photos until you had news from your publisher.

Dropping it up accidentally it strikes me that I have not heard from you for a very long time. I on my side have been extraordinarily busy with other matters, unfortunately.

Now I wonder how you are, both of you. Hope everything is well. Do send me a few lines. Here everything well.

As you see, I am not going to the Paris congress. But I shall not miss Toronto in 1958. Am in fact saving my funds for Canada.

My aloha to both of you.

Olof



7/7/54  
Apartado 414  
Cienfuegos, L.V., Cuba

July 7, 1954

Dear Otto:

We were delighted to get your letter with the clipping from the Los Angeles newspaper, which will go into the permanent files. I haven't written you before this, because we have been very busy hunting for a house and getting established. After that, I had to plan and plant this summer's corn crop and clean up other matters. Now that everything is under control I have been catching up on correspondence. You are about number three or four on the list.

Cuba would fascinate you, I'm sure, if you could ignore the filth and the cruelty to animals which one sees everywhere. I'll describe our house and grounds to give you some impression of the country. Our house is about 35 feet long by 25 wide, single story, with tile floor. It is divided into a living room, two bedrooms, a large kitchen, and bath. Inside the house we have no real doors, only a couple of swinging, barroom-style affairs separating our bedroom from the living room. The bath has a shower, sink, and toilet, all in working condition. The city shuts off the water at about 6 pm, however, so that unless some special arrangement is made, such as storing water in the bathtub, or more conveniently in a tank outside the house, these modern conveniences are useless. The house rents for \$25.00 a month. In Cuba one rents furniture separate from the house. Ours amounts to about 8 bucks a month. We got the refrigerator for \$45 for six months, which is cheap for the summer, when they are in demand. A gas stove rents for \$5.00 a month, and gas costs about the same. Electricity is expensive: 10¢ a kilowatt hour. Our house is surrounded on three sides by a poorly tended orchard of mango, avocado, lime, and coconut trees, through which straggle some nondescript chickens, living off the land and our kitchen, if they can get in. I am awakened nearly every morning by these darn birds, as well as by the cooing of a small native dove that is very common. In addition there must be over a dozen dogs in the neighborhood, each of which is always itching for an excuse to bark. Our house has a porch in front, beyond which is a delightful garden kept by our landlady's husband. He has in it a couple of cycads (apparently *C. circinalis*), small-flowered red roses, a *Grinum*, various *Araceae*, *Pteris longifolia*, a plum tree, much *Murraya*, *Zephyranthes*, *Gomphrena*, *Vinca*, *Platyserium* fern, and various other interesting or common odds and ends. A stone path leads through the garden to the little dirt road on which we park our car near our gate under two young Chinese banyan trees. Our landlady is a semi-retired school-teacher who has built a new, smaller house about thirty feet from ours, and we are her first tenants. She of course speaks very elegant Spanish. On her recommendation Marilyn hired a young colored girl to do the laundry and clean the house. We pay her about 10¢ an hour, which seems to be slightly better than average. She has a tiny baby which she leaves with a neighbor when she comes down to do the morning's work. The neighbor, however, had to bring it down the hill for brunch (of course, it is breast fed, which disconcerted Marilyn no end, the girl being the first servant she has ever had).

We are living here and not at the Atkins Garden because the only apartment there for married graduate students is already occupied at least until December by another couple. But we have our car and we are conveniently near a bus line that runs through our sugar factory every two hours during the day, so that it is really not inconvenient, and besides, one learns much more about Cuba this way. We go to town to market frequently, and that is interesting indeed. Marilyn's colored girl is teaching her how to make Cuban soups and other dishes, and we of course buy the ingredients. The stalls in the markets are occupied by vendors in apparently hot competition with each other. Today we patronized a different fellow from last time and got repeated dirty looks from the first one. I have no idea of the correct prices on these things, but a ripe pineapple for ten cents doesn't seem bad, and everything else seemed to be more or less in line with that.

I had a very enlightening experience yesterday buying meat at the sugar factory's butcher shop. The government requires that a list of cuts with the prices be posted prominently, and I copied these down and took them to my friend Angel Valiente, who is the factotum around the Atkins Garden (one of Popenoe's students, by the way). He said he wasn't sure what was what but why not take a diagram of a side of beef down to the butcher and have him explain where each cut comes from. This I did, but the poor fellow wasn't much at using diagrams. He very kindly offered to show me later on, however, when he would be cutting up the remains of two steers that were going to be butchered that afternoon. I of course was on hand to watch the carcasses being unloaded from a very unsanitary mule-drawn meat truck, loaded on a filthy set of scales to be weighed, and finally carried into the cold-storage room by a cowboy with excrement on his boots and clothes which hadn't been washed for months. Of course the meat was covered with flies. The butcher hung up a hind quarter and beckoned for me to come inside and observe more closely. I was surprised to find that each cut is equivalent to a single muscle, which is carefully dissected out whole. All one needs is a knowledge of comparative anatomy. This seems much more logical than the English system, in which a lot of time is wasted sawing through bones, and of course the consumer pays for these and has no use for them. The only trouble is that the Cuban cuts are in no way equivalent to the American ones, so that one doesn't know quite what to do with the meat but cook it Cuban style. But after all, one should always drink the wine of the country.

