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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.

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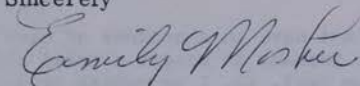
June 28, 1979

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crazier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii  
96791 U.S.A.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Degener;

Received your letter requesting cost for finishing your title "Plants Haw. National Parks" & it seems we need a bit more information in order to do this. I have talked with our composition department & they tell me that you are still holding the final proofs, so we need these back to make any further corrections. Also do we still have more manuscript to come or do we have everything now? We also need to know how many we are to print & if these will be paperbacks. Please try to answer these questions for me & also fill out the Transmittal order that I have enclosed. This will be helpful in planning the order. We will be glad to submit a price to you before we proceed with anything, but we do need this information. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely



Mrs. Emily Mosher  
Sales Coordinator

PS; send me your phone number so we may call if any further questions arise.



OFFICES AND PLANT • 100 STAEBLER ROAD • 4 mi. west of Ann Arbor on old Jackson Rd.

July 18, 1979.

Dear Mrs. Mosher:

Mrs. D., & I are back at Volcano, Island of Hawaii; while our paperback ms., & page proofs are all at our Island of Oahu home. We shall be back there in Oct. I don't blame you for not believing ANOTHER coincidence: I threw my last letter to BB into the village postoffice to catch the mail bus. Then a few hours later we went back to the P.O., to pick up the distributed mail. Your letter was in the lot!

After mailing BB the cheque we owed, we are now licking our financial wounds. Your "Transmittal Order" shows us that so many variables have arisen since BB destroyed plates and I gave away or destroyed original photos, it would be a waste of time to try to fill out the order. Many thanks for sending it anyway.

I shall mail you proof in October to work on only so far as available cash allows. I never go into debt. If short of copies, we must again reprint the old edition.

As some of our new plant names that we had planned to publish in this new edition have by this time appeared in print by others, we must make quite a few nasty changes. It is too bad the project was botched.

Perhaps by omitting an index citing pages, we can publish the new edition with some new chapters among the old. This might suffice for tourist sales until we can complete everything properly for still another (I hope not posthumous) edition. I am over eighty now.

I cannot help but toot my own horn. We shall not have an abundance of cash by Oct., as Mrs. Degener is spending cash to fly to Germany to accept a medal awarded me in absentia by the Berlin Bot. Garden & Museum Sept. 10. I am rather proud as I am no German. My father left Germany around 1870, & I was born in New Jersey in 1899. Being business to accept the medal, there is a tax deduction.

Aloha till Oct.,

Braun-Brumfield  
Box 1203  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

# TRANSMITTAL ORDER

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Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Paperback \_\_\_\_\_ Case \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Trim size \_\_\_\_\_ Print area \_\_\_\_\_ Margins: top \_\_\_\_\_ bind \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Total pages \_\_\_\_\_ Foldouts \_\_\_\_\_ Halftones \_\_\_\_\_ line strips \_\_\_\_\_

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## Press:

text paper \_\_\_\_\_ Cover stock \_\_\_\_\_

ink color \_\_\_\_\_ Ink colors: outside 1,4,spine \_\_\_\_\_

Dust Jacket \_\_\_\_\_ inside 2 & 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Varnish: ☐ Laminate: ☐ liquid ☐ sheet

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# The Nature Conservancy

1800 North Kent Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

June 28, 1979

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Drs. Degener,

I enclose a copy of The Nature Conservancy's May-June News containing our Annual Report. I hope that this will be of interest to you. We hope to keep our concerned friends aware of what the Conservancy is doing.

Should you wish further information on how to create a bequest to The Nature Conservancy, please don't hesitate to call on me. I am aware that you made inquiries to this effect and hope you received a full response.

Most sincerely yours,

*Riku Hoagland*

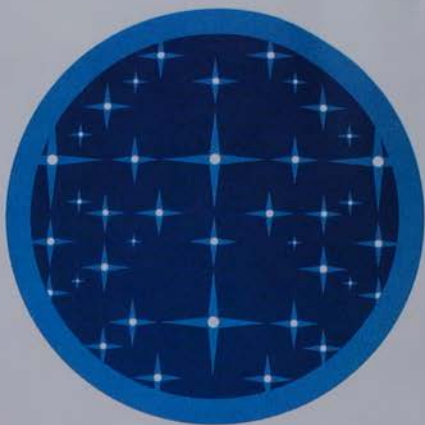
Mrs. Joseph Hoagland, Jr.  
Director  
Planned Giving Program

KH/nv

*Answered that Nature*  
*World Wildlife*  
*Funds were put in*  
*Hawaii, Project*  
*Conservancy*  
*of Flora*  
*Sail*



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HAWAIIAN CONSTELLATION by John Thomas  
Depicts the four chief deities of the Hawaiian  
Pantheon - Ku, Lono, Kanaloa and Kane,  
whose star is the apex of the configuration.



**MĀLAMA ARTS INC.**

Post Office Box 1761 HONOLULU HAWAII 96806



June 27, 1979  
P.O. Box 1200, Hilo, 96720  
Phone. 935-7518

Dear Dr. Degener,

Enclosed please find some material meant to acquaint you with my work, chiefly as a poet, in Hawai'i.

Long an admirer of your wonderful contributions to the life, learning and letters of Hawai'i, I believe I need to speak with you viz a viz, albeit but briefly, on a miscellany of matters related to the Botany of Hawai'i.

Having no idea of what your summer schedule is like, would it be possible to meet with you for perhaps a half-hour, or so, say, at the Lannii of the County Library, or wherever you like?

Looking forward to meeting you, I am pleased to be

Sincerely yours,  
Harvey Ness



HARVEY HESS

## Japanese magazine publishes Hilo poet

Harvey Hess of Hilo will have seven English-language haiku published in the January issue of a Tokyo-based haiku periodical.

This international haiku magazine, "OUTCH Gonzui-Sha," features haiku in Japanese, French, Spanish, English and other languages. Prominent haiku poets from around the world are its chief contributors.

According to the periodical's editor, Hess is the first poet from Hawaii whose work has been accepted in this magazine. His poems have already received extensive publication in leading American haiku periodicals.

Hess became interested in Japanese poetics as a teenager. A prolific poet, he has devoted a substantial portion of his creative energy to composing works in this difficult Japanese-originated verse pattern. To date he has written nearly one thousand haiku.

As special reviewer to the Honolulu Advertiser, Hess has reviewed the work of other haiku poets in Hawaii.



# County of Hawaii



## RESOLUTION 213

WHEREAS, Mr. Harvey Hess will be recognized in the forthcoming 16th Edition of "Who's Who in the West" for his achievements in poetry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hess, a teacher of art and music at the Henry Opukahaia School in Hilo, is an established poet with several books of verse and two sonnet sequences to his credit; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hess did compose the poetic text to the film Kani Liko Lehua which was commissioned for Head Start by the Hilo College Center for Continuing Education and Community Service and was premiered this past September; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hess wrote the libretto to Ka Lei No Kane, the first Hawaiian comic opera which had its world premiere in May at Laie, Hawaii and also wrote the poetic text for the cantata--Naupaka Floret which was premiered here in Hilo in May of 1974.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII that it take this means to congratulate Mr. Harvey Hess for his national recognition and prominence in poetry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County of Hawaii be and is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Mr. Harvey Hess; the East Hawaii Cultural Council; Mr. Pete Schickler, Community Arts Coordinator, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; and Mr. Robert Van de Wege, City Spirits Arts Coordinator.

Telephone :  
01-734 1040

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON,  
BURLINGTON HOUSE,  
PICCADILLY, LONDON,  
W1V 0LQ.

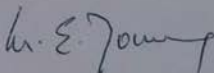
27 June, 1979

Dr Otto Degener,  
Hale Degener,  
Waialua,  
Oahu,  
Hawaii.

Dear Dr Degener,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter  
which will be brought before the Chairman of the Curatorial  
at the earliest opportunity. Committee

Yours



Miss M.E. Young  
Executive Secretary. designate

Re: Lycopodium cernuum

26 June 1979

Dear Friends:

Your good and welcome letter written 22 May came too late to be shared with Morton. He slept away at our Veterans Hospital here in Prescott on the 16th of May.

He had been an in-and-out patient from the first of the year. In April Stewart and I did our best here at home; Stewart with the cooking and tempting him to eat, I with the medications and walking exercises. After his ambulance admission to the hospital in early May, he became disoriented and would struggle to get up when he saw me - for his home routine. One mature nurse took over quite a bit and when she told him to be still and rest, he responded "Yes, mother dear," and so it went to the end. I could wish that all endings could come on the up-beat of the accomplishments of a lifetime, maybe remembering the best of it will suffice.

I will be OK with the house and enough to do with. Actually I look forward to selectivity in friends and activities - the less the better for now - just peace and quiet for a while.

*Today or tomorrow*  
Stewart will be back from a week's trip to California - Death Valley Nat'l Monument, Yellowstone, Kings Canyon and Sequoia and maybe San Diego. to deliver pictures at those outlets. He is using a 25' motor home and has a girl along. He is still a bachelor and so far as I know they are not sleeping together. She is from New Jersey and hopes to spend the summer at Glacier if and when Stewart gets there. His cabin is rented from 1 June through December, which will include a North Polar bear expedition.

While looking for a particular item among Morton's papers and correspondence files for an address, I came across your account (printed) of 7 December 1941. I had never seen it before. It is a classic.

Congratulations on well deserved recognition of your life's very worth while work. It will be more and more valuable in its niche in history.

I know what you mean by others contributing to one's success without formal credit. One of Morton's sisters married a nice fellow who, in his credit write-up is called a "self-made success." He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic with Engineering degree, went to work for Arthur D Little Consulting firm in Cambridge, Mass., called "The Think Tank." Thelma kept him healthy and earned income. She said she would have scrubbed floors and washed her neighbors windows if necessary. Bob worked on the stress of steel - and continuous rails came of it, coincidentally with the decline of the railroads in the U.S. Guess who bought the process? Japan, of course!

I have written at some length because I wish to refer to the word "selectivity." Morton and I were welcomed by <sup>you</sup> at our start together and we have said more than once that that event was about the only free and helpful blessing we received through years of struggle. We made it and the children turned out well and a credit to him.

To the point - will you continue - please - to send word about yourselves? It will mean much to me.

*Most sincerely*  
*Charlotte*

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER  
CHAIRPERSON  
Public Utilities Committee  
VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Consumer Protection & Commerce  
MEMBER  
Ways & Means  
Judiciary  
Health

Senator Anson Chong  
State Capitol, Suite 205  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813  
(808) 548-4183



June 26, 1979

Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Dr.  
Waialua, Oahu, 96791

Dear Dr. Otto & Isa Degener,

Thank you for your recent letter along with the copy of the resolution signed by the 11 citizens of Berlin-Dahlem last May.

Your comments about Rene Silva are well taken, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet him someday.

It is also delightful to see that the U.S. Post Office has chosen the Leguminosae as the subject for a stamp.

Best wishes for a restful summer.

Sincere aloha,

*Anson Chong*

ANSON CHONG  
State Senator



RICHARD S. H. WONG  
PRESIDENT

DUKE T. KAWASAKI  
VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH T. KURODA  
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PATRICIA SAKI  
W. BUDDY SOARES

EIGHTH DISTRICT  
GEORGE H. TOYOFUKU

The Senate  
The Tenth Legislature  
of the  
State of Hawaii

HONOLULU, HAWAII



June 25, 1980

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
Botanical Gardens  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Otto & Isa,

Thanks so much for the draft of your book on the Hawaiian Flora. I am very impressed by the thoroughness and quality of your work.

Please keep in touch as I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.

Warmest aloha,

ANSON CHONG  
State Senator

AC:lo



P.O. Box 154,  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785.  
June 25, 1980.

Dear Miss Mosher:

What is the progress report on the 480 copies of "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks"? Are the copies on the way, and what is the cost of each to be?

I got a local Community College order from Oahu, and referred the business manager to a book store on the Island of Hawaii where they have some copies on consignment from me.

I have about a box each of the paper backs on Oahu & on Hawaii; also a few dozen of the hard cover first edition of 1950 reserved for collectors. These, however, sell for \$30 and are hardly practicable for students to buy as a text.

Let me have the news. I need to know what price to quote for this new (inferior & temporary) edition. Up to now I have been selling at only \$3.00 per copy to help educate the new generation. I guess the students <sup>get</sup> copies then for \$4.50 or \$5.00. I can't keep up this ideal.

I must inform customers the new price and approximate date of delivery.

Aloha,

*D. Otto Slegner*

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Dr Otto Degener

P.O. Box 154

Volcano

Hawaii 96785

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AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM  
PRIVATE BAG, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND  
23 June 1980

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

Dear Dr Degener,

Many thanks for donating another 16  
Hawaiian plant specimens to our herbarium. I found  
that you had inadvertently included 9 duplicates  
intended for Adelaide so I shall post them on with our  
next package of exchange specimens for Adelaide.

Yours sincerely,

*Jeanne H. Goulding*

Jeanne H. Goulding  
Botanist

*Sent Book 7, complete through 5/1/80*

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Molly Pitcher, Monmouth, 1778

Dr. Otto Degener

Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

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June 23, 1980

Dear Otto,

Thank you for the separate with the pictures of verbenaceous seeds. I had not come across it before and am glad to have it.

No, I did not realize that a formal subscription was contained in your 1977 letter (now with all my scientific correspondence in the library of the Humanities Research Inst. in Austin). You did not enclose a check to cover the subscription too, did you? If so I would surely have noted it. I have sent you complimentary copies of back issues of which I happen to have had extra copies left, but I guess no complete volumes. With what volume do you want your subscription to start? Payment now is \$12 per volume in advance for USA addresses, \$13 for back volumes. Vol. 46, No. 4, goes to press next week.

Alma has been in the hospital here and in NYC for the past 3 weeks and things are very hectic here at home. She has finally gotten a pacemaker installed in her chest but the tachycardia still has to be treated by drugs that she cannot tolerate. She may go back to Mt. Sinai Hosp. in NYC in a few weeks to go on an experimental program there. All best wishes, Harold



LAUAE

TARO CARDS • HONOLULU



June 22, 1979

Dear Otto and Isa,

Thank you so much for your notes of 14 June, including the information on water lettuce. Today is Bill's birthday. He'll celebrate with Romaine, baked tofu and brownies -- instead of a cake.

Krauss' flip, injured party attitude on Vicia made me mad. The number of errors in his column makes me think they are not all unintentional. What sloppiness, nevertheless!

We haven't heard the rumor about devaluation of the dollar. We can't imagine Carter taking such a devastating step that would incite great panic and inflict massive harm at home and abroad. It's unnecessary since the dollar already is being devaluated 10-15% a year by cost-of-living. You do have a point about the intrinsic value of land in Hawaii.

Last night there was an Aloha Dinner at the KMC Koa bar for about 200 -- a luau--for Park people retiring or moving on, including Don Reeser and Win Banko. Lots of fun, Cliff Davis did a superb hula when an extra partner was needed! The new road will open simultaneously at both ends about 2:45 on the 30th. We'll be glad to see you soon. Aloha, Mae and Bill

Mull

Internationaler Degener-Kreis - Postfach 1443 - 4830 Gütersloh 1

Herrn

Drs. Otto Degener

68-617 Crozier Drive

Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

967 91 U.S.A.



Internationaler  
Degener-Kreis

24. Juni 1979 -Sonntag-

Sehr geehrter Herr Drs. Degener,

vielen Dank für Ihre Bücher 1,2,3,5 und Fiji, die ich am 5. Juni erhalten habe.

Haben Sie inzwischen meinen Luftpostbrief vom 7. April erhalten? Am 31. Mai sandte ich Ihnen einen Einschreibebrief mit den Briefen von Ihrem Herrn Vater. Ich hoffe, daß beide Sendungen inzwischen bei Ihnen eingegangen sind.

