



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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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.

UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
ORANGE FREE STATE  
DEPARTMENT:

B O T A N Y



UNIVERSITEIT  
VAN DIE  
ORANJE-VRYSTAAT  
DEPARTEMENT:

BLOEMFONTEIN  
South Africa

3 - 2 - 1966.

Prof. O. Degener,  
Waialua, Oahu,  
HAWAII.

Dear Professor Degener,

Your letter of the 2nd September, 1965 arrived here two weeks ago and reminded me of our meeting in Kew Gardens. I am glad to know that book 7 of your Flora Hawaiiensis is now available and I am enclosing a draft for \$10 for a copy for our library. You will appreciate that very few people here, are working on plants from your area, so that we can unfortunately not buy more than one copy.

I am afraid that I will not be able to go to Tokyo this year, and hope that you will have a very fruitful meeting there.

With kind regards to Mrs. Degener and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

(E.M. van Zinderen Bakker) *over*

Infective Rashes 1-4, Book 6, #10 KD 12/76  
 1984-85, H.W., Book 5, 74 i x P.H. to Univ.  
 TOT 142, Peter Richards, Sec + m, Museum, near L,  
 fig. personal trk. Hava, Wavites, Tuba Monogyna  
 Canton etc., Prods, 48,

3/30/66  
27 South St.,  
Middlebury, Vermont.  
March 30, 1966.

Dear Otto,

I have your letter of February 20, and I congratulate you on regaining good health and strength. The enjoyment of good health is the greatest blessing life can give.

I suppose it is difficult to understand another's philosophy of life from a letter and without having a discussion with him. I am interested in the habit of your background which you ~~xx~~ mention and which, no doubt, has had an important influence in your life and thinking just as my being the son of the Manse has influenced mine. If your atheism means a disbelief in a personal God who sits on a golden throne to judge botanists who break the Sabbath by collecting plants on Sunday you will find hundreds of thousands of Christians who would agree with you. I avoid the term "religion" in speaking of spiritual things. You will find a good part of my philosophy in the Book of St. John, Chapter ~~I~~ IV, verse 24, if you have a Bible in your library.

I have written an article which has philosophical nuances which will be published ~~in~~ in Cahiers de Géographie of the University of Laval in the Spring number. When it is published I shall send you an off print. It is really a review of Fosberg (Edit.) Man and the Ecosystem, the symposium of papers given at the Pacific Science Congress of 1963, published by the Bishop Museum.

I appreciate the length of your letter, the "effusion" as you call it, and I regret it if I wasted any of your valuable time which might have been spent directly on your botanical studies. (This also is a mild effusion!) But I may state frankly that I cannot follow your philosophical thinking as you state it, and so I cannot say whether I agree or disagree with you

I shall not put in my book (purely a 'castle in the air' at the moment) anything of your philosophy or Tucker Abbot's, but merely the interest which you and he stimulated in your particular fields. As I told you in my first letter I have no guarantee that my "effusion" will ever be published, but I get some fun out of trying to write it. I cannot afford as a retired professor to underwrite its publication, as you have been able to finance yours.

I looked for the Smith and Bailey book you mention which discusses the "missing link" in botany, but since you did not give me the title I could not identify it. I find a book on taxonomy by Smith but he made no mention of it.

If you will be kind enough to write the full title on the inclosed postal card I shall look it up.

I close with good wishes to you and your wife, including good health and a long enjoyment of Wailua where I would like to be in the depth of a New England winter when the snow is piled four feet high at our front door as it was some weeks ago. It is now snowing, this morning March 30!

Cordially,

*Wesley Coulter*  
John Wesley Coulter

University of Missouri - Columbia



105 Tucker Hall  
Columbia, Mo. 65201

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE  
Division of Biological Science

Telephone  
314 449-8331

May 15, 1972

Prof. Dr. Hermann Meusel  
Institut für Systematische Botanik  
und Pflanzengeographie  
der Universität Martin Luther  
Neuwerk 21, Halle, Germany

Dear Herrn Prof. Meusel:

I have been working on the lupines of Mexico for over ten years now and have the treatment for the "Flora de Valle de Mexico" in press with Dr. Rzedowski. I am now preparing monographs of the complexes in the genus. I have translated the early descriptions and have most of the early taxa determined. Since a number of the early types were apparently lost in the Berlin fire, several neotypes will undoubtedly need to be designated, unless duplicates were deposited in other herbaria. The search for Lupinus mexicanus Cerv. ex. Lag. (1816), the first named taxon for Mexico, has resulted in the location of the taxon and the designation of the neotype is in press. Both Lupinus montanus (1823) and Lupinus elegans (1823) were available at Paris(P), so do not need neotypes, they also have microfiche photos of the type sheets available so have been varified.