I am learning quite a lot about genetics with my work -- mainly that it isn't the answer to all botanical problems, as I should have known before I started. I have a good deal more respect for old-fashioned, "crude" taxonomy and morphology than I used to, just from having been exposed to the newer fads.

I hope to start collecting wild plants pretty soon, as soon as I can see my way clear to buying a Coleman lantern or the Swedish equivalent. I have my metals here. I have a fair-sized stack of hay from last year which I will probably send to Berlin when I get it labeled.

Marilyn hasn't sold any Fiji books yet, but she may!

*Aloha mi*

*Bill Hatheway*



7/20/54

JOHN E. REED  
CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

July 20, 1954

Dear Mr. Degener

Your letter of May 28th rec'd. just at the time I was packing and getting rid of furniture, etc. preparatory to moving. We (my son a bachelor) had 5 rooms & since my wife passed away in April of 1953, I do not need 5 rooms. We moved the middle of June into a nice large room & are very well pleased with our new location & all this accounts for the delay in answering your interesting letter. Answering your letter by paragraphs, I have 128 volumes (3 ring letter size binders), averaging 75 to 80 pages to a binder of clippings, newspaper or magazine, & nursery catalogues from all over the U.S., England, So. Africa, New Zealand, Australia, & India. Also subscribe to several horticultural journals, including the Royal Botanical Garden Journal & the N.Y. Botanical Garden Journal. I have bought & clipped many books, but do not buy many books now on acct. of the cost as you know I am on pension from the U.S. Steel Corp. When articles are carried over on reverse side, I have to buy 2 books & you can see where the cost runs up. Some books were 3-4-5-8 & 10 dollars & twice these amounts represents money, but other men have more expensive hobbies than me, for instance golf, fishing trips, hunting trips, base ball & foot ball games & other sports, none of which ever interested me. I started this hobby in 1920 and am very happy doing it. Yes, the collection

would be of much value if I had - listed each clipping & given the source of the information most of the plants only use up one page, or may be one or two clippings, but Prunus uses up one whole volume, Iris 12 or 15 pages, Primula 20 or more pages, Rhododendron 30 pages, Azalea 30 or more pages, others 3-4-5 & six pages. I bought a 1920 Edition of Bailey's Encyclopedia and another very much shop worn, both identical copies.

In a week or ten days I will wrap up & mail one rain coat, still usable & one coat in good condition to the address ~~you~~ you furnished me. Send me another card and in abt. one month I will send a summer suit & pair of trousers, both still usable. I am very happy to do this. Thanks for the 2 books rec'd. last week.

About two months ago, I rec'd. from Mr. H. B. G. Garden two pamphlets "Tropical Plants the World Around, Vol 1 & Vol II" By Otto Degener, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Well in order to clip them I had to have two more, so I sent 50¢, or 25¢ for each copy, but to date have not received them. Do you know where.

I want to clip the articles in these 2 pamphlets

Most Sincerely  
J. E. R.

My address is

John E. Reed  
218 West Pike St.  
Canonsburg, Pa. U.S.A.

Recd

Reg. & Bill.  
at  
Canton



*Liji Motz/af*  
*POT I*  
*8/16/54*

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
SEATTLE 5  
August 16, 1954

Dr. Otto Degener  
Curator, New York Botanical Gardens  
Bronx Park  
New York, New York

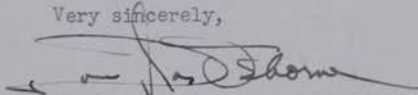
Dear Dr. Degener:

Your name has been given me by a member of the botanical department here at The University of Washington. I inquired of them if it were possible for them to put me in touch with someone who might be interested in examining plants which I have brought back from the Palau Islands. During last winter and spring I was in that island group doing archaeological exploration and a certain amount of excavation. As an aspect of my survey I made moderately thorough botanical collections from differing archaeological areas. There is, for example, a series of plants from high terraces, another series from a jungle covered site, and so on. I also attempted to collect plants that were used for particular purposes.

I imagine that I have about fifty or sixty plant specimens. I am not, of course, a trained botanical collector and as a consequence you may find that some of my specimens are not as well collected as they might have been. I did, however, take pains and trouble with the collection and I hope that it will be moderately easy to handle. I am rather doubtful that there are any plants there that would cause anyone, who knows the area, any great difficulty. I have the plants segregated as to areas whence they came and in general have the native name on each plant paper. I of course wish to have the scientific name and the common English name if there is one. I am not anxious to keep the plants here but would appreciate having them returned if the individual who identifies them or his institution do not care to keep them.

I hope that you will be able to look at these for me or can give me the name of someone who would be interested in doing so.

Very sincerely,



Douglas Osborne, Curator of Anthropology  
Washington State Museum

8/17/54

Carol H. Woodward

WADSWORTH 8-3519

217 HAVEN AVENUE  
NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

AUG. 17, 1954

Dear Otto & Isa -

I was delighted to have your card. I had thought I might get a letter off to you from Paris a month ago, but taking time to write while sightseeing proved as impossible as finding time amid the work I had to do before I could conscientiously leave the office for a month. It was not until May that I got the assistant that I had been asking for since last November. And the man I wanted waited all that time to get the job! Meanwhile I kept him busy as a reader and editor of manuscripts, so that when he finally became a member of the staff, he had already had his training in advance. Up to the time he arrived I was so overwhelmed with work that I hardly had a minute to myself. It has taken some time to get back to a state of "normalcy" - which never existed, anyway; but for the first time I now begin to see hopes of leading a reasonable sort of life, with a pleasant (though crowded) working day and at least an occasional free evening. (Additons, of course, are always reading manuscripts on the side; but that is part of the fun of the profession.) From now on I even hope to treat my friends as friends deserve to be treated. So I'm starting out by writing a letter to you.