Ihre Anfrage: "ob ein Druck ein Druck Ihres Buches Fiji in Deutschland oder Oesterreich möglich ist?, möchte ich mit einem Nein meinerseits beantworten. Ich habe in der Weise keine Erfahrung und größere Mittel stehen mir für die Finanzierung eines solchen Objektes nicht zur Verfügung. Von den mir bekannten Degener ist niemand da, der eine Druckerei hat. Ich selbst habe nur einen Schablonendruck.

Zur Zeit stelle ich die Internationale Degener-Chronik -IDC- mit einer limitierten Auflagenhöhe im A4 Format in Loseblattform her. Die IDC enthält den Gründungsbericht, alle wichtigen Ereignisse, Forschungsberichte von allen Hauptlinien und dergl. mehr. Diese wird nach dem 19. April 1980 den Mitgliedern zugesandt. Später folgen Ergänzungslieferungen. Wie teuer ist Ihr Buch "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks"? Handelt es sich hier um Nr. 7?

Ich wäre Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mir möglichst umgehend schreiben würden, ob meine Briefe vom April und 31.5. inzwischen bei Ihnen eingegangen sind.

Ich wünsche Ihnen weiterhin viel Erfolg.

Mit freundlichem Gruß

*Heinrich Degener*

Internationaler Degener-Kreis Heinrich Degener

Postfach 1443 · Rhedaer Straße 39 · 4830 Gütersloh 1 · Telefon 05241/51654

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

P.O. Box 154, Volcano,  
Hawaii 96785, USA.  
19 June 1980.

Dear Dr. Hadad:

We have your Nov. 25 letter before us, and are shocked that you unfortunately broke your leg. We hope that by this time you can again botanize as before.

Isa & I have been extremely busy with so many unrelated problems! We so enjoyed the 300 Bot. Garden celebration in Berlin where I was awarded the Willdenow Medal. But you and every one else know that in truth it was awarded to us both. Without Isa's help they never would have noticed me. During that time we helped Isa's mother, recently widowed to foresake Freiburg to come to live with us in her own separate cottage at the beach. Though 76, she loves swimming. Isa had, & occasionally has, painful arthritis in her shoulders - sometimes hip, but remains courageously active. To ~~five~~ <sup>rest</sup> in means that the skeleton gets stiff for ever. I spent five days last month in the hospital for a nice, new, smallish pacemaker. Implanting it into my shoulder under the clavicle was not at all painful, BUT the hospital bill of \$5,000 hurt both Isa & me VERY MUCH. I think the hospital cheats. We do not yet know how much of that sum the Insurance Company will pay. Then, we spent much time revising our National Park book. We have only a few copies left. We have completed the revision, except for the chapter on *Argyroxiphium*, the silver- & greenswords.

Also, we have <sup>four</sup> ~~three~~ next nant families in two houses. One swindled us out of rent by paying us with State of California cheques which our bank neglected to tell us were worthless. We went to Court in Honolulu once about it and almost won. But we were to go again yesterday. To avoid going to Court and certainly lose, the former tenant (whom we had to evict) paid us day before yesterday the cash he owed us. Had he been honest in having to find money to pay, we would have forgotten about it & taken the loss. But this man was an outright swindler. All this takes time from Botany, and is not at all pleasant. Being exhausted, both of us neglected writing letters. I guess this long one, gets our troubles out of my mind.

We have not had time to go back to the Lycopodiales. We have your shipment of papers all carefully filed away in the Lyc., folder. Many, many thanks.

There are two nasty botanical crises in my life which will annoy botanists for years:

1. World War II which might have exposed me to the dangers of War induced me to scatter my collection of 50,000 specimens to museums of the World. All were properly labeled as to locality, date, etc., but mostly quickly labeled only so far as the genus I rushed before I might be drafted as cannon fodder in Europe. Now recipients must wait years until some one like you monographs them beyond the genus into which I had put everything. At least, in museums they can be found in the more or less proper genus covers.
2. Now that I am over 61 and not likely to live forever, I am doing the same thing. I am writing labels quickly as far as the genus, and distributing the plants as you can see. You & later generations can always help monographers with loans of our gifts. Should I predecease Isa, I don't want her to indulge in this dreadful drudgery for the rest of her life.

<sup>um</sup> SOOOOOOOOOO, I hope you will understand that the Haw. plants - the flora is really poorly known & hence unreasonably lumped - I am mailing you are so poorly identified. So many are undescribed taxa. Of course, theoreticall, ALL taxa should eventually appear in our Fl. Haw.

In your observation of the strange distribution of taxa in the Caucasus & Carpathians, is there any difference between bird distributed taxa and wind distributed ones? I guess water, mammals & arthropods would not be involved.

Your article On Haw. Nature Protection was of great use and interest as I wrote you about a year or two ago.



Page 20 shows Henry Clay. Do you know that the Horticulturist and newspaper writer Horace Freestone Clay, my friend & former tenant, is his descendant? H.F. Clay, incidentally, is part Indian.

Pocahontas is shown on page 127 and elsewhere. My neighbor at Mokuleia Beach, the late Southerner Nancy Fennel (widow of Dr. Eric Fennel) was descended from her.

I guess you know that the whaler Lincoln was closely related to Abraham Lincoln. He settled in Kona, and married a Hawaiian lady. There are numerous Lincolns in our population. One is a very intimate friend of ours. We met the Lincolns on Canton Atoll on the Equator.

The adopted son of Vice-President Charles Dawes (page 202) years ago married the daughter of Univ. of Haw., Chemistry Prof. Frank Dillingham and Mrs. Dillingham.

Before World War I I heard Wm. Jennings Bryan (p.233) speak in Madison Square Garden, New York City, against entering it. He was such an expert orator that every one agreed with him. Too bad the U.S., later called "Uncle Shylock" by the British did not follow his advice.

George Clinton (P. 238) confuses us. He is said to have been the first Governor of New York State. A Lily of the Eastern U.S., was named for Dr Witt Clinton, "several times go governor of New York." Were there two different men by the name of Clinton who were Governors of N.Y., at different times? Perhaps father & son?

Page 239. My late neighbor Dr. Eric Fennel was on the Leprosy Board, and held a dim view of Father Damien as a man. Moreover, he believed he had contracted leprosy in Belgium before ever coming to the Islands.

Have you noticed, looking through the statues shown from Pages 226 to 278 that all the old-timers NEVER had their pants pressed! Their legs look like toes of elephants.

Having lived through some wars and noticed how the worst enemies become the most intimate of friends after peace has been declared, we Degeners may seem to act crazy. We have been mailing our Hawaiian specimens since 1922 throughout the World, especially to potentially enemy countries. Should any lolo Hitler or Idi Amin start throwing bombs around to annihilate all U.S., museums, valuable endemic Degener herbarium specimens, probably exterminated in the Islands, will at least be preserved behind enemy lines. After the war, and palsy-walsy friends again, our botanists can study the plants in former enemy museums.

We are gratified that "Art in the United States Capitol" is such an outstanding volume. I hope it gets widely distributed. Should the British again burn our Capital, or a modern Hitler or Amin do so, future generations will at least have a good idea what the Capital was like.

There is no telling what the future holds due to population pressure. It is so bad in the Orient that thousands are forced to take to boats sailing the ocean, and with no place to land!

I might add that I started sending Haw. herbarium specimens to Berlin years ago. They were immensely valuable as so many of them are now extinct. I guess Bern... remember my action and are awarding me the Willdenow Medal this September. Similarly, the New York Botanical Garden has just honored Mrs. D., & me. These are honors voted by botanists for botanists. It is especially gratifying that that our Senate, made up of nonbotanists, have honored me also!

Mrs. Degener joins me in grateful aloha,

June June 16, 1979.

Dear Senator Matsunaga:

Living on two different Islands - on Hawaii at Volcano and on Oahu at Mokuiaia - your most interesting gift took a little time to finally reach us. Mrs. Deener and I are simply delighted and haven't been studying "Art in the United States Capitol" from cover to cover.

Now I shall waste your or your Secretary's time with a few remarks:

As a high school youngster, I studied painting, even attending the Art Students' League on 57th Street in New York City. Then in the summer of 1919 I studied landscape painting under Max Rosen at the Art Colony in Woodstock along the Hudson. We students would wander about with folding chair, easel, canvas and palette until we saw a view to our liking, and painted it. All paintings of the week - perhaps 100 or so - would be fastened on the studio wall for Teacher Rosen to criticize Saturday morning before the class. Though we usually did not sign them, this remarkable man knew which canvas belonged to which student by the character of the brush work. He was like a fingerprint expert. I was one of the less energetic artists, botanizing more than painting.

Returning home to New York City with my summer's accomplishments our friend Mabel Johnston, daughter of the American artist Brown famed for painting newsboys, examined my work. She honestly and seriously remarked: "If I were Otto, I would not become a professional artist." I had sense enough to follow her advice.

Beginning to teach Botany at the University of Hawaii in 1925, I "discovered" born artists among my students doing Freshman laboratory work. During the 1926 summer I hired one, now Dr. Izumi of Maui, to make plant drawings for a book I intended to write. In the summer of 1929 I had four draw for me at Volcano, in the house that the Blaisdells later bought. Each got \$200 salary for the summer, round trip steamer fare, and keep. For that time, this was good pay. I did not make drawings myself - I was employed at Hawaii National Park as its first Naturalist - but, thanks to past training, knew enough to teach the boys who, as artists, were far superior to me. Anybody can tell who the artists were by noting their signatures on the drawings in my books.

With plenty of room below the portraits in your book up through page 130 of our patriots and incumbents of Federal and State offices, we wish short biographies had been added. The book, even without them, would be most useful for American History classes.

Page 14 shows President Grant. My father & I so often walked from home along Riverside Drive to Grant's Tomb. The Grants had lived in the neighborhood. Years later, at a tea on Reservoir Road, Washington, D.C., I met his daughter, then an elderly, lively princess with an unpronounceable name. To be polite, I offered her a tray of cookies. Instead of helping herself, she merely looked straight through me. I could not understand this rudeness until Mrs. Anne Archbold, for whom I had botanized in the Fiji Islands, explained that the princess was stone blind.

June 17, 1979.

Pres. H.S. Irwin,  
N.Y. Bot. Garden,  
Bronx, N.Y. 10458.

Dear Howard:

Ira and I were really flabbergasted with the package that reached us here at the Beach! It is very imposing. It is so flattering for us two to become listed with the former recipients of the Garden's Distinguished Service Awards.

Of the above honored individuals, I knew intimately cheerful Dr. & Mrs. Dodge; of course loquacious Tom Everitt with his King's English; serious Ed. Fulling, about whose strange history I recently wrote Mr. Long; Dr. Gleason, with whom I and others lunched on the second floor of the Administration Building; lively Elizabeth Hall, who was not a hush-hush Librarian; serious Bassett & Mrs. Maguire; Edwin Matske, during Harper Seminar days at Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, where I was earning credits for an advanced degree; boyish looking Harry "Montagne," who now lives with a "ticker" like I do; pipe-smoking E.D. Merrill and family - the daughter Lynne was an Oriental rug saleslady in Honolulu - while he was still in the Philippines; flower-loving Mrs. Peckham; serious "Ricky" Rickett, who accomplished so much formulating Rules of Botanical Nomenclature; the Robbins family, including Mrs. Robbins' fascinating elderly mother; the Seavers, who were such good friends of my sister Irma and me; business-like bryologist Bill Steere; "Hemerocallis" A.B. Stout, who acted as registrar regarding my University credits; and the ever busy horticulturist Henry Teuscher, when he came as a recent emigrant from Germany to the Garden.

I knew my casual association or correspondence L.H. Bailey through our common interest in the genus Rubus, which is represented in the Hawaiian Islands according to this expert by a subgenus, "Red" Camp, with his blueberries; Dick Cowan, who with Mrs. Cowan visited me at my beach home; lively Pierre Dansereau; L.O. Kunkel, who had resided in the Hawaiian Islands; and Norman Taylor, the entertaining lecturer. To think that all of us are considered peers is exciting.

How the writer of the letter accompanying the two awards knew so much about us is a mystery. There are just two minor errors to which we beg to draw attention: I did not "identify plants collected by Per Axel Rydberg in the Rockies," but identified the plants I had collected there during the summer of 1919 while identifying my brother Armin who was raising cattaloes unsuccessfully. In fact, I collected forget-me-nots and silenes on Pike's Peak July 19. Nor did I identify plants collected "by Dr. Britton's associates in the West Indies." Instead, I identified those I had collected myself in the summer of 1920 while bicycling with Cornell Plant Pathologist H.H. Whetzel throughout Bermuda. Sets of such specimens are in Garden cabinets.

Ira and I wish to thank you and the Board of Managers of The New York Botanical Garden for an outstanding honor bestowed by an outstanding World institution.

Aloha nui loa,





# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

June 16, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 1980  
re Parlatore, F. Le Specie dei Cotoni, 1866.  
The Garden has a copy--in fact, it was John  
Torrey's! It was thoughtful of you to offer  
it to us!

Sincerely yours,

*Charles R. Long*

Charles R. Long, Director  
Library and Plant Information Services

CRL/d

Internationaler Degener-Kreis - Postfach 1443 - 4830 Gütersloh 1

Herrn

Drs. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii  
967 85 U.S.A.



Internationaler  
Degener-Kreis

15. Juni 1980 -Sonntag-

Sehr geehrter Herr Drs. Degener,

vielen Dank für Ihre Karte vom 30. Mai 1980 und Ihr Buch "Plants of Hawaii Parks" Ausgabe 1980, welches ich bereits am 9. Mai 1980 erhielt. Der Zeitungsausschnitt "The German heritage in Texas" scheint sehr interessant zu sein. Haben Sie inzwischen die Tonband-Kassette und weitere Ausgaben von der IDC in Loseblattformat erhalten? Ich habe Ihrem Neffen heute geschrieben und freue mich, daß er an der Genealogie DEGENER interessiert ist. Weitere Ausgaben für die IDC schicke ich Ihnen als Normalbrief zu. Die Nachlese von dem Treffen war sehr aufschlußreich.

Ich freue mich, daß es Ihnen wieder gesundheitlich gut geht. Können Sie mir Ihr Buch Nr. 7 "Flora-Hawaiiensis" zusenden? Es ist gut, daß die vielen Vorbereitungen für das Treffen hinter mir liegen; es waren doch sehr große Strapazen. Vielen Dank auch für die beiden sehr schönen Fotos. Somit habe ich auch einmal die Familie Ahlemann kennengelernt.

Gestern hatten wir 30° Celsius. Heute ist es sehr feucht und warm. Von Herrn Otto Degener aus Argentinien habe ich noch keine weitere Nachricht erhalten. Es ist sehr schade, daß die Entfernung soweit ist. Ich hoffe, daß es mir gelingt noch mehr Freunde aus allen Teilen Europas für den IDK zu begeistern und als Mitglied zu gewinnen.

Mit freundlichem Gruß

*Heinrich Degener*

Internationaler Degener-Kreis Heinrich Degener

Postfach 1443 · Rhedaer Straße 39 · 4830 Gütersloh 1 · Telefon 05241/51654

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Helen Toms

P. O. BOX 476  
KIHEI, HAWAII 96753

Daughters of former  
Gov. Judd  
sister of Governor  
Charles Judd

June 15, 1979

TELEPHONE  
879-1055

Dear Drs. Dagenere,

Rene received your card and I  
mailed the letter for him.

I am writing because I liked  
reading Bob Krauss "About Endangered  
Species" and what you had to say,  
also was Moll. concerning the stamp  
Vicia Menziesii.

Also your writing for us in his  
behalf is most thoughtful. However,  
the one that needs a hit on the head  
is our Mayor, Elmer Cravalho who  
has kept Rene Sylva for 3 years.

on a temporary status (SCAT) so  
that he has no benefits of a  
permanent employee of the County  
(vacation leave, sick leave etc.).

