

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation 5th Floor, Hunt Library Carnegie Mellon University 4909 Frew Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890

Telephone: 412-268-2434

Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

January 6, 1965

Dr. Velva Rudd Curator, Herbarium Smithsonian Institution Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Velva:

I did manage to finish my descriptions on the last package of types of Mexico so I have also included these in the present shipment. I am really embarassed about the time it has taken but I certainly do not want to pull another "C. P. Smith" and it would have meant an awful wear on the specimens sending them back and forth. I think I am making some real progress on the problem but it is still a big one. I have 80 detailed descriptions of Mexican taxa assembled but am still uncertain on a fair portion of the nomenclature. Not all of your types are species by any stretch of the imagination, but I'm still afraid to put that final note on them.

I have decided to assemble the dissections in slide boxes and send the boxes to you at a later date. I sent some slides on the earlier batch of 19 types, if I remember correctly, but I can't remember which ones. I've made slides from other herbarium collections so I haven't always followed through with a dissection if I already had made one from another Isotype. I've been marking US or DS etc. on the slide but I note in a few cases that I failed to mark the designation on the slide.

I am really working on the material every moment I can get but it is a slow process when you have to meet classes also. Give my regards to the others there. More later.

Sincerely,

Have
David B. Dunn
Curator of the Herbarium

DBD:mh

In. Rudl's copy January 27, 1965 Dr. David B. Dunn Department of Botany University of Missouri Columbia, Missouri Dear Dave: Thank you for the safe return of our Lupinus types, as well as the other sheets. We found only 103 sheets, instead of 106 as you listed. Two mounted duplicate sheets from your herbarium were packed and, presumably, counted, with our material. Therefore, there were 60, instead of 58, specimens in your "gift or exchange." The 60 specimens are being accessioned as "exchange," which more than cancels your indebtedness to US. According to our records, we sent 48 specimens as exchange to the University of Missouri in 1940; no further exchange has been recorded since then. Your annotations on our specimens are appreciated but we should prefer that you use separate slips and not write on the original label, especially on the old, historical ones. I believe that such is the feeling at most institutions. If I remember correctly, someone at GH remarked on the same violation and, I believe, you were the culprit in that case. In an earlier letter you asked if the slides on the sheets came through all right. So far as I have seen they did, and we are glad to have them. Enclosed is the duplicate of your shipping notice and a copy of our form letter re our forthcoming moratorium. Sincerely yours, Velva E. Rudd Associate Curator Department of Botany Enclosures VERudd/chl Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

3/3//65 3/31/45 Camilaloa Clear Cle & Lsa. The list is certainly graning - I'm having what you conselled typed by my feeletary and and hav sending you a lapy of our completed list for faither consection. to you that in compiling all of the questionable names and and enothing on them - you are correct in nigny of your nates especially with the hencer Hawaiian names - much y it (Haraka & St. John) an really "chined" names -! In the Earlier names particularly with the Earlier explorers and naturalist - the names are correct - I must add havener that your boundedge of the Savaium Names is excellen I was contemplating giving brief descriptions are the Tarious tres groups and Varieties in particular - Lont you think I should I do it! Should I describe the leagues stems etc or Hunt Institute the Botaniation Cocymethical obert

I lauld do especially seith my fathers expert guidance:

fum you ill continue le work on your consuled list and chrevalions.

alaha Lash

3/12/65 Caunahahar Mach 12, 1965 Rear Olls & Lea: I was delighted to hear from you again - and am sorry to hear that you falks have had age one must expect the body machine to breakdown and readjust. In still compeling and ecocking an au manuscript the corrections that you made and your suggestions have been encorporated into the list which I will then return to you for more corrections. These past feed days I have been working on the This list with the Hawaiians here that are still growing the Crap ales I have been discussing and compeling the info rmation each my father who has done much two work on malskal back in 1934-36 my father experimented euch tare on the flats above waikale Valley - he had several Jarge experimental plate growing there and also at wachenan about I brile west of Wackalo he has kept much of his information, as a result the names and descriptions which I gathered from the Hawanans Was sucurate, (It should be - they her Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

The native taxa groups and Varieties are: MANA GROUP Mana Ulu, mana Omene mana Opela , ala Jupika mana weo , weo Mana Weuli Mana Maula, Mana Ha Waula Mana Lauloa mana Keckee Brana Kea Piko GROUP Piko Lehua - apece Piko Maula Pike Kea Piko Keokeo, Hachae Kockeo Pike Valla Piko Wicelo, Hachae Waianae Pike Elelle, Hackar Elele maka opis Eleipaio Mahiapele, Uma heapele Hima, Pan O Hicka manapiko KAI GROUP Kai Willi, Kai Electe Kai ala ala Kai Kea apu Mai

Kai Group moana

Lauloa Eleele-Comac Lauloa Eleele-ula Lauloa Palakea-eleele Lauloa Palakea-ula Jauloa Palakea-papama Lauloa Palakea-keakee Lauloa Keokeo

Eleele makoks, Nohn Eleele Maiaea

> Xumu-eleele Nawao

ULAULA GROUP: relarda Kumur relaula Dani Ulaula Moano

Orpakai

Manini Group: manine Uliule Manini Kea

Ula Niho puu – neng race Manini Opela Kinapuaa Ohe

LEHUA GROUP Sehna Moali, Lehua Jehna Keakes, Waiakea Lehna Eleele, Waidana Lehna Palaii, Palaii

> a apoulle Muchiala - check paine Dapapues Kuchu Leo mala Hacken ahaken Kalalau Hapun Laalor Lactor Mine, Hinga mana akoa mai Oene Owene Wawla Pike eleele Palola aucu - maintain lais

must include it - since this is what we want Especially now that there seems to be a nery tremendores interest in the food value of tare.

Meet, Sel continue pursuing more plant names - L'el get information to que as fact as I can compile it, if you want more information on the tarks please let me know - the Preludace at Sles cauld passebly for the key-houseased I have hat had time to follow it up - L will as soon as I secure permission to enter the U.S. Coast Haced base.

In stiel reviewing your Shortsberg "Vascular Plants from the How Islands" will return it to you by the end of april.

aloha Mac Naah

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791. March 15, 1975.

Dear John:

Isa & I were pleased to receive and Mr. Arens' informational letters. It will be very gratifying that a biography will finally appear about such a fearless, capable and outstanding person like your mother. The book will be inspiring and interesting to the reader, and should not lose its appeal with time. She had the pioneering spirit of Americans, like my own parents, who made the U.S., a great Nation. With their passing, we are slumping to the level of easy-going, unethical, banana republics. I wonder how long the Second Dark Age will last.

You mention the fields of Botany and Malacology. What about the late Coulter and his book about Fiji? I believe he was capable in his field, and your mother's invitation engeneered his studies. Did you know he was an Olympic runner? I should think Mr. Arens can dig up the information in Washington, perhaps in old newspapers in the Congressional Library.