I did not, however, intend to devote the first half page to myself. I wanted, first of all, to say how happy I am that life seems to be so delightful to both of you. Your invitation, Isa, for us to come and see you is most tempting. Don't be too surprised to see us someday ... but, on the other hand, don't look for us too soon. Our wishes will be there long before we can follow them.

Going to Paris this summer was a rank extravagance; but it was well worth it. I managed to get two extra weeks vacation, giving me a month in all, on the excuse of going to the Botanical Congress. My mother went along too. (After a short hospital session in March she became a new person, and is now better than she has been for several years.) We stayed only in Paris, flying both ways, so we had time to get fairly well acquainted with the city. There was good entertainment along with the meetings, and, as always at such sessions, opportunity to renew old acquaintances and cement them as well as to meet new people from all over the world. I managed to get delightfully well acquainted with Ramsbottom (whose book on mushrooms we are handling); met some American botanists I had only known by name before; talked with some interesting women from India and Turkey, and with men from many other countries. Ray Fosberg was there, and seemed to be the leader of a good number of the sessions, even though he didn't know until the very last minute whether or not he could go. He is not back yet.

Isa, what can you tell me about Dr. Gams? He was taking part in meetings of widely different subjects, and seemed to be prominent in each. I was supposed to meet him one day, but he did not arrive when expected. I have heard varying reports on him, and I am curious as to his actual standing among scientists.

10-10-1964

Now that we are back in New York, we are spending our usual week-ends at Hemlock Ridge. I do wish you had been able to go up there with us before you left. I must admit that at times I still feel very lonely there; but you, Otto, know how beautiful the place is. I really love it, and if I keep sufficiently busy - always with more to do than I can possibly get done - I find that I am better off. Especially for Isa's benefit I am enclosing a small snapshot of our house; and if I can find one of the lake I'll put that one in too. (Sorry, no luck.) (You can tell her about it, Otto.)

Tomorrow will not be so good a day unless I stop writing before tomorrow comes - and it's not far away.

My mother sends her affectionate greetings to both of you, as I do, too. We need another word in the language to correspond to Aloha, but, lacking it, I'll borrow it, and say Aloha to you,

As ever,

Carol

9/21/54

UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA  
FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS  
INSTITUTO BOTÂNICO

Lisboa, 21st September 1954

Dear Dr Otto Degener

I thank you for your kindness to send me Hawaiian lichens and also for your post card. The lichens arrived recently in good condition. As soon as my work on other matters permit it I will do my best to name them.

Unfortunately I do not know no good method to remove lichens from rocks. One must use chisel and hammer removing also the underlying rock as thin as possible.

Sincerely yours



Prof. Carlos N. Tavares



9/3/54

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

Sept. 3, 1954

Dear Otto:

Thanks for your long letter of July 14, which I found here upon returning recently from a few weeks in Massachusetts. I spent three weeks working in the new building at Harvard, and another week of vacation at Leverett, near your old alma mater. The Harvard collections are certainly well housed now, and it is a pleasure to have the two herbaria and libraries together in a fine air conditioned building.

We were sorry to miss you when returning from Fiji; we had a day in Honolulu about the middle of January, but you hadn't returned. I hope to meet your wife sometime soon when you are east again, as it seems unlikely that I will be enroute to the south Pacific again in the near future. But when I get to work on the Flora of course I will have a good excuse to spend some time in Honolulu. So far I have still not sorted my 1953 material, but hope to start soon. I was pleased to find *Degeneria* on Taveuni for the first time, and also some new provincial records on Viti Levu. It is quite frequent in Namosi and also Serua. You could have found it a couple of miles inland from Ngaloa, but of course it is not frequent. We spent our last few weeks at Ngaloa and the nearby mission of Lomeri, in order not to get stuck in the interior by December rains. Ngaloa has certainly changed since they made "His Majesty O'Keefe" there but I must say that the people along the road are pretty poor specimens compared with those of the interior. I think the best and most hospitable people I stayed with this time were those of Lovoni village on Ovalau. On Ngau they have too much money from their copra and have forgotten how to be woodsmen. In upper Namosi, Wainikoroilua valley, the men are also fine bushmen and friendly, if you can overlook their idiosyncracies as seventh day adventists.

Yes, it is certainly true that the European-North American viewpoint has ruined many phylogenetic treatments, but I think that we are getting away from such provincialism finally, thanks largely to such work as van Steenis and other Malaysian botanists are doing. I do not intend to wait until Fiji is "known" to go ahead with the flora, but will work on it as soon as my last years material has been sorted and named, which should not take too long. For my purposes I am not going to worry much about infraspecific units, as of course such a Flora will have to be preliminary. I am inclined to think that local speciation is less active in Fiji than Hawaii, maybe because the ridges are not so steep and isolated. There is of course a certain amount of very local endemism, but not as much as in Hawaii.