The mayor has never created a  
permanent position for the one  
person who, alone, has been responsible  
for the creation of a garden to  
which many prominent plant-loving  
persons from all over who are inter-  
ested in native flora and fauna  
can see so many in one place  
without climbing mountains to find  
them. And Reuc has accomplished this  
without a formal education.

Aloha — Helen

June 20, 1979

Dear Mr. Tans:

Isa & I have your June 5 letter, and hope nothing that a wise man, biologically & with Thaurism sense, will replace the present Mayer when he retires Sept. 11.

Isa & I were a bit afraid we might be overreaching our authority in writing such letters to Regulators about Mr. Sylva and the Mann Bot. Garden.

Funny thing that a pleurohorse as far toing like me should now be honored by the New York Botanical Garden! Isa & I have each received a diploma - like document & explanations from the Garden.

In Sept., I got the Willdenow Medal from Berlin! I guess one way to gain honors is to outlive all colleagues.

I get a bit dizzy at times & could never sit so long in a plane to reach Berlin without getting dangerously puffy feet. Perhaps Isa will fly there to represent me and accept the medal. Being "business" at least the round trip fare should be tax deductible. She deserves such a trip. I feel a bit guilty that she, half of the Degener team since our marriage in 1953, ~~was~~ not included in the honor.

When one mails duplicate specimens from time to time to about 75 institutions throughout the World, we receive biological pamphlets, serones, etc., that have accumulated. Should you have anything botanical of interest to consider, send it along. I doubt, however, that sending much of that 4/10 of reading to Berlin, Leningrad, Peking, Vienna & Zurich would help Mr. Sylva & the Mann Bot. Garden. Anyway, too few there would bother to read English.

Isa joins in also now,  
Dr. Otto Degener

After writing my  
letter to you, I  
decided to enclose  
this report of the  
Quince Circle of  
which I am the  
president. This may  
come out in the  
Historic Hawaii News  
(H)



# MAUI OUTDOOR CIRCLE

POST OFFICE BOX 402  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732

## RESERVATION THROUGH BEAUTIFICATION

Maui is fortunate to have a large group of women and some men, members of the Outdoor Circle, who are concerned not only with beautification of their island but also with the preservation of its beauty. In many various ways, they have helped restore beauty that has been nearly destroyed by the rapid growth in population.

For example, they were able to assist in the restoration of Kaahumanu Church by furnishing the means to remove a diseased monkey pod tree and by spraying the others on the grounds which are a part of the beauty of this church. Hale Hoikeiki needed help also with its grounds. Keanae School wished to have more trees for its students to plant and care for, especially fruit trees. Baldwin Avenue is now getting much needed attention to the shower trees planted long ago by Mrs. H. A. Baldwin.

Recently, the Director of State Highways has listened to a request to improve the maintenance of both Kaahumanu Avenue and Hana Highway in the Kahului area. Businesses on these two streets have been encouraged to clean up and landscape their frontage. A County parking area was planted. Recycling of newspaper, aluminum and tin cans, and some beer bottles that was started over two years ago has todate paid out more than \$60,000.00 for trash that might otherwise have littered parks and highways. A survey of exceptional trees is in progress for Maui, Lanai and Molokai.

\* Perhaps, however, the greatest contribution to preservation has been its help to the Maui Zoological and Botanical Gardens located between Wailuku and Kahului.

Around the Zoo, A Botanic Garden, dedicated to the display of endemic and indigenous plants, many of which are threatened with extinction, has been developed by a man of Hawaiian ancestry, Rene Sylva, who has spent the past three years collecting rare and endangered plants. The garden has become a place to which Botanists, students of Botany, well known scientists of the plant world not only of Hawaii but of the Mainland, as well as tourists to Maui, have come to see these native species. It has been said that it is the one place at which one can find over 200 species of native Hawaiian plants all together without having to climb mountains to find them!

The Circle's interest in this garden has made possible a concrete walkway from which to view the plants in a new section recently established. It has assisted in the creation of a Hibiscus Garden of rare native species arranged by Sylva in round beds each encased in various types of rock found on the island. It has provided material for signs to identify the various plants. It is a garden well worthwhile visiting when one comes to Maui - a master work of preservation.

Helen Toms  
June 1979

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"SOUTHPACOM," NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE: 26-20-00

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

POST BOX D.5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NEW CALEDONIA

In reply, please quote PUB 2/4

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:  
"SOUTHPACOM," NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE : 26-20-00

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE D.5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

14 June 1979

Dr Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu  
HAWAII 96791, U.S.A.

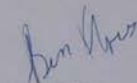
Dear Dr Degener,

Thank you for your letter of 30 May 1979. I am sure that the Volkermuseum in Berlin will much appreciate your celebrating your 80th birthday by donating to them your copy of the SPC Handbook Handicrafts of the South Seas.

At your request, I am sending a sample copy to the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, noting that one of the main purposes of this handbook is to facilitate purchase, by museums and others interested, of the handicrafts of the Pacific. By copy of this letter, I am letting the Museum know also that further copies of the handbook itself may be purchased from the South Pacific Commission.

I join you in hoping that the handbook will help the Museums to build up their already impressive collection of currently available artefacts, and look forward to receiving further news of your activities.

Yours sincerely,



Bess Flores  
Librarian

BF/mc

P.S. Many thanks for the note about Mrs Marshall Lovett. I believe that the Lovett family, which has now spread to America and Australia, came from the Channel Islands. There were Lovetts in Massachusetts in the late C18-19, connected with the shipping trade.

cc. The Naturhistorisches Museum  
Burgring 7, A1014  
VIENNA, Austria

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH  
OVERSIGHT

CECIL "CEC" HEFTTEL  
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2726

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
391 ALA MOANA DRIVE, 4TH FLOOR  
PERM 4104  
P.O. Box 50143  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850  
(808) 546-9292

June 13, 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Otto:

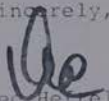
Mahalo for forwarding a copy of the letter from the German botanists, and the copy of your postage stamp. I am sure it is heartwarming for you to know that your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you also for your kind support of our legislative efforts. I, too, realize that one important natural resource in Hawaii is our rare and beautiful plant life. Your quotation of Dr. D. Herbst, however, put the value of preserving rare plants in a new and intriguing light. The importance of protecting these "international treasures," as you so aptly put it, is key not only in terms of sustaining the tourist industry, and our way of life in general, but is also important in terms of future experimentation, and the progress that could result from it.

You may be assured that I will continue my efforts towards preserving the plant life that we all value so highly. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

With best wishes and aloha,

Sincerely,

  
Cec Hefttel  
Member of Congress

CH:kmf



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

11.vi.79.

Hier sind einige Anregungen für einen eventuellen Artikel bei der Dame für die Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

ul

Wie bekannt, sind die hawaiischen Inseln vulkanischen Ursprunges. Vulkanismus ist jetzt auf die Insel Hawaii beschränkt. Kontinentale Pflanzen, die ursprünglich die Lavawästen besiedelten kamen, vielleicht bereits wahrscheinlich schon vor 25,000,000 Jahren, per Wind; per Wasser; und per Zufalls-transport, entweder auf den Federn und Beinen oder in ihren Darm. Die isolierte Lage der Inseln und andere ökologischen Bedingungen förderten die Entwicklung einer endemischen Flora und Fauna. Diese hatten wenig Widerstandsfähigkeit um sich gegen Parasiten, Pflanzenkrankheiten und exotische Eindringlinge behaupten zu müssen.

Die Zerstörung der hawaiischen Flora und Fauna begann als Polynesier vor ein paar tausend Jahren die Inseln entdeckten, und sich mit ihren Tieren wie Hunde, Schweine und Hühnern ansiedelten. Auch unerwünschte Polynesischen Ratten wurden von ihnen eingeschleppt, wahrscheinlich in Haufen von Kokosnüssen im Doppelkanus verborgen. Schweine verwilderten bald und, nicht nur frassen die Pflanzen, sondern zerstörten die Wurzeln mit ihren Wühlen. Die Ratten frassen Früchte und Samen. Die Polynesier, nach mehreren Generationen Hawaier geworden, vernichteten viele Endemiten mit ihrem Ackerbau von Zuckerrübe, Taro, Bananen, Brotfruchtbäume und anderen Nutzpflanzen. Sie machten auch Feuer welches viele grosse Strecken zerstörte. So ist die hawaiische Flora von ungefähr 100,000 Taxa Phanerogamen (Blütenpflanzen) etwa zur Hälfte in paar tausend Jahren vernichtet worden.

In 1778 mit Cook's Besuch wurden die Inseln für Europäer und Asiaten geöffnet. Heute, nach nur 200 Jahren, sind vielleicht nur 30,000 Taxa übrig geblieben, viele nicht einmal von den weissen Botanikern flüchtig studiert! Einige Gründe für das beschleunigte Aussterben sind: Ackerbau; Viehzucht; eingeführte Unkräuter und Gartenpflanzen die, wie z.B., Lantana, verwilderten; schädliche Insekten, Pflanzenkrankheiten; eingeführte Ziegen, Rehe, Schafe, Rindfleisch, und auf der westlichen Hälfte der Insel Molokai, sogar eine Menagerie afrikanischer Tiere so wie Giraffen!

Die verbleibende endemische Flora hat wenig Zukunft mehr. Jetzt fallen die Urwälder den Bulldozer zum Opfer, für das Pflanzen von Eucalyptusbäume und Kiefern für Export nach dem Orient für Papier und Pappe; und Baumfarne werden in der Orchideenindustrie verbraucht.

Versuche diesen Holokaust zu verhindern hat bis jetzt nur wenig geholfen. Aber immer mehr Einwohner der Inseln werden Idealisten, und viele wegen der Überzeugung dass die Touristenindustrie leiden würde, hilft. Um die Touristendollar an zu locken müssen die hawaiischen Inseln hawaiisch bleiben mit der ursprünglichen Flora und Fauna so intakt wie möglich.

Aloha O.. & I. D.



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

June 11, 1980.

Dear Miss Mosher:

Please rush me 10 boxes of 24 copies to

and

10 boxes of 24 copies to

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Dr. Isa Degener  
RR Nr. 1, Box 89  
Weilau, Oahu  
Hawaii, U.S.A. 96791

By "rush," I don't mean by first class mail. I have only two boxes of books remaining.

I am off schedule with completion of the new edition of the book because of that last chapter on the silverword. Why not print the 480 copies from the present page proof you have on hand and just attach the old Chapter of the ss to it? If you feel ashamed delete reference to BB as the printer. It does not matter if some errors in this 480 order may occur as the books will be used in class, and the students will most likely throw their grimy copies away after their final examination. I really prefer this new version to ~~re~~ reprinting the archaic one over again.

My tardiness is due to illness culminating in five days hospitalization. But now I have a new, smaller heart pacemaker, and am again unusually active for a man of 61+.

But, anyway, I may not live long enough to die of heart failure: Sunday, Mrs. Degener & I stopped at a near-by dead end street to give our dogs a run and to botanize a little when someone shot twice in our direction. As we heard no hunting dogs, we suspect it was an illicit marijuana grower warning us to leave. We did. This illegal industry is now more important than growing sugarcane!

You have the page proofs probably 99% correct. Please just add the ss chapter and go to press. By this time you yourself are an expert on our National Parks. Don't feel so modest. We need the new 1980 <sup>call</sup> copyright notice.

In Ann Arbor I guess death <sup>call</sup> be via a violent auto. Here, instead of dying comfortably in bed, I may die with my boots on, a bulging plant press and a bullet in some vital spot of my anatomy.

Cheer up; life is interesting & full of surprises,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

P.S. Mrs. D., & I will work over one of these 480 copies at our ease, and order a new edition of several 1,000 copies IF we are still alive & printing prices don't go sky high.

DANIEL K. INOUE  
HAWAII

PRINCE KUHIO FEDERAL BUILDING  
ROOM 8104, 300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850  
(808) 546-7350

## United States Senate

ROOM 105, RUSSELL SENATE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3934

June 11, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

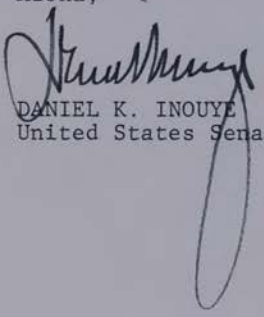
Thank you very much for sharing with me your communication from Germany.

As you know, I am also much concerned about protecting the remaining endemic plants of Hawaii. I am presently involved in ensuring that the approximately 900 Hawaiian plants proposed as endangered species are adequately protected under the Endangered Species Act.

I have not received further information regarding the harvesting of Hapu'u in the forests of the Big Island. However, please be assured that I will contact you as soon as I receive further information.

I am most appreciative of all you and your wife have done. Thank you once again for taking the time to share with me your further views on the protection of Hawaii's endemic plants.

Aloha, ^



DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

DKI:vqbf

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

June 8, 1979.

Dear Mr. Krauss:

Mrs. Degener & I wish to congratulate ~~you~~ you for your interesting Advertiser article about the details you give regarding our new Hawaii postage stamp. There are some errors and omissions to which we wish to draw your attention.

We are ready to distribute 100 or more xeroxes of your article to over 75 botanical institutions of the world, and to a sprinkling of botanists, conservationists and interested customers of our books.

Before we distribute in envelopes rushed to their destinations by the Hawaii endemic stamp, we hope you will publish a second article which we can then include in the same envelope. Do let us know if your Editor can oblige us daily readers. Should such a plan be inconvenient, we shall be glad to write our own review of your article for publication in the International Magazine Phytologia.

The admirable facts in your article we need not enumerate. We want you to know that our Flora Hawaiiensis does NOT state that the species was recently rediscovered growing on the slopes of Mauna Loa. That is too bad for our readers. But with a loose-leaf format this sheet can be reprinted to get it up-to-date. Now for our comments:

1. The institutions to which your articles (or the present one from you & one from Mrs D., & me) go to institutions on enclosed list.
2. That a "botanist had to fly all the way from Hawaii to Washington to tell the artist in the postage stamp factory how to draw the plant" is pure bunk. The drawing, by the way, is atrocious. We Degeners & Dr. Gunn, Federal seed specialist in Washington, illustrated the plant in our Flora Hawaiiensis as early as June 10, 1970! Just compare our flower, drawn natural size, with the mess on the stamp.
3. How stupid can we get? According to "Standardized Plant Names" published by Kelsey & Dayton of Washington, D.C. (I met the latter at the Smithsonian many years ago), over 50 Vicia kinds (to which our endemic belongs) are commonly known as "vetch." Who blundered to pick out the lolo name "bore~~a~~bean" for the stamp just because one single kind of vetch has that name? If you will look at our drawing of June 10, 1970, you will see the bean is rather slender.
4. This vetch was described & named correctly by Sprengel in 1826, and mentioned in print by Asa Gray in 1854, Horace Mann Jr., in 1866, Hillebrand in 1888, MacGaughey in 1917, Rock in 1920, Scottsney in 1931, Selling in 1947, and by us Degeners & Gunn in 1970. Why pick out Forbes and omit all others?
5. Our illustrated description, published in our Flora Haw., in an edition of 1,500, has been in the public domain since June 10, 1970. A hundred copies were distributed to leading bot. institutions of the world. A bundle of such fascicles containing the sheet has been available from us for \$10 since that date. Your article should not have been so conspicuous in ignoring our publication, which is the most complete as to drawing & text to date.
6. That the plant "is probably the most endangered species in Hawaii" is ... Our flora is relatively unknown as statistics show. Please read enclosed "Appraisal of Hawaiian Taxonomy" enclosed. A couple of thousand species are more or less endangered similar to the vetch.

Being subscribers to the Advertiser, we hope to read your second article about the "Endemic Hawaii Vetch". It is endemic to the Island of Hawaii only. (Were it found on the other islands as well, its proper name would be the "Endemic Hawaiian Vetch".) We hope you will have space to print our illustration, giving credit where credit is due.