The other early names, which appear to need neotypes, unless duplicates of the original collections can be located, are: Lupinus campestris Cham. & Schl. (1830) (Schiede 664, Llanos inter Perote et Tlachihua); L. leptophyllus Cham. & Schl. (1830) (Schiede 665, Llanos inter Tlachihua et Tepetitlan, (Smith says in Tlaxcala)); L. ehrenbergii Schlecht. (1832) (C. Ehrenberg 936, Mineral del Monte, the number was cited by Smith who examined the material at Berlin before the fire); L. uncinatus Schlecht. (1832) (C. Ehrenberg, Mineral del Monte). The field locations of these are known and topotype material will be obtained for distribution as neotypes, if none of the original material can be located. The excellent original descriptions and material designated by several workers before the Berlin fire, give me confidence that I have the taxa correctly identified, but any neotypes designated should come from as close to the original type locality as possible.

Lupinus exaltatus Zucc. (1832) was grown from seed sent from Mexico and Zuccarini described the taxon from the garden plants. To date the original material has not been located, but the excellent description has permitted recognition of the taxon. The original field location is not clear from the type description, any information as to the type locality would help in the event that no specimen was ever deposited in an herbarium.

Lupinus ashenbornii Schauer (1847) also appears to need a neotype designated. An excellent description is available but, while Ashenborn 173 was designated in the description, the location was given as Mts. of Mexico, location unknown. The material designated by numerous workers leaves little doubt as to the identity of the taxon, but it has also previously been misinterpreted as L. mexicanus by several botanists and the taxon matching the description, in Mexico, is perennial.

Meusel-page 2.

and not an annual as indicated in Schauer's description. A perennial, which flowers the first year may be misinterpreted as an annual. Smith studied the specimen of Ashenborn 173, at Berlin before the fire and has cited a number of specimens in 1938 (Sp. Lup. 58) as the taxon, which mostly were from Nevada de Toluca and Popocatepetl, at or above timber-line, so the taxon seems to be well established but without a type specimen.

If you know of any information on any of the type duplicates or have any of the duplicates I would greatly appreciate a loan of these for varification and to designate a lectotype if possible. I have previously sent copies of this letter to the herbaria indicated by their international codes: B, G, Gzu, K, LZ, BONN, M, P, & Z. If you know of any other institution that might have a copy of one of the types I would greatly appreciate knowing about it. I have heard from five of these institutions in the negative thus far. I am prepared to go to the type localities this August in an endeavor to obtain material from these type localities to use for neotypes where necessary.

Sincerely yours,

*David B. Dunn*

David B. Dunn, Prof. &  
Curator of the Herbarium



University of Missouri - Columbia



105 Tucker Hall  
Columbia, Mo. 65201

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE  
Division of Biological Science

Telephone  
314 449-8331

May 16, 1972

Dr. Velva Rudd, Curator  
Panerogamic Botany  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C 20560

Dear Velva:

As you can see by the enclosure I am at the point of trying to crystalize the information on the earliest Mexican Lupines so that later work will not upset any monographs that I complete. I have the neotype arguments for L. mexicanus in press. As the first name it could have upset anything else. I have the L. montanus complex worked up with supplemental chromatographic data to support my arguments. I heard from Rzedowski to the effect that there is still time to correct or modify the treatment of the Lupines in the "Flora de Valle de Mexico" so if I can locate L. uncinatus this summer I may have to add it to the treatment. I have located the type locality with Rzedowski's help since I could not find the location on any map.

The batch of lupines cited in the enclosure are the other early names for which the types appear to be lost since I have heard from five of the institutions to the effect that they do not have any going back that early. These names also could upset most others so I have to have types designated before any monographs other than the L. montanus one can be completed. Since a photo of L. vaginatus turned up at Texas I am hoping that some of the other lupines lost in the Berlin fire may have been photographed before the fire for reference to help insure getting neotypes which maintain the names on the proper taxa. Some of Smith's work has helped but much of it only adds confusion. If you should have any photos of any of the original types which were not sent on loans I would appreciate a loan of them. I have also written to NY, and TEX.

