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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.

3/10/40

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

SUVA, FIJI.

10th March, 1940.

Dear Mr. Degner,

I have been so long about answering your letter that you have probably wandered off from the Great Hatchery by now and continued your hunting in some other part of the Island. I hope at any rate that this catches you somewhere.

I really thought it terribly sad about the cows eating your soap and I'm quite amazed at their daring - to think they didn't ask you politely before beginning their meal. I'm sure Mr. Durbet at any rate will take drastic steps to protect you and your soap in future - or he says he will - I wonder!

My partner in the "Inquisitors"
Dept. got rather hot and bothered at
Amilo's message about not accepting
verbal apologies, as, she says, she
never gave you any authority to convey
her apologies to Amilo — verbal or
otherwise — So! Can't you just
see her arms folded and her eyes
flashing at you as she says this —
to say nothing of that 'foot tapping'!

I very nearly accepted
an invitation to spend four days
at Madras for Easter, but I
had previously promised to go
to Kunka, so couldn't. My two
sisters are going and are going
to stay in the C. S. R. Rest House
with a party. They might be
visiting the hatchery so I'll
tell them to call in on "the two poor
fish." I wonder if I could
arrange for them to deliver at
water-melon too. Probably not.

I'm afraid we have been reduced during the last few weeks to your mode of living, i.e. with a can-opener. The hurricane managed to leave us with practically no vegetables and fruit at all and we have been finding it very difficult not to have too much canned food.

By the way how did you fare in the hurricane? I should have hated to be stuck in a Trout Hatchery during a blow like that — or didn't it touch Madamatin? I think we had the worst of it and Suva now looks a pathetic sight with all the trees torn about and bits of houses lying about in the Indian areas.

People soon recovered from the
humour however and Lura was
soon bright again with dances and
parties for the soldiers who were
leaving for the other side of the
Island.

There have been some very
good pictures on lately, the last
one I saw being "Weathering
Heights" - you probably know the
book and will have seen the
picture. It really was an excellent
film.

Oh well, by the number of
people walking round the building
I think it must be two o'clock so
I must set to and do some work.

Cheerio for the present and
I hope you manage to find lots
and lots of plants - the stuffy thing!

By the way would you like some magazines -
I could send you some
"Lives" "Larks" or anything
you might like. M.B.

Yours sincerely
Nancy Deasly.

We still look on you with suspicion as a spy
and feel that the most satisfactory method of getting
all sorts of intrigue as you carry on your work
with those to whom you are so near.

3/2/40



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Massachusetts State College

Agricultural Experiment Station

Amherst

March 2, 1940

Dear Otto:

I just noted the enclosed sheet of stamps in my desk and decided that they better be sent back before they become "outlawed" (or whatever does happen to stamps). Certainly Mr. Jim Farley's efforts ought to keep every philatelist running full speed. Every time I buy stamps lately they seem to be of some weird new design.

Well, a long, cold winter is ending and Draba verna is poking its head out on warm banks. We go on and on about in the same old fashion. This year I have fifteen in Comparative anatomy and only last Friday they were studying C. Degener's specimens of Gleichenia and Ophioderma.

Many of your old Profs either dead or retired. Dr. Crampton has been frozen up all winter and in his husky voice he assures us that he is going to retire to a warmer climate, but I have heard that tale for some 20 years.

I have recently been in correspondence with Dave

Patterson and it looks as though we might take one of his boys for our graduate assistant next year. We already have had one - Walter H. Rudge - who went on from here to Harvard and is now on the island of Dominica collecting plants for a Flora and using it for PhD thesis. He is on leave of absence from M.S.C. and will probably return to us.

I don't know that there is much botanical news. Dr. Holloway of N.Z. called on us last summer under the chaperonage of Miss Grace Smith, now retired from active teaching at Smith College, and an old friend of mine. I think she knows you too. Well, I found Holloway a charming fellow and one with whom I could talk morphology and be understood. He had just discovered tracheids in the axis of the Psilotum gametophyte - a great point for the homologous theory of alternation.

I hope you are making satisfactory progress with Flora Hawaiensis and may complete it before the Japanese take over the Islands! By the way I read a book last week called "The Lord's Anointed" by McFee, which tells the story of the first missionaries who came to Hawaii to put mother-Hubbards and bitches (♀ and ♂ respectively) on the Hawaiians and scare hell into them. It seemed to me to be a fair presentation of the facts though the heroine struck me as being just a bit too extreme on the opposite side I shouldn't blame a mother who cracked down hard on a son who is throwing illegitimate babies all over the place! That's the trouble ~~with~~ most

modern noses. They are such a mixture of wholesome truths and unwholesome provocations that one has to have a pretty sound basis in principles if he is to discriminate and winnow the wheat from the chaff.