I guess all of us have some peculiar quirks that may grate on the nerves of others, particularly when cooped up on a 100 foot ship. Though I admired Coulter for his specialty, I felt so embarrassed for him when he would beg your mother for petty cash to pay for such very personal expenses as laundry!. When I chided him for being such a pest, he explained that he had purposely left all money behind as then he would be unable to spend any of it. He was getting a good enough salary from the University of Hawaii at the time.

At 76, with a heart condition and hardening of the arteries - my pulse beat was 51 per minute some days ago - I still have wisdom enough to know that I would be unfair to your mother and to myself should I attempt to touch a ms., written by Prof. Moore, Mr. Arens and professional editors. What I might think were corrections I was making would be quite likely errors I was inserting into a work already correct. I must rush in my struggle to complete the third edition of my "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" and Vol. VII of Isa & my "Flora Haw., before I vegetate in earnest. I appreciate your confidence in me.

Isa joins me in Aloha, and wishes to express her delight in the establishment of "The Arch-bold Preserve."

Ollo

Kaunakahai , Malakai 1965 +

Ors. Otto & Isa Degener 68-617 Crozier De Waialua, Hawaii Oalu

Mean alto & Isa

Ar was good to hear that the Cyanea arrived in excellent condition. Nad I remembered that you prefer to have about 40 or 50 specimens I would have sent that many. I'll callect additional material and send it to you next week.

I enould hardly consider the developments which evill delay and the printing of and dictionary as set-backs.

Its too bad that Van Karlingen did nat laak for me when he visited Malakai, I would have liked to talk to him about the printing the sample of punting which you provided in your letter should sunk aut fine.

that the entire manuscript must be ne typed. We will as course have to get source the to review the work for we, then we would be larect as one could ever hope to be.

alaha, Vaah



WAIALUA, DAHU, HAWAII

April 1, 1975.

Dear Mr. Arens:

I have your March 28 aerogramme letter - of course, ordinary air mail would have reached me just as well.

I don't remember my letter of 9/26/42 in which I apparently stated 63 new discoveries had been made. Please don't take that number seriously as it evidently refers to relatively early 1942 and now we are in the year 1975. The Cheng Ho Fiji collection was worked up by A.C. Smith and by various specialists scattered throughout the World. Perhaps by this time 100 or more plants new to science have been described from the Fiji material in various bot. pamphlets and journals throughout the World, and not all necessarily in English. Dr. Smith, a terrifically busy man, would know about most of them; while a librarian at Arnold Arboretum or Smithsonian might be second choice. But such a hunt for a librarian would be prohibitive in time and cash for the meager result you would get.

What I consider very appropriate would be to list all plants named in honor of Mrs. Archbold. You can accomplish this yourself alone by going to a bot. library having a copy of the Kew Index and ALL ITS SUPPLIMENTS. This work tries to list every species that has ever been described in the World, and cites the precise book or periodical. Washington must have copies. To get such information would entail the drudgery of looking at the most recent Suppliments (and working back in time) for any specific name such as "archboldiae" or "archboldiana." Such species were of course named in her honor, like Medinilla archboldiana. Beware, however: The late botanist Bass collected in New Guinea for John's cousin. Make sure that you don't list a plant named for Mr. Archbold in ERROR for Mrs. A. Of course for the cousin the spelling would be the masculine archboldia; while for Mrs. AA, it would be archboldiae. For the names archboldiana, archboldianus or archboldianum, you just must recar the article to see whom the author honored.

To illustrate new plants, except the very outstanding Degeneria, I fear would be boring. As I probably mentioned before, a well-known plant may be far more interesting than a newly discovered one. I am speaking as an old botanist.

There is no one in Fiji to photograph any plants you want. Who would know what the plant is and where it can be found? I believe both my old collectors are dead by this time. I know Aloisio died.

Why not list all the plants mamed for Mrs. Archbold in the Kew Index in your book? Then select one or more of the best looking ones that are preserved pressed in the herbarium, and if they are photogenic, add them to the book.

Poor Coulter died some years ago. I thought at the time that his sudden interest in religion meant failing health and aging.

Ten or more years ago we visited Mary Keegan in Berkeley, Calif. Her relative by ?marriage, a man, was Court Stenographer. She was nearly blind at the time, and planned entering a veterans' retirement home. She had been an Army nurse. Being in my age group, she may be dead by this time. She was level-headed a conscientious. It is a pleasure being helpful with project - augusty, ?aux it to Mars all samples.

april & [1965] list. But I sa + I woult look at We are at Cof which p, 32 is a continuation.
We have been interrufated in this work I because our tenants vacated & I have been In Two printers, and we wrote a book review of Don Marshalls Dictionary Dictionary and write the review, We sent it to the Star-Bulletin v to Pacific Science magazine - hoth returns Thinking more peops to win on the hy names and of the pants slips, I to get more Kralinger, who spend the past necessed an Molopai 7 We blo him Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

62 weniwa - see wewehiwa//dd/phud/d wehiwa - Inomoca batatas, a form welowelo-la - see ala-o-puna -wed - see make-wed wewehive - Colocasia ontiquorum, a form Owi - Spondies cytheres. English, emberella, locally vi-apple wi 4/Thunkilining - see wi-awaawa wi-sweams - Templedus indies. Melish, templied wildiaiki - Seminus terebinthifolius, Modish, Brazil peppertree, local-ly incorrectly Christesberry tree wiliwili-hamle - Adenenthere pavoning. Inglish, sendel beedtree willielli-hacle - Brythmine veriegets. Roglish, variegets: coralbean, variegeted tiggre clay wilivili - Tythrine sandwinensis. Hawmiten corelbear, Hawaiien crythrine, ear Mach very useful copy on Incelo Vaco. The way we Come names let and tocep them are

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a bit to pronounce the word of Cantogon watch of

Pupul, It would help hool

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

heads

with stremineous to later purplish flower

Herman J. A. C. Arens 3918 Rickover Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Dr. Otto Degener Hawaii

April 19, 175

Dear Dr. Degener,

Your Retter of April 12 in today and a package with letters from Austin Moore, and your questions.

It may be well to explain the sitation. Years ago, Austin, who is an longtime friend of John's wrote a manuscript on John's grand-father. When it was, I believe in bookform, ready to go, Mrs. Archbold either bought up the whole thing or had all destroyed. I never saw the book, so I do not know anything about it.

Some years ago, and we met John via the Fairchilds, xitkange while Dr. Ochse had given a dinner to Mrs. Arachbold while in Java, John asked my help in copying some pictures and had some other questions about books, when I was with the Geographie. Later, he asked me to read Austin's manuscript on the Cheng Ho. Professionally, it could not be published under present standards, because it was primarity an enumeration of diary excerpts. John was disappointed, I think, and I did not hear about it anymore. Later, he asked other friends, and John asked me to join the venture to publish the book. I met Austin, who is a very charming and entertaining person, and who has a very dear and intelligent wife. I think that hiswife helps a lot, as all good wives do. It was agreed that I should take over and go on with it, while Austin has continued with other writings, such as a biography on John's mother.