Both Bill Harmon and B. J. Cox are finishing their theses this summer so we will be sending all of three complexes of U.S. lupines back in the near future. We plan to put them all into a treatment of the Lupines of the Rocky Mts. of the United States, for maximum use of taxonomists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave", written over the typed name.

David B. Dunn, Prof. &  
Curator of the Herbarium.



(Kala Degener)

WAIALUA, DAHU, HAWAII

June 10, 1966.

Dear Mr. Bossert:

Mrs. Degener & I have been botanizing on the Island of Hawaii and now, back home, have the opportunity to thank you and the Hunt Botanical Library for the very interesting Vol. 2 of *Huntia*.

Regarding Rudolph's article on Iwasaki, perhaps Weinmann was introduced as being "Deutsch," a word perhaps mistakenly understood to mean a man from Holland. Why are not the "unidentified objects" on p. 21 simply endocarps? I do not know this particular species, but the endocarps of the species I do know certainly look ~~what~~ like what is depicted.

□ We were of course interested in your "portrate collection." Should not on page 271, Schultz-Bipontinus have the original German Zweibrücken in parentheses?

My very intimate friend and colleague Dr. Earl E. Sherff died of a stroke May 16. I have much data, and Mrs. Degener & I wish to prepare his biography for publication. What information have you? Please mail us a transcription of anything you know about Dr. Sherff. He was born in Flint, Mich., May 18, 1886.

Enclosed is a clipping regarding my late friend Colin Potter. He was the son of a Scott in charge of plantings at Maunua Gardens, Island of Oahu. Colin Potter, with whom I often botanized years ago, became custodian of Foster Botanical Garden, the former home of Dr. Wm. Hillebrand, early physician and author of *Flora of the Hawaiian Islands*, published posthumously in 1888. Due to arthritis Mr. Potter became blind and finally retired. Even when unable to see specimens, he could guide visitors around the grounds thanks to his remarkable memory. He knew the location of the different plants, and could check on his memory by feeling and/or smelling them. He was not a botanist, but an expert horticulturist.

Aloha,

*Otto Degener*



1. DETACH YELLOW COPY.  
2. SEND WHITE AND PINK PARTS WITH CARBON TO PERSON ADDRESSED.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

1. WRITE REPLY AT BOTTOM.  
2. DETACH STUB, RETAIN WHITE COPY AND RETURN PINK COPY TO SENDER.

To:

Dr. Otto Degener  
Box 154  
Volcano, Island of Hawaii  
HAWAII

EDWIN A. MENNINGER, D. Sc.

The Flowering Tree Man

Box 45, Stuart, Florida

SUMMER ADDRESS:

Box 217, Cashiers, North Carolina

SUBJECT

(Copy to Waialua, Oahu)

DATE

7/16/66

Reply Message

FOLD Y

MESSAGE

Dear Dr. Degener:

My book on Fantastic Trees is to be published by Viking Press in November.

In it I quote at some length from your PHNP on Freycinetia, the silversword, and probably briefly other plants; I don't recall now. This was with your permission at the time, but that was about four years ago, and the publishers have asked me to get your formal permission. Please indicate below that this is o.k. with you. With best personal regards. Sincerely

SIGNED

Edwin A. Menninger, D.Sc.

REPLY

DATE OF REPLY

REPLY TO

SIGNED

RECIPIENT



(Hole Dugene)

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Replied by hand 8/24/66  
listing data from  
references.

Aug. 16

Dear Dr. Bossert:

I have collaborated with Dr. Paul E. Sherff on Haw. plants for over forty years. I am now preparing to write his necrology. According to a newspaper clipping from Hastings, Mich., printed evidently a few days after his death May 16; "As an educator, he had been listed and given extensive biographical accounts in recent editions of Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, The Encyclopedia Britannica and International Blue Book of World Notables." It does not mention "Leaders

in American Science, "Ed. 4, the only  
source book I have on hand.

Please have the pertinent  
articles about Dr. Sherff in  
the various Whos Whoses  
photostated for me, &  
mail 'em to me by air  
with bill.

I have written about  
Dr. Sherff so far as his Haw.  
Island activities are con-  
cerned. I am lost, how-  
ever, in regard to his life  
& activities on the Main-  
land.

Aloha,

Otto Degener



*Hale Degener*



Māialua, Oahu,  
Hawaii.

June 20, 1966.

Dear Mr. Bossert:

I have your  
June 16 letter.

Regarding Colin  
Potter why not  
ask him up down  
for a photograph?