Please ask Leroy Peiler to send us any material from Korea that he wants to bother with; Walker will be glad to have the phanerogams. Packages should be addressed to the Department of Botany rather than to an individual. Thanks for your kind invitation to use your place in Honolulu. Maybe we can do so at some future date, but it isn't imminent. Anyway I hope we'll both be there at the same time on my next visit.

With best regards,

Cordially,

al [Smith]

9/13/56, 5/28/57,  
9/17/57

Richard

10/24/56 2/1/57  
4/20/57

Dept. of Zoology  
345 Nat. Hist. Bldg.  
Univ. of Illinois  
Urbana, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1954

Dear Otto:

Thanks very much for your nice letter of Aug. 12 and for printed matter from your as yet unpublished Book 5. Please keep me on your list for same when you do get it published in toto. I might add that your books 1-4<sup>part of 5</sup> plus Plants of Haw. Nat. Park <sup>master's</sup> have been extremely useful to me in writing my thesis.

I am sorry that I have not answered your letter before this. I found it waiting for me two days ago when my wife and I returned from a weeks tour <sup>(camping trip)</sup> around the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, on our way back from Woods Hole Marine Biol. Lab., Mass. That certainly is some place up there. The flora, to say the least, is a good deal different from that back in the Islands. From the top of a hill one can see coniferous forests stretching off into the distance for miles and miles — a magnificent, almost monotonous and hypnotic sight. What is not so nice is that one can also see scores of square miles of land burned off by forest fires.

I checked with our biology library this morning to see if they had your book. I must report that they have practically everything that you ever published. This includes two sets of your New Illustrated Hawaiian Flora, Books 1-4. I am sure that they would be interested in obtaining Books 5, 6, etc. when you publish them. They have your Fiji book plus copies of both editions of Plants of Haw. Nat. Park. This semester I shall take a course in plant geography of all the continents of the world with the exception of North America. Dr. A. G. Vestal teaches it. I'll ask him if he would want a personal copy of your Haw. Flora.

For the course a term paper is required. He wants me to do mine on the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. I think this would be an excellent means for me to improve upon and consolidate my meager knowledge of same.

Yes, we plan to return to the Islands in a couple of years if and when I can obtain my Ph.D. I'd like to teach at the university and to do research at The Bishop Mus. Whether these goals will be reached remains to be seen. We'll pay a visit to you when we get back. I have the pleasant job of showing off the Islands to my wife — a New Jersey gal. I trust that ~~#~~ you haven't gotten out of the habit of hiking in the Ko'olau and Waianae?

Thanks again, Otto, for the separates.

Aloha,

Larry Richards

P.S.: My little pooch, "Friday", was accidentally put to death in the gas chamber at The Honolulu Humane Society three years ago because of a miscarriage of orders on the part of Mrs. Carpenter, there. Damn near busted my heart!





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Pacific Vegetation Project  
% National Research Council  
Washington 25, D.C.  
Sept. 20, 1954

Dear Otto:

The m.s.; yours and Van's, came today, with your letter of Sept. 16. I haven't had a chance to more than hastily look over them yet, but what I read is very interesting. I had a letter from Bill some days ago in which he seemed willing enough to have his vegetation paper run with these, but seemed concerned about Costar. I really don't see where Costar comes into the picture, at all, as Bill certainly did the work. I presume he will write again when he hears from Costar.

As far as Pariti and Calonyction are concerned, they will be printed just as you write them. So long as I am not acknowledged as having determined the things you can use whatever feeble genera you please. After all, I am now struggling through one of the worst manuscripts I have ever seen, by Max Doty, in which I am letting him use two names for the same species just because in one place he is including a key which he got from me and in another he is listing determinations by St. John. I am not even objecting when he makes me, in my key, say "Microsorium scolopendria", a name which I never have used in my life. Publishing manuscripts in the shape that his were submitted is, I realize, poor editorial policy, but I have better things to do than rewriting his papers. If he is willing to sign his name to a paper in that shape he is hurting himself much more than anyone else.

I haven't caught the Gilbert and Sullivan ref. yet, but it will probably not bother me any. Coolidge's reaction I can't predict.

The Ipomoea tuba I have no opinion about. I am satisfied that none of the former names should be used and have been following Costaroom in this. By the way, I found this species on Barber's Point, Oahu. I don't think it is the same as the Kaena one.

I don't care when the photos are credited to--the trouble is that we won't have the money to reproduce any photos, since the paper is not one resulting from the Navy contract that is paying the ARB bills. If you have negatives of these, however, I would like to borrow them to get prints made for the Atoll Files.

We definitely do not want to publish any new names in the ARB. It is a mimeographed publication of limited distribution and is, in my opinion, not a proper medium for publication of such things. I don't know what the tomato thing is, but if new it could be published elsewhere. I have a miscellaneous paper about ready that could include it. Have

you checked it against Muller's monograph of the tomatoes (about 1941)?

We can't very well have galley proofs of this article, as it is to be mimeographed and it would cost too much to have all the stencils put on the machine to have one copy run off to send you. My only suggestion would be that you persuade Ernestine Akers to agree to type the stencils in Honolulu, let you proof-read them, then send them here for reproduction. Otherwise you will have to trust Miss Sachet's proof-reading.

I will write to Van about his article, after I get to looking it over. I will get at these after I get through wading through the long one by Doty which is to be next in the Bulletin--that is, a huge series by the Rarioia party will be next, much of which will be by Doty.