As you are not a botanist & are probably bored to death about Vicia, please mail this literature to an eleemosynary institution, and get a tax credit for yourself. We consider our time spent of some value as "work." All bot. correspondence gets entered in the archive of the Bot. Garden in New York & ...

*Dr. Otto & Isa Degener*



# A native Hawaiian plant you'll see in mail, but not in ground

HONOLULU ADVERTISER Friday, June 8, 1979 A

This story is for everybody who ever heard of the Hawaiian plant in the new 15-cent postage stamp which goes on sale today.

The plant is called *vicia menziesii* or, in street language, the Hawaiian broad bean.

It's so rare that there isn't even a Hawaiian name for it. There are so few of them that the plant was not seen by a human being between the early 1900s and 1972.

A botanist had to fly all the way from Hawaii to Washington to tell the artist in the postage stamp factory how to draw the plant.

So what is such an insignificant and little-known weed doing on a postage stamp?

"The series (of stamps) features endangered species of plants," said Charles Lamoureux, botany professor at the University of Hawaii.

This is probably the most endangered species in Hawaii. The other one grows on the Mainland.

*Vicia Menziesii* was found by naturalist Archibald Menzies, who accompanied Capt. George Vancouver to Hawaii in 1793. The plant was seen only three times in the 19th century.

Early in this century, it was described by Forbes and there was not seen again until 1972 when Wayne Sagne, a Bishop Museum botanist, and Mae Mull, of the Audubon Society, found it.

There is nothing in the traditional Hawaiian literature about the plant and we have no Hawaiian name for it. This suggests it was fairly rare back when.

Lamoureux said the plant is, found



bob krauss

Advertiser columnist

only in the Kilauea Forest area on the Big Island. It was the first plant from Hawaii accepted on the endangered species list.

He said it is a vine that grows into trees on the slopes of Mauna Loa in altitudes of 5,200 to 5,400 feet. The plant has purplish flowers like sweet peas and is quite showy.

*Vicia menziesii* is so little-known that the designer of the postage stamp didn't know how to draw it.

"He was working with a dried specimen from the Smithsonian Institution and photos which I had sent them some time ago," said Lamoureux.

"The photos I had sent emphasized the flowers. They wanted to show the leaves so they wrote here. I had to go to Washington anyway. I took back photos taken by Rick Warshawer and Lisa Croft and myself.

Two other botanists and I spent some time with the designer to explain what was wrong in the original drawing.

"With all of that advice and all those pictures, the designer may or may not have gotten something that looks like the plant. I'm keeping my fingers crossed until I see the stamp."



HAWAIIAN WILD BROADBEAN

284

PHYTOLOGIA

Vol. 37, no. 1

trict of Hawaii. Even a lay person knows that a planting of Eucalyptus and pines, with their fallen, resinous leaves and needles, produces a surrounding area devoid of a healthy undergrowth of native plants. Today, a casual hiker's flight by helicopter above 5,000 feet ground level will disclose numerous, extensive bulldozed and clear-cut areas in midst of the remnant native forests where specific endemic were flourishing in small circumscribed ecological niches. Trees even now are being harvested as "wood chips for pulp or fuel," and thus sold to countries in the Orient via foreign bottoms - we now lack a merchant marine - which wisely prefer to sacrifice our forests to their own. What ferocious, uneducated Islanders we must be in contrast to refined, intelligent Mainlanders who want so far - too far I believe - to hold up the construction along the St. John River of the one and three tenths billion (\$1,300,000,000) Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric project because the last known station of the Pushback lawsuit, an endangered Maine snail, was in jeopardy!

With the imminent decline of the eucalyptus and pineapple plantations, there is room for a lumber industry on abandoned "sawm" and "pine" lands at lower elevations. This is especially convincing since August 1977 when local newspapers admonished us to reduce our water usage voluntarily 10% or it shall become mandatory. I find no logic for wiping out our remaining superb native watered forests with their endemic biota as has been done, for example, on the privately owned, once-fascinating island of Lanai by helicopter parallel strips through it and planting rows of exotic Eucalyptus! Expressed differently, it is replacement of a verdant, biologically almost unknown forest that is far more valuable intellectually than the entire surface of moon and mare with a monotonous stand of "weed trees" with no more interest to man than how many boardfeet or tons of woodchips they will produce in 30-60 years.

The above complaint is like futile howling in the wilderness. We should be realistic and learn from history: just as drunken oracles during prohibition days were not ended by the Volstead Act, so an iconvinced conservation laws and regulations will not prevent the imminent extermination of most Hawaiian endemics by illicit or legal industries. This annihilation being inevitable by illicit or legal means, botanists - and zoologists should emulate them - of the world should at least preserve Hawaiian specimens NOW to add to museum collections where they can be studied by appreciative future generations.

In summary, I implore colleagues to coope,

HELP

SAVE THE ENDANGERED FLORA OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS AT LEAST AS HERBARIUM SPECIMENS FOR MUSEUMS OF THE WORLD



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOUNDATION

HAWAII HALL 6

2500 CAMPUS ROAD

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

June 9, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your letter of May 29. I, too, enjoyed meeting with you and Mrs. Degener, and I understand your decision not to change your estate plans. If, at some time in the future, you and Mrs. Degener would like to explore further the possibility of utilizing the University of Hawaii Foundation to establish the Otto and Isa Degener Professorship, I would be delighted to work with you.

Neither the University nor the Foundation are, at this time, able to purchase your Manoa property for the price you are asking. With respect to your Manoa property, I think you should seriously consider establishing a charitable remainder annuity or unitrust. Because you ultimately intend to leave your estates to a charitable organization to perpetuate your work and because your Manoa property has highly appreciated and is under-productive, the advantages of such a trust to you could be significant. If you were to sell the property, you would incur a substantial gain. If a trustee were to sell the property, there would be no capital gains tax. All of the property would remain in the trust to provide you and Mrs. Degener and her mother with an income for life. You would enjoy a charitable deduction for the value of the charitable remainder. This deduction on your income tax returns could be used to the maximum extent permitted by law in the year of the gift, with the unused charitable deduction carried forward for an additional five years. Needless to add, if you consider such a possibility, you should seek your own tax counsel.

Best wishes for the summer. Hope we have the opportunity to talk again.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Meier  
Director of Development

DCM:ith



I just feel in the mood to waste your time & mine with the present effusion - perhaps it is good for mental health. I must wait until it is time to walk to the post-office - good for physical health & I do pick up endemic mosses, lichens & rants along the way. When back, I shall tackle the genus *Argyroxiphium* seriously. We have some excellent photos which we want for Fl. Haw., sheets just as soon as we can finance the printing. My INFLATED hospitalization bill came to \$5,000, and we do not yet know how much of this HNSA, etc., will absorb. You don't realize how valuable I am. Weighing about 175 lbs., that means I should be worth about \$30 per lb., on the hoof.

I suppose you know that New York & St. Louis, as of this date, are to be involved with a third, local group, hopefully the "Degeners' Flora Hawaiiensis Trust," in furthering the production of our Fl. Haw., now struggling along in the seventh BOOK (two-thirds completed).

The University of Haw. Foundation, through their present impeccable Donald Mair, has broached us with apparently good suggestions for which we feel we are not yet prepared. Moreover, we thought it might be wise for your business office to have a xerox copy of this letter overleaf in your "Degener file" in case of some unlikely common disaster to Isa & me. New York's & St. Louis' business experts might contemplate some of Mr. Mair's suggestions.

Incidentally, we are not interested in establishing a Degener Professorship nor having our assets used to construct a building or finance the purchase of herb. cabinets. We are interested pure & simple in our Fl. Hawaiiensis (including Fl. Hawaiiana) more or less in the form already begun. We expect it NEVER to be completed as it is to include members of the entire Plant Kingdom as found, native and exotic, in this archipelago.

Isa & I have been residents of the Haw. Islands a total of about 80 years, and have learned to lack confidence in many of the humans & their institutions here. Museum Director & Univ. President conspired to prevent my writing a local Flora on my own time & funds in 1927 - I have had tachycardia since 1928! Nevertheless, I deposited thousands of dollars worth of Haw., & Fiji herb., specimens at the museum, & in too many cases lack access to them; it just happens that "some one is monographing the group." The late Amy Greenwell, who worked on Book 5 with me in New York, bequeathed her home and cash to the museum for study & display of aboriginal cultigens. A former Director, according to a surviving relative, tried to break the Will. Would you trust such an institution with a bequest? By the way, this museum was established during the last Century, and was not accredited by the Assn., of Museums until about ten years ago. The University, on the other hand, to this day has plagiarized my pot-boiler Plants Haw. Nat. Parks quite a bit, reducing my income on sale of my copies. A Pennsylvania expert in such matters, considered the printing plagiarized, maintaining that mention of me & title in the Bibliography is not sufficient to cancel the accusation. Isa & I are too old & busy to fight, but it would be the duty of the Trustee to protect the assets, and probably get things untangled in Court. The Univ., sells the copy for \$5.00 and, being used in class, has a captive audience of hundreds.

The bottleneck, as we see it, is that the local Foundation can charge an unspecified amount for extra services. Should an unscrupulous Trustee in some decades hence or a Century from now get control, why can't he milk the Trust dry? I know as I am a Trustee of three bequests of a late brother and the beneficiary of one established by my father in 1916. Trustees are just about all-powerful without adequate check. This last in which I am beneficiary has just about been milked dry. By the way, the concern that set it up had as associates famous Nixon & Mitchell. Though the Trustee got the 6% fee annually established to attend to piffing routine work, he charged beneficiaries for booking and attorney fees on top of it all. Isa & I own three valuable fee simple properties. The one at the beach will have multimillion dollar value as a second Waikiki hotel site. It must NEVER be sold, but only leased as it is the financial nest egg for our Trust. An unscrupulous Foundation or Trust officer might with at-



HELEN S. BALDWIN  
435-C WAIANUENUE AVE.  
HILO, HAWAII 96720

Dear Isa and Otto,

That was such a nice dinner  
and get together with congenial  
people I had at your home  
the other evening. Thank you  
for inviting me. It was a  
treat to keep in my memories.

Enclosed also is the section of  
Phytologia which you sent me  
long ago and which you may  
want to send to other people.

I made a xerox copy of it.

Have a wonderful trip with  
happy landings and good fellowship  
all the way and back again.

Makalo and Aloha  
Helen S. Baldwin

SPARK M. MATSUNAGA  
HAWAII

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
362 RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

HONOLULU OFFICE:  
3104 PRINCE KUHIO BUILDING  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 7, 1979

CHIEF DEPUTY  
MAJORITY WHIP

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TOURISM AND SUGAR  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMBER:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener:

Re: Endangered Species

Receipt of your recent communication  
addressed to Senator Spark Matsunaga is  
hereby acknowledged.

Please be assured that it will be  
brought to the Senator's attention at the  
earliest possible moment.

Yours Truly,

*Cmatano*

C. Matano (Ms.)  
Administrative Assistant  
to Senator Matsunaga

5 Juni 1979.

Sehr geehrter Herr Zepernick:

Wir haben Ihren liebenswürdigen Brief erhalten und danken Ihnen und Ihren Kollegen herzlichst für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit. Das künstlerisch ausgeführte Glückwunschsreiben und der Umschlag mit seltenen Briefmarken beklebt, haben uns sehr erfreut. Heute erhielten wir vom Berliner Museum eine zweiten Glückwunsch der auch so schön ausgeführt war.

Es wäre nett nach Berlin zur 300-Jahr-Feier zu reisen, aber es ist im Moment für mich zu anstrengend.

Die Bibliotheken von Hunt, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania und von New York Botanischen Garten haben Archive an der wir unsere Briefe und Manuskripte zur Aufbewahrung senden. Ich erinnere mich, dass die Hunt Bibliothek überglücklich war zwischen den Papieren vom verstorbenen J.F. Rock, die sie erworben hatten, seinen alten Reisepass zu finden. Dadurch konnten die Daten seiner Orientreisen genau festgestellt werden. Sogar Weihnachtskarten von Botanikern können von Nutzen sein weil Aufenthaltsorte und Daten daraus hervorgehn.

Fals der Artikel über die endemischen Flora und Fauna von Hawaii in der Frankfurter Zeitung erscheinend sollte, seien Sie doch bitte so freundlich und senden uns eine Kopie davon. Wir werden den Artikel ins Englische übersetzen und den hiesigen Zeitungen geben. Es würde den Lesern in Hawaii zeigen dass Pflanzen die Leute und ihr Vieh nicht essen oder fressen können ideellen wert haben. Durchschnittlich ist unsere Bevölkerung mehr praktisch als intellektuell geneigt. Die Touristenindustrie kann das verbessern.

Aloha nui loa,

Otto Segeuer





*Kala Degener*

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

June 4, 1979.

Dear Librarian:

After the Int. Bot. Congress met in Edinburgh some years ago, Mrs. Degener & I were most interested to visit your Library in Burlington House.

I have been working toward a Flora Hawaiiensis ever since I visited the Hawaiian Islands in 1922. Mrs Degener & I are now working on Book 7 of this series. Many of the plants collected for this study have been deposited as a gift at Kew.

We are confused regarding the status of a native lycopod locally known as "Lycopodium cernuum L.". We are further perplexed that Linnaeus in Sp. Pl. 2: 1103. 1753, cites "Habitat in Indiis." It is annoying that H. Nessel in his "Die Barlappgewächse," P. 353. 1939, states that "Der Typ ist Afrika heimisch."

Of course, here in the Hawaiian Islands we are ~~are~~ handicapped for lack of herbaria and literature. Nevertheless, we wish to try to untangle the status of our local taxon, taking advantage of the kindness of Dr. A. Löve of California to help us.

Have you Linnaeus' type of L. cernuum? If so, can you mail me a photo of the sheet? Please let me know the charge.

Aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

Original  
Copy  
to L. Society  
of London  
In love:  
When visiting  
us again, you  
might return this  
to our record  
P.D.

Jardin Botanique National de Belgique

Domaine de Bouchout  
B.-1860 MEISE (Belgique)

Le 2 Juin 1980

SP/03413

Le Jardin Botanique National de Belgique a l'honneur d'accuser réception de 1 colis contenant 15 spécimens d'herbier que vous avez bien voulu lui envoyer :

~~prêt n°~~ ~~retour de prêt n°~~

~~échange - don pour détermination~~

~~et vous en remercie vivement.~~

A Monsieur Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
VOLCANO, HAWAII  
96785 U.S.A.

LE CHEF DU DEPARTEMENT  
SPERMATOPHYTES-PTERIDOPHYTES,

*André Lavalrie*

14 spécimens d'herbier spermatophytes  
1 " " bryophytes  
Coll. Otto Degener.

**Nationale Plantentuin van België**

Domein van Bouchout  
B-1860 MEISE (België)

De Directie van de Nationale Plantentuin van België heeft de eer U de goede ontvangst te melden van de door U verstuurde zending:

\_\_\_\_\_ bevattend \_\_\_\_\_

lening Nr \_\_\_\_\_ terugkeer Nr \_\_\_\_\_

uitwisseling - gift ter determinatie.

Zij dankt er U oprecht om.

HET DEPARTEMENTSHOOFD  
SPERMATOFYTEN-PTERIDOFYTEN.

De \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Aan \_\_\_\_\_

From Moore, A.W. Hoffmann's *Hainatochare*, translation and commentary. *Haw. Journ. Hist.* 12:1-27. 1978. "Hoffmann met Chamisso in the fall of 1814 when the former returned to Berlin to resume his legal career which had been disrupted by the Napoleonic Wars. In a group of intellectuals and artists they collaborated on literary projects until Chamisso left on the Rurik expedition in 1815. They resumed their companionship in Berlin in November 1818.