Mrs. Colin Potter,  
c/o Mr. Will Bush,  
Haena Drive,  
Honolulu, Hawaii.

You should also  
get a photo &

biological data  
from Mr. Paul

Weissich, Foster  
Botanical Garden,

Vineyard St.,  
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Where did you  
find all those  
Earl E. Sherff  
letters? Mrs. D.  
& I have many,  
also. When we  
write his bio-  
graphy we  
probably should  
cite your



collection.

Having a copy  
of Rudolfs's "Phyt-  
anthoza-----" I am  
mailing the <sup>and</sup> copy  
to Mr. Weissich.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

1/9/66

Dear Otto & Pa

Tucson 7/1/66

I am so much in arrears in writing you  
that I hardly know where to start. I  
have parts of How Hawaiians to ack-  
nowledge (eg. including Poison) & I  
have not answered your question about  
Hollen literature! - The year has gone  
in sickness & all things it is bits out-  
side Tucson & all were necessary, unfor-  
tunately. I am just back now from a week  
with Hato's sister in Cincinnati, & have an  
NST report & reapplication to prepare this  
week. - As to Hollen books, you will need  
Bridgman's (all publications), Isis & Quercus, &  
numerous others. I am sure you buy 1953 Pres-  
ent notes if you don't have it. Let us

Hand 1

Mr. Walter Smith #4  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721  
GEOCHRONOLOGY LABORATORIES

[Free Lucy Cranwell]

airmail

Dr. O. & J. Degener

R.R. #1

Box 89, Waialua, Oahu

Hawaii

9/28/66

GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET  
Botaniska ~~MUSEET~~ museet  
~~Stockholm~~  
Frolundagatan 22  
Göteborg SV  
Telefon 11 20 85

Göteborg 28/9 1966

Dr Otto Degener,  
Waialua  
O a h u  
Hawaii - U.S.A.

Dear Dr Degener,

5.00

About a fortnight ago I made a short visit at the Riksmuseum in Stockholm. Unfortunately I did not have time enough to compare the Wikstroemia - material you sent me with all the collections. I hope I will have a new opportunity later on this year. It is also possible that I can have the Hawaiian Wikstroemiae on loan from Stockholm.

Very best wishes  
Yours sincerely,

*B. Peterson*

/B. Peterson/

9/13/66

Dear Prof. Bossert

Do not write me, but please write  
Mrs. Earl E. Sheff, 1203 S. Church Street,  
Hastings, Mich., (49058) that you received  
"The Hastings Banner" photostats of  
June 20, 1963. It will please her.

Aloha,

C.D.



# University Names Science Building After Dr. Sherff

A Hastings resident has been signally honored for his years in the educational field and for his contribution to science.

Dr. Earl Edward Sherff, who resides with his wife and son at 1202 S. Church street, has had a new science building at Illinois Wesleyan University named in his honor.

The building is called the Earl Edward Sherff Hall of Science.

The announcement was made at the 1963 commencement exercises at Bloomington, Ill., at which Dr. and Mrs. Sherff were honored guests.

Dr. Sherff is a botanist of world reputation in the field of systematic botany.

In announcing the naming of the building, Dr. Lloyd M. Berthoff, president of Illinois Wesleyan University, said it was named after the botanist because of the great interest he and his wife have shown in the school and in its programs of music and sciences.

A portrait of Dr. Sherff has been painted and hung in the lobby of the building and as complete a collection of his botanical works as possible are to be included in the IWU science library.

The science building replaces the old science building which has been turned over to the School of Nursing for its headquarters.

Dr. Sherff, in addition to his world reputation in the field of systematic botany, also has had 45 years' experience as an instructor and administrator at high school, college and university levels in Michigan and Illinois.

As an educator, he has been listed and given extensive biographical accounts in recent editions of Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, and International Blue Book of World Notables.

Because of his scientific work, he has been included also in the Dictionary of American Men in Science and Leader in American Science.

He has held many positions in many educational and scientific organizations.

Dr. Sherff is a graduate of Albion College, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree, and the University of Chicago, where he earned the S.M. and Ph. D. magna cum laude degrees.

He has taken an active and special interest in deaf-blind, mentally handicapped and various retarded types of children, and in the effective consideration of their special problems in the conduct of the schools.

As a businessman, Dr. Sherff has been associated with a variety of businesses.

