



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

Statement on harmful and offensive content

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

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.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134

Volcano, Hawaii

96785

U.S.A. 11/7/51

Dear Bill, Dorothy;

Isa & I come to our Volcano, Island of Hawaii, place to celebrate Christmas, we hope to be here for about three months. Your welcome wishes, addressed to our Captain beach home, followed us here.

We do hope you will be able to attend the Congress in Sydney. We have signed up for it during an optimistic mood, but whether an attorney with a pecuniary can manage the more interesting trips in Australia is a question that will be solved at the time. Perhaps I would press plants in a hot room while Isa does strenuous work in our conducted tours.

As you may know, Isa & I offhandedly have been picking up lichens which, in perhaps a dozen or so cases, have been distributed by Vezda in his Essiccati from time to time. Having no good places for storage in our house exposed to tsunamis and in another to possible volcanic outbursts, we try to get our collections safely housed at the Garden elsewhere. In regard to lichens & mosses, we have always informed the specialists that they are to deposit a packet in New York. I hope this advice has been followed.

In Vezda's *Antenn. Notes on "P. changes Selecti Essiccati"* with an alphabetical index to fascicles 41-40 (Nos 1001-1500). *Flora Geobot. Phytotox. Praha* 14, 95-102, 1979, we note on page 96 that 24 sets are distributed to institutions & individuals. We are disturbed that the Garden is not

included in this number. Should you
not contact Vezda, and try to get
his sets?

Isa joins me in fond aloha,

Otto Degener

Crawfish
LEGACY
© LEGACY, 1975
Corporate Two
Baton Rouge, LA 70808



Best wishes for a
Happy healthy New Year
to the Degeners and
"Mather Elie."

From the Carsons

H. L. AND M. S. CARSON
1310 Heale St., Apt
Honolulu, HI 96812



Taken at Barbers
Point Honolulu
Dec. 1980

[Douglas R.
Univ. Guam]

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

Dear Dr. Smith:
I & I enjoyed your Christmas wishes. We celebrated the holidays at Volcano, and have been overwhelmed with work. Due to my mother-in-law's hip break, I have not been here for about six months, so some of the Volcano herbarium specimens were beginning to get backlice of a species new to me. This and the increased 1981 postage rates kept me waiting in days wrapping & mailing packages. I could not complete the lot, so did "waste" lots of cash on stamps.

I thought you should see what the man did to the two packages of sheets. Some were a bit dog-eared but I simply distributed them free. I don't know if buyers will be a bit displeased with the Guam printing. Anyway, we thought the printing was excellent. The printer can safely destroy the type as nothing must be printed over again.

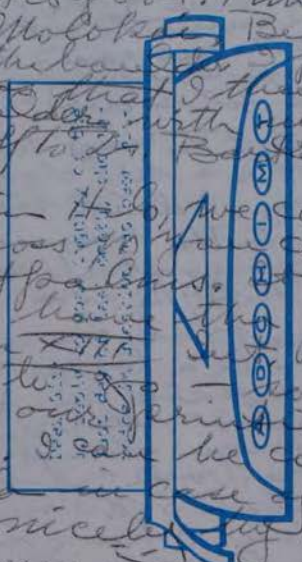
Being confused by Isa's report - she came to Volcano for a walk without me to have a logger remove a giant cypress that was threatening our property - about the packages, I contacted a representative in Honolulu of a Taiwan concern about printing the new edition of the paperback - it has grown from about 300 pages to about 500. I mailed him every fourth page as a sample. I have not yet heard from Taiwan. Could your agent printer complete with the Taiwanese?

Why did the post go - have customs forms posted on the parcels when Guam is the U.S.?
How about printing another few Hormannia plates? you have 40 drawings of these more species. It is a pity to let them lie fallow, and not have H. & yours truly C.D. have the pleasure seeing them in print.

By the way, please mail me a box of a

new-moss I collected in Moapa Lake Val-
 ley, Moapa, in 1928 and named by P. 13
 frame for me. I may want to write on
 after with personal interest not. I would never
 have discovered the novelty had I not detected
 on a boulder, unable to hitse further.
 The reason was that I was suffering from
 the athlete's foot. This actually ended my bot-
 any work in Moapa. Between my spe-
 cial on the boulder, I finally noticed a peculiarly
 made boulder that I then scraped off the sur-
 face it off to the bottom of the boulder. I eventually
 found it in Italy, we called it a new-moss.
 of coconut palms. It is a new-moss. I have the
 plan to go to the Botanical Garden in Sydney.
 prevents our printing much in spirit
 I can be used or killed in
 as nicely by a physician in
 the Hawaiian Islands.

THE



ROOTS

11 IN. X 8 1/4 IN.
 No. TW-200

BRADNER CENTRAL CO.
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

pennworthy
 QUALITY

Aloha,
 Otto S. Jensen

13 Jan. 1981

Memo

To: Otto D.

From: Don Smith

Subject: enclosed ----

These items may be of interest to you, Otto.

You need not return ----

Unless you wish to call to my attention

something of interest that you

may think I've overlooked.

Hope all goes with ^{everybody} at Chez Degerner
on the Big Island.



DHS

Attached (3)

Ginn and Company

191 Spring Street
Lorington, Massachusetts 02172
Telephone (617) 861-1600
A Ginn Company

XEROX

Bohn, Scheltema & Holkema

wetenschappelijke uitgeverij

Dr. Otto Degener,
68-617 Crozier Drive,
WALALUA, Oahu.
Hawai 96791.
U.S.A.

GEERT GROOTESTRAAT 41	UITLEVERING
7411 GS DEVENTER	LIBRESSO BY
TELEFOON 05700-10811	POSTBUS 23, 7400 GA DEVENTER
HANDELSREG. 50360	TELEFOON 05700-20522
Netherlands	TELEX 49295

DATUM, January 15, 1981.
jvb/db

Dear Dr. Degener,

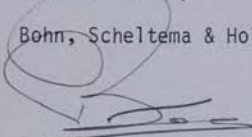
With reference to your letter of November 28 we extremely regret to inform you that we are not in the position to distribute the books in your possession. We are publishers of scientific books and although we keep stock of our own publications, we are not in the position to act as a bookshop.

We regret to have to tell you this, but we frankly see no possibility of assisting you with your problem.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Bohn, Scheltema & Holkema.



J.W.M. Baron van Boetzelaer.

Jan. 15, 1981

Dear Dr. Schreiner:

Mrs. Degener & I came to our mountain cottage at Volcano, Island of Hawaii, for Christmas. We plan to stay about three months. This is to return your kind greetings were forwarded, and your article about Dacrydium.

It was not an instance where isolation of one single 7,000 cross, isolated in a South Sea Island, would after numerous thousand years produce a very nice, almost pure new species? I am thinking of laurel (?) forgotten Kotschy.

Why, oh why, is my Archipelago so poor in orchids? Is it due possibly to the difficulty of the proper mycorrhiza having gotten here in ancient days?

I have no tel. Haw., cover here at Volcano to spare, but I have some obsolescent ones on the Island of Oahu. I am putting your letter into our "Oahu Box". We shall even mail this there, unearth your letter, &

remember to mail you a cover.

We wish the Schrenk Family
an interesting 1981. Even though I
am an "atogenerian", Mrs. D. & I
plan to attend the X11 Int. Bot.
Congress in Sydney. I can be killed
or cured in case of a heart attack
just as nicely by a physician in
Australia as by one in the Haw-
Islands. So, why not?

Alto-

Otto Degener

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER,
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
30 Jan. 1981.

Sehr geehrter Dr. Wirth:

Wir sind jetzt wieder auf der Insel Hawaii, und haben unsere Post abgeholt - ein Haufen. Viel war hier da wir beinahe sechs Monate auf Oahu lebten - wegen Arzt - da meine Schwiegermutter ihre Hüfte gebrochen hatte. Jetzt ist sie aus dem Rollstuhl und braucht nur EINE Krücke. Eigentlich werden BRIEFE und immer nachgeschickt zur bestimmten Insel wo wir zur Zeit leben.

Wir haben Ihren 20.11.80 Brief vor uns, und das absolut wunderbare Flechtenheft! Das Beschreiben ist so gut, hauptsächlich für uns Angiospermenarbeiter. Wie konnten Sie so wunderbare Farbfotos finden???? Wirklich: Ihre Arbeit ist herrlich. Schade dass das Heft nicht übersetzt ist in vielen Sprachen um andere, außer Deutschleser, zu unterrichten. Warum bewahren Sie nicht sorgfältig die Platten, und drucken es alles über in Englisch, Spanisch, Portugiesisch, Chinesisch, Russisch und andere Sprachen die viele mehr oder ~~wenig~~ gebildete Leute in der Welt sprechen? Die Hauptarbeit ist schon getan.

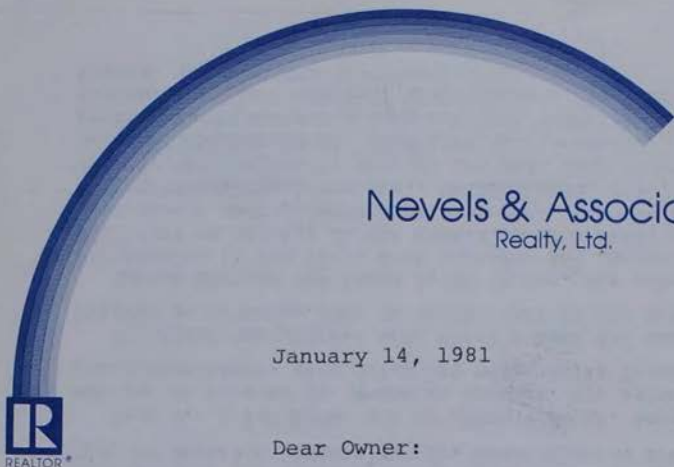
Frau Degener & ich alleine und auch mit manchen Mitarbeiter als Koautoren haben ein halbes Jahrhundert unsere Flora Hawaiensis bis jetzt mit mehreren Tausend Seiten fertig - eigentlich mit Schwierigkeit da ich meine Position an der Universität von Hawaii in 1927 verloren habe. Der Direktor (ein Geologe) vom hiesigen Museum wollte keine Haw., Pflanzen aus anderen Inseln lassen um Konkurrenz zu vermeiden. Ich habe ihn ignoriert. Von frühesten Zeiten habe ich Berlin Pflanzen im Tausch für Engler-Prantl geschickt. Ich habe doch Tausende von Haw., & Fidisch Pflanzen dem Haw. Museum geschickt da ein Museum länger existiert als ein Direktor. Dennoch fühlen wir - ich ursprünglich ein New Yorker & Frau D., eine Berlinerin - mehr zu Frieden mit Botaniker im Ausland als hier. Ein neuerer Lichenologe ist jetzt hier in Honolulu, Ein Dr. Smith, den wir ein Mal bei einem Vortrag kennen lernten. Er scheint net zu sein, aber wir kennen Sie & Dr. Kalb noch besser.

Natürlich gibt es mehrere Floren von der selben Regionen, und sie sind mehr oder weniger gut in verschiedenen Gattungen, etc. Das verstehen wir, und ist uns ziemlich egal. Aber vor Paar Jahren haben wir die gedruckte Annonce gelesen dass "die Konkurrenz" eine "Flora Hawaiiana" drucken werden. So einen Namen ist Unsinn, da unser Werk "Flora Hawaiensis" für 50 Jahren heisst! Um solche Konfusion zu vermeiden, haben wir die Titel Fl. Hawaiensis & Flora Hawaiiana gesetzlich in Washington für paar Dollar für uns registriert. Wir tun, so wie immer alles über Parnas unter Fl. Hawaiensis, und alles darunter unter Flora Hawaiiana. Jetzt verstehen Sie warum "Key to Hawaiian Lichens" vom Dr. Oscar Klement unter Fl. Hawaiiana steht.

Frau D., & Ich haben uns so gefreut mit Dr. Hörmann vielleicht ein Moos nach dem anderen in unserer Fl. H-ana zu drucken. Wir haben es mit Distichophyllum freysinetianum angefangen. Aber jetzt ist unser netter Freund beinahe blind.

Wir haben uns gefreut eine Flechte nach der anderen in unserer Fl. h-ana mit Dr. Klement zu drucken, aber er musste bald in ein Altersheim woh er starb!

Unsere Edition ist immer 1,500 Bücher. Wir haben immer für das drucken bezahlt. Wir drucken in der Flora seit ungefähr 40 Jahren wenig (aber mehr in Phytologia weil dort so billig) da die Kosten so hoch sind; und jetzt ist es noch schlimmer weil unsere Tafeln, ohne Kredit, werden gedruckt in Büchern die in den hiesigen Universitäten, Staat von Haw., Bibliotheken, etc., verkauft werden. Beinahe alle sind von mir "Copyrighted", aber da ich mein Buch "Plants Haw. Nat. Park" in 1930 druckte, sind vielleicht die Copyright Rechte ausgelaufen. Eine Bibliothek sagte "nicht", aber jetzt 82 Jahre alt kann ich mich nicht mit Advokaten im Gericht darüber herumzanken. Das eine Buch hat (nicht Figuren aber) 41 seitengrosse Tafeln von mir, ohne Kredit, und wird für \$5.00 verkauft!



Nevels & Associates
Realty, Ltd.

January 14, 1981

Dear Owner:

As a real estate specialist in the area of Waialua-Mokuleia, I am currently working with a qualified client who has shown interest in your property.

If you ever, at present or in the near future, consider selling your improved or vacant land, please contact me at (808) 623-1616 or 637-5595. Call collect if you are out of the area.

If it would be of no inconvenience to you, please notify me and if I can be of service to you, please advise.

Mahalo,

John Borsa, Jr.

Land Sales Manager

John (Jack) Borsa
REALTOR ASSOCIATE

NEVELS & ASSOCIATES, REALTY
MILLANI SHOPPING CENTER
MILLANI, HAWAII 96789

BUS 623-1616
RES 637-5595

Millani Shopping Center • Millani, Hawaii 96789 • (808) 623-1616

Ich habe Moose für 50 Jahren so etwas gesammelt, und Edwin Bartram hat sie identifiziert. Dennoch ist nur eine Art in unserer Flora, für Leser & Studenten zu erkennen. Die lesen nicht lateinische Beschreibungen.

Wie Sie wissen haben meine Frau & ich ein wenig Flechten gesammelt, und keine ist in unserer Flora Hawaiiana! Wenigstens sollte so eine häufige wie Stereocaulon v. drinn sein, eine Art die jeder bemerkt. Können wir nicht so eine St., zusammen auf zwei Seiten schnell drucken! Kann nicht ein Student so etwas für Sie zeichnen? Ich kann Ihnen Sie in Mengen schicken SOFORT!!!!. Wir wollen n Ähnliches angejieren mit Drs. Vezda & Kláb. Wir wissen Sie sind sehr mit Ihren Südamerikanischen Material. Wenn Sie diese Gelegenheit ablehnen, möchten wir Drs. Kalb & Vezda das selbe fragen.

Wir haben einen Baum abgeschlagen vor Monaten, und so ein grosses Paket gehabt mit Flechten dass wir es direkt Dr. V., schickten mit der Erklärung Ihnen & Dr. Kalb darüber zu schreiben wenn Sie davon einzelne Gattungen wollen.

Wir sind so SEHR neugierig warum Flechten von abgestorbenen Bäumen nicht gut sind. Da Flechten Epiphyten sind, warum hat dass absterben von Substrat so wichtig??? Was wir Vezda schickten war von einem sterbenden Baum! Eine Usnea barbata ähnliche Art scheint doch unsere Pflaumenbäume zu schaden. Ersticken die Bäume wegen stopfen von Lentisellen, etc.?

Hiermit schicken wir Ihnen Seiten zu zeigen was wir mit Flechten tun wollen als Koautoren mit Ihnen, Kalb, Vezda, Smith, Muller, Schultze etc., etc., etc. Den Rest des unfertigen Buch 7 schicken wir Ihnen per billiger Schiffspost.

Noch etwas: Es scheint ein Fehler zu sein brüchige Cladonia, Stereocaulon, etc., trocken zu verschicken. Was können wir gebrauchen dieses zu vermeiden? Ein bisschen Formalin im Postpaket?

Zum Schluss - dieses Papier ist geduldig - wollen wir erklären dass das Sammeln schwierig wird. Das illegale wachen von Cannabis ist jetzt wichtiger als die Zuckerrohr Industrie! Wenn ein Jäger im Wald Cannabispflanzung bemerkt, kann der Kriminal ihn erschieszen. Weniger als eine Meile von unserem Haus wollen wir an einer abgelegenen Strasse botanisieren und uns Hände laufen lassen, & jemand hat zwei mal in unsere Direktion (als Warnung?) geschossen. Ein Unterdieter und Frau von uns auf Oahu sind im Wald neben Ananasfeldern & Zuckerrohr im Wald spazieren gegangen und sind so verprügelt worden von solch ein Kriminal dass sie beide auszogen, und nach Kanada für immer gingen. Sie waren 30-40 Jahre alt. Stricke und Fäden sind versteckt im Wald nah beim Cannabis. Wenn man darüber stolpert, wird ein Gewehr in einem nachbar Baum abgeschossen. Wir können nicht so wie früher botanisieren - jetzt ist es meistens an Strassen die benützt werden, und natürlich En-demiten ziemlich von Unkraut ausgerottet ist.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

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

Jan. 17, 1981

Editor, Newsletter,
Hort. Bot. Society,
University of Hawaii.
Dear Sir:

Having been away from the Island of Hawaii several times during the past couple of years for some months and living alternately on Hawaii & Oahu, my first class mail has been forwarded to Drs. Degener & me. We have now completed looking through all boxes of other mail accumulated at the two post offices. We find the local Audubon publications among the lot, but miss the Hort. Society ones.

Please let me know to what extent membership dues may be in arrears, and how we can get copies of issues we presumably have missed. We, and Dr. S. Taussig do not even know of our needlessly absent fellow member Dr. Theodore P. Haas, who submitted a year or more ago, had been accepted and published. If not, he would submit

set to a Journal in Munich
or in Pittsburgh, two cities
where he had spent most of
his professional life.

Alho

J. M. Jones

NO HALA HALLUCINATION!

*OTTO & ISA DEGENER

When we contemplate that perhaps a hundred different kinds of plants native to different regions of the World are known in different languages as "Mayflower" simply because they bloom primarily in May, we can understand botanists must try to untangle the confusion. To do so they have found it practicable to give each kind of mayflower a specific, more or less Latinized name. Such naming for precision, however, must follow the precepts published as the "International Code of Botanical Nomenclature." Naturally it is somewhat "legalese", and the 1966 edition before us in English, French and German, all liberally sprinkled with Latin, comprises 402 pages.

Moreover the name in English of members of the genus Pandanus, according to Kelsey & Dayton in their 1942 edition of "Standardized Plant names," is "screwpine". In the Hawaiian vernacular it is "hala", a name so commonly used by all residents and tourists alike that it deserves to be Anglicized with its proper place in our dictionaries. We wish to emphasize that calling a screwpine "lauhala" is an error. "Lau" in Hawaiian means "leaf". "Lauhala" is the plant's leaf so useful, after removal of its prickles, for plaiting into floor and table mats. It is not the name of the plant itself.

Beautiful Waimea Valley, Oahu, State of Hawaii, has been rescued from neglect and destruction by becoming an arboretum catering to both residents and tourists.

*Authors and/or publishers of "Flora Hawaiiansis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands", Books 1-6, 7 in print; "Plants Haw. National Parks" (paperback); "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji"; and articles like this one. For prices write to Box 154, Volcano, Hi. 96785. © Deg., & Deg., 1981.

Its grounds are beautifully landscaped with native and exotic plants, properly labeled, presently **mauka to a waterfall one mile distant as the crow flies from the beach. In and about these beautiful grounds grow various kinds of hala. According to Harold St. John's "Hawaiian Flowering Plants" (1973), he records the following as native and/or even endemic: Pandanus chamissonis first described by Gaudichaud in 1841; P. douglasii Gaud., 1841; P. menziesii Gaud., 1841; P. odoratissimus L. f., 1781 var. odoratissimus, var. levigatus Martelli, 1930, and var. oahuensis Martelli, 1930; and P. tectorius var. sandvicensis Warb., 1900.

Realizing how the Science of Astronomy has advanced due to better contemplation and the invention of better instruments and even floating laboratories penetrating interstellar space, we must expect the same advance in the Science of Botany. Although we have already so many earlier opinions, changed usually for the better due to the study of chromosomes, chemical composition and scanning electron micrographs, we must expect still greater advances.