While Chamisso was on the Rurik expedition he spent several weeks in Hawaii (November 21 to December 14, 1816 and September 27 to Oct. 14, 1817) but his sojourns never stimulated him to write any fiction about Hawaii or to include a Hawaiian theme in his poetry.<sup>5</sup> Immediately after his return from the voyage, however, he completed a series of scientific essays which were incorporated as *Bemerkungen und Ansichten*<sup>6</sup> (Remarks and Opinions) in the official Rurik expedition report by Otto von Kotzebue and published in 1821.

Chamisso entertained his circle of friends, Hoffmann among them, with personal impressions from his voyage, and the extent of his conversation can be estimated from his Tagebuch (Journal) which, however, was not published until 1836.<sup>8</sup> Hoffmann, easily stimulated, but factually oriented and thorough in his background research, was intrigued by what he heard from Chamisso and he began to create a fictional voyage of his own. For this work he made use of Chamisso's documentation, including the botanical and ethnographic collections which he had brought back from the expedition. Chamisso had also just acquired the works of several explorers and scientists: - - -

Within a few weeks after Chamisso's arrival in Berlin, Hoffmann had worked out a plan for a new tale and in February, 1819, he sent an outline to Chamisso about the opusculum which was to become *Hainatochare*. He also requested numerous details: - - - ((P. 15))

Hoffmann's other scientist is named after the botanist on the Vancouver expedition to Hawaii, Archibald Menzies, who did extensive research in the islands and reputedly had a "passion for plants." Chamisso had an opportunity to inspect Menzies' collections in London during the layover of the returning Rurik in the summer of 1818 and he wrote about him as follows:

Archibald Menzies, the scientist on the Vancouver expedition made various botanical excursions onto the mountains of Waikiki and Maui (Hawaii and Maui). His collections are, together with many other treasures, still buried in Banks' (Sir Joseph Banks') herbarium. P. 17. Whether this selection of names was decided on by Hoffmann and/or Chamisso is hard to say - for Chamisso, it was undoubtedly a matter of respect, especially in regard to Kanehameha. "I am proud to have had the honor of a handshake with three of the great men of the past era - Kanehameha, Sir Joseph Banks and Lafayette", wrote Chamisso. P. 19.

Chamisso's Tagebuch gives an insight into the existence of scientists who went on expeditions to the Pacific and it also sheds light on the genesis of the rivalry theme in Hoffmann's *Hainatochare*. First Chamisso introduces his two colleagues separately and then he contrasts them, indicating the deteriorating morale on board.

"In Copenhagen I reported to the captain aboard the Rurik on August 9, 1815. Along with me came Lieutenant Wormskjold and he too was accepted by Captain von Kotzebue, apparently because von Kotzebue noticed the great harmony which prevailed between Wormskjold and myself.<sup>13</sup> On board also was Ivan Ivanovich Eschscholtz, the ship's surgeon who was likewise a naturalist and entomologist. He was a young doctor from Dorpat, somewhat reserved but noble and as good as gold.<sup>14</sup> Eschscholtz and I were able to study, make observations and gather new specimens in complete harmony. There was always an open exchange of materials and ideas between us. As soon as one had made a discovery he would call the other to witness and to share. I have to say that it was different with Wormskjold. He preferred, as it is frequently the case among scientists, a state of envious rivalry to the cooperative relationship which I had suggested to him and which prevailed between Eschscholtz and myself. Nothing resembling the catastrophe depicted in *Hainatochare* befell the rivaling scientists on the Rurik, but Chamisso was frustrated by the mere presence of Wormskjold. 'I remember looking into the desolate bare rocks of Staaten Island (near Cape Horn) and almost wished to be taken in a little boat away from the Rurik and abandoned in that wintry isolation just to be relieved of his (Wormskjold's) torturing presence.<sup>15</sup> Fortunately, Wormskjold left the expedition - - - before the Rurik headed for Hawaii. P. 16

Chamisso did not mind telling anecdotes which showed his own shortcomings and errors, and Hoffmann apparently utilized one of them for his work. - - - Chamisso had been searching through the 'fertile valley between Mana-ruru' for rare botanical specimens. Fortunately for Chamisso, his 'rare find' which turned out to be experimentally planted rice, deflated



only temporarily his professional pride and did not lead to a fatal duel, as in 'Men-  
zies'' case. The seedlings which Chaisso had mistaken for some Hawaiian herb and pluck-  
ed up for his collection belonged to the man from whom he expected enthusiasm for his  
unusual discovery, Don Francisco de Paula Marin, a gentleman-agriculturist who forgave  
Chaisso, but did not forget the incident.<sup>39</sup> P.22



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

MEMORANDUM

2341 Kalanianaʻole St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Drs. Otto and Ida Degener,

I was very flattered and happy  
to receive these precious orders of  
Argemone hawaiiensis. She follows  
your germination directions to a "+"  
and will plant them in a month.

I certainly hope they grow.  
I have not had the time to look  
up the Phytologia journal, but will  
do so as soon as I have some  
free time.

The silverswords and greenswords  
are probably the most unique plants  
in Hawaii and I'm glad to hear  
that efforts have been made in Maui

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

MEMORANDUM

to protect them from feral animals and  
leaf collectors.

We are presently interviewing the  
like sponsored workers who will help  
us with our grounds development.  
I'm pleased to find that many of  
them are studying horticulture, botany,  
or are interested in agriculture.  
I will let you know how the  
achenes do.

Thank you again for your  
generosity.

Sincerely,

Howard G. Zohary

Death certificate  
of Dr. Roy E. Torrey,  
University of Mass.



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



CONSERVATOIRE  
ET  
JARDIN BOTANQUES  
ROUTE DE LAUSANNE 192

HERBIERS BOISSIER, DE CANDOLLE  
ET DELESSERT RÉUNIS

DIR.: PROF. JACQUES MIÈGE

GENÈVE, le 30 mai 1979.

Mr. le Dr. Otto DEGENER  
68 - 617 Crozier Drive  
WAIALUA  
Hawaii 96791  
USA.

Sir,

*We have received the materiel listed below and we much appreciate  
including them in our herbarium where they will constitute a valuable  
addition.*

*Please accept our most grateful thanks.*

12 spécimens d'Hawaii

*pour* The Director:

*H. B. G. H. G.*

May 1979

Kapaio, Vol. 39(11)

Hawaii Conservationist Honored

141

## HAWAII CONSERVATIONIST HONORED

## ENDANGERED SPECIES WORKSHOP

Dr. Otto Degener was commended by the Hawaii State Senate in a resolution adopted on March 22, 1979 for his outstanding service to Hawaii over five and one-half decades as a botanist, author and conservationist. The resolution was introduced by Senator John S. Carroll and signed by 23 senators.

Among Dr. Degener's signal contributions, the resolution points out the following:

"Dr. Degener's many works, including *Plants of Hawaii National Park* and the seven-volume *Flora Hawaiiensis*, comprise an unparalleled collection of information on plant life in Hawaii, and stand as a remarkable resource in itself to students, teachers, scientists, and laymen alike, both locally and world-wide. . .

"Dr. Degener has been an inspiration to countless others in teaching the values of native ecosystems, in encouraging study of Hawaiian plants, and in recruiting new workers for protection of native wildlife and plants. . .

"Dr. Degener stood alone for most of the past fifty years as a voice in the wilderness, steadily appealing year after year for recognition of Hawaii's botanical wonders and conservation of their habitats, having no peer in his unshakable, deep commitment to Hawaii's natural environment. . .

"Dr. Degener has been tireless in his forthright, fearless efforts to educate and influence government officials, developers, journalists, other conservationists, and the general public to seek protection of native habitats from the bulldozer, feral mammals, introduced game, and introduced weeds that naturalize in our native forests. . .

"All of us who care about the natural beauty and special qualities of these islands that set Hawaii apart in the work of nature owe a bottomline debt of gratitude to Dr. Degener for his lifetime perseverance in relating humankind to the natural environment upon which we ultimately depend for survival as a species. . ."

Otto Degener was a charter member of the Hawaii Audubon Society at its beginning in 1939 and a long-time friend of George C. Munro, co-founder of the Society.

As many readers will know from their publications, for the last 25 years Drs. Otto and Isa Degener have worked together as a team of botanists in both research and writing. Congratulations and aloha!

Mae E. Mull  
Island of Hawaii Representative

Hello, dear Otto and Isa,  
If you've already seen these sheets, perhaps  
you can use them as file copies. Just make  
sure you had them, will be glad to see  
you back in UH campus later in June.  
Aloha,  
Mae

5/29/79



*Copy to same  
H. S. Gentry*

It is unfortunate that most residents of Haw. Isl are not aware that the more intellectual (not "smart") people of the World realize that our native Hawaiian flora is being exterminated. By many of such foreigners we are thought of as somewhat primitive South Seas Islanders.

In & about Germany people know about us mainly because of,

1. Chamisso's (Russian ship *Rurik*) collections (1816-'17) now deposited in Leningrad (where we saw them in 1975 at the Int. Bot. Congress), and from his writings about Haw., in German.
2. Meyen's visit here in 1831, and his writings about the Haw., flora in German. An excellent book for its time, BUT who could read German in the Islands at that time?
3. Willebrand's collections (1851-'71) and his excellent "Flora of the Haw. Islands" now on sale in a new edition. It was printed after his death in 1888 in Germany and PUNNY, in the English language!
4. J.F. Bock's collections in the early 20th Century, and his excellent book on "Indic. Trees Haw. Islands," now on sale in a new edition. He also published other works on Haw., flora until "induced" to leave the Islands by Director Gregory of B.H.
5. Degeners' collections since 1922 and distribution of 300,000 + or - dried Haw., plants to about 75 museums throughout the World. Also their seven books, Still ON Sale, and since 1925 between 400 and 500 scientific articles in publications read more by foreigners than by locals.

The condition regarding the native Haw., flora is so grim that botanists working on Hawaiian plants go to foreign museums (Haw. Tourist Bureau take note). Do you know why? So many are extinct in the wild state and can only be studied as dried mummies properly labeled, pasted on bond paper & filed away in herbarium cabinets somewhat like books on library shelves. Foreigners are thankful to us collectors for at least having saved the plants dry & dead when we could not do so green & alive. Berlin is even awarding me the Willdenow Medal this Sept. Stockholm awarded me the Linné Medal some years back.

For a healthy tourist trade (if for no other reason), we cannot continue to chop-chop, bulldoze and airplane-spray our Islands.

Aloha, C.D.

USA - U.S.A.  
Wailuku, Oahu, Hawaii  
68 617 Crocker Drive  
Drs. Otto & Isa Degeuer  
May 25, 1976.

Dear Dr. Fleming:

Continuing our long distance 'phone conversation, the retired physician who plans to work as a hobby on Haw. fungi is Dr. G.L.H. LeBouvier, P.O. Box 907, Makawao, practically living in your back yard. Isa & I advise you to contact him.

In the '20s & '30s I collected local fungi, mostly rusts & some smuts. These were worked up by Dr. Shear of Washington D.C. and a Dr Petrack (spelling ?) of Vienna. If need be, I can unearth the references.

From Dr. Shear I knew that the present local fungus flora is notorious for its huge naturalized number of taxa coming from all parts of the World. I guess this is due to the minute spores and their easy transport via commerce since Capt. Cook's rediscovery of the Islands. Remember, also, in the earlier days for ballast, ships had earth from the wharf dumped into their holds. Then when in Honolulu or Lahaina, etc, this was thrown overboard or on land, intruding weed seeds, insects, spores etc., galore. Many of course survived to bother us to the present day.

It might be dangerous to produce a book about larger fungi if readers may get confused & foolishly ingest poisonous ones. Identification, as we see it, must be so foolproof, as most people on Oahu & Kauai that even the lolo won't err.

Isa is excited about your kind offer to "tour" Maui for a day under Fleming guidance during an Oahu-Hawaii stop-over. Being the only husband she has, she just feels such a plan a bit too strenuous for an octogenarian. She would prefer staying overnight in the Trimble (?) Hotel in Wailuku, leaving our pets home at the beach for the 48 hours in care of one of our tenants. We would so much like to meet Mr. Rene Sylva, who is a Conservationist of the best type by instinct, and courageously (with too little cooperation) working on a County or State Bot. Garden. Do you & the Voeks know him? We would not be ready for such a trip until Isa's mother leaves for Germany in a month or two. Now widowed, she plans to give up her apt., and take over a house on our property here at the beach. I am so for it. Should I make, die, dead for any reason, the two ladies can be together and not be living alone on opposite sides of the World.

I assume you are still practicing - the World can ill spare you. I wish you were still in the Legislature. Look what your former colleagues did to me! Isa & I are so proud that we xeroxed the document. It is interesting that the Berlin Bot. Garden wrote independently practically the same thing, and are awarding me (via a proxy) during the 300th Anniversary the Willdenow Medal! Funny, I am hardly a German. My mother was Austrian and my father, born in 1844, came to the U.S., via the Orient shortly after the Civil War. With all factories destroyed by the Union Army in the South, he went into the whole sale importing of textiles, with branch offices in London & Paris. That is why I am an Islander, living on Manhattan until I left for college in Mass., in 1918.

Aloha to you two from us two,

Otto Degeuer

Draft, sent N.Y.



*Hale Pōhaku*

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

18 Mai 1979.

Sehr geehrte Kollegen:

Heute erhielt ich zu meiner freudigen Überraschung Ihre so künstlerisch ausgeführte Gratulation zu meinem schtzigsten Geburtstage, Ich möchte Ihnen dafür meinen herzlichsten Dank aussprechen.

Ich bin froh dass ich trotz meines Alters botanisieren und meine Flora Hawaliensis weiter bearbeiten kann.

Ich bedauere aber dass ich nicht nach Berlin zur 300-Jahr Feier kommen kann, und bin Frl. Dr. Eva Potztal sehr zu Dank verbunden dass sie die Willdenow Medaille für mich in Empfang nehmen wird.

Nochmals meinen besten Dank und aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

A. C. Crundwell

Dept. of Botany

The University

Glasgow G12 8QQ

U K

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Dr Otto Degener

Waialua

Oahu

HAWAII 96791

U S A



UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,  
UNIVERSITY AVENUE,  
GLASGOW, G12 8QQ.

Dr Otto Degener  
Waialua  
Oahu  
HAWAII 96791  
U S A

18 May, 1979

Dear Dr Degener

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending  
the specimens which have just arrived.

I wish you every success in your continued  
work for the conservation of the Hawaiian Flora.

Yours sincerely

A. C. Crundwell



[West Palm Beach]  
in envelope

May 18

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thanks once again for the philatelic considerations. They are always most welcome & you hardly need apologize for any lot you may send. A collector never gets too many; duplicates are always useful & sought. I'm a collector, not a dealer or investor.

Father continues to hear regularly from all over the Earth, so my collection steadily benefits from his mail. He took us out to lunch after church today. Bunch of gals from Fla Federation of Garden Clubs coming to see him here Tuesday. So he keeps busy. That's good.

With best wishes,

*E. A. Menninger Jr.*

E. A. MENNINGER JR.  
BOX 1164  
STUART, FLA.  
33494



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Superintendent

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HILO, HAWAII 96720

May 15, 1979

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 1979. Let me assure you that the Hawaii State Library System is not "boycotting" your publication. If anything we are very much aware of your international stature in the scientific community and we recognize your indisputable authority, especially in the field of indigenous Hawaiian plants. Your publications are purchased without hesitation when appropriate for a public library collection. A quick check of the listing of publications enclosed with your letter shows a wide representation in our collection. A more thorough check with Hilo College Library will be concluded to assure our users of the availability of your publication.

The Hawaii Public Library's long-standing policy of purchasing one copy of a Hawaiiana title for the reference collection in the "vault" is to assure having the title available for reference use in the library at all times the library is open. Copies which may be borrowed by the public are purchased simultaneously and/or when copies have been worn out or lost.

Thank you for your interest in our collection and I hope I have assured you of our unhesitating esteem for your valuable contribution to the scientific world.