Send on the rest of this when you get it finished. I will do what editing is to be done. If you could persuade Ernestine to cut the stencils it would be good, as we have lost our typist and have not got a new one yet. I hope to have one pretty soon, but this will take some luck. Mr. Coolidge's secretary is cutting the Rarioia papers, as they are contract reports, but she will not likely take kindly to doing these.

If Bill's map is published in the same bulletin there is certainly no point in including the practically unreproducible one that you sent. We will try to get what additional rainfall data we can find. We may have some in the files.

We just got back to proof-reading the bibliography today. It is still not much more than half proof-read. It is a horrible job, as every word and figure has to be read against the copy. I hope the thing may be ready to print in a month or six weeks, if not too many other jobs get dumped on my desk.

Best regards to you and Isa. I suppose that you will start to grow stout now with all of this good cooking.

Aloha,

Ray  
F. R. Fosberg

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

September 20, 1954

Mr. Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu, T. H.

Dear Otto,

I was glad to hear from you again and to learn that your domestic duties have not entirely eliminated your interest in plants.

We have been actively interested in the genus, *Rauwolfia*, from a taxonomic standpoint; Monachino of our staff has spent some time on this plant and is frequently consulted by medical and commercial interests. We should be happy to have specimens you might collect.

I should think you should make any arrangements with Squibb or Merck which would be to your advantage. Is there sufficient material in the Islands to be of commercial significance?

You have perhaps heard that Dr. Ralph Stewart of Rawalpindi is being married in October. His new wife sounds like a very unusual person. Merrill is in bad health. He sent us his entire library, six or seven tons of material, and all his medals. Of course, you know of Wittrock's death. Everett has taken over the educational program and Pfander has been appointed Administrator. I saw St. John at the Botanical Congress meetings in Paris.

Mrs. Robbins joins me in sending Isa and you our kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*William J. Robbins*

William J. Robbins  
Director

wjr/bw



Oct 26, 1957

Answer five questions

1. a. What is a flower morphologically?  
b. What is meant by progressive determinateness in flower evolution as compared to such a cone as that of Lycopodium?  
c. What are staminodia and carpellodia, and with what physiological factor are they associated?  
d. Define hypogynous hypanthium and epigynous hypanthium.  
e. Why not accept the Calycanthus fruit as like that of a squash - viz. a hollow, matured ovary full of seeds?
2. Give notes as suggested for three of the following:
  - a. Magnolia Soulangeana: native home, horticultural origin, color variations of flowers, distorted fruits.
  - b. Liriodendron Tulipifera: American range and size; leaf type and origin of stipules; description of flower and fruit; the only other species and how explain discontinuous distribution?
  - c. Myristica fragrans: common name and its derivation, structure of fruit, seed coats and endosperm, economic history in Mediaeval days.
  - d. Sassafras albidum: family and geographic range, size of trees, leaf types, economic history in America, present value.
3. Develop any three of the following topics:
  - a. Orthogenetic petal evolution in the Isopyrum-Aquilegia Longicornis line.
  - b. The Delphinium flower as a derivative of some ancestral Nigella ally.
  - c. Involucre evolution among the Anemone-Hepatica species.
  - d. Zimmermann's theory of the evolution of the trilobate Hepatica leaf from the Anemone Pulsatilla-type with alternate slashed pinnae.
4. a. Give notes on the horticultural history of Paeonia. Why have taxonomists decided to change its Family position?  
b. Berberis vulgaris is notable for leaf recapitulation and traumatic reversion. Explain.  
c. The Mahonia-Berberis leaf series shows us how to interpret the Berberis leaf-blade jointed to its petiole. Explain.  
d. Why is Caulophyllum called the "gymnospermous angiosperm"?  
e. What is curare, what is its classic source, and what is its effect upon the human body?
5. Develop the subject of the Nelumbo water-lilies under the following heads:
  - a. Geography and habits with method of growth of colonies.
  - b. The torus - development to fruiting stage and final fate.
  - c. Structure of achene and embryo.
  - d. Seed longevity.
  - e. Economics.
6. Answer five of the following:
  - \* a. Why has the carpel of Degeneria vitiensis provoked such interest among morphologists?
  - b. Why can we not determine whether the Cercidiphyllum female floral members have the gynoeceus structure represented by G1 or G many?
  - c. What is the morphology of the edible pulp of the custard-apple fruit?
  - d. How is stick-cinnamon gathered and prepared for the trade?
  - e. How do the Banunculaceae Helleboreae differ from the B. Anemoneae, AND is the difference a sharp one?
  - f. How does Cabomba differ in leaf and fruits from most of the Nymphaeaceae, and what may have been its ancestors?

10/28/54

Clark Hall, U.M.  
Amherst, Mass.  
Oct. 28, 1954

Dear Otto:

Your welcome letter arrived at a time when I was on the point of writing you--- a situation which I have noted before with my correspondents, and which suggests that thoughts do travel like radio waves.

It is nice to know that you are back in your Island paradise, and I trust that Frau Isa is rapidly recovering her full strength. The situation sounds most idyllic: working on *Flora Hawaiiensis*, with interludes of gardening and contemplation of ocean and mountains.