The only book ever published by Austin, I think, is one about his father and it is also excerpts of diaries, but quite interesting, as far as reading about early gospel preachers go. Incidentally, John's great grandfater was one too.

Since then, I have had the ms. edited, and it reads much better. There were but a few pictures, so I had to search for more, and that is why I have been pursuing every lead to more information and pictures. In short, professionally, Austim wrote the story only from a writer's view, and did not research for pictures. It now turns out, that there is much more of interest; this, i have come to find out, by following up all the scientists on boafd, and other persons, and I now believe that a certain Dr. Degener has the sense of humor, and the quality of writing, that this books needs and will be used. That is why I am in hot pursuit of more material. I apologize.

Re the name of Langlois: John's hang-up, but it had to be asked.

I do not blame Miss Potzal. Nor will I embarass her. I know how you felt when you visited the hospital; I flew as KIM pilot on Berlin in 1934 etc. and had the occasion to be invited to some nice people, including some of the weaker sex, but it turned out that I was the weaker one, I fell in love on first sight of the

On April 26th, I will meet with Dr. Smith in Amherst. Later, I will go to Boston and New York. From your letter, I get the indication that I should also go to the Hunt library.

All this will delay the book somewhat. But I believe that you too would agree that publishing a book with unvollendet research is not proper for this story.

In one of your letters I read something about the difference between the latin masculine or feminine ending in giving the name to a plant; I believe or tend to believe that this depends more on the gender of the first name, rather than a variation in salutation. There is some variation, yes, but only in minor importance.

I agree with you, that my search for negatives from Hongkong or Wasworth's might be in vain, lost time etc. but I did find Mrs. Coulter, and she is sending me slides, color as well as black and white, and some manuscript on his life on the Cheng Ho. (Are you interested whether he speaks in glowing terms about your religion??)

Also, John Magruder's papaers are still existing and one of his sons or grandsons wants to go through them for the negatives. I have also written the Honolulu newspaper, so with my luck (born on Sunday) I may get something out of these letters.

Well, My wife, a dutch girl, would like to meet you and your wife, and I like to meet both of you, so we hope that you will take our quarters here, although we know that John will insist that you stay with him. I would not blame you. His quarters are the best in town.

Herman Arens

With many thanks again, and warmest personal regards.

Herman J. A. C. Arens 3918 Rickover Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

April 23, 1975

Mr. Otto Degener Waialua, Oahu Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

Sometime ago I received word from Austin Moore that all of your papers had been deposited by you at the Hunt Library in Pittsburg. To date I have refrained from thinking about contacting them because I wanted to follow up on Dr. Coulter, etc. Austin mentioned that they have all the newspaper material, etc., and that a letter from you to the Director of the Hunt Library would be needed to give me carte blanche there in research.

With the letter that reached me yesterday, I now know that it would be useful to visit the library. Austin did not go because they did send their material. However, it has become apparent that several leads should have been followed up - if only to guarantee that we have had access to most of the material.

Would I impose upon you to ask if you would write a letter to the Hunt Library to introduce me? Mrs. Coulter has sent me Dr. Coulter's book "Drama of Fiji" which was published in 1967, the year of his death. She has also sent me color photographs and slides and I will need your help to identify them for captions,

I have composed a list (enclosed) of plant material to be photographed in Boston. I hope to do that in early May. Also I hope to pick up some selected specimens of mollusks to be photographed in Washington.

In a month or so, I hope to have most basic material on hand and then to start the serious work of selecting and laying out the photographs. It will be some task, but as we proceed page by page, it will mark progress.

I hope that your travels East will permit you the luxury of visiting Washington. We would be delighted. I know that you could stay with John either in town or at the farm or you could adopt our cottage in the Blue Hills overlooking the Sheandoah Valley.

Mally warment personal tegends.

Al alex

Herman J. A. C. Arens 3918 Rickover Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Letter t. Mr. Otto Degener Page 2

April 23, 1975

Austin Moore is under contract to John. He has a very charming, engaging personality and his wife is very intelligent and an excellent assistant. Austin has had the luck as instructor to see a number of pupils exceed his talents, which proves his capability. His manuscripts do need lots of culling and changing for the present day readers' demands. When you get a copy of the new manuscript, you will be pleased what a good editor can do. Austin's research was important but not final yet.

With warmest personal regards to you and Mrs. Degener, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herman J.A.C. Arens

P.S.

I am grateful to you for mentioning the KEW index. Will follow up as soon as possible. I am going to put my daughter to work, now in college, when she comes home this summer and before she gets too busy with mundane pleasure.

Enclosure

I am endoring a check for \$50, - to pay he he postings you have incurred. Please accept it.

Dear My Greus I have great letter & and reashing they produced to fellowing mathemat fact faint waters great with many fact faint making of the full was a few much heart as me have of the formation of the parties of the parties of the manch superior was not complaining about plants with foreigners. I correspond mental about plants with foreigners. I consider the parties of well their forward the those with parties of well their forward the mental that the foreigner was the foreigner to well the collection is that not measure to work the Boston? Thank you we mental measure the well about to a dozen or more mistitutions. You must have the advance of more mistitutions. You must have the Birector G.S. Daniels. hist, with notation as to the size of the Birector G.S. Daniels. hist, with notation as to the size of Pittsburgh, Penn.

Dear Mr. Daniels:

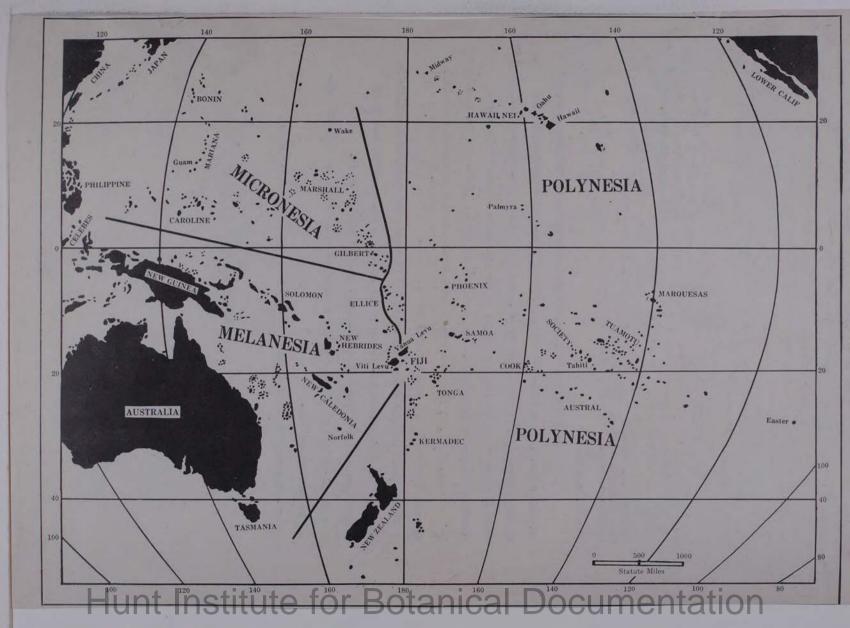
Prof Austin Moore, retired historian living in Michigan began, and Mr. Herman J.A.C. Arens (son-in-law of J.J. Ochse), formerly connected with the Mational Geographic, is completing the ms., for a book about Mrs. Archbold and the Cheng Ho for her son John. Your Library, as you will recall, has my holographs, photos, newspaper clippings, ejc., concerning this project. Please note Dr. Lawrence's letter to me of Nov. 1, 1968 concerning such material, and my present wish that Mr. Arens have access to all this material for his study.