I suppose, being nearer to Europe than you are, that we get more of the war excitement. I don't have brings the news direct from London every evening (what the censors allow to come, which isn't too much) and we wait and wonder and hope. If it opens with a rush this spring Europe will be only a red mess by autumn. It looks like der "Untergang der Abendlander" all right. The latest news is that the little shrimp, Gandhi is calling another "sit-down strike" against the British. Well, I wish England would turn the British over for about one month to the mercy of their dear brothers, the Mohammedans. All the sweet liberals of U. M. C. A. persuasion are clapping their pink palms over the matter. English IMPERIALISM will be forever knocked in the head and dear, Christian, brotherly, Gandhi will establish the brotherhood of man in India. The little dears ought to be forced to witness the descent of the brotherly Afghans upon some unprotected Indian village. Have you discovered any recipe to cure fools of their foolishness?

Good luck to you, and let the people at the Bishop Museum hang themselves by their own ropes!

P. E. Tenny

4/4/40
EARL EDWARD SHERFF

Chicago Teachers College

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

Chicago, Illinois, April 4th, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Degener:-

Your letter with samples came and I at once closed the matter up with the company that prints our labels for the Teachers College. This firm is very reliable. Mr. McArdle, the owner, finally sent me quotations and samples. I do not recommend of course the Kotolith stock as it is wood pulp. You will note that you can get 40000 labels for \$39.00 plus parcels post charge of \$6.42 to be added to bill. Mr. McArdle assures me separately by phone that he means exactly the same price for either stock (the Voucher Bond is lighter weight hence costs the same). I send his letter with the samples herewith.

I was attacked with a serious spell of gall-bladder trouble a few weeks ago and could barely keep up with my teaching, let alone doing any research. I had to drop everything. I therefore never got around to make any drawings as you requested. I fear that you will need to have your own man do the sketching if you are to get into print within a reasonably short time. Most of my time outside of school hours is spent at the doctor's office or in bed.

I am saving up your cards and letters and later on shall try to answer them but for the present am really out of circulation. It will be possibly two or three months before I can do much outside work again, assuming that I recover all right (and there seems no reason why I should not). Till then I trust that you will have patience and I certainly hope that your own health holds up well.

With all good wishes, I am, as ever,

Yours very truly,

Earl E. Sherff.....

Waialua, Oahu.
April 18, 1940.

Dear Dr. Lyon:

Yesterday's conversation about ferns scares me - am I possibly wrong with the enclosed *E. hirtum* var. *micans*? I am not quite sure. I would appreciate the correction of any mistakes. I have a cut to go with the description, and would like to go to press.

It just occurred to me that if you had not planned publishing on your fern researches yourself, you might let me print that part of your ms., for which I have drawings available - in a way, just crumbs from your table. I am not interested in grabbing any undeserved credit, but am eager to see the Flora grow more rapidly. I would print at my expense and consider the pages your contribution.

Sincerely,

5723/40

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ARNOLD ARBORETUM, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS., U.S.A.

Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum,
Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Botanical Garden, Cambridge, Mass.
Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.
Bussey Institution, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Farlow Herbarium and Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.
Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.
The Maria Moors Cabot Foundation for
Botanical Research

May 23, 1940

Dear Mr. Degener:

You will see by the enclosure that the package of plants you recently sent came through OK. This time I snitched the stamps for return to you; the last time some one beat me to it in the snitching game.

Sorry to learn that the Polynesian trip was off; but conditions being what they are in the world, I suppose that this means that many hoped for plans cannot be consummated.

Mrs. Clemens has departed from New Guinea for the Philippines (May 9), and the Anne Archbold Expedition that Fairchild is with has left the Moluccas and returned to the Philippines.

Very truly yours

E.D. Merrill

E.D. Merrill

Chinese contribution for E.D.

P.O.Box 993
Hilo, T.H.
June 16, 1940

Dear Mr. Degener,

When I returned from a session at the Girl Scout camp I found your most interesting letter waiting for me. I am glad the things I sent you proved to be of some value but am sorry they were not better specimens.

Some time later, I am not sure when, for my mother is coming from California in July to visit us and I am not certain how much she will be able to do or let us do (she is seventy) I will make a trip into Makahanaloa and see if I can get you better specimens of the size you desire.

I do not know how many plants of *S. macrantha*(?) there are up there and would not want to take much from each plant lest I injure the plant, but I will get you some sprays. If there are seeds on the plants then I will plant some in nearby likely looking places. The specimen sprays, of course, would be sent with seeds. I wouldn't want this plant to suffer the fate of the "redwood orchid" of my childhood.

This orchid, one of the rarer *Cypripediums*, grew in several places near our home in the Santa Cruz mountains. We youngsters showed some to an enthusiastic but unscrupulous florist who had some knowledge of local botany and he encouraged us to show him others. He stripped the country of them, taking roots and everything. He got himself a big splurge in the papers and sold the plants for all he could get. He stripped our gulch of ferns of economic value and *Vancouverias*, too, but they at least thrive in gardens. You can still buy them from nursery-men.