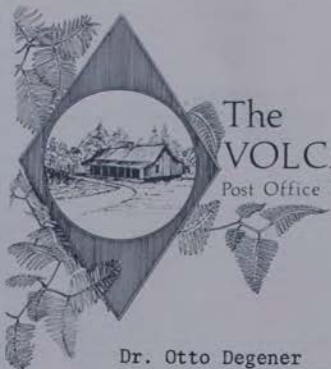
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Emiko H. Nakamae".

(Mrs.) Emiko H. Nakamae, Administrator  
Hawaii Library District

EHN:ii

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



The  
VOLCANO ART CENTER

Post Office Box 318, Volcano, Hawaii, 96785

May 14, 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
Volcano, Hawai'i 96785

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you for sending notification of your recognition by the Hawai'i State Legislature this session. We shall be honored to share that news with the readers of the Volcano Gazette. Congratulations from all of us!

As I approached the pulling together of the Gazette for the summer, I considered the matter of which native plant to focus on this issue. Our intent here, by the way, is to familiarize visitor and resident alike with native (generally endemic) Hawaiian plants - I grew up in the islands and until I moved to Kilauea, I didn't know a single "native" plant!! We hope to do the service of helping everyone come to a closer understanding of this unique and wonderful environment. At any rate, as I struggled over which plant to choose this time, I thought of you. I continually use you as a source for my articles. I thought of all the young artists you must have helped by having them do botanical drawings over the years and of our conversation the other day up at the Center. And I considered that it would be wonderful if you would consider doing a "guest article" on a native plant of your choice. It would integrate wonderfully with an article about your award, in which perhaps I could include something of your background. Those who know, know that you and Isa are pioneers in Volcano, and in the scientific community. I think that would be wonderful to share with the general public.

So do let me know if you would consider writing such an article. I am available at home (967-7512) or at the Center (967-7511). We are working towards the June-July issue, so let me know soon, if possible. Even if you are unable to do an article, I'd love to talk to you so that I can prepare a better article about your Legislative recognition.

Cordially,

*Marsha Anne Morrison*

Marsha Anne Morrison  
Program Director/Gazette Editor

A non-profit locus for the visual and performing arts at the  
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Moku.  
May 18, 1979

Dear Mrs. Morrison:

Your interesting letter of May 14 was forwarded to our Oahu home.

Right now we Degeners are overwhelmed with botanical and other duties: writing an article with A. Löve of San Jose about the wawaiiole, about the kukui with Mr. Woolliams if we have time and attending to rental units to keep us in fish & poi. So, you see, we could not possibly keep your deadline. Anyway, when the house is burning, we should help put out the fire by publishing an article in your Gazette with Mrs. Dixon's help. It would be about the flaming "Red Peril" that threatens to change the color of much of dryish Hawaii and eventually dryish parts of Maui! Mrs. Dixon has already completed the habit sketch of the plant; all that remains to be done is to draw the flower and the RIPE seed magnified about ten times (if you want to reduce the drawing by half). Unripe seeds are not diagnostic.

You have seen this dangerous weed spreading during the last decade along the roadside from around 27 miles into the Park. We even saw it creeping along the Saddle Road a few weeks ago. Such an article with a hundred reprints available to mail to Legislators & others may force action.

By the way, do you know that Artist Joe Dowson, the retired police officer, was my hanai youngster when he was around 14 yrs., old? He lived with me and my boy artists at the beach until I left to explore Fiji for plants. Then I turned him over to his School Principal Uncle George Dowson, who had been my student at the University of Haw., in 1926.

German-Hawaiian artist Fred Kruse of Kauai lived in my Univ. Ave., home in Honolulu as my helper when attending the University. He is the hero who perished trying to save some of his pupils during the tsunami at Laupahoehoe.

Relatively unknown locally, we are pretty well known in bot. circles throughout the World. Every modern textbook in advanced Bot., in every language (we hope) mentions the Degeneriaceae or Degener Family, an Archaeopteryx or missing link between Evergreens or Gymnosperms and Flowering Plants or Phanerogams. I received the Linné Medal from Stockholm, as I showed in Fl. Haw., Books 6 & 7, years ago; received the Distinguished Award from the New York Bot. Garden this month; and am to receive the Willdenow Medal from the Bot. Garden & Bot. Museum in Berlin during their 300 Founders' Day Celebration this Sept. Reaching 80 stimulates such honors. Do you know why? They don't expect octogenarians to get much older, so why not honor them while they are still alive & kicking. I really feel guilty as Mrs. D., & I are a team. The honors really belong to us jointly, not to me alone.

Do get into a huddle with Mrs. Dixon about the plant she knows so well.

Mrs. Degener's mother leaves for Germany this July to give up her apt., to live in the Islands permanently. We two should be back at Volcano definitely in August, and then





EHR GEEHRTER  
HERR DR. DEGENER!

Der Senat des Staates Hawaii  
hat Ihre Verdienste, die Sie sich  
vor allem für die Botanik und  
den Naturschutz erworben  
haben, in einer Ehrenurkunde  
anlässlich Ihres 80. Geburts-  
tages eingehend gewürdigt.

Auch die Wissenschaft-  
ler des Botanischen Gartens  
und Botanischen Museums  
gratulieren aus diesem An-  
laß sehr herzlich und wün-  
schen Ihnen für die Zukunft  
alles Gute, vor allem Gesund-  
heit, so daß Sie sich weiter-



hin der Flora von Hawaii wid-  
men können.

Berlin-Dahlem am 14. Mai 1979

Werner Junger

W. Schütz-Motel.

B. Lennert

Machtig Hakel

Karl Orosch

B. Hün

Friedhelm Bustin

Hildegard Hück

Paul Diepho

Hartmut L

Kar Pöschel.



College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Botany

May 14, 1979

Dear Dr. Degener,

Many thanks for the autographed copy of your interesting book on the South Pacific expedition. It is an excellent suggestion to try to grow rare tree species in cultivation. Never having seen any material, living or dead, of *Degeneria*, I am looking forward to looking for some on my upcoming trip to New Zealand in the fall, with possible stopovers along the way. Reading your book should give me some ideas about places and people to contact, in order to find specimens of *Degeneria* and other unusual plants of the tropics.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Tucker*

Dr. Shirley Tucker  
Professor, Dept. of Botany

"UNIVERSITY WITH A FUTURE"

Dr. Bernhard Zepednick

13. 5. 79

Sehr geehrter Herr Degener!

Ich hoffe, daß Sie den großen Glückwunsch des Botanischen Museums mit den vielen Briefmarken inzwischen erhalten haben. Mein Brief hat ein kleineres Format, ist deswegen aber nicht weniger herzlich. Ich wünsche Ihnen noch viele Jahre zusammen mit Ihrer Frau in voller Schaffenskraft zur Erforschung und zum Schutz der Flora Hawaiis.

Vielen Dank für den Brief Ihrer Frau mit Bild und den entsprechenden Seiten aus der Fl. Kant. Es ist ja schade, daß Sie zur 300-Jahrfeier nicht nach Berlin kommen. Wenn Sie den Besuch später einmal nachholen, würde ich Sie gern treffen.

Unsere ersten Kontakte waren ja gar nicht botanischer Art, sondern „völkerkundlich“.

Wie ich mich erinnere, ging es damals um  
die Figur des „Spaniers“ aus dem Berliner  
Völkerkundemuseum, von der ich Ihnen Fotos  
besorgte. Aber das ist schon so lange her –  
und mein Versuch, einen deutschen Verleger  
für Ihr Fiji-Buch zu finden, blieb auch  
leider erfolglos.

Neulich war eine Dame von der „Frankfurter  
Allgemeinen Zeitung“ bei mir, um sich für  
einen Bericht über unsere 300-Jahr-Feier zu  
informieren. Sie sagte mir, sie würde auch  
über die Bedrohung der karaischen Flora  
oder ihre Verfälschung einen Artikel schreiben,  
wenn sie genauere Unterlagen bekommen  
würde.

Wenn unser Festband über den Botanischen  
Garten erschienen ist (aber das kann noch  
eine Weile dauern), schicke ich ihn Ihnen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen  
Ihr Bernhard Zepernick



P.O. BOX 2476 STUART, FLA. 33494

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MIAMI 947-4076

May 11 79

*Memminger*

Dear Doctor:

Thanks again for the latest accumulation. Dad<sup>A</sup> passed them on to me this week. He's doing better: he finally got a lady to live at the house with him so he gets decent meals and a bit of company now & then. She needed a place to go & he needed her type of person, so it's worked out fine.

I have no quarrel really with Russians. They're God's creation the same as you & I, and they don't dislike us either. But they've grown up in a society totally different from ours & cannot comprehend ours & our ways of doing so we're inclined to resent "knocks" vs. the American way of life. Hope all goes respectably for you & yours.

Best regards,

*Stan*

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DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY



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9 May

19 79


Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
WAIALUA. OAHU  
HAWAII. 96791 USA

Dear Doctors Degener,

Thank you for the donation of thirteen specimens which we received on  
8.5.79.

They arrived in good condition and are a welcome addition to the Herbarium.

Yours sincerely,

  
(DR.) D. M. CHURCHILL  
DIRECTOR AND GOVERNMENT  
BOTANIST

HAROLD N. MOLDENKE  
303 PARKSIDE ROAD  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY



George Rogers Clark, Vincennes, 1779

Dr. Otto Degener

68-617 Crozier Drive,

Weialua, Oahu, Hawaii

96791

© USPS 1979

Dear Otto,

May 8, 1979

Our heartiest congratulations on the receipt of that testimonial from the State of Hawaii!! You certainly deserve it most richly. It was long overdue. You also deserve recognition from conservation groups worldwide for your lifelong efforts for conservation of Hawaii's wildlife.

Be sure to send a copy of the testimonial to the N. Y. Bot. Gard. library. The copy you sent me I will send to the ~~50~~ Humanities Research Center of the U. of Texas where all my things have gone and will go, including all correspondence. They want especially biographical material on botanists and other scientists, have various botanists' field record books, etc., etc. I have so far sent them 65 big boxes of material. Alma and I just returned from my 50th class reunion at Susquehanna University in central Pa. It was good to see some of my old classmates again, but over 50 percent of the class is already deceased.

All best wishes from us both and, again, CONGRATULATION  
as ever

*H. 2009*



EATON  
© TETRAON, INC.

Dear Otto:-

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thanks you for your beautiful letter. I will carry on and keep busy, and make a new life for myself as he would wish me to do. We both had to do this when we lost our son at 20. Our only child.

I am now planning a memorial service in the church on May 10<sup>th</sup> for our Mamaroneck friends. We have lived here 49 yrs. The funeral was in Florida. This is the last thing I can do for my darling. I want it to

be beautiful and dignified but not funeral. He is the last one of a fine Scotch family. I love my home here and will continue as long as I can. As I write I am looking out at Forsythia, Jap cherry and Magnolia all in bloom. The season is late this year, dogwood and azalea's will come later.

Have a good trip, enjoy yourselves. Fondest good wishes to you and Osa.

Affectionately

Betty Christie



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

MEMORANDUM

2349 Kalamianale St.

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

May 2, 1979

Dear Drs. Otto and Ida Degener,

A most sincere thank you for your letter and the reprints of the two articles enclosed. I enjoyed reading them.

I most certainly agree with you that our dwindling endemic flora must be saved and prevented from encroaching exotics including man's blundering activities. In a very small way I have tried to eradicate exotics from a small lot I have in the Volcano area, trying to help native plants in the ohia understory flourish and reproduce.

Here at our Richardson Ocean Center in Kaula, we are also attempting

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

MEMORANDUM

to check the spread of exotic trees and plants and re-introduce or "help along" existing endemic flora. Thus far we do have a few endemics which were planted by the National Parks Youth Conservation Corps last summer. We hope to ask the National Park Field Station staff to provide us with additional Hawaiian plants this summer.

It was a pleasure meeting you for just a brief time at the library. I have always enjoyed reading your publications and do look forward to meeting you again.

Makahalo nui loa for your letter.

Sincerely,

Harold Jablon

Aug. Hawaiian seeds sent 5/9/79.



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
May 1, 1979.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, care of Hawaii Public Library,  
300 Waiʻanuenue Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii.

I have been in the Islands since 1922; received an M. Sc., degree for specializing on the Hawaiian flora from the University of Hawaii in 1923, taught Botany there 1925-'27; was Naturalist of Nat. National Park in 1929; published my "Plants Haw. National Park" in 1930; and published alone and since then with Mrs. Degener, a doctorate with a magna cum laude, about 400 scientific articles about Haw. Biology. Besides, Mrs. Degener & I have published our Flora Hawaiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands, now with Book 7 almost completed.

I have received the Linné Medal from Stockholm, have been honored by our State, am being honored by the New York Botanical Garden, and am receiving the Willdenow Medal this September from the Bot. Garden & Bot. Museum during their 300 Founding Celebration in Berlin.

I have also published a book about Fiji (in boards), and am the only living botanist with a Plant Family (Degeneriaceae) named for him.

There is little sense in having my books locked up in cases when they are still in print, and available for purchase.

WHO IS LEGALLY responsible for an apparent restraint in trade and seemingly conspiring to boycott Degener publications? They are not on the regular shelves of the Public Library in Hilo nor apparently listed in filing cabinets. As the library in Hilo is not the only public one in our State that seems conspicuously to avoid my books, are some members of the Central Purchasing Dept., responsible or the Department as a whole?

Please answer this letter, or kindly forward it to the proper person for an answer. This "custom" has been going on for about fifty years.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

April 29, 1979.

Dear Mrs. Yardley:

Mrs. Degener & I have your interesting letter of April 25. Here is my paperback copy of "Plants Haw. Nat. Park" selling for \$4.50. The first edition, in boards published in 1930 and with the Hon. Star-Bulletin the printer, is now a collector's item selling for \$30.

Being an "ottogenarian" and having no children I, and Mrs. D., agrees with me, feel we should dispose of our personal collected of books amassed since my coming to the Islands in 1922. Are you interested in such material?

In fact, 1922 was my first visit to Kauai with my sister. I jumped from the Inter-Island steamer into a life-boat and almost fell into <sup>A</sup>Awiliwili Bay. We were then rowed to the shore. We then lived at the Lihue boarding house run by Sheriff Rice.

I have collected extensively on Kauai before unfortunate Luna Larsen (brother of Dr. Niels L.) introduced the blackberry (*Rubus penetrans*) to Kokee that is now such a disaster. Years later, while botanizing in Kokee I protested without success about the growing of the poka (passionflower) about the Forestry cabin. It was in no other place except in occasional dense clumps of seedlings sprouting from pig excrement. These were of course the vectors. Now Kauai is no longer the Paradise of the Pacific it had been about 1922.

So long as you have two of my books from a junkyard, may I suggest that you buy two more imperfect copies at a total cost of \$4.50? You should add 18 cents for the State tax, add the cost of the stamps the postman has affixed to this package. Of course, should you want perfect copies, you can have them for the regular price.

Books 1-4 in a single cover sells for \$10; Book 5, \$10; Book 6, \$10; and even incomplete Book 7, for \$10. This last has no cover as yet.

Regarding your articles, Mrs. Degener & I past those involving local plants in loose-leaf note books with other plant information of interest. Then we index contents by the genera. When working on a genus, we know precisely where to find proper references. On our deaths such note books shall belong to a Degeners' Flora Hawaiianis Trust for the use of others.

Should you want to purchase Haw., books at a fair price, we would sell them singly as Mrs. D., & I may want to browse through them once again before parting with them.

Isn't it satisfying that the cataract operation is a thing of the past? I really died when my heart stopped beating while dining at Kilauea Military Caf<sup>e</sup> about a year ago. Fortunately, a physician happened to be at a neighboring table, & an ambulance in a neighboring garage. Now I am the proud wearer of a pace-maker.