Well, old "Aggie" is growing so fast that it is bursting all its buttons off. The new President was inaugurated last week and he has set a goal of 6,000 students by 1960. With this increase in numbers comes a parallel increase in our troubles. There are eleven sections in Botany I and each of the two lectures per week has to be repeated three times in order to accommodate them all in the pit. I'm happy to be free of the Freshmen. I'm afraid that with this increase in numbers has likewise gone a lowering in quality. One of our best laboratory instructors has reported 30 out of a laboratory section of 35 as below passing.

You think I am pessimistic, yet even in your Eden you can hardly fail to see that the drift toward barbarism is speeding up. We can all see that major crimes are increasing (appalling so among juveniles). It is all highly complicated. Home life for children is disrupted by both parents working during the day, and often out for a good time at night. Thanks to the new pedagogy, discipline in the schools is almost nil, and under John Dewey's enthusiastic followers, education is directed toward sociology and vocationalism. In a word the schools are preparing the children for socialism. The basic three Rs are neglected, and almost nothing is done to transmit the inheritance of older European-American culture.

We get the outcome of all this with the Freshmen: flabby intellects, weak wills, boredom, a craze for athletics and social life. The poor things are conditioned beyond redemption. I suppose one of the biggest factors in this disheartening problem is the insane American dream of putting everybody through higher education at State expense. Universities were established for the intellectually capable (the "cerebrotonics") who were going into law, medicine and theology. Now they are overrun with "somatotonics" who, in Mediaeval days, would have been warrior knights and squires who generally despised learning (just as they do now) and couldn't write their own names. I am one of the old fogies who believes in ancient ideals, whereas the new university must be, and is being, remade to the pattern of the somatotonic go-getter, who wants animal-training and empirical recipes for success.

So I find it rather disheartening to witness the death of an ancient culture including literature, art and philosophy. And since botany is the "polite science", that is likewise going, because the horticulturists etc. consider it a waste of time, and can teach their students all that they need to know about it. Of course that means the end of classical botany, which will go the way of Latin and Greek.

Do you call this pessimism? I don't. For it seems to me that a pess-

4. What shall the Individual do about it? Principles of the "Perennial Philosophy" (of Leibnitz)

And so we carry on for a few more years - three at most, for then the College turns us out to grass.

With best wishes

*R. E. T.*

P.S. An announcement of his marriage is just in from Harry Johnson's oldest boy, Joseph. He was here with me for a year taking systematic botany, and is now carrying on his father's business.

R.E.T.



10/28/54

FRED JAY SEAVER

201 Alexander Place, Winter Park, Florida

AUTHOR: THE NORTH AMERICAN  
CUP-FUNGI IN TWO VOLUMES

Oct. 28, 1954.

CURATOR EMERITUS: THE NEW  
YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Dear Friends Otto and Isa, —

We have just been rereading your fine letter of March 12 almost seven months ago. I hope by this time the weeds are all killed and the window panes in and everything as you say "in shipshape condition". It is a good thing you two are young or you could not take it. Am afraid we could not.

We hope you will not think we are ungrateful for the trouble you have taken to write us so much detail of your trip or that we do not think of you both often and the visits we has and the trips together. The citrus farm was most interesting. We also appreciate your urgent invitation to visit you. Hawaii may not seem far away to you but it goes to us.

We had an extended trip to Sioux City, Iowa Finetta's home last summer. Stopped in Cincinnati to visit her son's home and her grand son. They were here later but only for a day.

## FRED JAY SEAVER

201 Alexander Place, Winter Park, Florida

AUTHOR: THE NORTH AMERICAN  
CUP-FUNGI IN TWO VOLUMESCURATOR EMERITUS: THE NEW  
YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bernice and her husband visited us lately and we made several trips together including Lakeland. I feel much at home down there. We ate in the mess hall (commons they call it). The faculty were having a party and the President came over and spoke to us. He is always very cordial.

Affairs keep us busy here. Both apartments were vacant for a while this summer. That is the first time both have been vacant at the same time. Both are rented now. There is always a lot of work in getting them ready for rerent.

Permission has been given to build a million dollar hotel in the block above us. It will be just one block from us. Do not think it will have any unfavorable effect on us. Perhaps just the opposite.

This is just to let you both know that we think of you. Don't take us off your correspondence list.

Dear Friends:

Love from Fred and Finetta

Just a few lines to assure you we miss you + would love to see you in your far away home. we seem to be busy always with our daily rounds of affairs, looking after our property etc. Fall has been pleasant so far. Finetta -

11/12/54



Marien-Apothete

AUGSBURG, ORHABIL ZIEGENSPECK  
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AUGSBURG, den 12 XI 1954

Lieber Herr Kollege!

Lange habe ich nichts mehr von Ihnen gehört, seit Sie und Ihre Frau aus Europa verschwunden sind. In diesem Sommer war ich in Paris auf dem Kongress und ausgerechnet in der historischen Abteilung redete ein Herr offenbar dortiger Kollege über Hawai. Erwähnt hat er sie nicht. Ich habe dann mit ihm gesprochen, aber es ist immer eine heikle Sache wenn man mit jemand redet, den man nur halb versteht. Den Gruss, welchen ich an Sie aufgetragen habe, hat er offenbar nicht ausgerichtet.

Mit dem Publicieren komme ich gegenwärtig nicht so weiter, wie ich es gerne möchte. Berter druckt recht wenig, weil er an Geldmangel leidet und seit Übersiedlung seine Tochter nach Basel noch mehr leidet als vordem. Wir waren in Paris in gleichem Hotelchen und haben uns über viel ausgesprochen.