As Mrs. Anne Archbold sailed throughout the Moluccas with the David Fairchilds in the Cheng Ho, have you perhaps some material written by Mr. Fairchild that would help the project? This would be the critical time to make use of it.

I am suggesting to Mr. Arens that he mention in the Introduction that the holographs used are at Hunt.

Mrs. Degener jojns me in wishing you, Mr. Bossert and Miss Levi aloha,

In Otto Degenes



For Dr. Dequet

who hented at museum of architecture

You have supposed me yearth, with your greams . Terpose and sculing me you suftrypeopled corny book.

yntering, I was with from at his form and he is suding you a letter experately about the publication.

I am grows to write to the ormercum in Bostom and providing go up there to survey whatever whatever whether when about splended with in the proper manner in the brook.

This will the hopefully metally deminish your the demands on your time don't will also and save your time for more important write.

the track pola's letter includes a rejust for any negations that eyn might have and the which never have been published.

I may am sure that you would alot me to them of their are any.

you quetons gestra, I am including a prior paper which represents the first

and of which is the bath mutte air,
and of which is the platysque, any just pront
with women personal uponts,
some



MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CANCTON B. LEES

June 2 1965

_14 141

Dr. Otto Degener 68-617 Crozier Drive Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your letter concerning our order for Volume 6 of Flora Hawaiiensis. Mr. Nehrling has presented his copy to the Library.

We all miss the Warm "Good Morning" tour he made of the Hall each day, but he does get in often to see us here in the Library for research on the new book of annuals he and his wife are writing.

If Mrs. Dahlberg is as charming as her sister it must be a great pleasure to have her visiting in Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,

Munel C. Cross ma

Muriel C. Crossman Librarian

MCC: AKJ

her blegener.

MEMORANDUM

To: Staff Members

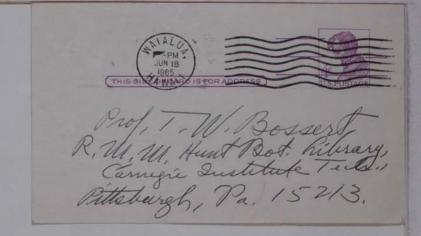
Date: June 9, 1965

From: W. C. Steere, Director

Topic: Call for Annual Report

1. Please complete by July 15 your annual report covering the period of July 1, 1964 through June 30, 1965, and submit it to the administrative officer you normally report to. If the July 15 deadline creates problems for you, a few exceptions can be made, on request to me.

- 2. Please submit, in addition to your report, a summary of it to be published in our 1964-1965 printed Annual Report. Since most members of the Garden, to whom the Annual Report is sent, are not botanists, please avoid technical language in your summary that would confuse or obfuscate the lay reader.
- 3. Please send to Dr. Rogerson, as soon as you can, and before July 15, 1965, a list of your publications that have appeared between July 1, 1964 and June 30, 1965.
- 4. In your report, please keep in mind that the various granting agencies are delighted to see acknowledgments to them in printed annual reports. Consequently, please make any laudatory remarks you wish to about the source of any outside funds that may have supported your research or other activities. Under any circumstances, please give me information concerning each grant that the Garden has received in your behalf during the reporting period, especially the name of the agency, the title of the research proposed, the amount granted, the date it becomes effective, and for what length of time.



Waldlea, Cohin.
Dear Prof. Bossest.

Thanks for your note of please the rewards for your policy of aurally retain photograpoly, of cause half tobe bean half he reproduced there is a fifty not, 20, 1955, from a Bosy thuseum policy. The traw, wellsky thuseum policy. The record straight, I may have with that her foasting was did to be keep the record straight, I may have with that her foasting was did to be keep the horizon to be was in the hospitals for the autofosy to how she was in the hospitals and according to Dr. to the autofosy to how she died of a theart attack, allo har,



UNIVERSIDAD DE LA LAGUNA

FACULTAD DE CIENCIAB SECCIÓN DE BIOLÓGICAS CÂTEDRA DE BOTÂNICA

La Laguna, 27-Junio-1975

Dear Dr. Rudd

I am involved in an study of the Canary Island's endemic taxa of Leguminosae (Fabaceae s.s., cf. The Bean Bag's list) and trying to keep in touch with a number of specielists researching also on this item.

My intention is to focuse the stady of our endemisms from a multiple angle. So I have resorted to you on the hope you will be. So kind to let me know the main lines of your work.

With best wishes, sincerely yours

Juan Ramon Acebes Ginovés B.Sc.

Dpto. de Botánica Facultad de Ciencias Universidad de La Laguna TENERIFE , ESPAÑA

P. 0. Box 19 Reseda, Ca. 91335, U.S.A. 8 July 1975

Biol. Juan Ramón Acebes Ginovés Departmento de Botánica Facultad de Ciencias Universidad de La Laguna Tenerife, España

Estimado Biólogo Acebes:

In reply to your letter of 27 June, my work in the Leguminosae has been chiefly revisionary, dealing with Neotropical genera such as Ormosia, Aeschynomene, Machaerium, etc., or, I should say, dealing with American species of certain tropical genera. I also prepared the treatment of the Mimosoid and Faboid taxa for the Flora of the Galápagos, and am working on the Caesalpiniod and Faboid legumes for the Flora of Ceylon. So far as I know, the only species from the Canary Islands I have dealt with was a native of México, Nissolia microptera Poir., introduced into the Botanical Garden at Tenerife.

Let me know if I can be of any help to you.

Sincerely,

Velva E. Rudd

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94118

(AREA CODE 415) 221-5100

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

THE ALEXANDER F. MORRISON PLANETARIUM

THE STEINHART AQUARIUM

Department of Botany

24 July 1975

Heave excuse the delay in my answer. Thanks for the annotations. # 20391 Nissolia chiepensis is DS641501 (all Chiapas plants are Dudley thembered) The longest leaflet not including petiolule is a terminal one Jamlong Then are no longe funits.

By the end of the August there will be almost a case of undetermined legunes despendely looking for a determinor. There are lots of interesting ones of course. Hope you will be up in the Bay Free soon

Sincerely

7307 Newcastle Ave. Reseda, Ca. 91335 1 August 1975

Dr. Dennis E. Breedlove California Academy of Sciences Golden Gate Park San Francisco, Ca. 94118

Dear Dennis:

Thanks for your letter of 24 July re <u>Nissolia chiapensis</u>. Unfortunately, the mss. has already gone to press, without the sheet number. It will be in Phytologia, due to come out in September. I wondered if you were unhappy with me for not naming it <u>breedlovii</u>.