Because of present uncertainty and differences of opinion regarding even scientific names, the Code solves this problem. Depending on priority, with certain rare, useful exceptions, the first person describing and naming a taxon scientifically appends his own name after it. Hence, for example, Linnaeus called the common pineapple Bromelia comosa in 1754. This is not necessarily the correct name of the plant. But it is the name of the plant ACCORDING TO THE OPINION of Carl Linnaeus. Then Merrill in 1917 called the pineapple "Ananas comosus". As this combination of two words "belongs" to two authors, we would write the binomial "Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.". Anyone can take his pick between Linnaeus' and Merrill's opinions. One of us having known Elmer D. Merrill (1876-1956)

**Mountainward or inland in contrast to makai or seaward.

personally and how acute he was, is convinced his knowledge of the pineapple in 1917 was superior to that of Linnaeus in 1754. So we follow Merrill, but who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do! Some even today prefer Ananas comosus (Stickm.) Merr., for the pineapple, but that is another story.

After this brief lesson in the scientific naming of plants, we want to tackle the scientific name of one of the hala listed by us above, and called in some modern literature "Pandanus tectorius Parkins. ex Z".

As we have explained in our article "Outrageously Presumptuous----", appearing in Phytologia 39(3):143-146. 1978, the letter "Z" has no standing according to the Code. Who is this mysterious "Mr. Z" anyway. As we remarked on page 144, basing our knowledge on the researches of Herman Manitz in 1976, "Z" is actually Johann Philipp du Roi (6/2/1741-12/8/1785). Du Roi worked over a manuscript of Sidney C. Parkinson, a companion on Captain Cook's tour of the Pacific in 1768 to 1771. Du Roi was Court Physician in Brunswick (Braunschweig), Hannover, Germany. Like all physicians of his time, he was acquainted with "simples"-did not God create such vegetables to possess a virtue, and constitute a simple remedy; and did he not according to the Doctrine of Signatures help the physician select the right one? The red-juiced bloodroot, if we are not mistaken, was for curing the maladies of the blood, and the liver-shaped leaf of the hepatica for curing the liver-Obviously du Roi was a keen botanist for his time, corresponding with the famous son (Linnaeus filius or L. f.) of the illustrious Carl Linnaeus, Sr. According to the Code, du Roi was responsible for publishing the scientific name of the hala, collected in Tahiti, under the binomial Pandanus tectorius. For modest reasons of his own, he eschewed signing his name and, instead, merely signed "Z". As this is contrary to the Code, we immodestly are correcting according to our opinion the name. By the way Wilhelm Degener, the father of Otto,

was born in Brunswick May 23, 1844. He never knew Johann Philipp du Roi, who was born over a hundred years earlier and had died in 1785. Nevertheless, the two were so-called "calabash cousins" who, had they lived concurrently in the Hawaiian Islands, would have been worthy of serving themselves out of the very same family poi bowl. Finally having ended with the above verbosity, we here officially publish what we consider the correct name of a taxon of Pandanus, to wit:

PANDANUS TECTORIUS (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

Syn. Pandanus tectorius Z in his "Die Pflanzen der Insel Outahitee, aus der Parkinsonischen Reisebeschreibung gezogen, and mit Anmerkungen erläutert von Z". Der Naturforscher 4: about page 240. 1774.

But who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do!

EDITORS NOTE:

As a member of the horticultural fraternity that sometimes laments the 'changing of plant names', it is interesting to see from the above article, some of the complexities that botanists face in their efforts to standardize the naming of plants.

It is the opinion of some botanists that since the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature permits the correction of orthographic errors, it would be sufficient to replace "Z" with "J.P. du Roi", in which case the new combination outlined above would not be necessary. However, Dr. Otto Degener, in a letter dated April 24th 1981, states:

"We Degeners can understand that if "Degener" or "Williams" appears in print, these variations would be orthographic errors, needing correction. But you can't convince us that replacing "Z" with "J.P. du Roi" is correcting an orthographic error. According to my Dictionary,

orthographic pertains to the SPELLING of words. No average person including us Degeners, would consider the switch of a single letter for a full name an orthographic correction".

Keith R. Woolliams

MOUFLON SHEEP AND KAU SILVERSWORD

*FRANK MITCHELL

The mouflon sheep introduced into Hawaii in 1973 have now become very noticeable in the area of the Kau silversword on Mauna Loa, Hawaii. From two ewes and a ram introduced in 1974 ("Notes", Vol.2 No.1; June 1974) the population has grown to more than one thousand. At the present growth rate the population will be five thousand by 1984, probably causing irreparable damage to the area.

Mouflons mature ready for breeding in seven months and produce young every seven months, more than half of which are twins. Their normal life-span is ten years. They were brought here in 1973 by the Hawaii State Division of Fish and Game because "Hybridization suggested itself as a means of changing the nature of the sheep on Mauna Kea quite economically". (Walker, Roland L.--The Hybridization of the Mouflon with Hawaiian feral sheep. HSL RH 599. 735 W). No sheep or goats are to be seen in the area of south Mauna Loa where these mouflon were released.

*Mr. Mitchell is an avid hiker, plant explorer and photographer of Hawaii's Flora. He has contributed considerably to the living collections at Waimea. Ed.

KOKIA COOKEI-Progress Report

Since discovering a successful method of grafting this species onto Kokia drynarioides ("Notes", Vol.7 No.2; December 1980), five sturdy plants have been planted in the grounds: 1 near the original tree in the Hawaiian Flora Garden, 2 in the new Endangered Species Garden and 2 in the new Hawaiian Flora Garden. The latter site is a relatively steep, well-drained area which should be ideal for many of Hawaii's plants. The original Hawaiian Flora site will be used mainly for strand and low-elevation plants which prefer sunny locations.

The large tree of Kokia cookei commenced flowering in mid-June of this year and is setting several fruit. After a total lack of flowers last year, it will be good to have another chance at growing this from seed. Until this species is growing on its own roots, it will remain the rarest plant in the world!

Plans are under way through the cooperation of Wesley Wong, District Forester for Maui County (which includes Molokai) and Rene Sylva of the Maui Zoo and Botanic Garden to establish this plant on Maui and ultimately re-introduce it to the island of Molokai.

SERIANTHES NELSONII-An Up-date

In October 1980, Philip Moore wrote to tell us that since writing his article "Notes on the Endangered Species of Guam" ("Notes", Vol.7 No.1; June 1980) Serianthes nelsonii, an extremely rare tree, has finally been found on the island of Rota, near Guam. Up to that time only 4 trees were known-all on Guam-and efforts to substantiate reports by Kanehira that the species existed on Rota had failed. Phil wrote "---As you will gather from the inclosed specimens, Serianthes has been located again on Rota. My note on "Endangered Plants of Guam" will need revising. I was on Rota for a two day

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96783 U.S.A.
Jan. 23, 1981

Dr. W. J. Cram, Exec. Secr.
Int. Bot. Congress,
Univ. of Sydney,
New South Wales, Australia.

Dear Mr. Cram:

I, with my wife Dr. Isa Degener, hope to attend the Thirteenth Congress in Sydney, and for United States tax exemption need an invitation. It would help convince tax officials, usually unscientific, practical and fine individuals, that the expenses incurred are connected with our "work" and not simply a pleasure trip.

I might add that your restrictions against botanizing poses a distinct financial hardship. We don't need to collect outstanding rareties, but should have the opportunity preferably daily, to be let loose to browse at will in some average spot that would not suffer from such action. We did so at the Congresses during conducted trips out from Montreal, Edinburgh and Leningrad. Evenings, the leaders of tours often held "seminars" to help identify collections at least to the genus.

On our return home, Mrs. Degener & I did not retain such plants as they hardly help us with the study of the Haw. flora. But we scattered them as gifts among 28 United States Universities and Museums. As these were Government institutions, their roughly estimated value as gifts "to eleemosynary institutions" helped materially in reducing our past Congress expenses.

Furthermore, the unscientific tax office usually a few years later, demands proof of our action. The proof consists of letters such as the enclosed received officially from Dr. Eyyipio of the Government University of Cornell. Do, please, return this letter to me, so I can salt it away for probable tax investigation delayed until 1985 or thereabout. I value such letter at between US\$ 25 - 50.

I wish to thank you now for your help.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

572
Re 2-22-1981

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
Jan. 30, 1981.

The Oriental Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 22162,
Hon., 96822.

Dear Sirs:

Please mail me, library rate, a copy of Kimura & Magata. Hawaii's Vanishing Flora, with bill. I have a dealer's license.

I published my Plants Haw. Nat. Park in 1930, the Hon. Star-Bulletin being the printer of the hard cover edition. I have been having paperback editions printed on the Mainland ever since. The printing prices until recently were better than those in Haw., Nei, but the postage getting the heavy job to me at my regular home in Waialua, Oahu, is terrifig. Since Jan. 1 postage rates have increased still more!

My paperback of 316 pages I have been selling wholesale for \$3.00; but now I think I should raise it to \$4.00. The book sells well at our two Nat. Parks and occasionall as a text.

Can you print 1,000 or so copies at a time - I have little room for storage - so that I can sell at \$4.00 & still make a little profit. My idea is to avoid the prohibitive shipping costs by simply driving my VW van to your shop & picking up the job.

For the casual tourist, I am sorry to say, expensive filled paper stock is unnecessary.

If interested, I can mail you a sample.

Mrs. Degener & I live usually at Mokuleia, Waialua, Oahu winters and at the above address during the summer.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER

P.O. Box 134

Volcano, Hawaii

96785 U.S.A.

Jan, 30, 1981

Dear Miss Scanlan:

Mrs. Degener & I live on the Island of Oahu for two to three months at a time to do our botanical writing and then ^{in the Island of Hawaii} for two to three months at a time to do our botanical collecting. Your kind letter of Dec. 8 had been addressed to our Oahu home which we had left; and forwarded - with some delay - to our Hawaii one. Please forgive my delay in answering.

We presently live near the boundary of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park thirty miles distant from the city of Hilo. We shall drive to Hilo and have the photo snapped there next week according to the size you wish. This type of letter

should assure ~~the~~ accuracy.

Do, please, remember that a husband's career is greatly influenced by his wife's backing and often leadership. We have been a team since our marriage in 1953.

Moho

Dr. Otto Degener

Feb. 4, 1981

To speed up matters, wrote
another letter, enclosing
smaller photo

31 Jan. 1981

Dear Otto,

This turn-around acknowledgment of yr metered note of yesterday (no less!) has me replying forthwith in case that Isa and Mrs. K. return next month. If Isa wishes to 'phone me -- 637-5175 -- and leave msg with Lyn and/or tell me directly when they arrive/ at the domestic terminal; why, I'll be on hand with the Rabbit to whisk them off to the North Shore with one or more stops at Foodland and such places before dropping them at #68-617.

I'm glad to read that Isa's mother is back to the stage where it sounds as if she might be even flourishing. Not from anything that you've written, but just the fact that she is ready to take on a return to Mokuleia at this time.

Using yr stationery I've determined that we had some 1.5 centimeters of sand on the concrete patio. The "hummock" and the trees saved us from a serious situation, for 4 big logs came up and are now lying kitty-cornered on the beach directly in front of the house. I'll just have one more comment about that punchline of yr ltr and ask: What caused the wind and the storms? It's all well and good to say that "the low pressure area presses -----." This chicken-egg story might have the water being pulled up (rather than having it pushed down), nest-ce-pas?

Glad to hear that the Degeners are going to Australia ---

Please do not ask me to intervene with Chang. I hope you went with yr revision -- I don't think you'd be "happy" with just a reprint of the earlier pb. It seems to be inevitable that publishers and authors seldom seem to communicate on the same wavelength. One has to trust an editor --- and I know nothing of Chang. Caveat emptor -----

Yr comment re Tripp has me using some of my usual approach to the stationery problem; namely, (over) will call to your attention a ltr that I wrote to one of the UMass. Trustees, a grad. of UMass. ('31, I think), and an Eng. instructor on the campus while I was there, although I didn't have him with any classes. Some day I'll share with you the letter that he sent me about Doc, for it is a good summary of "his position" as I recall his attitude of the early '30's in Amherst.

As you can read from this letter to Barney Troy (Dr. -- Prof. Emeritus Frederick Sherman T.) I'm still getting plenty of mileage from yr O.D.-R.E.T letters, and I wish you to know once again how very grateful I am that they are now a part of my files.

Did you read about the mushrooms near Kawainui swamp? Think I'll have to send the item to Guba. And to Kingsbury at Cornell. The morning ADVERTISER was filled with all sorts of goodies -- not only the unholy coalition of the poils -- but that quote from Nancy Seybert on p. A-10: "--- sometimes sensitive people get other people's headaches and think they are their own." !!!!! Auwe! Can't you just hear Doc T's voice taking this statement for a fare-thee-well -----

Hope all goes well with everyone at Chez D. and that you at least get caught up ----- through 1952 --- with some of those delayed duties&responsibilities. Don't blame this on marriage -- it's your karma!

Allooooooooooocha,

DHS

31 Jan. 1981

Dear Barney,

First, here is an invisible vial of Hawaiian Sunshine and a Xsect. of one of our Rainbows. Maybe, if used with discretion, they will remove any lingering feeling of "Blah"(ness) from yr experience with La Gripe. And let the rainbow strengthen yr resolve to finish the Burke essay.

Next, your good letter of 1/22/81 goes a long way to answering a question or two re RET, so that I'm glad to read that your intuitive resources are alive alert, and astute.

Thanks for replying to my rather ambiguous-ambivalent request sent to you via Brattleboro. Since writing that note I've had some of my questions taken care of and have written to the Social Law Library, Suffolk County Ctise, Pemberton Sq., and a Dr. Kenneth Morgan, now living in Princeton, N.J., who, it turns out, was a sort of mid-wife and catalyst to the establishment of the CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS in Cambridge. But I will add something here with an enclosure that you can make a pass at --- if you're so inclined.

Now let me respond to your letter in more detail:

1. RE -- " -- his life or his thinking." A little of both. In 1975 when I stopped the traveling that I had been doing for some 28 years, I became aware of quite a gap, a lack of information from those years that had me out-of-touch with practically all Amherst matters for the last thirty years. I thought some of the incompleteness would be taken care of by trying to seek the answers to many questions that I would be asking Doc T. if I sat across from him at a luncheon table. Then I went to work on a bit of self-reformation and the establishment of my own myth. Let's say, my own working myth.
2. Mrs. Emerson, UMass. Archivist, has been helpful and cooperative. I believe that she now has an adequate file for RET which is a suitable and acceptable depository for Torrey memorabilia.
3. It has been somewhat baffling to understand why a lot of Doc's papers were destroyed. If they have been. I have not been able to locate any of them. I attended an "International" meeting on the U.H. campus recently and talked with Michael Holroyd and listened to Leon Edel when both of them were on hand for the symposium, NEW DIRECTIONS IN BIOGRAPHY. I liked one of the things that Holroyd said about a biographer -- " -- he should be an artist on oath." And Edel talked about how James had burned all his letters, etc. I throw this paragraph in here, for I have no intention of writing a biography*, although I did pick up from Dr. Otto Degener, MAC '22, that someone is writing one -- or has plans for such. Here, again, I have been unable to determine if there is such a person.
4. Until your letter came along I was unaware of the amount of material that I now have re Doc. Degener permitted me to make Xerox copies of some 20 letters written to him by Doc covering the years 1924-1954. I've used these letters, with Otto's permission, to build up quite a network of former RET associates. Doc's teaching career just about spanned 2 generations of students, and I've arbitrarily used WWII as the division line. You know the pre-war ones. And I imagine that Tippe and you are among the few that have knowledge of the post-war WWII students. The WWII group have Tripp, Putala, Knapp, et al. Nickerson at Tufts? Kingsbury at Cornell?
5. Inevitably one can't dig into 1887-1956 without running into the influence of Theosophy and the members of the NY Branch of the T.S. and the "TQ." on Doc's "routine." This is not the time nor place to wonder about why the T.S. shut down its public activities after 1938, etc., etc. And just how much influence the Blavatsky touch had on the Leverett Yankee.

Enough --- enuf!

Aloha from Hawaii,

Baird
BAS

cc: Al Ryan

*S: See enclosed "CC for F.S.T."
(on yellow)

Enc. (3)

[Ben Smith]

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

Feb. 1, 1981.

Dear Mr. Long:

Isa & I have written an article, somewhat in popular vein, for the local Waimea Arboretum publication read by botanists and intelligent tourists. One thing bothers us before daring to burst into print. What does the Kew Index, including Supplements, state about Pandanus tectorius? We probably should cite ALL the various synonyms. Unfortunately, the Index fails in giving the dates! I bet poor Darwin never expected that blunder. We believe Warburg was involved in P. t.

Today we drive to distant South Point in dearch of lichen genera Vezda wanted us to pick up for him - had no luck. We were horrified that the acres of a "bonsai forest" of the endemic Sesbania is now gone completely. Isa & I did not see a single plant! An ancient stone wall had protected this "grove" of about 6 inch tall trees from Hereford cattle ranging outside. Fishermen and cowboys most likely had broached the fence in several places to park their cars and to let cattle gobble up these tasty halophytes in this rather arid region. We years ago collected a good assortment of the Sesbania for preservation in the Garden & other herbaria.

Another envelope of holographs, etc., is on its way to you. But I am mailing this letter separately to you so it won't get confused with archive material. Please do have some one dig up the information we need.

Before removing to Volcano again, I had my Honolulu cardiologist the present condition of my heart. He advises Isa & me to enjoy the XIII Int. Bot. Congress in August. So we have definitely signed up & paid up for it. We do hope we shall see you there and others from the Garden whom we feel we know well via publications & correspondence. Australia is unknown to us.

Ignoring my physician's estimate of my life expectancy, and paying attention to life insurance statistics for 82 year old Senior Citizens, I am getting as many herbarium specimens lying about in two herb., cabinets and in plastic bags with camphor in two houses on two different islands labeled and off to herbaria. Lacking time and most source books, I am identifying mostly only so far as the genera so the plants can get into proper covers for monographers to unravel in Centuries to come. Many are already extinct, as the areas where I botanized in the early days have been bulldozed or otherwise devastated. Trivial names in the relatively unknown Angiosperm flora thus far "identified" chiefly by old-fashioned "lumpers", are hardly up to the precise standards of identification maintained by Britton & Brown. All other groups, except the few ferns, are practically unknown. We are surrounded by novelties. To explore the islands is more interesting than exploring the moon.

I hope you & Mrs. Holmgren won't suffer strokes reading the rest of this letter. As you know, we own four rental units plus two houses for us Degeners. Thanks to these cottages, we are learning from first hand experience what carpenters, electricians, painters, plumbers and yardmen get paid PER HOUR for "work". Such individuals have had grammar & high school training for the most part. We have found none with any college degrees. Some charge us \$30 per hour to come to the house and perhaps an additional \$2.50 for a new fuse for house lights or for the refrigerator. If their average cash value per hour is \$30 & over today, ours is certainly worth much more. We are not on any salary paying us for botanizing, being essential free lancers. We use an expensive jeep, fly from island to island, use a dehumidifier & electricity to dry our catch & flutter through pages of books & pamphlets. I see no reason why Isa & I should not charge our hourly expenses against herb. specimens we ship off to eleemosynary institutions in the U.S. Now you will understand why we have insur-

ed the present slim package on its way to the Garden at \$150. The postal receipt we are salting away to show the tax investigator when the day of reckoning finally comes to check the tax credit we yake off for gifts. The rather poor Degeneria material represents a Haw.,-~~XXX~~ New Zealand stopover in Fiji, hotel, U-Drive car & other costs. That the material is of poor quality hardly ingolves the expense in getting it.

I know you will gasp, but we believe we are far too modest. Our packages represent far more than the sum we presently attach to them. Whether we should add also the days spent in unnecessary bookkeeping for which the tax assessor genteely harasses us, I don't know.

Aloha,

© 2

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
Feb. 4, 1981.

Dear Miss Goetsch:

Mrs. Degener & I read with mixed feelings your article about the popolo in the Haw. Trib.-Herald of Jan. 25-31.

I got a Master's from the University of Haw., in 1923, taught Botany there in 1925-27, and have been staff member of the New York Bot. Garden (representing the Garden in Haw. Nei) since 1933. Mrs. Degener is a botanist with a doctorate from Berlin.

I published my "Plants Haw. Nat. Park" in 1930, COPYRIGHTING it. I note you reproduced my popolo Plate 75, not crediting me as is generally done after getting permission from the author. Mrs. D., & I feel upset by this inaction.

Incidentally, the popolo you have been working on is not "cosmopolitan" as you have it. Anyway, why publish on a plant before trying to identify it properly? If you plan to have it

in your paper as "Solanum nigrum or S. nodiflorum", why not be just as inconsistent and cite the author of the paper "Lelona Goetsch or Frieda Schumann"? Won't you regret indecision? It will be on your record for good. I remember Pres. David L. Crawford spending much of his time at the Territorial's expense working on & publishing a research paper without bothering to identify which of the 4 or 5 species of Dioscorea it might be. He repeated similar blunders. I am proud that I joined the "Chemistry" Bilgers, Regent S.N. ~~XXXX~~ Castle to give up his Presidency in 1941 to settle in Mexico to become a farm machinery salesman.

The simple honorable "After Degener" under an illustration gives credit where credit is due; and for you to delete the name of the artist Hung Sun Lau from the plate was not strictly just to his memory. I don't know what his children would think were they to notice this.