Aloha,



[Hatheway]

April 29, 1967  
DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134

Dear Bill & Marilyn:

Isa & I got your April 1 letter concerning the picnic with Muller-Sombois. We were invited to a picnic-convivial of the new Chain of Crater Road yesterday - it is magnificent geologically - and though we would meet M-D., to pose your question at that time. Not seeing him, I am now ready to answer your letter as best I can.

We note your interest in Rhododendron. Why not be a splitter and keep Azalea as a distinct genus? It does not mean the two cohorts are as widely apart as Rosa & Albizia, but perhaps as close as Eidens, Coreopsis, Cosmos & perhaps even Nahia, or Subantia & Pailliardia. Won't H. & A. show vast differences in leaf anatomy? What are their geographic ranges, pollen characters, Chromosomes, etc?

Isa & I never paid attention to "ohia decline," but when we took the Saddle Road, near the summit, death of ohia was striking, vigorous as well as sickly, young as well as old; all were dying so quickly that the leaves were still attached to the trees in abundance. We took for granted that some insect was a virus vector or rooting pigs (less likely) were fungus vectors, the parasites having been introduced from probably Australia with more recent eucalyptus or other myrtaceous plant. Contrariwise, we thought the "die-back" near the Volcano garbage dump was simply too keen competition from mainly strawberry guava & Annona. All of this is of course off-hand snap judgment.

Isa & I doubt any lighthearted thingamajig will cope in the Kipuka Puau with the exotic grasses because of one single habit of man: SMOKING. Many thousands of these nasty vectors light (no longer cigars as formerly) of arets while walking the trail between green grass, hay and last fall dried Peridium fronds. Out of thousands of discarded cigars you must expect one to ignite such tinder, and if this should happen only once in 5 to 10 years, one sparse virgate "treelets" & "bushlets" will be made, die, dead by the fire; and the grass will grow again from stolons with renewed vigor & vim without lixercent competition. In other words, with this fire-eater - a true dragon - let loose in the kipuka, natives have little chance to enlarge past lost territory.

By the way, the Park is exposed to a ghastly danger to which no one seems to pay attention. Without successful biologic control, the entire Kau Desert area up to unknown elevation will be entirely red thanks to Polygonum capitatum, which has just appeared about ten years ago. We recently found it in an isolated spot near Keamakekoi Crater - in other words, it can spread readily (birds? Goats? an occasional fierce wind or Kona rain deluge??). This is the plant requiring study. It is too bad the Polygonum is NOT woody, but can't you add that problem plant as well to your other studies?

By the way, pigs are wiping out the Park Astelia, these beauties being replaced by the poisonous Anemone. We printed a sheet of it in our Fl. New.

We are looking for your visit, not at Mokuia, but preferably at Volcano.

Aloha,

Otto & Isa



Vielleicht sind sie noch in den originalen Packeten. In Amherst ist das wertvolle Material vorhanden.

Ich erinnere nicht dass Dr. Potatall über Pflanzen und schrieb. Wir leben auf zwei verschiedenen Inseln und darum werden Brief für Monate verlegt. Bitte aloha an sie und Ihnen von nās Isa Irmard Hansen und mir,

*Handwritten signature: C. E. Degen*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]*

hook wanted to study even "his own" specimens at B.M. in distant Kaihi Valley. Whenever  
hunted from Nānoa Valley to the Bishop Museum in distant Kaihi Valley. Whenever  
Degen on Dear 6

DR. OTTO & IBA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Vakaho, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
April 26, 1979

Dear John:

I have studiously avoided writing you more than any of our colleagues for fear that some devoted person may let confuse the unearned honor of the Selig Resolution as somehow connected with our University days friend ship in green Manoa Valley and sunny Mokuleia Beach. With, however, recently receiving the announcement from the New York Botanical Garden of an honor and from the Berlin Bot. Garden of the coming award of the Willdenow-Medals, it is difficult for any local person to say that Resolution 294 was due to friend ship rather than to my being a shog-home in Botany!

Embarrassingly in every case the donors did not realize that I married Iba during a visit to the Berlin Bot. Garden in 1953. She already had earned her doctorate with a "summa cum laude" was doing general bot. research and teaching a course in Pharmacognosy or the identification of drug plants to premedical & pharmacy students. So you will understand that these three honors actually do not belong to me alone, but two to Iba as a team since 1953.

Iba hopes to have the pleasure of meeting you some day. She is quite Americanized, but still a bit formal & reticent like most Europeans.

Thanks so much again for offering the postally earned Resolution 294.

Aloha,  
Otto



Mrs. Paul T. Yardley

P. O. Box 424 • Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii 96765

April 25, 1979

Dear Dr. Degener:

Please excuse my tardiness, but I am having cataract post-operating adjustments!

Anyway, I was very interested in getting your list...the Advertiser forwarded it to me here as I write my columns from home.

Interestingly enough I have your FLORA H books I and II and refer to them quite often! It is really a funny story how I found them, too. We have a Portugese man here who has the biggest junkyard you can imagine...and how it grows and grows. He finally put up a chain link fence that set him back thousands of dollars....all for this JUNK not JUNQUE! However, at first I would stumble across lovely pieces of koa and calabashes which he did not know anything about. One day I spotted these two books sitting, of all places, out in the rain! Obviously, he didn't know their worth and I gave him a dollar for both! Then I told Dan Moriority and he said I was very lucky.

There was no note on your enclosure so was wondering if you were just selling your own books or other Hawaiiana. I think I would be interested in you book of human interest emphasizing the culture etc. @ \$4.50. I think I could use this material in a column very nicely...If you would be kind enough to send it and any added information I would appreciate it very much. I will send check for total on receipt.



Sinc erely,

Sincerely,  
Charles G. Kelley

Apr 23

Dear Mr--

Once again I'm obliged to you for a nice lot of stamps accumulated from your mails. My father passed them along to me this morning, so I hasten to extend my thanks and appreciation. You are certainly one of my prize sources as I go along. Almost 50 years I've been collecting and the interest just never has waned as it has in many. I don't get to tinker with them often unfortunately, but for a change I spent  $\frac{1}{2}$  of yesterday doing so, first time in weeks. Always so much catching up to do with them, but then that's the game, in part at least.

Dad seems quite well considering his 83 years, keeps busy with his upcoming book on flowering shrubs putting together the text "accumulating scores of pictures and trying to assemble it all in some reasonable order. It still takes a good deal of study "concentration & time, but he does have plenty of the latter & great incentive for the other requirements, so he progresses gradually when his books sale biz permits, and that's going well too. Orders arrive daily. It's been almost a yr now since Mrs M. went along & it's been a lonely year for him, but having his occupations makes the diff. I see him or talk to him almost daily.

Hope things go well for you. Thanks again for the remembrance.

Sincerely,

*W. Meunier*

[Son of "Flowering Tree Man" of  
Shurt, Fla.]

23. April 1979.

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Zepernick:

In Antwort zu Ihrer Anfrage vom  
11. April, die mich in Volcano erreichte, kann ich  
Sicher von mir nur die folgenden Daten ange-  
ben, da alle meine Papiere auf Oahu sind:

Name: Dr. Ingard Degener mit Namen,  
Geburtsort: Berlin, Geburtsdatum: 27. April 1924,  
Studium: Albert-Ludwig-Universität Freiburg i.  
Br. 1944,

Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Berlin  
(später Humboldt-U.) 1945-1949.

Dr. der Naturwissenschaften, magna cum laude,  
27. Mai 1949.

1. Mai 1945: Bot. Hilfskraft, Bot. Mus. Berlin-Dahlem.  
1946-1952: Botanische Assistentin für:

Prof. Dr. H. Sleumer, Prof. P. Flegel, Prof. Dr.  
E. Wendermann an der Allgemeinen Botanik  
und Pflanzenphysiologie, Humboldt-U. + Freie U.

1949-1952: Botanische Assistentin für Prof. Dr.  
H. Sleumer, der nach Argentinien  
ausgewandert war an der Flora Argentina  
mitgearbeitet.

Am 10. 1953 heiratete Dr. Otto Degener und  
wanderte nach Hawaii aus.

Veröffentlichungen:

1851-1852 Dr. Guyard Hansen:

2 1750 Bot. Jahrbücher: Die europäischen  
Arten der Gattung *Erica* L.

Datum? zusammen mit Dr. Eva Ritzsch:  
über *Lepturus* (persone haben habe  
ich nicht hier)

Datum? kleinere Veröffentlichungen

1953 Nach meiner Heimat in Otto Degener

1 alle meine Publikationen, hauptsächlich

1979 Flora Hawaiianensis Vol. V p.p., Vol. II,  
Vol. III und zahlreiche andere Ver-  
öffentlichungen in Zusammenarbeit mit  
meinem Mann. Eine Bibliographie habe ich  
im

Keine Lehungen sind noch veröffentlicht  
worden, nur Arten.

Die einzige Aufnahme, die ich hier habe  
habe ich noch

Eine Ehrennennung meines Mannes die Willde-  
now-Medaille zu empfangen hat uns sehr  
erfreut und freut. In der Welt es uns nicht  
möglich sein zur Verleihung nach Berlin  
zu kommen. Wir haben Prof. Dr. Pöhlke gebeten  
es für ihn die Aufnahme zu nehmen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen, auch von  
meinem Mann, Ihre Frau

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
April 28, 1955, 1955. A.

Dear Dr. Madar;

Mrs. Degener & I have your 22.3.79 letter, and are glad to learn you received your Grammias pages. I did not want to mail them by air because of the expense. Likewise, we are mailing you an attractive, but not scientific, article by slow steamer mail. With the relative Convolvulaceae, as we know them, PERENNIALS in warm climates, is it not strange that Cuscutaceae are so often annuals? Are they always ANNUALS? We collected lots of plants in poor condition in Ninole months ago. We returned a few days ago to the same spot - all are gone except one beautifully flowering clump! You will eventually get the material. from us.

Your trip to Central Asia seems fascinating. As "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny", could you not raise this primitive Ephedra from seed as a clue to what its ancestor was like? Perhaps with Podocarpus leaves? What are the first leaves like after the many cotyledons?

We are presently in our dacha at 4,000 feet on the Island of Hawaii. We have few books and notes here. Have you our Flora Hawaiensis Books 1-6? If you want them for YOURSELF, Isa & I shall gladly mail them to you of course gratis. But if it is for the Government, we would like to sell the set for \$30 as we have no paying position and no pension. We live by selling our books & being Kulaks. Taxes take 1/3 of the profit. Of course weeds introduced into Hawaii are more or less scattered throughout the Pacific (also Cuba, etc). But practically no native Phanerogam species here grow elsewhere, but the genera do in most cases. You would so enjoy Pacific Islands. What about sailing on the ship Vitjaz (Spelling?) which has been in the Haw. Islands several times. We visited it twice. We could then take you to our jungles & the volcano.

Don't you think ducks, etc., are very important in transferring plants via intestines and DIRTY, muddy feet with spores (and arthropod eggs)? from spring to spring? Direction of bird migration might influence plant distribution in the springs. Wind for spore dissemination must be very important also.

Is it not strange that my State Government has honored me! It is really not correct as Isa & I married in 1953 and we have been a team ever since. She deserves the honor as much as I. New York Bot. Garden honors me next month, and Berlin is to give me the Willdenow Medal in September! Eighty years old and with a heart pacemaker (Herz shriftacher) will keep me in Hawaii.

As I have time, I label our old plants to the genus (may have never been monographed), and prepare to distribute to Praha, Calushko, & elsewhere. Many you will get are already extinct.

Isa joins in aloha to you,

Dr. Otto Degener



BOTANISCHER GARTEN  
UND  
BOTANISCHES MUSEUM  
BERLIN-DAHLEM

Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8  
D-1 Berlin 33  
Germany

den 20. April 1979

Es wird gebeten, alle Antworten und Sendungen zu adressieren:  
„An die Direktion des Botanischen Gartens und Museums“

Herrn  
Dr. Otto Degener  
68617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu  
Hawaii 96791  
U S A

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Degener!

In Kürze werden Sie 80 Jahre alt, hierzu möchte ich recht herzlich gratulieren und Ihnen weiterhin alles Gute, vor allem Gesundheit wünschen, so daß Sie auch weiterhin noch immer etwas Botanisieren können.

Ein kleines Pflanzenpaket ist vor Ostern hier angekommen, im Wie viele Herbarnummern haben Sie bei sich zu Hause ? Es wäre eventuell möglich, daß wir Ihr Herbar aufkaufen. Wie teuer würde sich das stellen ? Ich glaube, Kollegin Potzta! hatte in diesem Sinne schon mal bei Ihnen angefragt, war aber bisher ohne Antwort geblieben.

Recht herzliche Grüße,  
auch an Ihre Gattin

*F Butzin*

(Dr. F. Butzin)

P.O. Box 154,  
Volcano, HI 96785.  
April 15, 1979.

Dear Dr. Irwin:

It was indeed thoughtful of you to mail me an auto pass for Garden entry. Unfortunately, I cannot make use of it in spite of my being unusually well preserved for an "octogenarian." I so enjoyed the visit of the Hairs and their colleague two weeks ago at Mokuleia Beach. I had had a tiring morning at the ophthalmologist that day, followed by a frightening return home. Isa's mother had suffered a mild heart attack during our absence! While Isa rushed to our family physician in our town and to the hospital in another, I prepared myself for the Hairs by taking a siesta. Without being prone for at least half an hour after lunch, I tend to fade with fatigue. I thus cooperate with my pacemaker in flushing (?) my brain with arterial blood. A 'plane trip to New York, with stagnant feet getting puffy, might be suicidal.

At home in a brownstone in sight of the Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument on the West Side, this Manhattan Islander from earliest days visited via the "L" for Sunday picnics what was known as "Bronx Park" to every one. Then in the early '20s I lived in Pickwick Arms off Moshulu Parkway with my sister for two years to study my Hawaiian catch of plants under Director Britton, Drs. Barnhart and Rydberg for an advanced degree. I repeated two more years of study at the Garden under Director Merrill, while living with my brother's family in Fieldston, Riverdale. Walking back and forth between my home and the Garden was more than invigorating through winter snow. It was a delight spying the melanistic phase of the gray squirrel during such trips. Dr. Merrill assigned two Secretaries to me to write duplicate labels for 50,000 specimens of mostly Hawaiian plants I had shipped from Oahu to save them from possible destruction by a second Japanese invasion. My last two-year sojourn at the Garden was under the Directorship of Dr. Robbins. I regret Mrs. Degener and I cannot complete Book 7 of our *Flora Hawaiiensis*, this time, under your Directorship.

Having studied at the Art Students' League on 57th Street and at their summer colony at Woodstock on the Hudson, I realized that if I wanted excellent illustrations for my intended Hawaiian Flora, I should not waste my time doing such work myself. ~~For~~ Instead, I selected school boys and University Freshmen who were born artists, trained them as best I could, and paid them one dollar per day and keep to do the work for me. In fact, while under Dr. Merrill's regime, I brought a Korean and a Filipino with me to the Garden to draw rare Haw., herbarium specimens. The latter, though a capable artist, was too lively to thrive sitting at a table drawing herbarium specimens. So I let him go after he was accepted as an acrobat by a circus.

With local plant workers inveterate "lumpers" who did not realize that Hawaiian Phanerogams were neigh 100% endemic for the Hawaiian Islands - in fact, different islands and often gulches and ridges on the same island possess taxa peculiar to themselves - my omnivorous collections were not appreciated. Thus the best sets were sent to my two alma maters, the University of Massachusetts and the New York Botanical Garden. Smaller sets were distributed throughout the World, and greatly appreciated. Monographers in botanical centers studied such "aberrant nuisance specimens," getting order out of chaos as new bi- and trinomial names in more modern literature attest. Dr. J.F. Rock, who left the Islands in disgust, was exceptional, producing a magnificent monograph of the *Lobeliaceae* in 1911.