I doubt that I will get up north this year. On Sept. 18 I am flying to Mexico for the Congreso de Botánica in Jalapa and then, I hope, to Las Tuxtlas with Mario Sousa and Bernice Schubert. I expect to get back on Oct. 9 and then leave for South America (Peru & Brazil) a little more than 2 weeks later, not to return until mid December.

In the meantime, I have to prepare a paper for the Congreso on "El genero Machaerium en México." I need to make slides of maps and specimens of the 14 species known from Mexico. I find that I have no material of M. chiapense. Do you have any duplicates that I may have in exchange for names ? (By "working" for New York BG I have acquired a nice amount of Brazilian material but I have very little from Mexico. Everything I had I left at Smithsonian.) I should appreciate even a meager amount, as soon as possible.

I should also be glad to receive in exchange for names any other specimens of <u>Machaerium</u>, <u>Aeschynomene</u>, <u>Ormosia</u>, etc.

Sincerely,

Velva E. Rudd

August 12, 1975

Dr. Otto Degener P.O. Box 154 Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Leningrad, if only briefly, what with the bevy of meetings, talks, and social events which seemed to dominate our time. I had originally hoped to see you under more leisurely conditions in Hawaii in September during the course of the annual meetings of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, but alas that conflicts directly with an important conference to be held in Kew on the role of botanical gardens in the salvation of endangered plant species and the setting aside of critical habitats. Another time, and soon, I hope.

Roger has shared with me your letter to him dated June 16, relating the arrangements you made with Bishop Museum about the Degener Trust and Flora Hawaiiensis just before your departure for Leningrad. We understand your reasoning, of course, and also understand the legal requirement to be respected.

We are also grateful for the various reprints you sent but are puzzled by the inclusion of manuscript (marked MS No. 75-016, dated April 08 1975, entitled Myrsine, Rapanea, and Suttonia) and followed by other ms. and printed copy. Presumably this was to show us the steps you go through to get materials ready for publication. If this was your intent, OK and we do appreciate that indication. If the inclusion was for any reason mistaken, do let us know so that we can return it to you.

As to section "j", we would prefer that the Museum be required to establish the fellowships (rather than simply authorized), so that progress by us with the research and consequent publication can go ahead at our instigation rather than on the basis of the museum acting on your authorization at its discretion. In any case, we would

Dr. Otto Degener August 12, 1975 Page 2

hope to be furnished with financial reports of the publication program the Bishop Museum will carry out, so that we might anticipate and prepare for the initiation of NYBG research, should income begin to accumulate in excess of the publication requirements of Flora Hawaiiensis.

I am sure Roger will be in touch with you soon and respond to other points in your letter. Again, it was a pleasure to meet you and Isa.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Irwin

HSI:aas

cc: Mr. Roger T. Biringer

Dear Dr. Irwin:

Isa & I were delighted to have been able to converse with you and Mrs. Irwin in Leningrad, but it was for such a short time. If we four could only have joined on a tour through the Caucasus. We gathered quite a nice collection there of plants of genera known to us from my home area of New York; and Isa's, of Berlin. We mailed the two suit cases of plants to Takhtajan, asking him to forward them to us to our Waialua home. If they ever arrive, the Carden will eventually get a set.

Our trip home was a long one as we visited with Isa's recently widowed mother (Isa's stepfather) in Freiburg, Germany. There I had my jaw bone chizsled at the famed University Clinic by an oral surgeon to save a molar, gotten treatment there, with follow ups in California Hilo and now Honolulu. I still possess a hole in my jaw where a grain of rice is apt to hide. But with completed healing, a local dentist will take over go that I should be able to crake coconuts should they fit into my mouth.

On reaching Cahu, we did not attend to any Botany at all as we discovered that one of our tenants had become \$936 delinquent in rent! resending this swindle, we have gotten the sherm iff to evict him, and are now involved in Court hearings, fighting his demand for the \$450 cleaning, etc., deposit. The problem is complicated by his declaring bankruptey. Furthermore and furthermore a furthermore Affidavit after affidavit.

Regarding the various manuscripts, Hunt wants original mms., with the completed copy, so Isa & I thought Mr. Long might want them. Why not just put them in an envelope and mail them to Archivist Abby Levine, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon Unicersity, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15213. It needs no accompanying letter, and goes library rate: 7 cents for first pound and 3 for each additional one.

As to Section "j" (Whatever that is- we have no copy of our Will available here), we can add a codicil when we again tackle the problem. As for the Bishop Museum doing anything alone, we have bleak hopes The Bot. Dept., is practically dead. But its magnificent local herb., under the aegis of the Garden would enable the publication of a magnificent Flora Haw. Since Curator Marie Neal's death about ten years ago, I doubt if we have consulted the herbarium as

five times.

I was saidened by lovable Fulling's death - he & Mrs. F., were our house guests at the Beach years ago; interested to read in the Sept. Oct. Newsletter of Cleason's death, a man who who could talk so well that anything he said was fit for printing without editing; and a bit chagrinned that the Carden has just about forgotten the last of the fossils. On the last page of the Newsletter we see no mention that the Degeners ever were at the XII Int. Be Congress from inception of the Nomenclature meetings! We do hope for the record the Carden will print an appropriate paragraph. All such items help with the tax officials.

Flease pass the enclosed bibliography over to Dr. Rogerson. We have not received an anaes al report regularly for some time, and are getting out of touch with the Garden. The Newsletter is our life saver. We do have an old annual report at our alternate home on their Island of Hawaii, but not here. So I am not certain if the format is correct for Rogerson.

You might be interested in what we have printed in the past - up to 1974. Some items are of purely local interest and will undoubtedly be picked up and xeroxed hundreds of years hence by botanists who will want to know what conditions were like during my time.

Aloha,

2/14/65

FAR LANDS HOUSE

3414 HALCYON DRIVE ALEXANDRIA 5. VIRGINIA U.S.A.

14 August 1965

The Doctors Degener Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto and Isa:

It was good to get your letter of 22 July, and I'm sorry not to have been able to respond earlier to you. The army has in fact put me to work as an anthropologist on the current crisis, and I'm spending much more time than I had even before at the Pentagon.

I'm glad to hear that you are working on a list of the Hawaiian plant names and their scientific and English equivalents, and I'm sorry you've run into the old problem of orthography. Let me say as strongly as I know how that not only would "etymologists" be terribly angry, but any of us who have anything to do with Polynesia and the Polynesian language would be terribly unhappy if you spelled your Hawaiian words without glottal stops. To put this most clearly and bluntly - to ommit the glottal stop from Hawaiian is as cardinal a sin as ommiting well-known consonants such as tork from our English words. In other words, the glottal stops do not represent just "pronunciation", but represents an actual sound, the presence or absence of which affects the meaning of the word itself, not the sound of the word. I also believe that it would not be too difficult to put the glottal stops in appropriately. Surely someone such as Mrs. Pukui could help you in no time at all just by looking at your list and inserting the stops at the appropriate place?