My "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" sells whole/sale for \$4.00 and my "Flora Haw.", sells, also wholesale, for 40. If interested in Botany, do you want the lot for \$44 postpaid? Kindly let me know your decision.

When you have published your popolo article, please let me have two copies to file, with copies of letters, in the archives of the N.Y. Bot. Garden & at the Hunt Bot. Library in Pittsburgh. Being retired teachers, I guess, we tend to be fussy. In short we herewith gladly have you reproduce our popolo plate (if it has not turned sour for you) ONLY if you cite beneath "After Degener" and replace the artist's name.

Aloha
Dr. Otto Degener

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96783 U.S.A.

Feb. 5, 1981.

Dear Mr. Tokioka:

Many thanks for your Feb. 24 invitation which was forwarded to Mrs. Degener & me to Volcano, where we are presently living.

I have approached your Foundation some time ago; but as individuals and situations change, I may as well repeat myself.

I am a Univ. of Haw., recipient of a Master's in '23, and taught Botany there in 1925-27. In 1926 I purchased my home with main house on University Ave., and a servants' quarters now better called "guest House" on Waiu Way. The main house is 2234 University Ave.,, opposite the band stand of Kamanele Park and just a couple of minutes' walk from the Botany Building of that era. The property is 11,250 square feet, fee simple, and has always been free and clear. I being 82 years old, Mrs. D., & I no longer live there - hence no residency tax advantages - and are willing to sell for cash if we get the price we wish. We are in no hurry. Since my last offer to the U., the value as we see it has increased due to inflation about \$1,000 per month. Soon our price, via escrow company perhaps to avoid the near-illegal 6% realtor-lobby "demand", is approaching close to \$400,000.

The crowded, now ugly, overbuilt campus needs room for expansion and Kamanele Park with upkeep at State rather than University expense, would be ideal. Moreover, our home and neighboring ones are ideal for University activities in the form they now exist or razed and replaced with larger Faculty & Student housing monster buildings.

We hope a man with vision will look at the place from his car from both University Avenue and Waiu Way without "frightening" our present two tenant families to death. The University, like religious institutions on U. Ave., I am sure would be granted a variance from strict residential zoning.

I see a future for the area as an enlarged "unofficial" campus.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

EILEEN R. ANDERSON
MAYOR



ROBERT K. MASUDA
DIRECTOR

February 9, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

SUBJECT: Shower Tree Removal Fronting 2234 University Avenue

The Department of Public Works has referred your request to remove the subject shower tree to our department for appropriate action.

We are pleased to inform you that the tree was trimmed in February 1981, to minimize any potential hazard and give it proper shape. We feel, however, that it is not necessary to remove the tree because it is set back enough from the curb.

The tree is old and had not been properly maintained because we thought it was private property since your Panax hedge and your neighbors' exclusive use of their frontage encroach into City property beyond the tree. Such encroachments require a special permit from the Department of Public Works to be legal.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Masuda", is written over a horizontal line.

ROBERT K. MASUDA, Director

RKM:eve

cc: Dept. of Public Works

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

March 16, 1981

Dear Mr. Masuda:
(RKM:eve;joc Dept.Publ.Works)

Your last paragraph in your letter of Feb. 9 about needing a permit for a panax hedge worries Mrs. Degener.

I bought the property at 2234 University Ave., Manoa, in 1926 when it was called 2220 Vancouver Highway. Kamaele Park & my property had been the King's taro patch originally. It is actually a little cindercone formerly watered by a ditch. My house is old, and built on the original level of land. Neighbor houses were built after the lot had been filled in.

The Territory, as it repaired the road, repeatedly merely put another veneer of road material on the older roadbeds, getting my property lower & lower below the street.

Often they did this without building a higher curb so that during Kona storms my property was usually flooded from runoff from Maile Way. In former days I and neighbors raised chickens in runs covered with chickenwire. Once after camping overnight in sunny Makua Valley, I returned home after a Kona in Manoa to find my two dozen chickens all drowned thanks to the Territorial workers of your Dept., neglecting to construct curbing! No good manholes occurred as now. After this experience, I raised ducks which of course escaped such a wet fate.

The State of Hawaii put in a sewer system. As MY panax hedge on MY property was in the way, the engineer in charge of the construction phoned us long distance for permission to change the position of the hedge. We granted his request. It was a State official who placed it in its present illegal position, NOT we owners. Furthermore, out of gratitude to us, he even had the decency to have the hedge watered to guarantee its growing.. In short, such encroachment of the hedge on State property is the State's doing. Some shyster could quibble about the ownership of the hedge.; yours or mine?

Furthermore, as mentioned above, the State has raised the roadbed every couple of years, yet not raised the State's area of sidewalk, leaving a leg-breaking dip on state land adjoining my property. If you wish to change the position of the hedge to our boundary, we advise you to avoid possible lawsuits by pedestrians. Unless you level the entire sidewalk area to the level of the curbing, they can sprain an ankle or worse. ^{hedge} ~~The area~~ we feel, should be on such a boundary. What you do with it does not interest us particularly as we are now absentee landlords. Contact our tenant if you wish.

Your letter does bring up interesting Ancient History.

Aloha,
Dr. Otto Degener

Feb. 6, 1981

Dear friends of Ethel Yuncker:

Forgive, please, the impersonality of this letter but it is the only practical way to reach everyone whom we found in her personal address book.

Mother will be 90 on March 6. She is doing fine, in good appetite and brisk of step. But she does tire rather sooner than she used to. Therefore, at her request, the birthday party is being limited just to closest family. And she has given an order -- "no presents!" -- even to us.

But letters or cards from her friends would delight her and that is why we are sending you this reminder of the date so you can join in a shower of good wishes to her.

Envelopes can be addressed to her at Asbury if you prefer. Or you can send them to her, care of Betty at the address below. Those addressed to Florida will be put into a memory book to be delivered on her birthday (and with room for the ones directly to her to be added).

With our affectionate greetings to all of you whom we also treasure as our friends,

Betty Lee + Barbara Yuncker

Mrs. Robert J. Lee
2140 NE Second Court
Boynton Beach, Florida
33435

Received 2/25/81

70
DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
Feb. 9, 1981.

Mr. John D. Archbold
9905 Reservoir Road
Washington, D.C.

Dear John:

You visited Isa & me at our Mokuia Beach home on Oahu, and your letter reached there according to the postal cancellation Jan. 31. Then it took about another week to reach our mountain home on the edge of Haw. Volc. Nat. Park on the Island of Hawaii. I can't understand such delay. It took you until Jan. 6 to answer my letters of Sept. 30 & Oct. 10. I don't remember exactly what I had written you. The carbons are either with my Cheng Ho material on Oahu or in the archives, concerning all bot., matters, on the Mainland. I do remember that Popenoe's answer to me was very noncommittal, and so I shall let him forget the entire matter. He did write he had much about the Cheng Ho, I guess in spite of Fairchild enriching the Univ. of Fla. Degener & Popenoe correspondence by this time is ancient history. I was favorably impressed by him about 30 years ago when a mutual friend, who had studied at his father's school in Agucigalpa, brought him to my beach to visit me. Your cryptic reference to him may have been colored by your mother kicking Mrs. Fairchild's rotting mollusks and D.F.'s., rotting fruits overboard. This is refreshingly in your mother's favor. She was human. Isn't it the natural result of two women being cooped up on a 100 foot boat? By the way, my late Dir. Merrill wrote me that many of F's., plant specimens were so poorly collected that he had trouble identifying them. All such letters are in the archives, as will be this one and yours. I have nothing to hide. Popenoe may have been prejudiced against your mother, influenced by her overly demanding (?) guests.

You seem rather badly confused regarding the Cheng Ho situation in which I am involved since Merrill recommended me to your mother to take Fairchild's place. As I remember, you were not particularly interested in the Expedition, to your mother's displeasure. So here goes:

On receiving your mother's invitation, I agreed to accept ONLY on condition I be enabled to bring along a Filipino assistant at my own expense to help carry the plants out of the jungle for me and press and dry them. Emilio Ordóñez was by far the best choice of my three semiadopted factata, the second being a nice average highschool boy and the third being from the Home for Feeble Minded. During World War II a few years later, when Emilio was outstanding in the US Air Force, I learned he was the grandson by some secondary wife of the Philippine patriot Emilio Aguinaldo! I am rather proud I recognized a penniless youngster's superior genes. Hence I reduced his pay from full-time work at \$1.00 per day to part-time work at 50 cents & stuck him back in school. Mature sugar plantation laborers were being paid \$1.00 per day at the time.

Your mother agreeing to the two of us joining the Cheng Ho, I logically paid Emilio's & my fair from Honolulu to Suva to meet the Cheng Ho on its arrival from the Philippines. The vessel being delayed, I paid for my and his hotel expenses, and auto fair, etc., for some botanizing. I lacked the nerve to expect your mother to pay such expenses, being ever so grateful for her invitation. I collected practically no plants while with your mother on the Cheng Ho, as we were on the ocean rather than on land.

As mentioned in my book "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji" which I published at my own expense in 1949 and without your mother's knowledge until I mailed

Mellon, University, Pittsburgh, are willing to finally get the book published. He is a keen, practical botanist as both Isa & I know. He recently completed with others an outstanding revision of a bot. encyclopedia for short called "Zander". Hunt Bot. Library has much of my Cheng Ho correspondence, documents, etc., at HIS very fingertips.

I can't understand why you never asked me about the list of Fiji plants I collected on my own time and money, but officially as a member of the CH Expedition!!!!!! I have my entire list amounting to about 2,500 Flowering Plants. Then I suppose I may have collected another 500 ferns, lichens and mosses of which I have practically no list. The entire "mass" comes to perhaps 10,000 individual herbarium sheets now scattered in a dozen or so bot. institutions. I have that list also. One of the best sets is in the New York Botanical Garden ("Bronx Park"). Remember that Botany is a growing science and that identifications made in the '40s in many cases have been changed as new evidence has been unearthed. Buchheim's time is too valuable, but some Botany Major in New York need merely go to the proper herbarium cabinets in Bronx Park and haul out the plants on my list and see if some monographer has corrected some obsolete names. Then you can publish the corrected list if desired.

If you want a list of OH mollusks, why not contact Tucker Abbott if he still survives. You should get his correct address by writing the Smithsonian and/or the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

Before I forget, how in the World could you manage to sell Hillendale? We are trying to sell our former modest home on a 11,250 square foot lot next to the Univ. of Hawaii and opposite a delightful park. No one can afford to buy it, because interest rates are too high for the prospective buyer to borrow from the banks. It is a nuisance dealing with tenants.

You must have selected Moore and later Arens because of their success in writing articles or books similar to the proposed one. Could their failures perhaps be that the subject simply lacks sufficient highlights to make it interesting? In my own case: I wrote my "Naturalists SP Expedition: Fiji", as a result of my eight months in Fiji. I sold all my copies by this time, but I don't see that it threatened to become a best seller even though my account of cannibalism I believe to be excellent. A native minister had given me his son to be my son (I paid him and he was a most faithful assistant), and hence I was accepted as a member of the family. Among my adopted relatives was a granduncle, who had been a cannibal in his early days. "My Neon" Aloisio pumped the old gentleman in Fijian regarding the diet. I then put down in my notes his translation. Anyway, years ago Isa & I thought we should delete all scientific references to plants, and then have a popular paperback published with cannibalism a tasty subject. With this in mind, we approached an editor who replied that the book needed a strong, central person to act as a thread to hold it together. Mine is too much a collection of separate articles.

I doubt you will seriously contemplate my advice as you seem to be rather reticent by nature. The book should not be about the CH Expedition at all. To make it a success, it should be a biography of a remarkable woman with perhaps merely "Anne Archbold" as title, a really great and interesting person with executive ability, courage, idealism and a little righteous anger mixed in. With your mother as the main thread of the book, hang on kidnapping her children, African big game hunt & facing a belliephant rhinoceros with a parasol, Fairchilds, Cheng Ho, etc., etc. The facts you so carefully hide from the public are probably precisely the facts that make a book (and a person) a success. Why show your mother in print as a nubby milk-toast housewife type when she was just the opposite?

For our Flora Haw., I wrote a 2-page autobiography; another is to follow about Isa. I am not particularly reticent. As you know, I was fooled into getting entangled by choosing a scoundrel as Captain. I don't hide my mistake.

Considering your age and your preoccupation with leaving Hillendale, I doubt you will salvage your, Arens', Daveners' and others blood, sweat & tears expended

Mellon, University, Pittsburgh, are willing to finally get the book published. He is a keen, practical botanist as both Isa & I know. He recently completed with others an outstanding revision of a bot. encyclopedia for short called "Zander". Hunt Bot. Library has much of my Cheng Ho correspondence, documents, etc., at HIS very fingertips.

I can't understand why you never asked me about the list of Fiji plants I collected on my own time and money, but officially as a member of the CH Expedition!!!!!! I have my entire list amounting to about 2,500 Flowering Plants. Then I suppose I may have collected another 500 ferns, lichens and mosses of which I have practically no list. The entire "mass" comes to perhaps 10,000 individual herbarium sheets now scattered in a dozen or so bot. institutions. I have that list also. One of the best sets is in the New York Botanical Garden ("Bronx Park"). Remember that Botany is a growing science and that identifications made in the '40s in many cases have been changed as new evidence has been unearthed. Buchheim's time is too valuable, ~~not~~ ^{so} some Botany Major in New York need merely go to the proper herbarium cabinets in Bronx Park and haul out the plants on my list and see if some monographer has corrected some obsolete names. Then you can publish the corrected list if desired.

If you want a list of CH mollusks, why not contact Tucker Abbott if he still survives. You should get his correct address by writing the Smithsonian and/or the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

Before I forget, how in the World could you manage to sell Hillendale? We are trying to sell our former modest home on a 11,250 square foot lot next to the Univ. of Hawaii and opposite a delightful park. No one can afford to buy it, because interest rates are too high for the prospective buyer to borrow from the banks. It is a nuisance dealing with tenants.

You must have selected Moore and later Arens because of their success in writing articles or books similar to the proposed one. Could their failures perhaps be that the subject simply lacks sufficient highlights to make it interesting? In my own case: I wrote my "Naturalists SP Expedition: Fiji", as a result of my eight months in Fiji. I sold all my copies by this time, but I don't see that it threatened to become a best seller even though my account of cannibalism I believe to be excellent. A native minister had given me his son to be my son (I paid him and he was a most faithful assistant), and hence I was accepted as a member of the family. Among my adopted relatives was a granduncle, who had been a cannibal in his early days. My "son" Aloisio pumped the old gentleman in Fijian regarding the diet. I then put down in my notes his translation. Anyway, years ago Isa & I thought we should delete all scientific references to plants, and then have a popular paperback published with cannibalism a tasty subject. With this in mind, we approached an editor who replied that the book needed a strong, central person to act as a thread to hold it together. Mine is too much a collection of separate articles.

I doubt you will seriously contemplate my advice as you seem to be rather reticent by nature. The book should not be about the CH Expedition at all. To make it a success, it should be a biography of a remarkable woman with perhaps merely "Anne Archbold" as title, a really great and interesting person with executive ability, courage, idealism and a little righteous anger mixed in. With your mother as the main thread of the book, hang on kidnapping her children, African big game hunt & facing a belligerent rhinoceros with a parasol, Fairchilds, Cheng Ho, etc., etc. The facts you so carefully hide from the public are probably precisely the facts that make a book (and a person) a success. Why show your mother in print as a nanbynanby milk-toast housewife type when she was just the opposite?

For our Flora Haw., I wrote a 2-page autobiography; another is to follow about Isa. I am not particularly reticent. As you know, I was fooled into getting entangled by chasing a swindler as Captain. I don't hide my mistake.

Considering your age and your preoccupation with leaving Hillendale, I doubt you will salvage your, Arens', Daxelers' and others blood, sweat & tears expended

on the CH story. This will occur unless you succeed in finding a writer - Buchheim perhaps - and let him choose what to record, whether favorable or not to Archbalds, Fairchilds, Degeners or others. Let them stew in their own juices IN STRICTLY HONEST. With friends, acquaintances and strangers scattered throughout the World, especially where all such people tended to gossip, lack of expected publication will reflect ~~for~~ ~~on~~, I fear, unfavorably on you forevermore. I am sorry you have gotten a tiger by the tail. (or tale). Isa & I can be of little help as we want to publish our revised Nat. Park paperback, continue on our Haw., Flora, and get our collection of herbarium specimens finally labeled and safely housed in bot. institutions of the World. We don't want to keep all our eggs in one basket with a Third World war perhaps just over the horizon. It is reckless of you to offer to show us the Arenas etc., but we are scared of getting involved until you have progressed further and we have returned from the XIII Int. Bot. Congress held in Australia. Wanting to take some conducted tours, we may not be back until the middle of Sept (health permitting).

Isa joins in aloha,

W. R. S. G. G. G.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U.S.A.
Jan. 12, 1982.

Dir. John Fopence
Fairchild Trop. Garden
Old Cutter Road, Miami.

Dear John:

overleaf

Receiving no reply to my impatient letter of Feb. 9, 1961 (which really states facts regarding my Fiji stay for distribution to a few institutions to correct misconceptions), I feel any one is at liberty to publish about Mrs. Archbold, her expedition, the Cheng Ho during her successful ownership and my unsuccessful one, and the Fiji specimens I was able to amass.

I am ready with the documents in my possession to help Mr. Archbold or any one else if seriously interested in making use of them. Should Mrs. Degener & I ever have the time and inclination, we may print a few little articles similar to mine which appeared in the Jour. NY Bot. Garden 44 (525) 192-213 & (526) 221-232. 1943.

We two spent an interesting summer during the XIII International Congress, comparing as much as possible plant genera in Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand in relation to our own. Of these three regions our Flan., Flora seems closest to that of New Zealand! We don't have the books, but I bet comparing indexes in Floras of these three regions would verify our observation. We surmise the reason is geological.

Have you seen a gilded, carved wooden pomegranate fruit in the old Fairchild home? After I owned the Cheng Ho and therefore ~~it~~ incorporated my defunct "Cheng Ho Trading & Exploring Company", I removed the carvings you see in the pamphlet reprints. With these carvings I greatly enhanced my second story living room at Mokuleia Beach where you and H.F. Clay visited me. When David Fairchild begged me for a souvenir of the Cheng Ho, I removed one of the wooden pomegranates to send to him. I knew of nothing more appropriate.

My Fiji book has the title "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji", because I anticipated that I would sail on the Cheng Ho trading expeditions. I would ignore business and, instead, "explore for plants" and gather native lore. Then my Fiji book might be followed every five years or so by "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Tonga", then "S.S. Expedition: Marquesas", etc., etc.

For the fun of it, please watch out for the gilded pomegranate.

ISA & I wish you an interesting 1982.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

Jardin Botanique National de Belgique

Domaine de Bouchout
B.-1860 MEISE (Belgique)

SP. 530/81

Le Jardin Botanique National de Belgique a l'honneur d'accuser réception de 1 colis

contenant 8 spécimens d'herbier que vous avez bien voulu lui envoyer :

prêt n° _____ retour de prêt n° _____

échange - don pour détermination

et vous en remercie ^{très} vivement.

LE CHEF DU DEPARTEMENT
SPERMATOPHYTES-PTERIDOPHYTES,

André Lawalrée

Le 10 Février 1981

A Monsieur Dr. Otto Degener
68 - 617 Crozier Drive
Waialua Oahu

HAWAII 96791 U.S.A.

8 spécimens d'herbier de Hawaï en échange.

Merçi pour la documentation

11 Feb. 1981

MEMO

To: Otto Degener

From: Don Smith

Subject: This&That ----

For awhile I thought that the "Monday" mentioned in your recent letter re Isa and her mother returning to Oahu meant the 16th, not the 9th, for I 'phoned between 10-11 both Mon. and Tues. ---- No Answer.

But today I did make a connection and talked to Isa and am planning to stop by between 9-10 this Sat. A.M., so that I can talk to Isa 'cross the table ----- and return the plastic bottles, the contents of which have contributed to my good health.

Now to yr last Wed. ltr:

1. I suggest that you send Doc's SAIFIE to Mrs. Karg ----
2. I talked to Chang about another matter the other day. He's the "Oriental Publishing Co." and has a PO Box # as I imagine that you now know. I also checked a U.H. directory and find that he's a tenured prof. in the Geography Dept.
3. I imagine that Isa has run up a toll charge on yr phone bringing you up-to-date and current on what has happened in the last 24 hrs since they've been on Oahu.

I hope that Isa and you have worked out some kind of a "telephone code" to keep in touch with Mrs. K --- but I'll check all of this out on the 14th ---

Be my Valentine ----



DHS

754

2/19 1980

59-101
1213

PAY TO THE ORDER OF THE DINOSAUR PRESS \$10.00

1000 DOLLARS

Wahiawa Branch
First Hawaiian Bank
730 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96788

For 2 cc's "E.F.E."