Dass ich bei Ophioderma die Zelluloseteilchen (Fila) zuerst sichtbar machen konnte, habe ich Ihnen vielleicht noch nicht geschrieben. Die Arbeit mit Farbenphotographie konnte ich in einer Zeitschrift für Farbphotographie unterbringen. Dass ich Sie erwähnt habe versteht sich natürlich von selbst. Es ist mir die Aufnahme versprochen. Sie wird Anfang nächsten Jahres hoffentlich herauskommen. Die wissenschaftliche Deutung in physiologischer Hinsicht konnte ich natürlich in einer solchen Zeitschrift nicht unterbringen. Da es mir nicht gelang diese schwierige Untersuchung bei einer einheimischen Orchidee durchzuführen, habe ich die Erscheinung etc im Protoplasma untergebracht. Davon habe ich bereits Korrekturen geleistet. Mir liegt natürlich daran meine Bewegungstheorie der Stomata wieder einmal neu zu belegen.

Wie geht es Ihnen und Ihrer Frau?

Mit den besten Grüßen

Ihr ergebener

H. Siegenhoff



11/20/54  
7419 Stewart Ave., Chicago 21, Ill., Nov. 20, 1954

My dear Dr. Degener:-

For some time my conscience has bothered me about the kinks that have arisen in my keeping abreast of the voluminous correspondence that has poured in from numerous quarters the past many months. There are several explanations but they are hardly an excuse I fear.

Your letter of June 20th came to hand, also your card of Oct. 1st. About the time your letter arrived, Mrs. Sherff and I were taking a most wonderful trip down through Missouri and Arkansas into eastern Texas on the summer foray conducted by the Central States Section of the Botanical Society of America. Our headquarters were at the University of Arkansas, where Dr. Dwight Moore was our chief host. On one occasion during the foray (June 19th) the entire group feted the both of us because of our being at the forty-fourth anniversary of our wedding. So the foray assumed especial significance for the both of us.

On reaching Chicago again, I was all tuckered out from the journey so we went up to our Hastings retreat and relaxed for a few weeks, away from all herbarium entanglements of every sort. Presently we secured a very competent woman near there to take care of Miner for a time and went up to the Northwest for a trip by ourselves. Our trip (we drove all the way in our 1950 Oldsmobile) took us from Hastings up through the Straits of Mackinac and west to Duluth, on through Minnesota, North Dakota, ~~into~~ into Montana as far as Glacier National Park, then north to Banff and Lake Louise. We had a most marvellous time and are resolved to go up there again if we live long enough and have our health.

During your stay in Europe, we got somewhat out of contact with each other in correspondence so I scarcely know just what I have told you before and what I have not. Anyway, I retired from teaching as you know in June, 1951, having reached sixty-five years in age. But later our laws were changed to permit reemployment up to seventy-years of age and last February I returned to my former position (i.e., as a teacher, but not as a head of department). During the two and one-half years of absence from teaching I had not improved any in physical strength and the teaching work proved about all I could stand. Little energy was available for research. Fortunately, however, my Cheirodendron and Tetraplasandra revisions had been completed, all specimens returned to their respective institutions, and the mss. submitted for publication. Also, I had gone back through all my accumulated photographs of specimens and mounted them up in my albums. Duplicates were distributed to a few major herbaria (perhaps three dozen to Bishop Mus.).

On Nov. 11th of this year the Cheirodendron text left the press here and I sent you my first copy, a small one of perhaps forty-four pages.

I received a very definite letter from Dr. Robbins and one from Dr. Rickett a fortnight ago stating that they are now taking up once again the preparation of my mss. for the various treatments of Coreoideae (nine genera by me) to appear in THE NORTH AMERICAN FLORA. So I expect to have galley proof of that work to take up my spare time before winter is over.

I have just been glancing at your June 20th letter, at what you say about my taking heart and having more hope. Some of my decisions must perforce depend in large part upon what my wife thinks. She is determined that I take things more easily and try to prolong my life by having a comparatively work-free and tranquil existence. This means ~~no more monographic revisions hereafter~~ no more monographic revisions hereafter. But of course, I stand ready to determine specimens sent me in my own research areas whenever I can be of help to someone, provided I am still near my customary research facilities. I may not continue teaching after next February, although I am entitled to stay on for a year and a half thereafter if I wish. We are still uncertain as to staying near Chicago or going to Hastings.

(Over)



I have just reread your very kind remarks about our long and profitable partnership in botanical work. I do feel indeed that no better partnership ever existed anywhere among botanists. Surely, if Hillebrand could have foreseen this partnership he would have willed it his greatest blessing.

As I look back over my two and one-half years out of school, I feel that the leaflets of research material which grew out of my work at the Museum during that time were about all one could have hoped for. (I may remark to you offhand that in recent years it has seemed to me that Miss Neal and Edwin Bryan Jr. both have been especially well disposed toward me and truly intending to be helpful. This pleased me so much, for in the past I had never knowingly offended either of them, and could only assume that some twisted saint had been setting them up to remain aloof.)