I must also cast water on your proposal on identifying the various seaweeds by collecting names for the same species in other islands to the south. In the first place, I would suspect that today most of the old names would have been lost; and based upon my own attempts to collect native words for shellfish and other obvious faunal and floral materials, unless the species or variety makes a difference in the economic value of the plant to the natives themselves, there is no distinction in terminology. Therefore, I suspect you would find that all seaweed would be equated solely with the word limu, and if there were other names there would be absolutely no guarantee that this same name would be anywhere near the same in Hawaiian. Only the basic and fundamental varieties and/or generalized terms are the same from island to island. When it gets down to the varieties of the species, almost surely this name would vary from island to island, if, (as I say above) there are in fact different names for the item concerned. Therefore, there would be absolutely no scientific guarantee, or even assurance of reasonable equatability for names collected in other islands for the same species of variety in Hawaii.

As to your third question, in my own opinion, but not that of Sam Elbert,) all Polynesian is a single language of many dialects. (Sam distinguishes different "languages" within the Polynesian area, but I just don'tagree with him.) However, Fijian and the other Melanesian, Micronesian and Indonesian languages do differ, one from the other, and all differ from Polynesian. However, it must always be remembered that they all are related languages and therefore there are many similar words between these languages. I'm sorry not to be of more positive use to you. I would suggest that when you have your rough manuscript ready, if you would like to send a copy of it on I would be glad to look at it and comment from the standpoint of general Polynesian linguistics and some knowledge of the anthropology of the other areas. This might make for some useful footnotes for your paper. (For example, I have collected the terms for such common Polynesian flora as the weet potato, and other terms of general use for the entire Polynesian, and in fact, Oceanic area.) These might be useful to you and I would be glad to make them available based upon looking at your list to see what I have that you could use.

It's entirely possible that I may see you in January, for I expect to be doing some traveling out toward the East for a brief period of field work for the Army.

Best wishes to you both,

Most sincerely,

Donald S. Marshall

2/26/65

JOHN WESLEY COULTER 27 SOUTH STREET MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 05753

August 26, 1965.

Ir. Otto Degener, 68-617 Crozier Drive, Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii,

Dear Otto,

My book on Fiji has not yet been accepted for publication, but I still have When it appears I shall remember to send you a copy. We have moved to a new home in Middlebury, Vermont, a college town where we can enjoy lectimes and concerts like those we have been accustomed to in the past.

I have your letter of November 5, 1964 at my elbow. While I acknowledged it shortly after I received it, I did not make many comments on the news you gave me. I went around the world away back in 1937, in search of the Blue Bird, but did not find it. Now that I am retired and have a good wife and family growing up, a happy one, I think I am near the end of my quest. Of course I have not entirely forsaken the academic halls. I gave two lectures in Middlebury College last winter. Herent in Middlebury we are only 27 miles from Proctor where we lived for two years after I retired.. A few weeks ago I gave two lectures at the Summer Session of McGill University in Canada.

How happy you and your wife are on the beach at Waialua. If you and Isa ever come east again, I hope you will let us know. We have no young people here most of the year, and we have a nice guest room. My wife speaks German fluently. She spent a year as a graduate student at the University of Munich. I think Isa is German, is she

I have had no news of Mrs. Archbold for ye ars. I also admired her. You will see her mentioned in this piece of manuscript I am sending along. Inclosed with this letter is a dketch of the cruise of the Cheng Ho as part of my memoirs of the Pacific. I am sending it to you hoping you will have time to read it and make comments. It is a first draft.

What I would like you to do is to write me some paragraphs of your philosophy of life which you have arrived at through your botanical studies. I would rewrite them and incorporate them in my story. What is Emilio's philosophy of life? What is he doing now! Unfortunately my notes are not as full as I would like , - that is notes on the personalities who were with us on the trip.. Can you write a brief sketch of Mrs. Archoold, for example? Of Miss Keegan? What can you add to those deck conversations I discuss? What do you think was Tucker Abbot's greatest contribution to our trip?

Please make comments and additions on any part of the manuscript you care to. I would appreciate them very much. I am feeling for a thread which would tie the while chapter together, - scientists in quest of the Truth, the Blue Bird of Happiness, In search of reality, or something like that.

You may keep the manuscript three or four weeks if you like, and mull it over from time to time and scribble down your thoughts in longhand, particularly philosophical ideas.

I note you put a "Boy's Town" stamp on the back of the envelope. I have subscribed to Boys Town for many years. I have not heard from Mrs. Bilger since Earl passed away. I wonder if she will come east again..
Wishing you and Isa the best, and looking forward to hearing from you in

Wesley Gulter

a few weeks.

Very cardially and sincerely,

ratiled he yes "a devout Atheist, thank God, with high regard to ideas of Quakers and Buddhists." Then followed in great detail an exploition of his unorthodox belief, with the admonition I either print it in full, without editing, or not at all. As a consequence of his demand, I turn over the few following paragraphs of this chapter to Degener, in spits of the fact that I strongly disagree with him:

might a Protestent army officer fether who was forced to do Catholic lin service to the Austrian national religion, my mother was never impressed by conflicting Christian beliefs. With a nominally Lutheren father the spent the EXX '60s and '70s in business in the Orient and casually met European missionery bigots living in splender Inxiananteenx thanks to contributions collected in their home countries from gullible bellavers, the home of my parents in New York was not complicated by any ore of the convertional European religions. In fact, it never entered their minds whether the occasional Japanese silk merchant invited to Sunday Cinners in our brownstore Marbattan home was Christen, Shinto or atheist, or to what religious category they themselves belonged. Their philosophy of life centered about earthy fundamentals such as horauty, conscientions have work, kindness to living things and plain decency; there was no belief in Henven, Hell or a Hereefter nor in An-Vgels, Devils, hobgobblins or witches. Without realizing it, their religion approached Atheigm.

In such a home, the attempted proselytizing by an occasional, icmigrant, nursemaid of her charge never succeeded. Beginning to keep pets as a toddler; next beginning to wander through the exhibition halls of the American Guseum of Natural Ristory a scent three minutes by rellar skates from my granter school; and later beginning to read hongrily every pomphlat and hook on Natural History, including Derwin and Euxley, available to be as a tearager; I never considered myself a Creution fundamentally must from my rets - one of which was a squirrel-size marmoset - and the infamiliants of the Central Perk and Bronx zoos.

ment by the death of my percents but attendated and and live the at

attending college, I gained some solace in contemplating the exi stance of the Fourth Dimension, a dimension we sense as the Duration of Time. Everything that ever existed in the Past or shall ever exist in the Future exists Now. In a way, everything is immortal. I can visualize it best for myself by considering each person a phonograph record. In my father's case the needle began its play in 1844 and ended it in 1916; in my mother's, it began in 1863 and ended in 1920; and in my own, it be gan in 1899 and today has run well over three-fourths its course. I have lived, am living and shall live through the experiences grooved on the record, the present appearing to me as the precise point at which the needle touches the revolving disk. Caesar's record is not nonexistent but still exists way back in the past. My father's record likewise exists, mine overlapping his from 1899 to 1916; similarly mine overlaps that of my mother's from 1899 to 1920. Any action whether good, evil or indifferent and every experience is engraved on each person's record starting from birth and ending with death. Not only that, but our actions, such as our researches and collections of specimens, consulted and worked up by later generations, are like sounds of our records extending ever fainter into the future.