⑆12130101510754 39⑈251779⑈⑈0000001000⑈

SEE SEP. MEMO

Don Smith

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

Feb. 15, 1981.

Dear Mr. Wolf & Mr. Faruya:

Mrs. Degener & I received your letter dated Feb. 9, extending time for another examination of our tax returns, this time for 1976, 1977 and 1978! I doubt we can comply. Mrs. Degener, who has a mauna cum laude doctorate degree from Berlin has been wasting her time for years answering similar tax questions to your office's satisfaction. Before coming to our alternate home to work on Baw., plants, she crawled into our Waialua attic to start working through our accounts according to your office's bidding.

Due to the strain of attending to rental unit swindlers - we were in Judge Richardson's Court in Honolulu and in some antilandlord judge's Court on rural Oahu recently - and gentle annoyance from your Honolulu office, she suffered palpitations and heart pains. So she flew last Sunday to Oahu to visit our family physician Dr. Rodman Miller, Haleiwa Medical Center, Oahu, 'phone 637-5087. After an examination, he sent her to MY cardiologist Dr. Richard Reeve, Suite 312, 1040 S. King Street, Honolulu, 'phone 521-8211.

Of course as you don't believe our tax reports, you won't believe this garrulous letter about her health. So, please, investigate the facts yourselves by 'phoning these two physicians. That you know their 'phone numbers from me is proof that you have permission to get the truth from them.. My wife 'phoned a few nights ago that she is indeed ill with heart trouble from worry, and that there is no cure except to reduce the cause. With this in mind, I wrote the University of Hawaii that we are prepared to sell our major rental unit at 2234 University Avenue to my alma mater. We may also simply close up our Mokuleia rental units as not worth the nervous energy expended; One is now empty due to a marriage, and another has a divorcee who apologized for being delinquent in rent for this month (Feb.).

In short: I cannot imagine my wife being in a physical condition to leave Volcano for Hilo, enplane for Honolulu, take a taxi to Waialua 30 miles distant to get a suitcase or two of old tax records, hire a taxi to drive her & such baggage to your Honolulu office, and under stress perhaps suffer a heart attack before you. How does she get home in her weakened condition - ambulance? If you don't believe me, please 'phone either physician for a ruling. Practically. How do you do it?

2. Theoretically I am just as responsible as she to get the tax matters to your office. Not familiar with the figures - I spend most of my ~~XXXXX~~ time studying plants - I can hand the bulky suitcases over to you and give you the liberty for a week or so to get the information for yourself. Practically, however, I am unable to undertake such a journey from Hawaii to Oahu & return. I was born in 1899, have been a legal invalid since Dr. Reeve removed my old & installed a new heart pacemaker in my chest May 21, 1980. Also, I have no license to drive an auto - never had one!

Mrs. Degener & I welcome corrections of tax figures back so far as the statute of limitations allows. But we expect corrections not to be one-sided, but just. We would then try to avoid all nervous stress to our hearts by employing a tax expert on the contingency basis if possible. We have learned from our rental units that grammar & high school educated carpenters, electricians, painters and plumbers earn per hour. None have invested 6 or 7 years of unpaid labor to acquire a doctor's degree. Mrs. D. & I get no salary from any institution and are, like many of the above, self-employed. We impracticable ^{my} ~~emphases~~ with doctorates are worth \$50 to \$85 per hour for our labor like any physician or attorney. I was awarded the Linné Medal Stockholm and the Willdenow Medal by Berlin; while my wife has the highest kind of doctorate. We have erred in valuing our labor in the past at less than what a yardman gets per hour! To be just, we want our past records of gifts to eleemosynary institutions increased at least three-fold. Even so, that is again stupidly too little. These new figure are what the

Internal Revenue Service over us! In fact, the value is too low considering we collected in Leningrad, Moscow and the Caucasus; to see how the closest relatives of our Haw., plants are, in Fiji, New Zealand and Taiwan. Last week's Haw.-Tribune Herald printed on its front page a list of current salaries of our politicians, some of whom have had but modest schooling, and the contemplated salary raises. We are having 28 xeroxes made. If such anti Reagan (?) policy actually succeeds, we plan to add the average percentage of their pay raise as an average increase in the value of our labors. What is considered fair for them, should be fair for us.

Now, as long as I am a living corpse over eighty and my wife is being gently prayed to death by your Service - just like the Haw., kahuna prayed another to death by fear, I plan WITHOUT MY EXCITABLE WIFE'S KNOWLEDGE, to act as a patriotic Republican in a state shamefully out of step with a Republican Nation. It is futile to write Pres. Reagan as the Secretary's Secretary (to the hundredth degree) would discard the letter. Instead I have written for a xerox of the D.C., 'phone book's yellow pages for the list of DC newspapers. I should get this information within the month. Then with your co-operation, perhaps, giving the number of felons and more astute criminals your investigators have tackled successfully, I want to xerox copies to the editors of these newspapers. Some doubtless will print the article (from a "crank") coming from distant "Hawaya". Let us question why presumably "heinous" criminals should not have their earnings investigated before tax investigators (highly paid per hour) seem to waste time with the piffy returns of presumably honest Senior Citizens. We can make the article not only amusing - the kahuna angle - but instructive and useful as well in helping retard the sinking of our Ship of State.

Should you gentlemen have any appropriate anecdotes of human interest, please forward them so I can weave them into my letters to Washington. With "Dr. Otto Degener: Botanist, Univ. of Haw., 1925-27; Naturalist, Haw. Nat. Park, 1929; Author, etc., etc.," at bottom of the letters, I get free advertising to sell my books and to pay Federal & State taxes on the profits.

I shall mail xeroxes of this letter with appropriate "exhibits" to the following 28 or so American eleemosynary US institutions as gift plants accumulate. They help me with tax deductions. Moreover, at the same time, reading this letter should impress them how important it is they mail me acknowledgements to forward to your office. Giving addresses, you can check my actions.

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010
University of Mass., Amherst, Mass., 01002
University of Mich., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78703
University of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. 94720
Indiana Univ., Bloomington, Ind. 47401
Arnold Arboretum, Cambridge, Mass. 02138
S. Illinois Univ., Carbondale, Ill. 62901
Texas A&M Univ., College Station, Texas 77843
S. Methodist Univ., Dallas, Texas 75275
Univ. of Fla., Gainesville, Fla. 32611
Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI. Box 6037
Bailey Hortorium, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14850
Mich. State U., E. Lansing, Mich. 48823
Univ. Wisc., Madison, Wisc. 53706
N.Y. Bot. Garden, Bronx, NY 10458
U. Wisc.-Oshkosh, Wisc. 54901
U. Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98193
Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif. 94305
Missouri Bot. Garden, St. Louis, Mo. 63110
U. Minn., St. Paul, Minn. 55191
U. Pac., Stockton, Calif. 95204
U. S. Fla., Tampa, Fla. 33620
U. Ill., Urbana, Ill. 61801

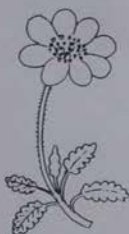
US Nat. Arboretum, Wash., D.C. 20002
Smithsonian Institution, Wash., DC

OF COURSE, for information don't just write the institution, but their Dept. of Botany.

I don't get as much exercise for my entire body as before, but I did get a healthy work-out on the typewriter.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener



SEKTIONEN FOR BOTANIK

Tel. 08-15 02 40

NATURHISTORISKA RIKSMUSEET
104 05 STOCKHOLM 50

1981-02-17

To DRS. Otto & Isa Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 USA

Dear Madam and Sir,

Herewith we confirm that we have received 8 unmounted specimens and 17 pieces of printed matters. The section of fanerogamic botany at the Swedish Museum of Natural History would like to express its gratitude for the interesting papers and the unmounted specimens which you have sent to us.

With kindest regards,

Roger Lundin

Roger Lundin

ass. curator

741 N. Kalaheo Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Dr. Degener:

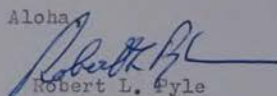
February 19, 1981

Thank you for sending the marked copy of your bibliography and the interesting issue of GRUS AMERICANA which I received yesterday. I was not familiar with the latter publication, and was glad for the opportunity to see a copy.

Last Saturday I was helping with "paste-up" of the March issue of 'ELEPAIO, getting it ready for printing, and included in it is your article on the "Flying Mongoose", with a nice introductory comment from the editor. The points made in it are very well taken. I had not seen it before, so you probably sent it directly to the editor. Material for this issue was finalized around the first of February, after which volunteer help must typewrite it, proof-read, paste-up for printing and get it to the printer, then later prepare it for mailing and mail it to members,, so as to reach them around the first of March. Prior issues go through the same cycle. I don't know when your Flying Mongoose contribution reached the editor, but probably not more than one issue went by before space was found for it in the March issue, which is pretty good considering the backup of material waiting to be printed in 'ELEPAIO. My article about the trip to Christmas Island in January 1980, which I sent to the editor in late spring, appeared in the November '80 issue.

Your discussion of the Barn Owl threat is of considerable interest and significance for Audubon members, and it is most appropriate for the 'ELEPAIO. The Editor very much appreciates receiving contributions from such eminent Hawaiiana authorities as yourselves, and we hope you will continue to share your thoughts and views with Audubon members through the 'ELEPAIO.

Aloha


Robert L. Fyle

Feb. 24, 1981

Dear Mr. Pyle:

Mrs. Degener & I were glad to get your informational letter. Thanks, lots, for correcting our 'Elepaio citation from the wrong "18" to the correct "38". We are correcting our desk copy - can't do it for 1,499 we are offering for sale.

For us botanists, the Christmas Island trip would have been simply too expensive for bot., advantages. Low islands are notoriously poor in endemic Phanerogams, or Flowering Plants; &, due to the extensive plantation ~~MANNAEAE~~ the terrain has been extensively altered for the worse so far as plants are concerned.

Moreover, with lack of endemics to gather, we cannot return home from such a trip with a hay mow of prizes to distribute to up to 50 US institutions for the good of Science and for Federal tax benefits via the eleemosynary institution gift rate. This helps reduce our costs. With this in mind, Mrs. D., & I (unless age should prevent it) are flirting with the idea of attending the VIII Int. Bot. Congress in Australia this summer. We have consulted with our physicians, & they admit reluctantly that in an emergency we can be cured or killed just as efficiently by physicians in Sydney as in Honolulu or Hilo. But do remember this: if you wish to be cremated & have your ashes scattered at sea, don't die in a Catholic country. To be cremated, your corpse must be shipped at considerable expense to another type of Nation.

Interested in Natural History as a whole, we shall visit Australian zoos and particularly watch for penned up endemic geese. We tend to follow Mr. Pratt's idea that Australian geese are the closest relatives of our nene. A human M.D., (not a vet.) specializing in blood could probably decide the relationship of various geese were she to take the time to compare blood samples. A calabash cousin of mine, elderly about 50 years ago, was such a man.

By the way, we saw several nene in the West Berlin Zoo two years ago.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener



Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Mrs. Macquarie's Road, Sydney, NSW. 2000, Australia

Phone (02) 274347

In Reply Please Quote JS:SMc

National Herbarium of New South Wales

24th February, 1981.

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

Dear Sir,

Herewith we acknowledge the receipt, in good order, of the specimens sent for our herbarium. As always, they are a welcome addition to our collections. Also our thanks for the publications enclosed with them.

Yours faithfully,

Loans Officer
for the Director.

P.G.S.

UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

INSTITUT FÜR ALLGEMEINE BOTANIK
UND BOTANISCHER GARTEN

Herb. Hamburg

Institut für Allgemeine Botanik und Botanischer Garten Hamburg
Postanschrift: 2000 Hamburg 36, Postfach 30 27 22

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener,
P.O. Box 154,
VOLCANO, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

Hamburg, den 24.2.1981

Fernsprecher 41 23 _____ (Durchwahl)

Behördenetz 09 _____ (Durchwahl)

Thank you for sending the specimens of Hawaii.

Yours sincerely

J. Friederichsen
(Dr. Ingeborg Friederichsen)
Hauptkustodin

Institut für Allgemeine Botanik
und Botanischer Garten
Herbarium Hamburgense
D 2000 Hamburg 36 · Jungiusstraße 6

Sitz: 2000 Hamburg 36, Jungiusstraße 6-8, ☎ (0 40) 41 23-1

GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

BOTANISKA MUSEET

Göteborg 25.II.1981

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

Dear Dr Degener,

Our trip to Hawaii has now taken a more definite form as the date for our departure has been fixed. We are leaving from Göteborg on the 21st of March staying on Oahu until the 28th when we go to Maui for 6 nights. Then back to Honolulu for another week. In Honolulu we have been booked in Hotel Outrigger East.

I hope it will be possible to see you some day during our stay on Oahu.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

B. Peterson
(B. Peterson)

Hilo, Hawaii
February 26, 1981

Dear Dr. Degener:

Your letter of February 5, in regards to the popolo story, was received and I am sorry that I have not been able to answer until now.

I sincerely apologize for any errors in the story and certainly had no intention of annoying you or anyone else in not crediting the picture to you or the artist. As it happened, I did find at least two books at the library with the ~~s~~ identical plates of the popolo and many more with details about the plant. I had no way of knowing to whom the original drawing belonged.

Leona Goetsch did NOT provide the picture, nor did she provide the description of the plant. Her letter to me was more of a human interest story about the 4-H group delivering the frozen berries to her in Chicago and some of the people here who had been most helpful in finding the plants and getting them to her and taking her on field trips while doing research in the islands.

I take full responsibility for the story. She is not to be blamed at all.

However, it was my intention to add some description of the plant so it would be meaningful to readers. Since many of us do not know as much about island plants as we might, I contacted some of the people Mrs. Goetsch mentioned in her letter and then did some research to produce a better rounded story and to stimulate interest in such things.

My intentions were honest and I spent a good deal of time looking for information. You are correct when you mention that I must be interested in botany. But I am strictly an amateur and an interested observer. I claim no formal credentials in that field. Having lived in Hawaii for 40 years, I have studied and listened to many knowledgeable people in an effort to learn more about all kinds of things in these islands, including plants.

I felt Mary Pukui was a reliable source. However, I have now come to the conclusion that it is best to forego any mention of these things unless there are direct quotes which can be attributed to an individual. In this case, there are no direct quotes by Mrs. Goetsch.

For this reason, I am returning your letter to her because she did not provide the background information on the plant nor the drawing. Thus, the letter to her would not apply as you can see from my explanation. Her interest is in the vitamin C content of the plant and berries. She mentions that she has taken photographs. I do not have her address.

I am aware that you and Mrs. Degener are recognized international botanists and I have seen some of your published works. When I find time, I would like to delve further into more of your books simply to learn more about Hawaii's wealth of plant life for my personal information.

In your reference to the Tribune-Herald printing your expanded edition, I am sorry to say that the newspaper ~~xxx~~ no longer has a print shop. It was closed out years ago.

I can understand the concern of authors and researchers who find that publishing and postal rates have risen to such prohibitive heights. What will happen to the many fine works that should be in print?

I appreciate your remark, "please don't be disturbed by this letter." I am not disturbed but I thought it necessary to clarify the circumstances and to ~~xxxxxx~~ clear Mrs. Goetsch of the areas of your concern. I consider myself a responsible journalist ^{and} would never intentionally use questionable material.

Sincerely

Maxine Hughes

Maxine C. Hughes
Editor,
Orchid Isle Magazine

UNIVERSITE DES SCIENCES
ET TECHNIQUES DU Languedoc

INSTITUT DE BOTANIQUE

163 rue A. Broussonnet
34 000 Montpellier
Tél.: (67) 63.17.93

Montpellier, le 10 mars 1981.

Le Conservateur des Herbiers de
l'Institut de Botanique,

à

Drs Otto & Isa DEGENER,
N.Y. Botanical Garden,
P.O. Box 154,
Volcano,
Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

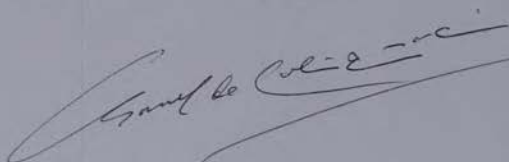
Cher Monsieur,

Nous venons de recevoir un paquet de plantes en provenance de "Herbario Degener" et des photocopies d'articles et de documents. Nous en avons déjà reçu lors de ces dernières années et nous vous en remercions bien vivement.

Est-ce que ces envois sont destinés aux "Herbiers de l'Institut de Botanique de Montpellier" comme nous le pensons ou bien à une de vos connaissances travaillant ici, le libellé de vos adresses ne portant pas une indication précise à ce sujet.

En vous remerciant encore de ces envois, je vous prie de croire, cher Monsieur, à l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Pour le Directeur de l'Institut de Botanique,
Le Conservateur des Herbiers,



L. GRANEL de SOLIGNAC

reçu 3/18/81

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

March 3, 1981.

Dear Don:

I have really read every word of "Science and its Function in Education" and shall mail the copy for safe-keeping to Mrs. Karg. It seems not like Doc. Torrey to have this work copyrighted when, I should think, he would want the ideas spread among as many neophytes as possible.

For a devout Atheist (not Agnostic) whose "Bible" consists of the Laws of Nature of which the "workings" PRODUCED ME by evolution (I capitalized the word) as explained perhaps 95% correctly by Darwin, the book disturbs me. Doc Torrey, as I see it now, had a split personality, both "persons" being most complex. His bedrock expounded ideas in the Botany classroom and personality were to me 99.9% perfect (he did seem prejudiced against a rare negro Bot. Freshman, I thought for no other reason than that he was negro).

The mystic Doc Torrey, troubled, pessimistic, believing in a God and intelligence beyond what Evolution produced in animals on Earth (what's on other planets?), I consider absolutely impossible; and to withdraw from activity & go into a trance or anything like it, I feel to be actually evil (from my human intelligence way of thinking). Why sink into hibernation or premature senility when one should strive to be ever more alive?

To praise Poverty, a state I particularly despise in anyone (unless some real accident is the cause) goes against my grain. Too often it is the result of inferiority in physical, mental and/or moral stamina, and for such unfortunate misfits to be pampered and saved from the healthy workings of Evolution is the cause of our decline into another Ciddy or Dark Age. I am aghast how many "mistakes" such as Siamese twins, "upside-down-straw babies", etc., etc., are saved by physicians to produce similar "mistakes" in quantity twenty years later. Have you ever been to a home for feeble-minded as have I to select one of their best individuals as a factotum? Many of the inferior are little more than on the level of hamburger steak - just meat.

I should say, I would NEVER have followed this side of Doc. Torrey's wonderful personality - this one based on (to me) mostly zero facts. I consider this book distinctly harmful (except for a few passages) to the advancement of Civilization were it to become a best seller. Doc Torrey sensed my feelings & therefore never had me join his esoteric seminars.

BUT, BUT, BUT

(and don't tell Mrs. K., for fear of worrying her)

I do feel the mystic side of Doc Torrey (gained via India, etc.) has its limited use: as, for example, the psychically disturbed or even ill: When I fought to work on my local Flora in opposition to the Hon. museum, losing my position at the U., in 1927 (as you already know), I suffered heart pains for which I lay on my bed & had med., treatment * I guess nux vomica drops. When I finally told my physician in 1928 that my pains were less when I forced myself to go downtown to the printers to read proof, it dawned on him that my trouble was psychosomatic. He then told me there was no cure except to change my attitude or leave the Islands. Hence I avoided individuals & situations that might upset me and, instead of leaving the islands I left Oahu to become Nat. Park Naturalist on Hawaii. After two years and my "plants Haw. Nat. Park", I was sufficiently cured to return to Oahu. Tachycardia, however, lasted for life and so I have avoided most locals to concentrate on botanists elsewhere in the World, by letter. In fact, about ten years ago, when a Singapore botanist did not turn up for a dinner we were giving him at Volcano, I quietly died of heart arrest, and have survived ever since successfully with my second pacemaker.

Isa has been under terrific pressure bringing her invalid mother back from Germany in a wheelchair, fighting with cheating tenants, etc. Out of a clear sky, we got a notice from the "Feds.;" they want to check our tax returns for three years. Following this letter Isa suffered heart pains & la Otto D., in 1928! Without Isa's knowledge I

wrote the tax people & reduced the years they want to examin us, and postponed the meeting. It is always the same question: ~~el~~temosynary gifts of plants to US. institutions. The Tax officials in this case are like kahunas praying a Hawaiian to death.. Anyway, Isa's pains subsided and she seems perfectly normal again. Then a week or so ago I got bitten by a stablefly or spider on the neck, and the resulting infection started spreading into the lymph glands (which we don't like so near the head). So without worrying we drove down to our Hilo MD for an antibiotic. Though I had written in his office once again that I was allergic to penicillin, I went to my druggist with my prescription. He casually asked if i were allergic to penicillin and when I told him I was, he changed the P., antibiotic my MD had prescribed for a different one! This negligent blunder of our MD so upset Isa - though she did not show it - that on the 30 mile drive home, she suffered heart pains again & some faintness!