The orchid, though, grew only where a certain mold grew among the decaying needles and other mixed leaves at the edge of certain redwood groves. I doubt if any thrive in private gardens. So that section of California at least lost one of its rarest and daintiest wildflowers. I hope the plant grew elsewhere than in our mountains. If not it is probably gone forever. So don't expect me to be party again to any such tricks. Of course some of the specimens of the orchid probably found their way into herbariums, but what a wretched thing the dried specimen would be compared with the living.

Another place I want to investigate further is the Panewa-Keaukaha District. Macrae wrote of this section over a hundred years ago that he botanized there without success. He did not go far enough. The general run of the country is puahala-lantana scrub, mostly dry and rocky. But the caved-in lava tubes are little oases and support an astonishing variety of ferns, vines, reeds and other plants. One of the ferns particularly caught Ethel Tomoguchi's eye, a large one with wavy droopy fronds, probably a *Pteris*. We had no rope and didn't dare climb in without one. Besides we had a group of girls with us and they do enough foolhardy things without us setting a bad example.

When I can I'll get things for you. Credit for finding the *S. macrantha*(?) should go to Ethel Tomoguchi, not to me, for it was she who found it.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Shiras Baldwin



BOTANIC MUSEUM AND HERBARIUM,

BOTANIC GARDENS,

BRISBANE, 21st August, 1940.

Dr. O. Degener,
Waialua, OAHU, T.H.

Dear Dr. Degener,

Please accept my best thanks for the copy of Part IV of your "Flora Hawaiiensis". I have gone through it, and as usual, it contains a great deal of material of interest to us here in Queensland, especially as many of the plants figured are either naturalised or commonly cultivated.

I was interested to see the illustration and account of *Pseudomorus sandwicensis*.

It is very generous of you indeed to send me the volumes as issued.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

Government Botanist.

Aug. 29, 1940.

8/29/40 M
Hunt

My dear Mr. Hemenway:

I first voiced my disappointment a dozen years ago about President Crawford's administration. A few years ago I protested, as an alumnus and former faculty member, the publication of "Hawaii's Crop Parade". At that time not only I but numerous local mainland educators, scientists and government officials expressed their surprise that the University of Hawaii boasted a president of such scholarly attainments.

After reading recent newspaper accounts of Dr. Rock's resignation from the Faculty and the University's loss of a priceless gift of Orientalia by tactlessness, I feel that a change in administration is most desirable. Evidently Rock and Crawford "do not mix". As there is only one J.F. Rock in the World and as administrators these days (with European and Oriental institutions blasted to bits) are almost a drag on the market, it is evident what plan the Board of Regents should pursue.

I am now advising a famed mainland institution to contact Dr. Rock regarding the disposal of his collection. If the University of Hawaii can mend its fences before arrangements are completed elsewhere, perhaps Dr. Rock will reconsider his present actions. As I understand from local printed accounts his quarrel is with Dr. Crawford and with no one else.

Wishing you success in raising the standards of my alma mater, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Otto Degener

Austrian

TO BLITZKRIEG

Forced retirement of Dr. L. Crawford, as president of the University of Hawaii, is now declared to be on the must schedule of several local prominent civic leaders who up to now have laid off this move in deference to Charles R. Hemenway, who retired this week as chairman of the board of regents.

It was also learned that Hemenway with his retirement will take a neutral position and let nature take its course. He is said also to have even lost his old enthusiasm for Crawford, the result of his resignation of Dr. Joseph F. Rock noted scientist from the U. H. faculty and Dr. Rock taking his priceless book collection away from the University to give it to Harvard. Dr. Rock declared he could no stand any more insults from Crawford.

Dr. Rock, noted botanist and ethnologist, has resigned as research professor in Chinese culture and withdrawn a \$250,000 gift offer because, he said, of Dr. Crawford's insults. "If there was any insult it was in the way he took what I said," Dr. Crawford added. He would not discuss the breach further. "The matters entirely in the hands of the board of regents committee," Dr. Crawford said. Dr. Crawford expressed the belief that Dr. Rock's decision to quit had been "growing in his mind for some time." Dr. Rock said he had disagreed with Dr. Crawford regarding the care of his collection of Oriental books, in the course of which he was insulted.

The Cannon-ball tree of the Foster Gardens has never yet bloomed nor have the young trees planted on the University Campus nor in the Manoa Arboretum. But to prove that they really do bear in other areas, Dr. Lyons will whip out some fine pictures of bearing trees in the famous Ceylon Botanical Gardens. The "Balls" may grow the size of a human head. They take from eight to nine months to ripen and contain a foul-smelling filling. By the way, the "Cannon-ball tree" in the Foster Gardens is 20 years old.

Pirates in the Caribbean area were responsible for the naming of this tree. They said the fruit resembled their "round shot."

If you as a visitor have already mastered "humuhumunukunuku upua-ga goes swimming by," you might like to tackle the botanical name of the Cannon-ball tree—it is *Corouputa guianensis*!

In his bearing, and with clear, penetrating eyes. It certainly was one of these very fine old men, as