Realizing the limitations of my intellect as a member of Homo sapiens, I shall not cast my devout Atheistic floundering in search of Truth among a population that believes largely in the "Gospel Truth." To avoid the risk of being burned at the stake as a heretic or in a Twentieth Century version of this pastime, I hypocritically dub myself a Protestant. If my maternal grandfather kept his Protestant beliefs to himself in a Catholic country, why cannot I keep my Atheistic ones in a Christian country that hardly practices what it preaches: religious liberty?

I consider my time and effort valuable (at least in "self) and hate to waste both, answering your questions seriously and in detail if my enswers are scrapped or reduced in length. So here is my try at answering your question about the botanical importance of the Cheng-Ro Expedition.

"Actually, the Otientals, via the Aleutians, discovered America, settled it, and gradually evolved into the distinctive Amerindians. No one, curiously enough, ever considers them the actual discoverers. From Europe Lief Ericson was one of the earliest Caucasians to discover America, but this intrepid seafarer (in my opinion unjustly) hardly receives much credit for his windfall. Christopher Columbus, his follower by Centuries, rediscovered the New World and certainly today receives more than the lion's share of credit.

In nonbotanical language, the large group of plants to which the pines and other "evergreens" belong gradually produced the huge group of Flowering Plants that now dominate most of our land masses. Loosely speaking the evergreens bear their seeds flat on a modified leaf we recognize as the scale of the pine cone. Such plants actually bear naked seeds and are therefore known as Gymnosperms. To evolve into the Flowering Plants the scale of some Gymnosperm gradually curved more and more, generation after generation, until it completely enclosed the seed. Not only that, the edges of the leaf or scale grew firmly together. This entirely new structure in the Plant Kingdom we botanists know as the carpel, and plants characterized by it are known as Angiosperms or, in common English, as Flowering Plants.

We know hundreds of kinds of Gymnosperms and upward of three hundred sperms
thousand Angiosperms; but a type of plant intermediate between the two, necessary for such a transition to materialize, was dreamed about but unknown in my college days.

Mrs. Anne Archbold's Cheng-Ho Expedition to the South Sees in 1940-41 enabled me to botanize about Nandarivatu, on Viti Levu, one of the

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Fiji Islands. I there collected twigs, weind flowers and fruit from a certain tree. I stripped it bare. I pressed everything that night in my make-shift drier, a privy that was in daily use. Before the specimens had dried, a cloudburst flooded my valley, drenching my catch of plants with their surrounding sheets of newsprint and blotters with indescribable human filth. Not knowing how to replace my find as I had stripped the strange tree bare, I spent an utterly nauseating half hour transfering the polluted specimens to clean paper and blotters for a second, final drying. This rescued material was promptly mailed to A.C. Smith and I.W. Bailey of Harvard for expert study.

Smith & Bailey's publication in July 1942 startled the botanical world by showing that the Missing Link, long postulated as having occurred in Ages for back in geologic time, was still surviving in the isolated Fiji Islands. Among betanists such a find might be equivalent to the discovery among zoologist of the egg-laying, duck-billed platypus of Australia. The plant is so outstanding with its carpel only partially enclosing the seed (and other features too technical to discuss here) that every modern, advanced textbook of Boteny, printed in any language, discusses this plant which, luckily for the writer, became the type of the new Plant Family Degeneriacese.

Just as the Orientals knew about America, so did the Fijian natives know about <u>Degoneria</u>, even calling it <u>varenagele</u> in the vernacular. Just 7 as Erickson was the earliest, or at least one of the earliest, discoverers of America, so was the Fiji botanist B.E.V. Parham the earliest Caucasian collector of flowering material of <u>varangeele</u>. Pressed with more practical rather than theoretical duties, his specimens reposed for years unknown to the botanical world in his herbarium cabinet on Viti Levu. Ar. Farham, like Lief, never received the credit he deserved. Just as Columbus received the lion's share of acclaim for merely rediscovering America, so did I receive the major credit for finding this missing link,

in fact so much credit that the attendance at botanical gatherings can be a bit emberrassing.

Resides helping in the undertending of the native flora of the Fiji Islands, the mere introduction of specimens of <u>Degeneria vitiensis</u> to the between world for exhaustive study would have made the entire expedition sponsored by Mrs. Archbold worth while.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Hunt

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10/20/65

16 Gokhale Marg Lucknow, I N D I A 20.10.65

Dear Dr. Degener,

I was happy to receive your letter. I have been lately thinking of you both and am glad to hear that you are still continuing your work. I will certainly try to find out from Dr. Nair about Sambuens problem. Falconology has greatly advanced recently on account of improvement in technique. It has also a great future in systematics and applied biology we therefore gave special importance to it in our institute. Professor Erdtman was also here and we have kept contact with him. In fact he offered a scholarship to a worker of our Institute but as she was too young to go abroad the prospect has been postponed.

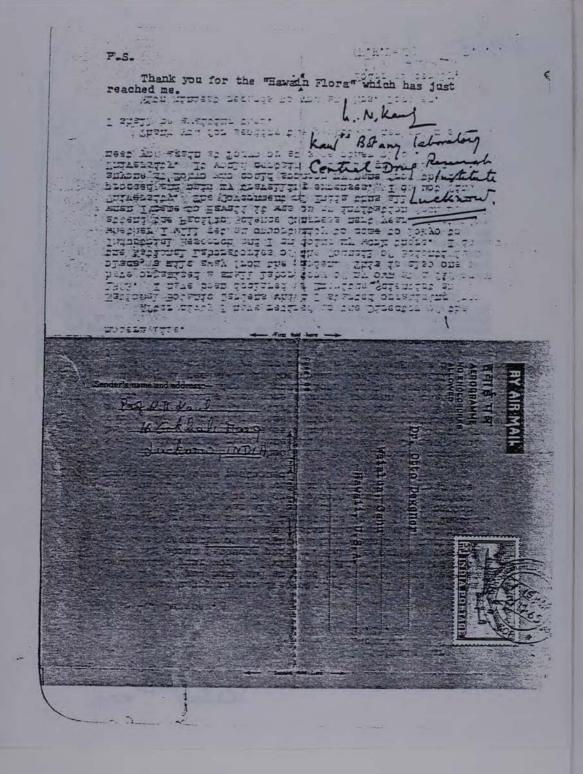
The episode of Wodehouse has been a common occurance in the history of researches in the world. Common people have never taken science seriously therefore it is not very surprising if their representatives or organizations, linked up with their routine activities, should not take interest in them. It is only when some abnormal person by chance gets power that he-brings out conditions for the development of fundamental research. In the modern world abnormalities have increased therefore we are seeing a great upsurge of research in the fundamental and applied fields. There is one aspect that is not very healthy, that is, the fear complex in modern life.