After this long-winded dissertation I want to explain that I don't approve of the mystic part of Doc's teachings for normal people under normal conditions. For unusually pestered individuals just about being preyed to death by kahunas or tax inspectors, I am convinced hypnotism and Doc. Torrey's ideas would cure the subconscious fight or flight attitude which can certainly kill us via hypertension and ??? In fact, don't you notice that this letter to you is Medicine for my worry about Isa. I am also writing scads of duplicate labels to good radio music as "medicine. She, on the other hand, is curing herself by reading one book after another about Australia, our next destination.

Now that you are thoroughly disgusted & disillusioned, tell me how I can have my 315 page paperback printed locally, I remaining publisher. Should I order 1,000 copies/locally? How can I prevent a local printer running off 2,000 & quietly peddling them to shops without my knowledg? One auther here is VERY upset about the sale of his book. He does not know how to supervise what the local publisher is doing. I want to print here so I can pick up the job in my VW minibus, and avoid the tremendous postage cost from Michigan.

Aloha to you 2 from us 2,



First

To open slit here

To open slit here

Sender's name and address

Mr I C Hedge

Royal Botanic Garden

Edinburgh EH3 5LR

An air letter should not contain any enclosure
The 'APSLEY' Air Letter
A Dickinson Robinson Group Product

Form approved by the Post Office (United Kingdom) No. A4/2

Second fold here

Second fold here

By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aerogramme



Dr O Degener

68-617 Crozier Drive

Waiialua

OAHU

Hawaii 96791

USA

PO BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96785



Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh EH3 5LR
Telephone 031-552 7171

Dr O Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua
OAHU
Hawaii 96791
USA

5 March 1981

Dear Dr Degener

Thank you for the parcel of specimens and photocopies which arrived this week. We shall distribute the latter as indicated. Of the former, one specimen of ?Abutilon - certainly Malvaceae - has no label or number. If this is easily found we should be grateful for it.

With many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Kennifer Lamond

p.p. I C Hedge
Curator of Herbarium

Answered

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

March 7, 1981

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Mrs. Degener & I are delighted to learn you plan to visit the Hawaiian Islands. Will you attend the Congress in Sydney? We plan to do so if health & age permit.

We live on the Islands of Oahu and Hawaii for 2-3 months at a time, the time depending on nonbotanical business such as the coming & going of tenants. Hence, we do not know whether we shall see you on Oahu. We so regret you will spend your time in Waikiki as it is hardly native Hawaiian but rather cosmopolitan. The one advantage is your being able to visit the Bishop Museum and its herbarium. You should contact Drs. St. John & Sothmer there. The former took my place at the University of Hawaii in 1926. On Oahu, you will of course be driven around the island by your tour group. To see endemics closest to Waikiki, I would suggest you drive up Tantalus mountain.

On Maui you MUST drive to the summit of Haleakala and spend some time at this fascinating National Park. We have not been on that island for many years, so we only know by correspondence that a botanical garden is now near Wailuku, and that you should meet Mr. Rene Silva (a botanist by nature rather than official training) and Mrs. Thom.

Were we on the Island of Hawaii and you were to come here at that time, we could show you in one strenuous day four or five good taxa of Wikstroemia, including the splendid tall forest tree Mrs. D., & I wanted to publish jointly with you. What stopped this ambition?

I want to warn you about a serious crime problem now prevalent in this State! The police are good enough, but many of the judges seem so intimidated that criminals too often go practically free. The illegal growing of marijuana (*Cannabis*) has become a bigger industry than the cultivation of sugarcane according to the newspaper. A tenant couple of ours, between 30 & 40 years old, took a walk beyond the canefields about ten miles from our Mokuleia Beach home and harmlessly walked into an illicit marijuana planting. The criminals growing it beat them so severely that they left us permanently to settle in Canada. Here at our mountain home on the Island of Hawaii, some one planted the drug on OUR own land during our absence! About six weeks ago as we were botanizing at a dead end street about a mile from our homes, some one shot twice at us! Recently a Park Ranger came across a planting and was so intimidated by the grower that he asked for a transfer to a Nat Park on the Mainland. He feared for the safety of his wife and two children. Hunters simply disappear. We now botanize along well used highways to be safe. The prices there in endemics is mediocre. You can stumble over a string in the forest, and set off a boobytrap. I am not joking! Be very careful botanizing; and don't forget that parts of Waikiki is now noted for crime after dark. It was not so before the Viet Nam War.

I know no botanists in the Hawaiian Islands excepting the very astute Harold St. John. I admire him greatly as botanist, but I consider him a "lumper" (except for his splendid work on *Cyrtandra* of Oahu).; and I guess he considers me a splitter. I have not seen him for years.

not I guess you know the ANCIENT history involving me from Skottsberg. I came to the Islands first in 1922, getting my M. Sc., from the University of Hawaii. Then in 1925 I returned from the New York Bot. Garden to teach half time at the Univ. of Haw. for pay and write a *Flora Hawaiiensis* without pay. The Director of the latter institution, a geologist, was such an outright Dictator that I feared getting into his clutches. So, without books & herbarium, I started publishing my *Flora Hawaiiensis* loose-leaf, printing species that I knew from having botanized in Bermuda in 1921. The museum director H. Gregory then conspired to have the new, weak President Crawford of the University to renew my contract. By 1928 ~~1928~~ I contracted tachycardia and on the advice of my physician, who recognized this as psychosomatic, avoided excitement & worry. Since 1928 I have not driven a car once as to do so agitated my heart - isn't the subconscious remarkable - and have hardly dealt with local botanists. There are so many elsewhere in the world, like B.P., of Göteborg, to whom I can write at my ease for a welcome change from writing plant labels. The funny part of it is that I don't consciously note any new

GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

BOTANISKA MUSEET

Göteborg 16.I.1981

Dr O. Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii 96791
U.S.A.

Dear Dr Degener,

My wife and I are planning a tour to the State and Hawaii in April this year. We intend to visit different herbaria and in Hawaii we would like to see some of the endemic species, incl. Wikstroemia.

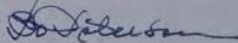
The plans are not yet definite but we are certainly going on a charter flight arranged by the travel agency "Globetrotter". That means we are staying in a hotel at Waikiki during 6 nights. Another 6 nights will be spent on Maui.

Do you think it could be possible to go on one or two short trips with some botanist at the Department of Botany. The trouble is that none of us has a driver's licence.

Any suggestion would be highly appreciated.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely


(Bo Peterson)

vous tension. Yet, about ten years ago, when a Singapore botanist failed to turn up for a dinner we were giving in his honor, I simply, gently seemed to fall asleep and died of heart arrest. Luckily, a physician happened to be eating at the next table, and an ambulance was parked at the next building, an infirmary. So by this time I am living happily with my second heart pacemaker. Please realize, therefore, that I cannot be the proper host I should like to be. BUT, really, my being forced out of teaching to be a free-lance botanist, though nervously painful, was a blessing in disguise.

Another botanist plans to visit Hawaii this year, presumably like you, on his way to or from Sydney. Should you not write him & perhaps join in local excursions? He is: Dr. F. Weberling, Universität Ulm, Postfach 4066, Oberer Eselsberg D-7900 Ulm (Donau) (W.) Germany

Remember that W., is not palatable to livestock, so you should be able to collect some taxa even where cattle browse.

You should see an excellent collection of W., in the Bishop Museum herbarium. I sent my entire collection of years to Skottsberg with duplicates galore, not retaining a fragment. My best specimens were to go to the New York Botanical Garden of which I am a staff member. The material was addressed to me by Göteborg in error in care of the Bishop Museum. The best were mounted, and years later I found my W. plants in the B.M., herbarium. I have been depositing plants there since about 1922, but I always reserved the first set for N.Y. I never even got my duplicates which, when I mail them as gifts to US Government institutions, I get a worth while cash tax credit!

Be careful. Tourists are preferred by criminals. A few days ago, an entire tourist bus of Japanese was held up and robbed on Oahu!

Aloha,

Otto Spegner

March 10, 1981

Dear Otto,

Our latest correspondence seems to have passed one another at 3,000 feet over Molokai.

I'm glad to read in your 3rd of March letter, however, that Isa and you are preparing for your "next destination" -- Australia. By way of Mokuleia, I hope.

This is not an attempt, this letter of mine, to defend anyone or anything -- in a definitive manner, for I'm not akamai enough to do so. Let me just "react" to a couple of things that you've typed out while taking an hour of therapy by pounding the keys of a manual typewriter.

I imagine that Mrs. Karg will find a place for Doc's SAIFIE. I've wondered about the copyright too and will be writing to a party that has one of the original booklets. I think it was Century Publishing Company, but, I've also heard, that Century would not touch the original essay, and that Doc had to "modify" it somewhat before it was set to type.

When one starts talking about "split personality" the action moves into another terminology. I recall that Albert J. Nock in THE SUPERFLUOUS MAN mentions that there are very few humans that do not practise "conscious schizophrenia" at one time or another.

To me -- it boils down pretty much to first premises. It is pretty obvious that Doc and you do not start from the same place; therefore, you don't always see eye-to-eye(ball). One of the things that interested me in Doc's letters to you was the relationship that he had with Crampton. His respect for Crampton's work. When I was in Amherst, the "rumor" was that Torrey and Crampton were not on speaking terms. Hardly so, not true, I'd say, after reading his letters to you.

Now -- when you slip over to the "harmful" bit, Otto, I think you're letting your imagination run a bit loose. I know of no evidence whatsoever, to support this contention.

And, Otto --- are you "normal" -- am I normal -- is Isa, normal. Are tax auditors "normal" ----. You're treading on pretty slippery ground when you start labeling people in this manner. 'Tis all well and good to put a label on a dead plant. It's somewhat gratuitous to bandy this around with one's peers.

I'm not disgusted! Nor disillusioned ---. Don't you go putting words in my mouth, nor my mind, nor second-guessing me ---- !!!!!!! I enjoy your wry humor -- and let me say (with one eyebrow up a bit): why do you make so much (too much?) of this copyright bit. No normal (sic) person is going to peddle your book(s). And who, but who, is this author (in Volcano?) who is VERY upset? Note self-addressed postal enclosed.

enc. (1)

Alooooo-ha,



disorder & its function in education.
BM 1/T 694 s.

For hevvvv'n's sake, Otto, take care of yourself -- and Isa, too. Why not grind up some alooe -- that should cure what ails the body --(?). Now yr mother-in-law appears to be as cheerful as a well-cared-for Crozier Drive beastly -- h-legged one. D.



AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS IASCAIGH

GARRAITHE NÁISIÚNTA NA LUS, GLAS NAOIDHEAN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 9

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, GLASNEVIN, DUBLIN 9

TEL—(01) 374388 and 377596

REF—

19 March 1981

Dr. Otto Degener
Waialua
Oahu
Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener,

Yesterday there arrived in this garden a collection of Hawaiian plants for Herbarium DBN. The material and set of xerox arrived in good condition. The material will be placed in the poison press and will be labelled and mounted and made available for consultation in the herbarium. I thank you for the excellently filled labels so full of information and in your own hand, a further bonus.

I thank you very much for this fine contribution and for continuing to think of DBN in your distribution of exsiccatti.

I take this opportunity to extend to you and to your wife all good wishes for your further work on the flora of Pacific islands.

Yours sincerely,

Mauna Scannell

Miss. M. Scannell

Head of Herbarium

sent on to NY

First

To open slit here

Sender's name and address

I C Hedge Esq

Royal Botanic Garden

Edinburgh EH3 5LR

An air letter should not contain any enclosure

The 'APSLEY' Air Letter

A Dickinson Robinson Group Product

Form approved by the Post Office (United Kingdom) No. A4/2

Second fold here

Second fold here

By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aerogramme



Drs O & I Degener

PO Box 154

VOLCANO

Hawaii 96785

USA

To open slit here



Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh EH3 5LR

Telephone 031-552 7171

20 March 1981

Drs O & I Degener
PO Box 154
VOLCANO
Hawaii 96785
USA

Dear Dr Degener

Thank you once more for the useful sets of specimens that you have sent for the Edinburgh herbarium. We are most grateful.

Jim Gardiner has now left the staff and is at Liverpool but the material for propagating will be sent to that department.

With best wishes and our thanks

Yours sincerely

I. C. Hedge

I C Hedge
Curator of the Herbarium



SECTION OF BOTANY

SWEDISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
S-104 05 STOCKHOLM 50 · SWEDEN

1981-03-25

To Drs. Otto & Isa Degener
P.O. Box 154
Vokano, Hawaii
96785
U S A

Dear Sirs,

We have received 12 unmounted specimens from Hawaii in good order and printed papers about Drs. Degener.

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Roger Lundin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Roger Lundin

Ass. Curator



Lund, March 25, 1981

Universitetets Botaniska Museum
Lund
The Botanical Museum, The University
Lund, Sweden

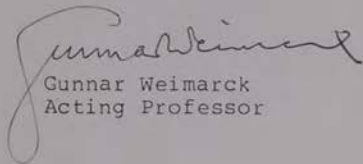
Dr Otto Degener
P.O. Box 154
VOLCANO, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr Degener,

Many thanks for your kindly sending us another 16 plants of Hawaii. Documentation of the flora of Hawaii is indeed a more urgent task than ever. We fully agree with your ambition to distribute the material over many Herbaria and we appreciate being trusted with part of your collections.

Thanks also for the written documents enclosed. Some of these will, however, be transferred to our library.

Yours sincerely



Gunnar Weimarck
Acting Professor

Harvey Hess
P.O. Box #1200
Hilo, Hawai'i
96720



Drs. Otto & Isa Degener
Boxholder
Volcano, Hawai'i
96785

March 26, 1981

P.O. #1200, Hilo HI 96720

Dear, and Esteemed, New Acquaintances,

Though a bit remiss in getting this note of thanks off to you, we hope it reaches you at a time when you enjoy good fortune, good health and the graciously seasoned good will we found in both of you to be a virtue worthy of respect and (as Confucius has it) emulation.

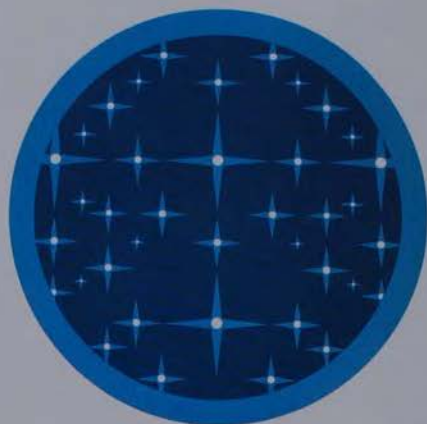
Thank you for your sharing with and offering us, last Sunday, the necessities of life: food, human kindness — "Grex," as Robert Frost says — wit, wisdom, honesty, conversation, material (and the *raison d'être*) for a poet's "work" (or "pleasure," *chère*, Isa — thematic and motivic substance, at all events), the hope of meeting again with

you in the future, a clearer glimpse of reality and the graciously presented gift of one of Hawaii's contributions to the Good, the True and the Beautiful — Flora Hawaïensis.

This leaves us rather extensively ~~in~~ in your debt, a situation we hope can become the occasion of our sharing what we can offer you — though our requitals must be, for a good while, wanting in equity compared ~~to~~ with the bounty we have received at your hands.

Anent the poetry given to you: please have the goodness to bear in mind that they are photocopies* of desk copies, which means some of them are in *via* and others are hardly "fair copies," e.g., "Gift Of Orchid Scent," is a poor copy; the calligrapher turned up and chroddled on some ~~non-specimens~~ non-specimens and certain of these most probably

* when time allows, I'll send you more arduous specimens.



© JOHN THOMAS 1979

to your liking (such as 'Awa-Puhi-A-Kanaloa) do not appear at their best. Still, I hope you find ~~xxx~~ in that random sampling "some pith withal."

The essay on your work goes on apace.

To meet with you, more intensively, at K.M.C., in the not TOO distant future is something to look forward to.

Finally, there are people who appreciate your achievements and shall help you to advance them, sagaciously.

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.

Again, with ~~xxx~~ Gratitude, We Remain Sincerely Yours

Nancy Hess and Mark Franks

MĀLAMA ARTS, INC.

P.S. Greeting and ~~some~~ address are an offense to me; I hope our salutation in this note

Post Office Box 1761 HONOLULU HAWAII 96806

meets with your approval.

DIRECTOR:
E. G. TURBOTT, M.Sc.



AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM
PRIVATE BAG, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

BOTANY DEPARTMENT
26 March, 1981

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

Dear Drs Degener,

I have just received a parcel of specimens and xeroxed reprints in the mail, and write to thank you both very much. The specimens are of the very highest standard, and will complement the extensive Hawaiian plant holdings we have built up as a result of your gifts over the years.

Congratulations on your recognition by the New York Botanic Garden. Well deserved I'm sure.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Wright
A.E. Wright
Botanist

PAR AVION
AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO

If anything is enclosed,
this form will be surcharged
at rate for Air Mail Letters.

AEROGRAMME



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

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

A.E. Wright, Botany
AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM,
PRIVATE BAG, AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND



(DRG) A Dickinson Robinson Group Product

Approved For Posting in New Zealand to Overseas Addresses
New Zealand Post Office Authority No. 17

To open cut here

Lieber Herr Dr. Sauer!

Hochachtungsvoll Dank für Ihre letzte mündliche Begegnung.
Mittlerweile habe ich eine Prüf. an der Universität Tübingen angenommen (Herbst: Tübingen).
Im Moment befinde ich mich gerade im Studium des Magus.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Herr
W. Sauer

5/8/

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Sauer

Universität Tübingen

Institut für Biologie I

Lehrbereich Spezielle Botanik

Abteilung für Karyologie und Systematik der Samenpflanzen

Auf der Morgenstelle 1, D-7400 Tübingen 1, Tel. (0 70 71) 29 32 10

It isn't how **long** you live
It's **how** you live long

CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS INTERNATL. INC. HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815



3-28-81

Dear Iva, Otto, we just got back from a 2 weeks vacation in New Zealand and 1 week in Sydney & Melbourne, and found your card.

The Anant is enclosed and we are going to call you one evening next week to find out how you are

Affectionately Susan & Steve

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

EILEEN R. ANDERSON
MAYOR



ROBERT K. MASUDA
DIRECTOR

March 30, 1981

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

Dear Drs. Degener:

Subject: Panax Hedge At 2234 University Avenue

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 1981 and for the background information regarding the panax hedge.

Honolulu has rapidly grown into a big city. Even the Department of Parks and Recreation was inexistent until it was created by the City Charter of 1959, a latecomer as compared to your experiences.

Now Honolulu has variances for surface encroachments from the Department of Public Works if you ever choose to apply. We think your interesting bit of earlier Honolulu would support such an application.

We were happy to alleviate your earlier Shower Tree problem and hope you will contact us again if we can be of future help to you.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT K. MASUDA, Director

RKM:lt



University of Hawaii at Manoa

A Sea Grant College

Spalding Hall 252 B • 2540 Maile Way

Telephone (808) 948-8191 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 / Cable Address: UNIHAW

Marine Advisory Program

March 31, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you so much for sending a copy of *Flora Hawaiiensis*, Book 7. I have already read through parts of the book and am finding it very fascinating and informative. Enclosed is a check for \$20 which I trust will cover the current price for *Flora Hawaiiensis* books. When additional pages and the book binder become available, I would like to receive them; if there are any costs, please advise.

Again, thank you for sending the material. The entire *Flora Hawaiiensis* series has been a great source of information on Hawaii's flora, both native and introduced. Best of health to you and your wife.

Aloha,

Ray Tabata

enclosure

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

P.O. Box 154,
Volcano, HI. 96785.
March 31, 1981.

Dear Supt. Barbee:

This is a confidential S.O.S.! I am writing you as I sized you up as unusually capable even when you were a young ranger on the Mainland.

Isa & I have been living at our beach place on Oahu much of last year. Her mother had broken her hip, and we thought treatment would be better in Honolulu than in Hilo. She, by the way, by this time can walk again without crutches.

On our return to Volcano we discovered that the two magnificent Hibiscadelphus giffardianus trees, yearly profusely flowering and fruiting, had been sawed or chopped down probably around July (1980). The trunks produced watersprouts & subsequently these had been killed and the stumps painted with poison to prevent survival. The killed branches were left nearby, where we were able to photograph them. This insanity of trying to exterminate this species is, as we see it, far worse than a couple of "SS Titanic" and "SS Lousitania" disasters with loss of human life. A vessel can be rebuilt by man and, if you have taken a 'round the World trip, you will agree I fear that the loss of even a couple of million people will not be missed (except by themselves & close friends). H. giffardianus can never be replaced like Homo sapiens!

When I was Naturalist in 1929 & before that, I used to visit the sole, wild, dying tree ⁱⁿ Kipuka Puaulu and harvest fallen flowers & fallen leaves to carefully flatten out, press & dry. These I mailed, a single flower & two leaves each, to leading botanical institutions throughout the entire world. One leaf on the herbarium sheet in the museum would show the upper side; the other, the lower. I never had the courage to take a living leaf or flower from this outstanding, sacred tree except once. That once I cut off a flowering twig for my artist to draw to illustrate my National Park book. The twig is now preserved in New York.