Among the recipients of past Distinguished Service Awards, I personally knew "Red" Camp, Dick Cowan, Dansereau, Bernard Dodge, Everett, Fulling, Gleason, Hall, Keck, McGuire, Merrill, de la Montagne, Peckham, Rickett, Robbins, Seaver, Steere, Stout and Teuscher. These men and women lacked spouses with botanical training. They were distinguished due to their own efforts, I, in contrast, have been married since 1953 to a keen botanist with a doctorate. We have conducted botanical studies as a team, not I alone. Thus, I am hardly a peer of former recipients.

Alcha,

Volcano, Hi. 96785.  
April 12, 1979.

Mr. Don Reeser,  
Haw. Volo. Nat. Park,  
Hawaii.

Dear Don:

Isa & I are back at Volcano, busy getting our possessions into applepie order after the flooding of our basement some time ago.

I am writing you now, not because we found a new plant; but because of another find, a 2-legged one. He is apparently an "Army brat" born in Washington, D.C., has lived many years in Colorado and had some college training, knows Haleakala well and owns a lot near the Hampton Carsons. He is enthusiastic about Nature and Conservation, and has applied via the Mainland for a position with Fish & Wildlife.

Scads of young men are interested in Nature & Conservation. His strong point, as we see it, is SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE. This and his enthusiasm are gifts needed in the Nat. Park Service, where constant contact with tourists prevails. Such social intelligence (again as we see it) would be wasted with F. & W., where contact with people is slim.

If an opening should occur at "our" Park, I hope you will keep young Ed Leeson, P.O. Box 547, Mt. View, Hi. 96771 in mind. If nothing should turn up in a month or so, I shall put a bee in Supt. Z's bonnet. The young man has lived at Makawao, and knows Haleakala well.

We burned out something inside our jeep, so will stay on our kuliana much of the time until an expert jeepster in Pahala repairs everything.

Brrrrrr - it's cold here in comparison to our spot of Mokuleia Beach.

Alot<sup>h</sup>,  
H.

*Magnum*  
*Lee*  
Ed Leeson

ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE

By air mail  
Par avion



Dr. OHO - Isa Degener

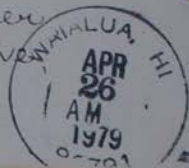
68-619 Crozier Drive

WAIALUA,

OAHU,

HAWAII,

96791 U.S.A.



THE HERBARIUM  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS  
KEW RICHMOND  
SURREY TW9 3AE  
ENGLAND

YOUR REF: Parcel

OUR REF: H6641 79

11-4-79

We acknowledge receipt of your

parcel

A further communication will  
follow in due course.

J. Rosvall for the  
DIRECTOR



DR. BERNHARD ZEPEERNICK M.A.

Tollensestraße 46 b  
D-1000 BERLIN 37  
Tel. (030) 817 82 80  
am 11. 4. 1979

*Sehr geehrte Frau Degener!*

Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen!

Nachdem Herr Dr. Timler und ich in dem "Berliner Forum"-Heftchen die Geschichte des Berliner Botanischen Gartens und Museums in kurzer Form dargestellt haben, wollen wir in einem Willdenowia-Beiheft Materialien zur Geschichte dieser Institutionen vorlegen. Dazu gehört u. a. eine Sammlung von Kurzbiographien aller am Garten und Museum tätigen bzw. tätig gewesenen Wissenschaftler und technischen Gartenleiter.

Da wir von Ihnen keine Daten vorliegen haben, bitten wir Sie, uns folgendes mitzuteilen:

Um größtmögliche Korrektheit der Angaben zu erreichen, bitten wir Sie, die uns vorliegenden Daten (die wir den Jahresberichten des Botanischen Gartens und den unter "Literatur" genannten Quellen entnommen haben) zu überprüfen und gegebenenfalls zu ergänzen. Dazu hätten wir gern gewußt:

Name (ggf. mit Zusätzen):

Geburtsort:

Geburtsdatum:

Studium bzw. Ausbildung: wann? wo?

Prüfungen (z.B. Abschluß einer Lehre, Fachschule, Lehrerexamen, akademische Grade) wann? wo? Schüler von...

Titel (z.B. Professor) wann? wo?

Berufliche Tätigkeiten als...(Dienstbezeichnung) von...bis... wo?

Spezialgebiete:

Forschungs- und Sammelreisen:

Literatur über Sie: (wenn dort Ihre Veröffentlichungen aufgeführt sind, Bilder oder Schriftproben wiedergegeben sind, dies bitte vermerken)

Ihnen gewidmete Gattungen (nicht Arten):

Wenn Sie über ein schönes Foto von sich verfügen, bitten wir um Überlassung. Ferner bitten wir Sie, Ihren Antwortbrief handschriftlich zu unterzeichnen.

Da unser Manuskript soweit fertig vorliegt und wir Sie nur nicht mit einem Fragebogen behelligen wollten, bevor nicht sicher war, daß unsere Arbeit auch erscheinen wird, wären wir dankbar, wenn wir Ihre Angaben bald bekommen könnten. Das Foto könnte nachgereicht werden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

*Bernhard Zepernick*

15 pint  
Automatic  
Schwandtner  
Remore

Model no 75915  
The B. R. Ler

935-7161

55 lbs  
12'

134.95  
1.49  
136.44  
5.1

drain hose

158.40  
tax +  
shipping

Ordered  
12/1/75

Dr. Dr. Degener -

4/11/79  
[MPI 54, Sulphur Rd.  
Washouga, Wa. 98671]

Thanks so much for giving me  
permission to use your drawings -  
I will note "after Degener" under  
them, of course.

I am returning the last 2 centuries -  
you are right; at this point I  
can not use them & do not  
actually have the money to spare  
to pay for them.

Will try to get a copy of Ochse's  
book if not too expensive &  
the survival cards. We have  
a similar set of NW plants here  
in Oregon.

What I am trying to do is to  
give a few useful, very obvious  
plants in my book, which is  
also the story of my adventures

on Kauai. We shall see whether  
a publisher finds it valuable or  
not. Time will tell.

Thank you so much for all  
your support & advice - I am  
a little leary of including any  
fungi since some people are  
allergic to even the most  
innocuous ones & since absolute  
identification requires a very  
careful observance of the plant.  
Too many people have gotten ill  
or worse on mis-identified  
fungi.

Again Thank you & keep  
in touch.

Aloha

Phoenix

April 11, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your recent nomination concerning the Allerton Award and I hope you have enjoyed reading Dr. Smith's Flora Vitiensis Nova: A New Flora of Fiji. I am enclosing brochures concerning our other publications and I hope you find these of interest.

We are actively attempting to expand our library holdings and we are in need of as complete a file as possible of your numerous papers, articles, etc. We would gladly defray any costs involved including xeroxing, etc. The same is true of duplicates of your collections if a mutually agreeable sales price can be agreed upon.

Your works are of great significance to Hawaiian and Pacific botany and we would like as complete a set as possible.

At some future date I hope you and your wife will consider a visit to Kauai as guests of the Garden.

Yours sincerely,

William L. Theobald  
Director

WLT:hko

Enclosures



April 11, 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
R. 1, Box 89  
Mokuleia Beach  
Waialua, Oahu,  
Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener:

I received your postcard mailed 4/3/79 today. We have a copy of Crawford's Hawaii's Crop Parade 1937. The copy is in good condition. It includes your list of errata and the printed correction sheet.

Our spring has arrived at last. The rock garden provides new delights each day.

Yours sincerely,

*Charles R. Long*

Charles R. Long, Director  
Library and Plant Information Services

CRL/d



# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

April 10, 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu Hawaii 96791

Dear Otto:

It gives me great pleasure to write announcing that you have been named as one of the recipients of the Garden's Distinguished Service Award for 1979.

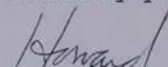
Although it is customary for the recipients to receive the award in person, I imagine yours will be presented in absentia. Should, however, you plan to be in New York or wish to have any members of your family present, this would of course, add to the occasion. Do let me know what your schedule will be on May 3, 1979 at 2 p.m. and whether or not we may expect you at the Garden.

If you cannot be present, following the ceremony, we will send the award to you.

Meanwhile, I am enclosing a copy of last year's program, for I am sure that you will enjoy noting the names of past recipients provided here.

It is with great pleasure that I send you this letter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Howard S. Irwin  
President

HSI:le  
enc.

NYBG

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

April 6, 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Wailua, Hawaii 96791

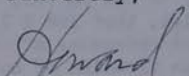
Dear Otto:

Thanks for the copies of your richly deserved commendation. Even before receiving this I had nominated you for the Garden's 1979 Distinguished Service Award, which will be conferred in May, about which you will hear more presently.

I have asked head curator Dr. Pat Holmgren to see if she can get you the labels you requested.

Again, congratulations. I hope the laudatory words of Hawaiian legislators have been and will continue to be backed up with deeds.

Sincerely,

  
Howard S. Irwin  
President

lp

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

April 9, 1979.

Dear Dr. Irwin:

I have your kind letter of April 6, and beg to correct it (as I have corrected a recent letter from Berlin). I am actually being honored not for what I have accomplished, but what Isa & I have accomplished. We got married in 1953, and we have been teammates ever since. By Nature she is the brains, while I am the plug horse or tortoise. Do please talk to Dr. Sleumer about her. He supervised her doctorate studies in Berlin.

Fate unfortunately botched the visit to our beach home of the Nairs and their California colleague a few days ago. I had an appointment with an ophthalmologist in Wahiawa in the morning of their scheduled visit day. He discovered that my eyes are like those of a man of sixty - I still can read the 'phone book without glasses. My minor trouble is a slight decrease in circulation in the eye capillaries. You may remember, I wear a pace-maker under the connective tissue of my right shoulder.

On our return shortly before noon, we were really frightened as Isa's mother, after bending over to pick up the garden hose, had suffered a mild heart attack during our absence. So Isa & mother rushed to our family physician in the village of Waialua, followed by a trip by Isa to the Wahiawa Hospital with a blood sample.

Our guests arrived about two o'clock (after my siesta), and unfortunately left before Isa's return with the patient. I so regret the Nairs, especially Mrs. Nair from Hungary, did not meet Mrs. Degener from Germany.

Isa's mother is now so well and we have such a reliable tenant couple on the lot, that Isa & I shall fly to our Volcano home on a different island Wednesday afternoon. We must finish drying it out after an 18 inch flooding of our basement there.

Thank you again for your intended kindness, but I just wonder whether a tortoise deserves an Award. Should not the summa cum laude hare have it instead? Please do consult with Dr. Sleumer.

Aloha,

*Otto Degener*



# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

6 April 1979

Dr. Otto Degener  
R. #1, Box 89  
Mokulei Beach  
Waiialua, Oahu  
Hawaii 97971

Dear Dr. Degener:

Howard has asked me to provide you with the gummed labels requested in your letter of 31 March. I hope the enclosed labels are the kind you want. If you need more, please write again.

Unfortunately, Noel and I didn't make it to Hawaii this winter. We just didn't feel that we could take off enough time to justify the long trip. Instead we spent one week on the island of Dominica. We do hope to get to Hawaii one of these days.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Pat

Patricia K. Holmgren  
Head Curator

PKH/amk

encl.



Phoenix Bird <sup>Hunt</sup>  
MP 1.54 Smith Cripe Rd  
Washougal Wa 98671  
[4/5/79]

Dear Dr. Degen

Hope this finds you in good spirits & good health - I am writing to ask you several questions which perhaps only you are qualified to answer. At any rate neither the Vancouver nor Portland Public Libraries have all of the 8 vols. of *Flora Hawaïensis* which might contain these answers.

First do you have *Cymbopogon citratus* illustrated & described (or can you tell me where I might find such info.?)

Also: is *Bambusa vulgaris* the most common bamboo on Kauai & is it illus. anywhere in your works?

3rd Is the *Aloe barbadensis* (or *a. vera*) the most common aloe found in the wild state or is it the *Aloe ciliaris*?

And most importantly may I use your illustrations which are the best of any I have seen, to draw the illus. for my book? Of course I will give you credit & have already mentioned your valuable work.

Oh and have you illustrated & described the

*Commelina nudiflora*? Pope's book (Wayside Plants) has some info. on it. I found it a very useful edible plant w/ a delightful sweet flavor & have done my own color drawing from life.

I would appreciate any information you can send me - of the last 2 vols. of your work, as well; you have already been of inestimable help to me & I hope this request is not too much to ask - obviously I want to be as accurate as possible.

Thank you for all your help

Sincerely

Phoenix

April 1, 1979

Dear Otto and Isa,

I thought I should let you know that I've sent copies of the splendid Senate Resolution to the following people -- all of whom would be glad to read the good news:

Harry Whitten  
Herb and Doris Mann  
Cliff and Mellie Davis  
Charlie Lamoureux  
Rick Warshauer  
Virginia Dicks  
Keith Woolliams  
Derral Herbst  
Rene Sylva  
John Obata  
James Jacobi  
Bob Hobdy  
Jan ten Bruggencate, Kauai  
Edward Arrigoni  
Alice Frost Douglas, West Hawaii Today  
Linda Mull  
Barbara Mull  
Hamp and Meredith Carson

What a joy to do this!

*aloha,  
Mae*

*answered 4/7/79*

March 30, 1979

Dear Otto and Isa,

CONGRATULATIONS!

What a joy to receive a copy of the Senate resolution honoring you! Bill and I are just delighted with this official recognition of your joint contributions to the knowledge and welfare of Hawaii.

You must be highly pleased to see that the resolution is signed by 23 Senators, including all three from the Big Island. The other two Senators must have been unavailable for the signing, or it looks as though there wasn't room on the sheet!

Yesterday I made 20 xerox copies to send out to people who would want to know of this commendation and who would rejoice with you on this most felicitous occasion. Right now I'm sending copies to H. and D. Mann, C. and M. Davis and C. Lamoureux.

And others will follow.

I'd be tickled to send copies to anyone you suggest, so please give me some ideas.

Your letter in the Advertiser and the article that followed were most appropriate, and the postscript was not necessary after all. Mahalo for sending me the carbons.

Bill and I had pleasant phone conversations twice with Dr. and Mrs. Hathaway. We were glad to give them a few useful tips on birding locations.

We're eager to see you over here. Until then,

*With affectionate aloha,*

*Mal*

*I'll send a copy to  
Harry Whitten (Hons-B) too.*

April 1, 1979.

Dear Miss Ried:

Your March 26 letter frightens Mrs. Degener & me. If you are writing about the Haw. Archipelago don't, don't, I repeat don't, do not mention any Emilia flammula. That would be a terrific blunder. The plant does not occur here. In fact, the species recorded for the Islands are E. coccinea (Sims) Sweet, E. javanica (Burma. f.) C.B. Robins., and E. sonchifolia (L.) DC. Mrs. D., & I are not too sure that these determinations are actually correct.

We were really scared to print any of them, particularly after my remembering an angry argument between Director Britton and botanist Rydberg at the New York Bot. Garden when I was studying my Haw. Emilia taxa there in the early '20s. Britton maintained my Haw. plant was one species, & Rydberg lost the argument maintaining it belonged to another species. Though Rydberg lost the argument to his superior, he maintained to me that Dr. Britton was wrong because he was color blind. The species (at least in the Islands) differ in color of the heads: yellowish, purplish and reddish.

On Kauai I collected distinct hybrids in a pineapple field. So don't invite trouble for yourself by choosing a plant that may very well be misidentified.

Our Fl. Haw., is loose leaf, and still very fragmentary. It can never be complete. We have illustrated descriptions thus far of a flora, with introductions, comprising perhaps 30,000 species. Every day horticulturists, tourists, etc., introduce new ones by plane from all parts of the World. In a loose leaf Flora such additions can be inserted in their proper places provided we have sufficient time and money to get them printed. Where we leave off, others will continue - perhaps even a Miss Ried.

Why not select a species for a color illustration that is surely correctly identified?

Aloha,

Otto Degener