After sixty I have retired as the Director of the National Botanic Gardens which I started organizing from 1935. I have been declared as Emeritus Scientist and I have organized a small laboratory of my own at a different place, a mile away from the garden. This is also one of the National Laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and I am doing my work there. I do not know whether I will get an opportunity to come to Tokyo to attend the Pacific Science Congress next year. Last time when I came to Hawaii it was on an invitation from Hawaii University. The Government of India thus allowed me to proceed and paid my travelling expenses. I do not find anyone at Tokyo who could sponsor my name from the Tokyo University. It would certainly give me great pleasure to meet you again at Tokyo or at some other place.

Thank you for sending the packet of herbarium sheets, I shall be awaiting them.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Degener.

Yours sincerely, L. N. Kall (K.N. Kaul) P.T.O.



INSTITUTO PARANAENSE DE BOTANICA

G. Postal 1362 Curitiba, Parana, Brasil

8. XI. 1965

Dr. Velva E. Rudd Smithsonian Institution Division of Phanerogams WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Rudd,

By the International exchanges publications, I have received of Smithsonian Institution the 32(5): 1965., Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. and I have read your excelent revision referent THE AMERICAN SPECIES OF ORMOSIA (Legum.).

In your article I have noted the good cleaf and the economic uses, historical consideration, geographic distribution and the morphological characters. The Systematic Treatment I have noted the syminimisation the genus Ormosiopsis Ducke, Arch. Jard. Bot. Rio Jan. 4: 61. 1925.

The taxonomic position is very interessant and others problems studies by you very exhaustiv filogenatic and sistematic problems in classification botany.

In exchange I remit to you the difficult studies in FLACOURTIACEAE FAMILY not exist in Matt. Fl. Brasil. and other importants flora. This family years ago is included in Bixaceae etc. My perigrination in this labirith is very danger because this problems is very confused.

Cumpliments and congratulation by your manuscript (to day printed) and the peoples of Brazil by the class of botaminists because this article is dedicat to studies of Brazilian Flora.

Sincerely yours,

John MGELY - Director

Medico biologo botanico do Estado "Y" nivel 18





POBERT C BLACKWOOD JACK H BLACKWOOD ALBERT I EVANS HOSPITAL AND PHYSICIANS SPECIALTIES

WESTHORE 7-3300

November 18, 1965

Drs. Degener Mokuleia Beach Waialua, Oahu Hawaii

Dear Drs. Degener:

I have been referred to you by the Librarian of the Coco Palms Resort Hotel in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii.

While visiting the Hotel a few weeks ago, I became interested in the plants and shrubbery, typical of the Islands, and found your book in the Library and spent considerable time with it.

I wrote down the full title and wrote to the Sup't of Documents in Washington in the hopes that I could purchase a copy for it seemed to me to be a Government Publication.

The office in Washington wrote that they could not identify the book from the title I had given them, "Flora Hawaiiensis", unless I could give them more information.

I am wondering, Drs. Degener, if you could inform the writer in the self-addressed enclosed envelope, how I might purchase a copy of this book? I will appreciate whatever information you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Z. Blackwood

RCB:sha Enclosure

TUMOR. BIOPSY & CYTOLOGY INSTRUMENTS . COLOSTOMY & ILEOSTOMY APPLIANCES . TISSUE IMPLANTS . ANATOMICAL DIAGR.

Al How 1-6-#

11/22/65

JOHN WESLEY COULTER
27 SOUTH STREET
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 05753

November 22, 1965.

Mr. Otto Degener, Crozier Drive, Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii.

Dear Otto,

When I returned from Ireland a few days ago, I found your letter, my manuscript, and the materials relating to the Cheng Ho. A sad fate for a vessel which deserved better. The whole history of the ship would make an interesting story.

Thank you for reading my manuscript and for the comments and corrections you made. Perhaps I did not make myself clear as to the main thing I hoped you would do, namely make some comments on the search for truth through the eyes of a taxonomist.

What is the scientific appraisal of your field? What have you and St. John and other scholarly taxonomists arrived at as a result of a life work of classifying plants? Is merely classifying them the "be all" and "end all" of a botanists career?

Is he no nearer what scientists term "ultimate reality" as a result of his life work?

Coming down to the realities of the Cheng Ho What were some of the more interesting plants you found in Fiji? Why were they interesting to you? Why should they be interesting to the other passengers on the junk. Perhaps the most important question is, In your search for the truth through taxonomy, was the search far advanced by your work in Fiji?

If you care to ruminate over these questions and write me again I would be grateful. Perhaps I am prompting a line of thought that you have nt had before. Anyway please write again.

I am sending this air mail, but sending all the materials on the Cheng Ho
by surface mail. If my manuscript is ever printed I think there won't be any photographs included, for publishers maintain, as you know, that such illustrations are very expensive.

I have had no decision, as yet, on my Fiji manuscript and shall write to the prospective publisher today. If and when it comes off the press I shall send you a copy.

I have lost track of all the people on the Cheng Ho but you and Tucker Abbott.

Kind regards \boldsymbol{b} to your wife and yourself and pleasant going in your further work.

John Wesley Coulter Coultr

the meaning of life through his work in botany. "A life," he said, "is like a song on a phonograph record which can be recovered by playing it back again. A plant lives and seeds and lives again. Caesar's record is not non-existent, but is still recorded away back in the past. Some day we'll be able to turn back to get the right wavelength."

Dear Otto,

I have your card and I did get your letter stating something about your philosophy of life as associated with your botanical work. The above is what I wrote tentatively. Indeed I would be pleased to have more, especially your thoughts as prompted by your studies in botany. I have rewritten a good deal of the manuscript I sent you. One has to have a lot of patience to rewrite and polish. Here are some questions to think about and answer!

Is a plants life eternal? (in view of the above) On the life go thousan their?

As a result of all our work on the expedition did we advance the progress of human beings towards the towa

27 South St., middlebary, V+.

I am particularly interested in your philosophy as it relates to botany.

Hope to hear from you again. Cordially,



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December 17, 1965

Dr. and Mrs. Degener Mokuleai Beach Waialus, Oahu Hawaii

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Degener:

How nice of you, Mr. Degener, to trust an individual in a far away state, New York, by sending your set of books "On Approval".

They have been received with much appreciation and I enclose my check for \$21.50.

I enjoyed, also, your letter and it looks to me as though you and Mrs. Degener have pretty much spent a goodly part of your life in detailing a subject rather close to my heart, namely, flowers, plants, and their growth.

While anything but an expert in this field, I am fortunate in having a small home with three acres and a beautiful lake where I can putter around to my hearts content in either our garden or in projects such as building rock walls, tool houses and whatever have you.

I am sure that both Mrs. Blackwood and I will enjoy looking through your books from time to time and it will remind us of our very pleasant and recent visit to Hawaii as well as your friendliness in answering my letter about your books.

Should you ever visit the mainland and I can in any way be helpful, please call on $\mbox{me}\,.$

Sincerely yours

Robert C. Blackwood

RCB:sha Enclosure

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