In the '30s I left the Island of Hawaii for the New York Botanical Garden to expertly work up my Island plants with the help of the Garden's outstanding herbarium and Library. Returning, I worked mainly on the Islands other than Hawaii. On Hawaii years later, I learned that the memorable Giffard's hibiscus ^{giffardianus} or Hau Kuahiwi had died; but I discovered the two beauties at Kipuka Ki ~~with others~~ and, as before, Mrs. Degener & I harvested fallen flowers, leaves and rarely some fallen capsules with seeds. A few of these last are growing in foreign botanical gardens in conservatories. Perhaps fifty or more institutions throughout the world have ~~sheets~~ of labeled sheets of the hibiscadelphus from us Degeners.

The hibiscadelphus ancestor of course had typical, open, symmetrical hibiscus flowers. Not until lobelias developed in great numbers and kinds with curved flowers in the Hawaiian Islands did birds develop curved beaks to efficiently probe them like hand in glove for nectar. Only then did the hibiscadelphus ancestor perhaps 25,000,000 years ago start to develop a curved flower to cater to the birds with curved beaks. In a way, the birds were "paid" to do the crosspollinating with a sweet sip. To annihilate such a Creation of Nature (or for formal religious thinkers, of God) is blasphemy. When will the Park Service melt down the Statue of Liberty to send the copper to Iran or San Salvador to be returned to us in the form of lethal bullets? If they try to annihilate a God-created wonder, why not a man-made statue?

As honest botanists we are forced to publish in various botanical and environmental magazines and journals, newspapers, on pertinent herbarium sheets, etc., the HIBISCADELPHUS NECHROLOGY OUTRAGE. If we don't, we would be accomplices in the eyes of our colleagues, of cowardice or of being involved in graft for fear our books would be boycotted by the Park. Now here is where we need your studied help: We heard a rumor that the Service has changed its policy whereby the Superintendent has no longer jurisdiction of scientific matters. Supt Ames is so delightful a person (even if he were not, it is only fair), we want a copy of this ruling to quote in our published articles. Such a quote should absolve him of the blame for the hibiscadelphus disaster which I am

sure was perpetrated without his knowledge. He may not even know about it now. This past insanity is a terrible blunder for the Service to live down. The individuals involved - we don't want to know who as we don't want to be forced to print their names - we presume are demented like this Reagan attacker. They may feel important to have accomplished something, whether beneficial or the opposite.

This heinous destruction is not just against the State of Hawaii, nor against the United States as a whole. It is the destruction of an International Treasure involving the intellectual part of the entire Civilized World. How do we set in motion that the Department of the Interior or the National Park Service as a gesture of contrition for a perpetrated blunder will donate a contribution of \$1,000,000 to the XIII International Botanical Congress to be held in August in Sydney with an important agenda for the CONSERVATION OF RARE PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Isa and I are scheduled to attend. I could bring up such a Resolution and Isa could second it. Such a gift would be better than our despised handouts to unimportant Governments to purchase weapons that someday may be used against us.

Well, anyway, please rush us the S.O.S., information we need. We hesitate to muddle through with our report without it.

The National Park Service certainly needs overhauling to prevent the continuous hiring of carpetbaggers to guide (?) and instruct (X) visitors! It is a case of the *before* blind leading the blind. I know, as I was a carpetbagger myself, some years of practice and study in the Islands had passed; and so was Don Reeser. This switching from Park to Park is good for Administrators and efficient administration, but not for scientists who must specialize on a definite region that is different from any other.

All our letters if botanical or nearly so, whether good or bad for us, are embalmed as originals, carbons or xeroxes at two bot. archives in the States. I began this even with letters written before 1922. Answers I get to my letters follow to the archives. The archivists, if I need copies, return xeroxes for my own files. I have some written by Hewett and his Washington aged hippie-like pal which explains the mystery why Isa & I avoided the Park to this day even though we had purchased our property to be within easy reach of it. My calabash cousin, a Lt. Col., & wife, used to vacation at KMC and had interesting tales about charming Ruby/ The pal was "retired for age" a couple of years ago according to one of his superiors I met in Berlin when I received the Willdenow Medal. Opposing the boycott would have been too much for my tachycardia condition. But now, with a pacemaker installed, I can expose as cool as a cucumber the hibiscadelphus outrage. It should retard similar blunders with perhaps silverswords.

Aloha to you and your family. Schooling for your children on the Mainland is certainly better than it would be here in the Islands. Your younger daughter we considered close to a genius in social intelligence. Wonderful Don Reeser is precisely the type of man who should NEVER have been switched from one region to another. Anyway, Hawaii is the proper home for a member of the Mellbush Family. Give them our fond aloha.

The present letter is so long as it is in a way a first draft of what our illustrated articles for publication will be like. I shall tripple space it, delete your name, and then add & subtract parts of it. Not to waste time, I usually send early, "immature" copies to ephemeral newspapers first. Then as I edit more and more and perhaps get better ideas, I send later versions to more permanent mags. Such material I may then xerox for a nickel a page and then mail uncritically to local Legislators or DC Senators. Most fliers would never be read, but the few that are may bring results.

Aloha,

Cc to N.Y., Pittsburgh

Don Reeser

THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

GOTHERSGADE 130 . DK-1123 COPENHAGEN . DENMARK
Telephone 01-11 17 44

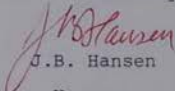
April 2, 1981
hl 5,8-4.7

Dr. Otto Degener
P.O. Box 154
V o l c a n o, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Degener,

Our sincerest thanks for the gift of 15 herbarium specimens and the
very interesting reprints which you have been so kind to send us.

Yours sincerely,


J.B. Hansen
Keeper

Conservatoire
et
Jardin
botaniques



Ville
de
Genève

Directeur:
Prof. Gilbert Bocquet

Chemin de l'Impératrice 1
Case postale 60
CH-1292 Chambésy/GE
Tél. (022) 32 69 69

Genève, le 2 avril 1981.

Drs. Otto et Isa DEGENER

P.O. Box 154

VOLCANO

Hawaii 96785 - USA.

Monsieur / Sir,

L'envoi mentionné ci-dessous m'est bien parvenu / We have received the material listed below:

17 spécimens d'Hawaii.

Je vous prie d'agréer l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs / Please accept our most grateful thanks.

Le Conservateur des Herbiers
Keeper of Herbarium

H. B. 21m2

S. O. S.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
April 5, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Karg:

Mrs. Degener & I want to publish in a Waimea Arboretum bulletin a simple article for the many average tourists, occasional horticulturists and rare botanist visitors going there. Weekends there are crowds! They also sell our books.

We are not 100% certain if a Warburg publication may not exist to upset our applecart. We asked for help elsewhere, but thus far have received no reply. Could some specialist read the two last paragraphs critically & give us an opinion? We want to publish & get this article of some human interest out of the way before we fly to Sydney this July to attend the XIII Int. Bot. Congress & hopefully meet Dr. Buchheim there.

On publication, Mrs. D., & I would run off 100 or so copies at 5 cents per page, and distribute them to leading bot., institutions listed in the Index Herbariorum, to botanists with whom we correspond, and to customers of our books. We simply insert a reprint in their parcel.

I am sending a copy of "No Hala Hallucination" to New York with a similar letter. As even experts do not always agree, we wish to get a response from at least two.

Herewith is another accumulation of good, bad, indifferent & worthless items.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

S. O. S.



Landing of Rochambeau, 1780

Dr. Otto Degener

P. O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

© USPS 1965

April 6, 1981

Dear Otto

Thank you for your letter of the 1st and check and 2 specimens. The unnamed one, collected by yourself in Russia is *Veronica longifolia* L. (no. 34007) It is often sent to me as "Verbena".

Please try always to let me know as far ahead as possible when you plan to send something for publication in *PHYTOLOGIA* so I can make my plans.

EB is causing so much trouble with "offprints" that I am much upset. They now insist that I pay in advance for all separates ordered by authors and then collect from the authors. This I had hoped to avoid, but it now seems I have to. I have canvassed 10 other printers, including right here in Plfd., and all will charge 2x or even 3x what EB is charging me for the printing -- so I am stuck with EB, like it or not!

We had hoped to attend the Congress in Australia, but Alma now is convinced that she could not stand it, so we may content ourselves with another visit to Corvallis.

All our best wishes to you both, as always

Harold

5.0.5
DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
April 14, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Karg:

Mrs. Wagner-Seavey of the local Historical Society has half completed her study of Sanford B. Dole, Pres. of the Provisional Government of Hawaii after the downfall of the Kingdom of Hawaii under Queen Liliuokalani.

Pres. Dole's nephew W. Herbert Dole grew up on the Island of Kauai and, as a youth collected endemic ferns which evidently were preserved in some US institutions. Herbert Dole settled in Orange, New Jersey, remained a fern enthusiast throughout his life, in preference growing them in his garden. He became a Civil Engineer, specializing on the designing of New York subway stations!

Through my having lived in Hawaii, I met him at the New York Botanical Garden, and immediately prevailed upon him to write about his family and his early life on Kauai. I gave the holographs to Mr. Long of New York, gave Hunt xeroxes (I believe), and kept a xerox set for myself.

Mrs. Wagner-Seavey, on completing her study on the Uncle Pres. Dole, is very eager with Isa & me to write about Herbert Dole. It would be joint authorship. Do please rush us any information you may have about him THAT YOU DID NOT RECEIVE FROM US. Mr. Dole's interesting Kauai fern activity must have been about a hundred years ago. When I met him in 1935 he, almost as tall as his uncle, was already elderly.

We plan to attend the Congress in Sydney this August. According to Mrs. Holmgren's March 9 letter, others planning to attend from NY will be Pres. Hester, G. Prance, N. & P. Holmgren, W. Steere, A. Cronquist, J. Mickel, W. Buck, Vicki Funk, M. Lebrun, Luteyn and the graduate fellow B. Ertter & Mark Wettter. Isa & I hope that those Pittsburgh friends Buchheim & Karg will be there also. It would be strange, indeed, we not Hunt represented!

Of the NY group I know only Dr. Cronquist, having met him when I worked at the Garden during WW II. He seemed newly arrived from the West, and appeared so happy & dejected. Like a Westerner, he worked without coat and vest, showing suspender, a nasty adjunct to clothing in the eyes of Easterners like me. We people are certainly provincial.

I am the oldest fossil connected with N.Y.B.G., having worked on my 1921 Bermuda collection & my 1922-23 Hawaiian one there for an advanced degree officially from Columbia U., before dashing off to Honolulu again, this time to teach at the University of Hawaii in 1925. I was always at the Garden except for a weekly Seminar under Dr. Harper at Schermerhorn Hall in Manhattan. My teachers were of course Drs. Britton, Rydberg and bibliographer Barnhart. The next oldest N.Y. survivor, as I remember, is Harold Modenke. We just heard by postal that the couple won't attend the Congress as Alma M., feels she is not quite strong enough for the trip. Too bad. I knew them so very, very well. In fact when my mother died in 1920, Harold's minister uncle conducted the funeral.

Aloha,

O.D.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S. A.
Easter Sunday 1981.

Dear , not Acquaintance but, Friend (or after you have completed reading this letter, "Acquaintance" as before):

My wife is at our beach home on Oahu - it will be three weeks on April 20 - to attend to taxes, have a leaking roof repaired, visit with her mother, and bring lots of accumulated dried plants stored on Oahu in our VW minibus back to Volcano for me to label & for us to donate to Museums of the World for safe keeping as many will be gone soon forever in the living state - EXTINCT! The present special travel bargain rate for person & car forced this action at this time. I, during these three weeks, am labeling dried plants already here at the house, and "baby sitting" for our four dogs and (only) one cat. I am elated Isa returns tomorrow P.M.

I have read every single word of your contribution and realize that my life is so very different from yours. It is not so different, however, from that of my sister, who was born in 1881 & died in 1964. She aspired to become a concert pianist, a hope dashed by illness. Cured, she then gave up such a career when my mother contracted cancer. This kept my sister at home nursing her. Life has so many unexpected events, often repeating themselves somewhat. My sister would have understood & been fascinated by the Thomas story. With this in mind, I am mailing them to a splendid young lady who reminds me somewhat of my sister. She is Barbara ---- now of California, the daughter of intimate local friends. She is a budding concert violinist who a few weeks ago performed in Napa, Calif. Her parents are justly proud. She is interested in classical music, and not at all in the everlasting, horrible mating screams to percussion instruments with which feral man - hippie - today befouls the radio atmosphere. What makes us so worried & sad is that she contracted a virulent type of cancer in her leg a few years ago. This, in spite of operations, has spread upward. She is now acting as a Guinea pig in San Fr., for treatment with the new drug interferon, and we do so hope she will be spared. According to her parents, she knows a little about the "Boy with Goldfish", but not enough. So the two pertinent papers are going to her.

What I can't understand is an occurrence when I was a grammar schoolboy in my home city of New York. Without any of us pre-teenagers being told by teachers nor other elders, we Children might notice a Maxfield Parish painting print in a store window & look at it with awe on our way back home from School. Not only that; we would tell our classmates in which window it was on display so that our companions could see it too. Somehow his work touched our untutored souls. Perhaps, were not dogs more or less color blind, they might have reacted similarly.

It is true I attended the Art Students' League in New York and spent a summer painting landscapes at Woodstock. I know practically nothing about Art except how to direct students to draw plants for our books for pay. The main dictum was to avoid tangents: not to have one leaf touch another nor a Flower & thus confuse the beholder's eye. You being a Minister I MUST ADD THIS: When joining a conducted tour of an Art Gallery in Switzerland, I was sufficiently certain to dare express my disappointment that the old Masters during the Middle Ages had chosen models, for Christ & other biblical figures, with deformed feet. These models evidently had walked all their lives in stylish, pointed footwear so that the big toe had been deformedly pressed outward to form an acutely pointed foot. You & I know how barefoot or sandal protected feet look - almost truncate. Do watch for it in pictures you may come across.

Getting back to the John Thomas paintings. To me they act somewhat like Maxfield Parish's work, but far more sophisticated. Do you agree?

We know nothing at all about poetry. Are not some of your poems actually word pictures? Have you spent so much time in Mexico? About 20 years ago we enjoyed botanizing some months in Mexico & Guatemala, esp., about Petan. The specimens are safely filed away at the N.Y. Bot. Garden & elsewhere for monographers eventually to study expertly.

Under XXV you use "either/or". We in botanical & other publications use "and/or". We just hate it. We are, instead, using "and/or", a new word suggested by someone in Science mag., 30 or so years ago. Can't we invent new words? We always "uncorrect" proof readers of their correcting our pet word.

Is it more than a coincidence? The mythical athlete you mention is "Sisyphus", while if one changes "s" to "z", the name stands for a genus of plants. I bet some interesting story is hidden there.

We were particularly pleased with "Where the wild boar root - - -"

From meeting you, we judge you to be broadminded, and that you prefer us to express our feelings frankly rather than somewhat dishonestly in an attempt to please you. We don't expect you to believe us, and think we are broadminded enough not to resent a difference of opinion: We purchased our property about fifteen years ago from a recently widowed haole lady. The garden was of course a typical haole garden (Haole Caucasian is just as bad & monotonous as Haole Oriental). People so often have the funny idea that something introduced - "Exotic" as a magic word - is offhand more precious than a native. We, as time permitted, replaced these to us noxious, blasé interlopers with native treeferns, painiu lilies, alani, silverswords, etc. We are personally ashamed that we have not been more diligent; but we are busy and, at least for the time being, exotic camellias, hydrangeas & orchids - all exotics brought by us American, European & Oriental haoles from foreign lands - to hide the street from our view. There is no wonder and interesting romance connected with such WEEDS - plants out of place - as with endemics. Many of these weeds are monstrosities with double, defective flowers so that a genetically sick camellia resembles a g.s., hibiscus or a g.s., carnation. The beautiful symmetry of properly numbered parts is gone. What is lovelier than a five-petaled wild rose? Why not, instead of filled flowers, hang colored pieces of bunting in a garden similarly to ornamentation of Second-Hand Car lots? You would save on fertilizer, watering, etc., and still show color.

We have magnificent endemic plants matching the exotics whose ancestors have come here millions of years ago and were changed by Nature or, if you prefer, by God via Nature to be distinct for Hawaii & no place else. With such plants and such endemic animals being crowded out by foreigners, Haw. Nei won't be like Hawaii Nei anymore. Let us keep it as Hawaiian as much as possible and for as long as possible. Few people, even of Hawaiian ancestry, seem to bother very much because few have been made aware

of it. Some of our remarkable beauties are:

Nightblooming caper not too different from the nb cereus.

Beautiful endemic white and also red hibiscus of which the ancestors came from the Orient; a pink one of salt marshes that millions of years ago came from South America; and a yellow one with a purple eye like the hau (not the one of Hilo without eye) that came from - I don't know, but why not try to solve the puzzle?

The magnificent creeper Strombosydon of the Pahala rainforest related to our wiliwili

How insulting to us Haw., residents are the Punaluu plantings of wiliwili from all over the World, & not even having our very own endemic kind! I collected specimens in that vicinity around 1927. And did you notice how the Belt Road through Kau has plantings of gaudy Bougainvilleas from Brazil to crowd endemics that are strictly at home in the aa like the naio?

What about our beautiful native geranium relatives with silvery, fishscale shaped leaves; our ukiuki painiu lilies; violets growing at Kokee (Kukui Trail) on bushes 7 feet tall; a begonia on Kauai & Maui so different that the group is named after Dr. Hillebrand; red-capsuled aalii, pukeawe with white to red fruits; the beautiful apple tree relative uulei with minute apples that sprawls over the ground; half a dozen different kinds of silverswords; and the beautiful pricklepopy that is second to it in beauty to it - it came from America millions of years ago and changed here. It was common wild in Kaimuki in 1922, where I collected it, but is almost extinct because of house building with gardens of uninteresting exotics. What about Sophoras & sesbanias and hundreds of other plants of beauty & interest such as mosses, limu of different shapes & colors, and lichens beautifully festooning dying koa branches along the Mauna Loa Strip Road?

Now after this horrible cry of woe, what Isa & I crave to see in Stone paintings are the beauties of Hawaii's flora & fauna (not only birds but colored land snails, Kam. butterflies, fishes. Moreover, what we prefer to read in Hessian poetry and

CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Hawaii Island Chapter

P. O. Box 1222

Hilo, Hawaii 96720



Casimir Pulaski, Savannah, 1779

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

© USPS 1979

A CCH EVENT!

April 15, 1981

The now revived CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII: Big Island Chapter will sponsor the following presentation during our general meeting Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm at the University of Hawaii, College Hall Room 17. The public is welcome.

Topic: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN FOREST BIRD PROGRAM.

Speaker: Hardy Spoehr

Also on the agenda will be the nomination and election of new Hawaii Chapter officers. If you have any nominations in mind please submit these at the meeting.

See You There!



4/21/81

Hi Mr. Degener:

Here are some extra copies of The Alumnus carrying the story about you and your wife. The university's publication for parents, Contact liked the story and printed a slightly altered version, so I am including a copy of that also.

Many thanks for all of your help. Please keep in touch and, if you ever travel back to campus, I'd love to meet you.

Sincerely
Kay Scanlan

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

April 22, 1981

Dear Mr. Katahira:

Many thanks for your freedom tools! Before going to the calaboose, I may use them to saw off branches with lichens on them. The group is little known in Hawaii Nei. Few people recognize what lichens are until a botanist filled a dish with nutrient agar. He put a fungus like a bread mold on the one side of the agar and a unicellular lima or alga on the other side. The two kinds of plants flourished and spread over the agar. Finally they met near the middle. There they formed a hui which looked so different from each "parent" or partner growing separately that we call the complex growth a "lichen". The mold grows around the alga protecting it, etc.; the alga thanks to sunlight making sugar starches, etc to feed the mold. Perhaps your visitor audience would like to hear such a story.

There is really more to the Degener gift of a book. We came to Volcano about 15 years ago because of our interest in the Park, my old stamping ground in 1929-31. I have been connected with the outstanding New York Botanical Garden as a staff member; my wife with the big Berlin Botanical Garden and later with New York as a staff member. Herbaria are our specialties. The Park herbarium was supposed to be a study herbarium, not for tourist exhibition. We started studying it thoroughly, adding our corrections or opinions properly dated and signed in pencil on the sheets themselves. This is eagerly wanted by institutions. Also, to save a visiting botanist time in studying plants, N.Y., has carbons or xeroxes of plant descriptions pasted on herbarium covers so that the botanist has plant & pertinent description right in front of him. This saves time. For this we wasted a set of our loose-leaf Flora.