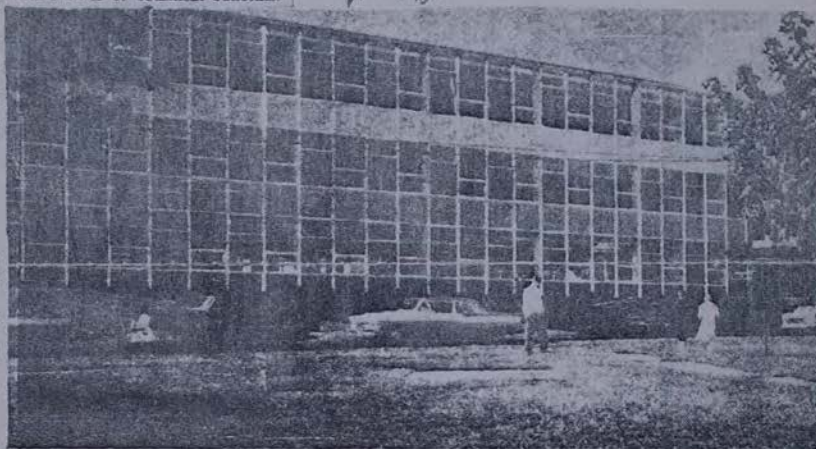
When Dr. Sherff retired in June of 1951, Herold C. Hunt, one-time in the Hastings public school's staff and then general superintendent of schools in Chicago, Ill., signed a certificate from the Chicago Board of Education expressing "deep appreciation of Dr. Sherff's long and distinguished service to the city."

The Chicago Teachers College Department of Natural Science has also created a Dr. Earl E. Sherff award which is annually presented to the outstanding freshman biology student.

The International Blue Book states: "Sherff, Earl Edward, Educator. Born at Flint, Michigan, May 28, 1886. Son of John H. and Anna Linda Sherff, born McHenry. Education: Albion College, University of Chicago. Married Fern Rosette Seeley. One son, Miner Linnaeus. Instructor of Botany at Chicago Teachers College since 1923 and Head of the Department of Science since 1929. Contributing member and honorary research associate in systematic botany, Chicago Natural History Museum. On editorial board of Brittonia. Fellow, A.A.A.S. Member: Sigma Xi, American Society of Naturalists; Botanical Society of America, Inc.; Mu Beta Phi. Author of botanical bulletins."

*The Sherff much better  
copy in over  
files.  
4/28  
6-20-63  
Colleges  
Gen.*

*This is the  
in the  
Engelhardt  
St. Louis*



Earl Edward Sherff Hall of Science



DR. AND MRS. EARL E. SHERFF

October 10, 1966

Dr. Harold E. Moore, Jr., Director  
L. H. Bailey Hortorium  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Hal:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of September 29, 1966 and to know that I did not send you on a wild goose chase in the Philippines. To know that you were able to secure material from two rare palms from Fairchild's Cheng Ho cruise, which had been planted in the palmetum on the Forestry Campus at Los Baños, is most gratifying to me. Interestingly, the Forest Products Research Institute building next to the palmetum was constructed after the Second World War, probably to take advantage of the pretty site afforded by the palms.

I am going to send a copy of this letter to Mr. John D. Archbold, son of Mrs. Anne Archbold who sponsored the Cheng Ho cruises. He will be interested, I am sure, in these late results of his mother's foresight.

Thanks for your letter and I'll be looking forward to your word about the Index Kewensis.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Stern  
Chairman  
Department of Botany

cc: Mr. Archbold

# BRAUN-BRUMFIELD INC.

BOX 1203 • ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103 • PHONE 313-643-3391

## MESSAGE

## REPLY

TO Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Cooper Drive  
Wailuku, Oahu, Hawaii 96791

DATE September 30, 1969

Dear Dr. Degener,  
Vol. 12, no. 1, has arrived from Dr.  
Holden and is in process.

Please let us know what you would like to  
have us do about your articles.

*Of course, I must have  
estimate of cost as I am  
no 1,000,000 ain't*

Sincerely,

*Barbara P. J. [unclear]*

DATE

*Oct 3.*

*As mentioned in my pre-  
vious letter, I hope you  
can pick up the type  
from my three separate  
articles and have them  
run one after the other  
(if they don't anyway).  
Then I would send you one  
single proper libel to  
permit on one single  
page. The wisest thing for  
you to do is to mail me  
gals of my 3 articles and  
then I can see how  
to fit them together and  
how much space I  
can use for the  
libel.*

SIGNED

*Otto Degener*

BY

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