Mrs. Sherff and I both were very grateful to you for the very generous offer to let us enjoy the hospitality of your spare living quarters at Honolulu and she interrupts me now to tell me by all means to convey her thanks as well as mine to you. It is a treat, however, that I fear we shall not be able to enjoy very soon. Our own future holds so much uncertainty in it that we dare make no commitments whatever.---But meanwhile, let me urge you to be most careful of your own self. Hiking up slopes is by all means to be avoided if you are to guard your heart's health, for the mere lifting of your body up slopes is a terrible strain. I myself have to ascend all stairs and other slopes with the slowest possible pace or I play out at once.

Your P.S. remarks about your fleeting impression as to Dr. Spoehr. I too took him to be diffident. Somehow his looks seemed to belie the implications that his name's spelling might offer as to his antecedents so I just refrained from drawing any conclusions. I saw him only once here, and that was when I heard he had been selected for Bishop and so I went and introduced myself to him in his office at the Museum.

Yes, I have had requests from certain places lately for a copy of my ~~new~~ Rauvolfia paper. Fortunately I had plenty of copies and could send one back promptly.

The Chicago Natural History Museum is wanting me to write a somewhat popular article for its monthly Bulletin this winter, one dealing with the remarkable rediscovery of the peculiar tung-oil tree that I named from Remy's old dried leaves at Paris, Aleurites Remyi. I have told Dr. Just to write Dr. Spoehr to see if he can secure certain needle-sharp photographs for our half-tones. One needed is of a typical A. moluccana tree, another is of the A. Remyi tree that Mrs. Dr. Jaggar said grew in a garden at Hilo (a fine, mature tree with nuts on it at that time), and the third is of Mrs. Jaggar herself, since she was the one to play so prominent part in travelling way to the west side of Hawaii to locate trees of A. Remyi. Do you suppose that she will cooperate with us in furnishing us a sharp photo of herself and letting us use it? I hope that you can use your good offices as an intermediary and get her to help me out (for it will really be helping me if she does send on a photo). As I recall, she bicycled from Hilo to a place along the "road between Holualoa and Kailua, North Kona" (as stated in Amer. Jour. Bot. 31: 157. 1944, but without mention of a bicycle). Is this as you recall it?---My own A. Remyi tree is at the Univ. of Chicago greenhouse and stands ~~now~~ twenty-three feet tall. It has never blossomed. Its leaves as you recall from September, 1942, when you were in Chicago, were distinctive even on a seedling tree. They have remained typical down through the years.---Oh, yes, Dr. Just and I talked things over Thursday and agreed that we wanted a picture of yourself in my article since you played such an important role in helping to recover or retrieve for Science this rare species. Just send me one if you will or for that matter two or three and let us pick out the one that does you the greatest justice and bids fair to come out sharpest. Many thanks in advance!

Plants are still coming to me from Kew and from East Africa for determination. As you may see in the current Amer. Jour. of Bot. I have a new species and variety from there in Bidens,---and I have already rounded up several other novelties in Bidens and Coreopsis, (SEE MARGIN AT LEFT!)

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Please convey to Mrs. Rogers as well as to your self the warmest regards and send our greetings from both of us. She has on my part been very kind to me in many ways. I shall be glad to hear from her.



10488 Fleming Ave  
San Jose 27, Calif.  
Dec. 7, 1964

Dear Mr. Degener:

I wonder, did you receive one of my "Forest Entomology in Hawaii" books? I understood that all members of the Hawaiian Botanical Society were to receive copies. I presume that you are still a member. Perhaps you have heard about what a time was had before it could be printed; but finally printed at the Bishop Museum.

A few of the Hawaiian entomologists have written of how useful they have found it. They are the few who are interested in the native fauna.

I presume that you are living at your Mokuleia beach house. Do you still go exploring in the mountain forests?

I had expected that I would get into the California forests for insect studies <sup>along</sup> ~~among~~ the same line that I did with forest insect faunas in Hawaii; but I have not found it convenient to do any forest collecting yet of any significance. The forests are not near, except a small area in a canyon where is a recreation park "called Alum Rock Park". The floor of the canyon is mostly planted trees, and ornamentals; and the forested sides are too steep for me to operate on safely. There is quite a



variety of trees that I should like to work on, if I only could. As it is, my insect collecting has been mostly confined to my house lot and roadside weeds, which are abundant and of numerous species. I have kept a list of more than 60 of these weeds. Most all are foreign.

In my garden, I have collected 20 species of butterflies, which I have determined. And more abundant species of moths I have collected at the porch light, and by rearing caterpillars. 40 species I have been ~~able~~ able to get names for.

There are more species in other Orders: Bees, Wasps, flies, beetles, bugs, aphids, etc. But most of these are still unnamed. I don't have enough of the necessary literature. I get some help by sending specimens to various institutions as: Stanford, University of California, California Academy of Sciences and the San Jose State College.

My outdoor work is mostly looking after our garden - flowers and fruit trees. Our small plot is 65 feet by 170 feet, occupying a lower corner of an old apricot orchard, and we have 8 of the old apricot trees that bear more than we can eat. In 1903 we planted a few other fruit trees, and some of them bore fruit this year: figs, quinces, persimons, apple, lemon, and a small avocado tree which had one little fruit. A grape vine had 50 bunches. Our flowers are too numerous to mention - most of them kinds that I was not familiar with. Some keep blooming in winter. We have had 277 inches of rain already this winter; and one frost.

Mrs. Swezey joins in Season's Greetings to yourself & wife

Aloha Otto H. Swezey