Visiting the Park herbarium some months later, we noted our pencil notes had been erased - almost considered a forgery - and printed descriptions removed. Still later, the herbarium was gone, with the excuse it had been sent to Washington on loan and that, on the return trip to the Park had been lost in the mails! Do you believe it or was it merely sabotage? When a Smithsonian individual with hippie habits published on Park plants slovenly, we Degeners wanted a copy for review, offering to pay for it. I was told none were available, although I knew hundreds were stored in the basement. I finally got a copy from the University of Hawaii in Manoa. This was scientific sabotage to protect an individual who was supposed to have influence in Washington, D.C., as I see it.

From a relative of mine, a Lt., Col., who with his wife used to vacation at KMC, we know more about the Park a decade or so ago than the average insider. Even though KMC is a concession, one of the higher Park personnel was even told that KMC would be out-of-bounds! With 2-legged sewer rats in those early days connected with the park, we lost interest in it. It is certainly not that way now, especially since about Supt. Harry's time. There are still a couple of seemingly dirty & delapidated individuals - I had for 25 years before my marriage boys on parole to me from the Industrial School & from the Home for Feeble-minded to help with plants - and I sense such cases may be mental though I am no physician & am not sure.

Now note this: In the '50s my wife and I visited Nat Parks on the Mainland. She having a touch of the flu when in Calif., I alone attended a lecture by a young, unknown ranger. He made such a wonderful impression on me - polished shoes, pressed uniform, wide ~~awake~~ ^{awake} personality and a master of his subject - that I felt it an honor were he to read my PHNP first edition bound in boards. I asked his name, and then gave him an autographed copy. My sizing up this buck ranger was correct. Do you know what? He steadily advanced in the Park Service and finally turned up at Hawaii Volc. Nat Park as SUPT. BARBEE.

History often repeats itself. Watching the personnel of the Park, my wife & I have been impressed by a nisei Ranger by appearance, dress, attitude & (by hearsay) knowledge so that, as in young Barbee's case, we gave him a book. If he does not get contaminated by low class kauwa type companions ...

... killed

and does not get killed by a dizzy, doped up auto driver while crossing Ki Noodle Street, we believe he will become Supt. Katahira.

Aloha,

0.9.

writings are more references to our native plants and animals. Please save us from seeing & reading more about monstrous, profanely & vulgar gaudy orchid weeds! What about admitting the beauty of an entirely green endemic loulu palm instead? This letter was a nasty one to write, and hence a bit belated. Perhaps the spirit of Easter will forgive the insane frankness of an exotic Homo sapiens weed by the name of,

Otto Seeger

P.S. Being a professional BOTANIST, perhaps I should not interfere when the Islands are well represented by BIRD lovers. Do you know that our almost exterminated crow (better identified as a raven) is to be under (unwise) scientific investigation? I am not sure whether the plan is to catch 25 individual birds or 25 pairs of our almost extinct raven AND SHIP THESE PRECIOUS BIRDS TO THE MAINLAND! I thus far only heard rumors, but these are certainly worthy of investigation. After the birds are shipped, will there be any ravens left in Haw. Nei? If on the Mainland they would be exposed to all kinds of diseases to which they have never built an immunity. Suppose an English sparrow flies over the cages and germ- & virus- infected & -infested kukui drops down into the crows' drinking water or even on the ground they walk on. What about our common house or typhoid fly & the mosquito? I hope you will alert influential groups to block such madness. Let the scientists conduct their experiments on the "crow's" home ground IF the results of the experiment are really worth it beyond letting individuals earn a salary.

I wrote to the editor of "The Native Newspaper" to subscribe, but have received no answer. Did the newspaper fail?

We had hope that Mark would ONCE entice his Senior Citizen relative to eat at KMC (we NEVER go for supper because of the price). If he once eats there, it may become a very pleasant & inexpensive habit, as it has for us. *Our aloha to him.*

April 24, 1981.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

This letter reverts to yours of March 12, 1981.

To avoid any possibility of a similar misunderstanding where we believe we are paying double and ES does not, please release the "composition or camera ready copy" to me as suggested in your letter. Mrs. Degener & I prefer to store it ourselves in Hawaii. Please send it by ordinary U.S. INSURED parcel post to our present above address.

Secondly, please quote me (as more or less written to Mrs. Mosher in a previous letter) your price for printing 1,000 copies of the present edition of my paperback; and price for 2,000. The only addition to the books would be stating that this is a 1981 printing. Should that involve lots of trouble and an extra charge, just forget it & I shall merely rubber stamp such information myself.

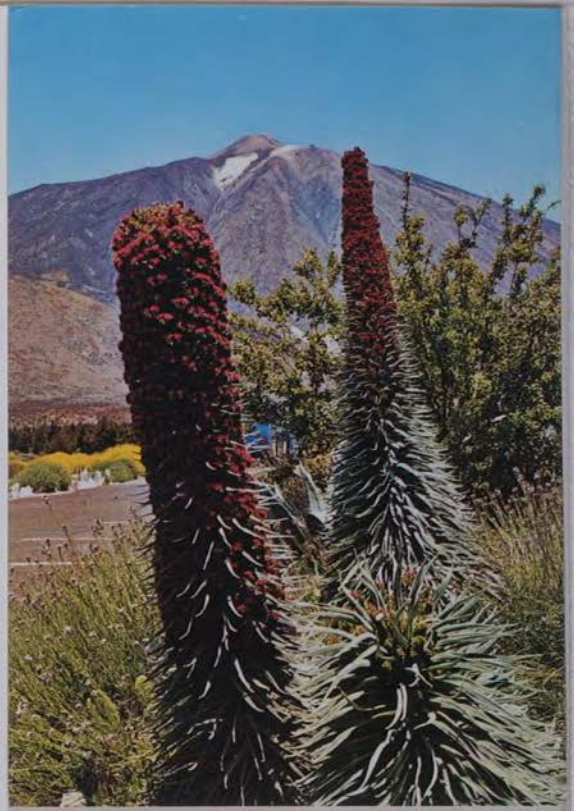
Thirdly, quote me f/or 1,000 and for 2,000 copies of the new edition. To save expense it should perhaps comprise two thirds of the old edition & one third of the new edition already in corrected page proof. I presume this would be more economical than printing the ENTIRE new edition at ~~th~~is time. If I am wrong, you might give me quotes for printing the entire new edition in 1,000 and 2,000 lots.

On receiving your quotes, we can figure when we can print new copy and mail the needed composition & camera ready copy back to you. We can't risk losing it as before.

Only postal delivery seems safe to our islands. A parcel company delivery of books from ES was signed for us without our knowledge by a tenant who absconded, leaving the valuable parcels on the OPEN balcony! We want to avoid such a risk also.

Aloha,

D. O. Degener



2903.- TENERIFE
El Teide y tajinastes en flor
The Teide and typical trees on blossom
The Teide et arbres en fleur

Dear Drs. Degener

Isn't the degree of convergence between
these Echinacea spp. and your Silene-
Saxifraga amazing? Volcanic islands
are indeed fascinating! Besides, by
the way, we have also found very
pink, polychloren providing the
endemic beauty (D. canariensis).
I'm sure the spirit requirement
for symbiotic fungi is the
main reason in your case as well
as in this; as you well know
the late introductions of orchids
into Hawaii have done exceedingly
well. Well, one day they may
have become endemic, who knows.
I wish you a very successful trip
to Japan - Hasta luego! W. J. S.

**CORREO
AEREO**



Drs.

Otto & Ida Degener

P.O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

U.S.A. - Estados Unidos

Deposito Leyes 8-1120-111

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



Dr O. & I. Degener,

P.O. Box 164,

V O L C A N O,

HAWAII 96785,

United States of America

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Dr J.P. Jessop,

Chief Botanist, State Herbarium of Australia,

Botanic Gardens, North Terrace,

A D E L A I D E, SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

POSTCODE

5000

FOLD FLAPS BEFORE MOISTENING GUM FOR

JPJ:BAW
H 309/1981

STATE HERBARIUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BOTANIC GARDENS,
NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5000

27th April, 1981

Dr O. & I. Degener,
P.O. Box 164,
VOLCANO, Hawaii 96785,
United States of America

Dear Dr and Mrs Degener,

I wish to thank you for the 23 Hawaiian specimens which arrived in a good condition last week, and also for the many photocopies enclosed which give some insight into the wonderful work which you have been carrying out with such love and dedication over the years.

I was pleased to read where your contribution to the advancement of horticulture and botany has been rewarded by The New York Botanical Garden, who presented you with the Distinguished Service Award, and the Berlin Botanical Garden and Museum, who honoured you with their famous Willdenow Medal. Our congratulations to you on this fine achievement.

Many thanks, again, for sending these valuable specimens to add to our collections. It is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Dr J. P. Jessop,
Chief Botanist,

for Director.



CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY

The starkly modern General Motors Building towers over the gracious Fifth Avenue hotels and famous Central Park in the heart of Manhattan.

29. IV. 1981

Photo by Carl S. [unclear]



post card

My wife and I had three
very successful weeks on
Oahu and Maui. It was
a pity we could not
visit you. After 9 days
in San Francisco and visits
to Sausalito and Washing-
ton we are now spending
some days in New York.
On Saturday we return
to Grilleburg. With my
best wishes

Dr. Otto Degener
Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii 96791

PO BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96785

DT-53687 C © Dinter Press

dp

Mrs. Kaye A. Jordan
1511 Nuuanu Ave., No. 99
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

30 April 1981

Drs Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Waialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96791

Dear Drs. Degener:

My library contains your FLORA HAWAIIENSIS Books one through six. I would like to complete the set, but the Bishop Museum has only unbound sheets of volume seven and up. Will there ever be bound copies of those volumes available? If not, tell me what you recommend for a binding. A stamped envelope is enclosed for your reply.

Kaye A Jordan
KAYE A. JORDAN

April 30, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Whitten:

Mrs. Degeer & I were so delighted & proud when you wrote such a sensitive article in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin about an "otlogenarian" heart patient at Kuaikini Hospital some time ago. So we naturally mailed a copy of your article to my Alma Mater in Massachusetts. The Editor of the Alumni Bulletin then wrote me, I answered her many questions. As a result ~~two~~ two articles were just published in Massachusetts which read very much as though you were the author which I find, you really are. I thought you would be interested, although your readers will not as the information is repetitive for local readers.

We hope to attend the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney this August if health permits. According to the grapevine, our good friend Prof. Mrs. Max Doty plans to attend also. He is a linum specialist. Please note this is just a rumor, needing verification.

Thank you again for your past kindness, which is a continuous one extending into the far distant future.

Mrs. D. joins me in grateful Aloha,
Dr. Otto Degeer

CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Hawaii Island Chapter

P. O. Box 1222

Hilo, Hawaii 96720



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

The CONSERVATION COUNCIL for HAWAII: Big Island
Chapter will be having an executive board meet-
ing on Tuesday, May 5th. All members are wel-
come to attend.

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: U. of Hawaii at Hilo, Life Science Bldg.
Room 1.

Helen Toms

P. O. BOX 476
KIHEI, HAWAII 96753

May 2, 1981

TELEPHONE
879-1055

Dear Isa and Otto,

The problem of going away is coming home ... piles of mail, doing apart-ments etc.!!

It was most enjoyable to visit with the Casillas in the fresh volcanic air.

Also it was a great pleasure to have such a fine visit with both of you.

Rene Sylva says yes he would like seeds from the Vetch growing on the Lehua tree, also yes to some

Helen Toms

P. O. BOX 476
KIHAI, HAWAII 96753

TELEPHONE
879-1055

slips of the Hircadelphus. In regard
to his letters, he goes so seldom for
his mail (P.O. Box 218, Paia, Maui
HI 96769) perhaps you'd better
send me a card when you put
the slips in the mail (after I see
it when I get home from Europe).
Perhaps you can not make slips.

As for books, none for now -
doesn't need them at the present
time.

Best to you both,

Helen

(104)

[Specimen of Bot. Garden on Island Maui]
gov. Budd's daughter.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts

Amherst 01002

Botany Department

May 1, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank-you very much for your gift of 16 specimens from Hawaii and Fiji to the University of Massachusetts Herbarium. They are a valuable addition to the many other fine specimens that you have given to us in the past. The additional specimens of Degeneria are especially welcome.

Thank-you again.

Sincerely,

Margaret Barr Bigelow/mfz

Margaret Barr Beiglow
Acting Curator,
UMASS Herbarium

MULL
POB 275
VOLCANO, HI
96785



Molly Pitcher, Monmouth, 1778

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

© USPS 1978

Sunday, May 3, 1981
St. Louis Heights, Honolulu

Dear Otto and Isa,

Thursday morning when we visited Charlie
Lamoreaux's office he handed us the Hon. Adv.
sheets of that day with the Sheep-Palila articles.
We were pleased to see that you are the
authorities cited for information on noise and on
the degradation of native forests by feral mammals.
In the company of entomologists we had a keen hike
yesterday on the Wa'ahila Ridge Trail, taking pleasure in
that habitat's native plants. I still found a very true bug
on Euphorbia, apparently not previously collected in that locale -
maybe an undescribed species. Mahalo for all your help.
See you Tuesday. Aloha, Mae and Bill

しぜんをだいせつに



ホントユナジカ

大田田村



AIR MAIL

(財)日本自然保護協会

4 May 1981

Dear Mrs. Degener,

Thank you very much for sending
as the Hawaiian plant specimens which
are kept in the herbarium of our
university. Hoping your good health.

Yours sincerely,

M. Numata

Chiba, Japan

日本自然保護協会は自然を愛する人の会です。あなたの入会は自然保護の力を
さらに強めます。〒105 東京都港区虎ノ門2-1 (電話) 03-503-4896
NATURE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF JAPAN

When we contemplate that perhaps a hundred different kinds of plants native to different regions of the World are known in different languages as "mayflower" simply because they bloom primarily in May, we can understand botanists must try to untangle the confusion. To do so they have found it practicable to give each kind of mayflower a specific, more or less Latinized name. Such naming for precision, however, must follow the precepts published as the "International Code of Botanical Nomenclature." Naturally it is somewhat "legalese", and the 1966 edition before us in English, French and German, all liberally sprinkled with Latin, comprises 402 pages.

Moreover the name in English of members of the genus *Pandanus*, according to Kelsey & Dayton in their 1942 edition of "Standardized Plant Names," is "screwpine". In the Hawaiian vernacular it is "hala", a name so commonly used by all residents and tourists alike that it deserves to be Anglicized with its proper place in our dictionaries. We wish to emphasize that calling a screwpine "lauhala" is an error. "Lau" in Hawaiian means "leaf". "Lauhala" is the plant's leaf so useful, after removal of its prickles, for plaiting into floor and table mats. It is not the name of the plant itself.

Beautiful Waimea Valley, Oahu, State of Hawaii, has been rescued from neglect and destruction by becoming an arboretum catering to both residents and tourists. Its grounds are beautifully landscaped with native and exotic plants, properly labeled, presently **mauka to a waterfall one mile distant as the crow flies from the beach. In and about these beautiful grounds grow various kinds of hala. According to Harold St. John's "Hawaiian Flowering Plants" (1973), he records the following as native and/or even endemic: *Pandanus chamissonis* first described by Gaudichaud in 1841; *P. douglasii* Gaud., 1841; *P. menziesii* Gaud., 1841; *P. odoratissimus* L. f., 1781 var. *odoratissimus*, var. *levigatus* Martelli, 1930, and var. *oahuensis* Martelli, 1930; and *P. tectorius* var. *sandvicensis* Warb., 1900.

Realizing how the Science of Astronomy has advanced due to better contemplation and the invention of better instruments and even floating laboratories penetrating interstellar space, we must expect the same advance in the Science of Botany. Although we have already so many earlier opinions, changed usually for the better due to the study of chromosomes, chemical composition and scanning electron micrographs, we must expect still greater advances.

Because of present uncertainty and differences of opinion regarding even scientific names, the Code solves this problem. Depending on priority, with certain rare, useful exceptions, the first person describing and naming a taxon scientifically appends his own name after it. Hence, for example, Linnaeus called the common pineapple *Bromelia comosa* in 1754. This is not necessarily the correct name of the plant. But it is the name of the plant ACCORDING TO THE OPINION of Carl Linnaeus. Then Merrill in 1917 called the pineapple "*Ananas comosus*". As this combination of two words "belongs" to two authors, we would write the binomial "*Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr.". Anyone can take his pick between Linnaeus' and Merrill's opinions. One of us having known Elmer D. Merrill (1876-1956) personally and how acute he was, is convinced his knowledge of the pineapple in 1917 was superior to that of Linnaeus in 1754. So we follow Merrill, but who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do! Some even today prefer *Ananas comosus* (Stickm.) Merr., for the pineapple, but that is another story.

After this brief lesson in the scientific naming of plants, we want to tackle the scientific name of one of the hala listed by us above, and called in some modern literature "*Pandanus tectorius* Parkins. ex Z".

*Authors and/or publishers of "Flora Hawaiana" or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands", Books 1-6, 7 in print; "Plants Haw. National Parks" (paperback); "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji"; and articles like this one. For prices write to Box 154, Volcano, Hi. 96785.

**Mountainward or inland in contrast to makai or seaward.

(C) Deg., & Deg., 1981.

As we have explained in our article "Outrageously Presumptuous - - -", appearing in *Phytologia* 39(3):143-146. 1978, the letter "Z" has no standing according to the Code. Who is this mysterious "Mr. Z" anyway. As we remarked on page 144, basing our knowledge on the researches of Herman Manitz in 1976, "Z" is actually Johann Philip du Roi (6/2/1741-12/8/1785). Du Roi worked over a manuscript of Sydney C. Parkinson, a companion on Captain Cook's tour of the Pacific in 1768 to 1771. Du Roi was Court Physician in Brunswick (*Braunschweig*), Hannover, Germany. Like all physicians of his time, he was acquainted with "simples" - did not God create such vegetables to possess a virtue, and constitute a simple remedy; and did he not according to the Doctrine of Signatures help the physician select the right one? The red-juiced bloodroot, if we are not mistaken, was for curing the maladies of the blood, and the liver-shaped leaf of the hepatica for curing the liver - Obviously du Roi was a keen botanist for his time, corresponding with the famous son (*Linnaeus filius* or *L. f.*) of the illustrious Carl Linnaeus, Sr. According to the Code, du Roi was responsible for publishing the scientific name of the hala, collected in Tahiti, under the binomial *Pandanus tectorius*. For modest reasons of his own, he eschewed signing his name and, instead, merely signed "Z". As this is contrary to the Code, we immodestly are correcting according to our opinion the name. By the way Wilhelm Degener, the father of Otto, was born in Brunswick May 23, 1844. He never knew Johann Philipp du Roi, who was born over a hundred years earlier and had died in 1785. Nevertheless, the two were so-called "calabash cousins" who, had they lived concurrently in the Hawaiian Islands, would have been worthy of serving themselves out of the very same family poi bowl. Finally having ended with the above verbosity, we here officially publish what we consider the correct name of a taxon of *Pandanus*, to wit:

PANDANUS TECTORIUS (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

Syn. *Pandanus tectorius* Z in his "Die Pflanzen der Insel Outahitèe, aus der Parkinsonischen Reisebeschreibung gezogen, and mit Anmerkungen erläutert von Z.". *Der Naturforscher* 4: about page 240. 1774.

But who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do!



By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aerogramme



Dr. Otto + Isa Degener
68-617, Crozier Drive
Walalua, Oahu,
Hawaii 96791
U.S.A.

Sender's name and address

Mr. Loo Yee Lee
41, Norton St.,
Old Trafford,
Manchester, M16 7AG
Lancashire Postcode
England

An air letter should not contain any enclosure

To open slit here

To open slit here

Dear Drs. Otto, +lsa Degener, 10th. June, 1981

Thank you for your books and
your herbarium specimens which arrived
in good condition.

I have collected some specimens
from my trip to Hong Kong last year.

I shall send you some in the near
future.

Yours sincerely,
Wai Yit Lee.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
NORTHEASTERN REGION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

May 4, 1981

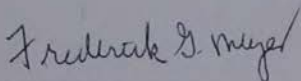
Dr. Otto Degener
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

You were extremely kind to send us 23 herbarium specimens of various cultivated plants from Hawaii. Although I can share your dismay over the introductions that become so destructive, mankind never has and probably never will appreciate conservation in the terms you and I understand. Our interest herein cultivated plants is based on the desire to have a documented record that shows something about the history and development of these plants. After all, cultivated plants do manifest a considerable role in the lives of man. Very few herbaria in the world are interested in cultivated plants, and without documentation, how is it possible to engage in taxonomic studies on these plants.

Thanks also for the reprints, etc. Anytime you wish to deposit Hawaiian plants (including native) in our herbarium, we are willing recipients.

Sincerely,



FREDERICK G. MEYER
Supervisory Botanist
In Charge of the Herbarium



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST • BOSTON • WORCESTER

CONTACT
MUNSON HALL
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01003
(413) 545-0155/0080

May 4, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

Kay Scanlan has shared with me your kind letter of April 24 in which you request 100 tear sheets of Charles Koltz's article about your work.

Those tear sheets will be sent under separate cover this week. They come with our best wishes.

Sincerely,

(Ms.) Terry Y. Allen
Editor, Contact

Rev. ... 12/1/81

Mrs. Kaye A. Jordan
1511 Nuuanu Ave., No. 99
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

May 6, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

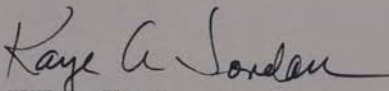
Thank you for your letter and the substitute covers for the last volume of books.

You wrote that you did not know the Bishop Museum was selling Book 7. What they may have put on the shelves of the gift shop was a set that was either a duplicate owned by the museum or one someone had donated. I looked at my copies carefully and there is some wear on the bottom edges of the bindings as though they had been on library shelves for some time.

Before I wrote to you I called my friend, June Bradlee, who runs the gift shop at the Mission Houses Museum and she was kind enough to research a second source for your books and reported back that she did not find a supply. She said she would be willing to carry your books in her stock.

If you are interested in a Honolulu sales outlet, perhaps a note to June would assist.

I have not purchased the unbound volume 7 from the Bishop museum. Would you like me to purchase that one from you? If so, give me a price.


KAYE A. JORDAN

May 11, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Jordan:

Mrs. Degener & I have your kind May 6 letter and are mailing you herewith a copy of Book 7 "as is, where is" ON APPROVAL. As you are the middle(woman) between us & Miss Bradlee, you can have it for \$10 plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% or 5 cents wholesale tax plus whatever postage the mail man will affix to the parcel. I don't know what that may be.

Lacking near relatives that need or want anything, we wish to get our books into hands of individuals who can make use of them. We are horrified what happened to the unsold books, scientific notes and belongings of the Thomas Jaggars after the geologist's widow died!

The Mission Children's bookshop used to sell our books during the days of the late Miss Bernice Judd, daughter of Albert. I knew her Forester Uncle Charlie well. When hiking with him, he used to shoot flowering twigs from the highest of trees for me for my collection.

Many thanks for your suggestion regarding Miss Bradlee.

Aloha,

Dr. C. H. Degener

May 11, 1981

Dear Miss Bradlee:

Mrs. Keye A. Jordan kindly suggested I write you about taking my books on consignment.

For years the late Bernice Judd handled them. She was the daughter of Albert, and the niece of my good friend Forester Charlie Judd. The latter, while we hiked on Oahu, would shoot flowering twigs from tree tops for my collection.

I am selling practically all my books way below cost as I am over 80, and want to get them into the hands of readers who will make use of them.

I have a few first edition, board cover, copies of my "Plants Haw. Nat. Park" available for \$20 wholesale. I published these at the Star-Bulletin in 1930.

My Flora Hawaiiensis, properly board bound in separate Books 1, 2, 3, and 4 has been sold out before World War II. So I published an emergency edition of ALL four books on poor emergency paper, binding all 1192 pages in a poor war emergency cover. I still have several hundred copies available which I am selling wholesale for \$10 each. Book 5, first edition, properly bound in boards, has been sold out; but Book 6, properly bound is still available. This I am selling wholesale for \$10. Book 7 has not yet been completed/ but if some botanist wants what we have, it is available unbound for \$10.

I sell my tourist and nontechnical "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" paperback for \$4.00 wholesale. They come from the printer in Michigan packed in boxes of 24. I am almost out of copies, and have ordered another batch. Delivery is terrrrrrrribly sloooooow.

Trying to save time f or both of us, I am sending you this parcel ON APPROVAL. If you wish to keep it, the bill will be \$24 plus the $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% state tax of 12 cents plus whatever the postage happens to be on the package less 16 cents. The total sum I do not yet know, but you will by studying the package. I hope you can accept this letter as my bill.

Mrs. D., & I, being teachers by profession, ~~we~~ are not really interested in profitting from sales, but in educating the younger generation in Biology & Conservation. In that sense, we are Missionaries.

Aloha,

Fit To open slit here

First fold here

Sender's name and address



Mr I C Hedge
Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh EH3 5LR

An air letter should not contain any enclosure

The 'APSLEY' Air Letter

A Dickinson Robinson Group Product

Form approved by the Post Office (United Kingdom) No. A4/2

Second fold here

Second fold here

By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aerogramme



20

RR22630

Dr O Degener

68-617 Crozier Drive

Waialua

PO BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96785

To open slit here



Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh EH3 5LR
Telephone 031-552 7171

Dr O Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua
OAHU
Hawaii 96791
USA

12 May 1981

Dear Dr Degener

Thank you for yet another gift of your beautifully preserved specimens - 17 in all. We are grateful for this addition to the herbarium.

Thank you too for the information on the Abutilon from an earlier sending. We trust however that it will be many years until you explore the Milky Way - Asclepiads or no. But it is a memorable description!

With best wishes.

Ian Hedge

I C Hedge
Curator of Herbarium

BOTANISCHER GARTEN UND INSTITUT FÜR SYSTEMATISCHE BOTANIK
DER UNIVERSITÄT ZÜRICH

Direktor Prof. Dr. C. D. K. Cook

Ø 32 36 70

PC 80-15805

Dr. O. Degener
Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii 96791
U.S.A.

Zollikerstrasse 107

8008 Zürich, May 12th, 1981

Switzerland

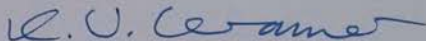
Dear Dr. Degener:

since I last wrote to you, we had the good fortune to receive three more parcels with herbarium specimens from you, altogether 42 numbers. These are very welcome and very much appreciated, and I should like to thank you most sincerely again, in the name of our Institute.

The various pamphlets and other printed information included in your shipments is also much appreciated. Permit me to congratulate you, though very belatedly, on the award of the Willdenow Medal; I was very pleased to learn that you have been honoured in this way.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



K. U. Kramer
Professor of Systematic Botany

after all, or anything else, why not write some
librarian of a medical school (like Cornell
in New York City). Ask for references. Then
to the enclosed slip, you can order pages
from Beltsville very reasonably.

In summary. I so & I suspect you
chose the wrong plant.

Told Aloha to you both from I so &
me. We met unfortunate Wray only once,
when he flew us home from Kalam-
papa years ago. We were shocked to read
about the accident!

Aloha,

P.S. I am of course proud about the
Alumnus article - it would be a
magnificent necrology for I so &
we should meet up in a can of
stewpot or hill-billed by a poisonous
spider or snake.



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 XXXX
8628

May 15, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

I was pleased to learn that we will finally have an opportunity to meet later this year at the Sydney Botanical Congress. I was glad to learn that you and Mrs. Degener will be attending. We will have a strong delegation from the New York Botanical Garden with 12 of our curatorial staff attending, and many of them giving papers.

The Garden is really on the upswing under the dynamic leadership of our new President, Dr. James M. Hester, who came to us from the United Nations University in Tokyo. Dr. Hester will also be attending the Sydney Congress, and also looks forward to meeting you and Mrs. Degener. He and I would like to arrange a dinner meeting with you and Mrs. Degener one evening during the Congress so that we can keep you up to date with things in New York and also discuss future plans. We should probably wait until we have the full Congress schedule to arrange a mutually suitable date that does not conflict with the Congress program.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ghilleen T. Prance
Vice President,
Director of Botanical Research

GTP/fm

cc: Dr. Hester

Dear Dr. Brance:

Mrs. D. & I have your May 15 letter, and are delighted we shall meet the Brance and Hester families as well as other members of the garden staff. My home was Manhattan, 59th Street in sight of the Soldiers' Sailors' Monument, but I did live a number of years at Fieldston with my brother's family in Pickwick Avenue with my sister and opposite the Port Garden R.R. Station. I drove on my fly wheels to & fro between home and garden. So hope you will not be offended that I never learned to speak the Bronx dialect. It is a taxon of trivial importance.

We are scheduled to arrive in Sydney August 17 to attend next day activities in the Northern Botanical section. Thereafter we shall partake of the Tasmanian and Northern Queensland tours, perhaps then hiring a U-Drive car to gallivant on our own for a week. We shall not return to Sydney. I had expected to take another trip involving many places, but cancelled when my heart misbehaved. I am drawing up my list to visit if it comes about. We just don't know how efficiently Australia's flowers are preserved.

Have you back, Isa & I arranged a dinner meeting on the Island of Hawaii for a Singapore botanical failed to arrive from his planned stop over on the Island of Cuba. I had much interesting and really pleasant experience — would you believe it? — between fruit cups & coffee. I began to feel pleasant & drank and fell into the most delightful slaps. I was sitting between Isa and her mother at table. Both noticed me stiffening and clutching my arm toward the ceiling. Isa had taught Rhododendron in Berlin and her mother had worked in all the offices during World Wars I & II in Germany. These two ladies brutally & powerfully slapped me out of a heavenly death from heart arrest. I evidently had chosen the right place, as a physician happened to be dining at a neighboring table and a Military R.R. car was parked at the neighboring



Library
The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

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

May 16, 1981.

Dear Dr. Degener:

A few weeks ago Mr. Long gave me a note, asking me to xerox any entries for Pandanus tectorius for you from Index Kewensis and/or supplements.

I am sorry that I have not got around to doing this until now, we have been exceptionally busy recently.

I am enclosing xerox copies of the pages from Index Kewensis, there was nothing in the supplements. As there seemed to be some taxonomical confusion over P. tectorius, I xeroxed the relevant sections from Index Londinensis and supplement. I also looked through all the issues we have received so far of the Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature. There was some relevant information in the one we received a week or two ago, the volume for 1976, so I have xeroxed this also.

Again, apologies for not having sent this to you before.

Yours sincerely,

Lothian Lynas

Lothian Lynas (Mrs.)
Head Reference Librarian.

Answered 5/26/81



HISTORIC PRESERVATION USA **10c**

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

© USPS 1978

May 23, 1981

Dear Otto -

Thank you so much for the parcel of extra-Hawaiian plant specimens which I will include in my next set going to the Lundell Herbarium at Austin.

The I.R.S. has ruled that, being retired, I can not claim any "professional" expenses and so all my expenses re PHYTOLOGIA (typewriters, typewriter repair, ribbons, publication not rebated, etc., etc.) are non-deductible and all income from sales is taxable. So we are charged \$1100 IN ADDITION to our other taxes for 1979 and they will doubtless do the same for our 1980 return and probably go back to all returns since my retirement! It is a terrible financial blow and makes us wonder if it worth continuing with the journal.

All best wishes from us both

HAROLD N. MOLDENKE
303 PARKSIDE ROAD
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Harold

SAVE QUEEN'S BEACH ASSOCIATION

RE M I N D E R--A M E E T I N G

Regarding our efforts to focus attention on the hidden beauty and many values of Queen's Beach.

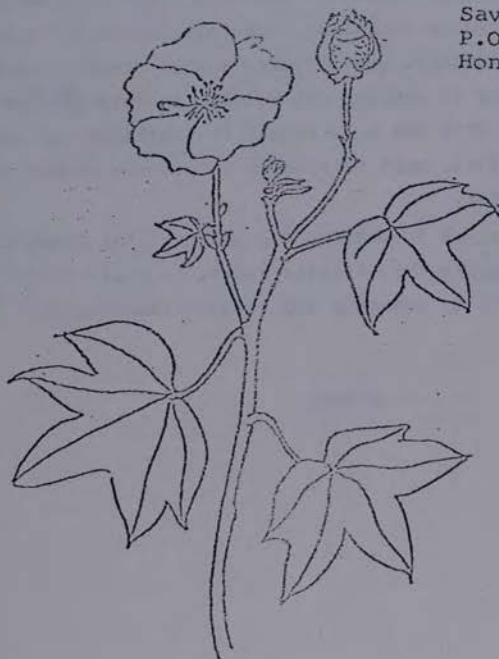
LOCATION: Hawaii Kai Library meeting room,
249 Lunalilo Home Road, Hawaii Kai,
near the Kalanianaʻole Highway

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 1981

TIME: 7:30 P.M. The meeting will start promptly.

If your sentiments are for at least a conservative approach to retaining a natural and/or park setting for Queen's Beach, this meeting will interest you. We expect representation from leading environmental organizations in Hawai'i. Join us. MAHALO!

Save Queen's Beach Association
P.O. Box 25844
Honolulu, HI 96825



MA'O OR HAWAIIAN COTTON

May 22, 1981.

I, O.D., have been in the Islands since the early '20s, and have hiked from earliest times around the southeast coast of Oahu. In those days an old six and more feet wide "road" paved with flat, carefully placed stones existed from near Queen's Beach up to the north. The purpose evidently was to make it easy for Hawaiians to travel between well populated Waimanalo and the north part of Oahu & Queen's Beach and the south part of Oahu. The next convenient trail to cross the Koolau Range was of course via Nuuanu Pali. Most of this ancient road, so far as I knew a couple of decades ago, was still intact. We feel it deserves historic preservation ~~and~~ unique for Oahu. I was told in the '20s that it was of Hawaiian origin. Perhaps a member of the Association can unearth the history of this ancient thoroughfare by research at the Bishop Museum & perhaps by studying records & maps at the Archives. We feel it is the Association's duty not only to preserve Queen's Beach, but this road as well as an outstanding treasure.

A custodian (& family?), knowing both the English & Hawaiian languages, should live on the boundary with police powers to reduce vandalism. The building should resemble an ancient Haw., house as much as practicable. The building should contain a curio shop to sell pamphlets, & books & curios of EDUCATIONAL value., to help finance proper upkeep of the area. A pamphlet dealing with the area should be published for distribution at low cost. Some barriers, we feel, must be erected to prevent access to beach buggies & motorcycles; perhaps turnstiles.

In your explanatory brochure, you failed to mention the nehes of the area. Also, please note that Brazil is a nation hugging the Atlantic coast. We would prefer your calling the native seaside morning-glory or pohuehue NOT *Ipomoea brasiliensis*, but *I. pes-caprae* var. *emarginata*.

Aloha,

ACCESSION BISHOP MUSEUM

Source Otto DegenerDate Accessed 26 May 1981Address 68617 Crozier DriveAccessioned by Wendy GuyerWaialua, HI 96791Date Received 26 May 1981Received by S.H. SohmerReceived as ☒ gift ☐ purchaseRegistrar acknowledge ☒ yes ☐ no☐ bequest ☐ exch ☐ coll. by staff member

catalog no.	material (collection & number)	locality	collector(s)	coll. date
-------------	--------------------------------	----------	--------------	------------

6 Vascular Plant specimens as listed below:

Ruellia brittoniana Leonard (Acanthaceae) Hawaii O. Degener #35271
 Argemone glauca var. decipiens (Papaveraceae) Hawaii " #34894

Ex Herb. Inst. Bot. Ac. Sc. USSR ex Herbarium Degener
 Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. (Poaceae)
 Holcus panicatus L. (Poaceae)
 Paspalum dilatatum Poir. (Poaceae)
 Polycarpon tetraphyllum L. (Caryophyllaceae)

Remarks:

Accession number 1981.229

P. 1 of 1 pp.

ACCESSION BISHOP MUSEUM

Source Otto DegenerDate Accessed 15 May 1981Address 68617 Crozier DriveAccessioned by W. GuyerWaialua, HI 96791Date Received 12 May 1981Received by S.H. SohmerReceived as ☒ gift ☐ purchaseRegistrar acknowledge ☒ yes ☐ no☐ bequest ☐ exch ☐ coll. by staff member

catalog no.	material (collection & number)	locality	collector(s)	coll. dat.
	13 Vascular Plants (dicots)	China/Kwangsi	P.P. Wan & K.S. Chow	1979
	ex Herbario Instituti Botanici Academiae Sinicae		ex Herbarium Degener	
	1 Cyrtandra	Hawaii/Hawaii	O. & I. Degener	35242 1970
	Total 14 vascular plants			

Remarks:

Accession number 1981.228

p. 1 of 1 pp.

BPBM Reg. Form No. 100A February 1979

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

May 27, 1981,

Dear Mrs. Karg:

Mrs. Degener, I received your May 19 letter, and regret no help has been available. We did get pertinent information from New York.

Considering new age, we thought we should publish according to our opinion now. The edition is 407, and we started distributing today, using the Holmgren - Kaulsen Index.

We hope to meet some "Hunters" in Sydney. We enjoyed meeting our good friend Dr. Buchheim in Leningrad.

Aloha,
Dr. Otto Degener

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

May 28, 1981

Dear Dr. Rogerson:

Mrs. Degener & I have your May 22 memorandum, and submit the following:

Degener, O., & I.; & Smith, D.R. Dr. Hans Hörmann. A Tribute. Fl. Hawaiiana. Pp. 1-2. 9/20/80.

Degener, O., & I. 68: Pleomele hawaiiensis Deg. & Deg. s.s.. Fl. Hawaiensis. Pp. 1-2. 9/20/80.

Woolliams, K.; Degener, O., & I. Cook's Kokia Again. Notes Waimea Arb. & Bot. Gard. 7(2):869. 1980.

Degener, O. The Flying Mongoose. 'Elepaio 41(9):87. 1981.

Degener, O., & I. No Hala Hallucination. Pp. 1-2. Privately printed May 1981 in edition of 407.

Because of the distance between Hawaii and New York, we do not know if you ever noted that we published:

Degener, O., & I.; Hörmann, H.; & Smith, D.R. 75: Distichophyllum Freycinetii (Schwaegr.) Mitt. Flora Hawaiiana. Pp. 1-2. 5/16/80.

Nor do we remember whether we published some small items about plants and about conservation which we may have mailed Mr. Long and of which we have no copies here at our treefern forest home. We do believe the above is essentially complete and correct. It may be that Mr. Long has additional information in his files. Anyway, do please pass some of the enclosed items to him for his archives.

You would never have guessed ten years ago that a botanist's field work is now fraught with danger in the Hawaiian Islands! We don't dare get off main highways for fear of booby rat traps firing shotgun shells in the tripper's direction. Once last year such criminal dope growers even shot at us with rifles twice, probably not to injure us; but to scare us away. We promptly tried to leave, and stalled our jeep in the emergency. Is Cannabis being grown illicitly about the snuffmill? I can't understand why someone does not go to the Orient for biological control material. Of course, it would be highly dangerous; should CTR do so, he might not live to complete the project. Cannabis has become a more important industry in this State than the cultivation of sugarcane.

Aloha,



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.
May 29, 1981.

Dear Don:

It is fun teasing you at the same time that I am teaching you the Degener Sunday School lesson for May: Perhaps I told or wrote you that when my mother, who died in 1920, suffered from cancer; she became a Mental Scientist like my aunt before her. Readers came to our home in NY City weekly. We children remained pure & simple devout atheists. When I had asked my parents in the 1910's or so why I should attend Sunday School, their reply was simple: As most people around us believed in the Bible, I should be educated enough to know something about its contents; but not necessarily believe in it. So this teaching subconsciously, I suppose, kept me from poohpooing similar works. The Jews, because of persecution over generations that killed off the stupid, wrote their myths & social laws at a higher intellectual standard than did, for example, the more shielded Hawaiians in their mele. That applies to scores of other races in their folklores. It is wise to select the best thoughts wherever you find 'em IF they appear plausible to you. Maui-Hina- Sun - Tapa is just as nice a fairy tale as is Adam-Eve-Serpent- (apple) banana This is the first & last Degener Sunday School lesson.

Remember, I described a Haw., hermit crab new to Science as part of my M. Sc., courses at U. of Haw., during the school year 1922-23. I betcha Doc. T., will the bronze crab precisely for that reason to me, and chuckled at the thought.

I am still confused. Did you look into old cats., of Univ. of Conn., to see who the Prof. Torrey was who taught Bot., there. I met him twice in the '20.

Ruby Hemenway must be a delightful person BUUUUUUUUU, how about you finding out whether former Univ. of Hawaii Hemenway, living in Manoa Valley (you can unearth the address in an old 1920 or 1930 phone book or College or Univ. of Haw., cat) was a calabash cousin's of Doc. Torrey. Hemenway was for years one of the Regents.

Aloha to the Smiths of Box 548,

*When in England? Did the
Torrey originate?*

BOTANY DEPARTMENT

University of Hawaii
3190 Maile Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822



*Otto Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, HI 96791

PO BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96785

HAWAIIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY MEETING

DATE: Monday, June 1, 1981 at 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: St. John 011, University of Hawaii Manoa

SPEAKER: Miss Beatrice H. Krauss, Research Affiliate
Lyon Arboretum

TOPIC: "Hawaiian Medicinal Plants"



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

May 29, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Your letter of April 12, 1981 arrived today. We will send xeroxes of the enclosures very shortly. Your Dole request is being searched by staff for a reply.

All best wishes to you and Mrs. Degener.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Long

Charles R. Long, Director
Library and Plant Information Services

CRL/d

P.S. We received your letter of February 1, 1981. Staff are compiling response. Forgive our tardiness.



Postkarte

Dr. Otto Degener

P.O. Box 154

(Postfach oder Straße und Hausnummer)

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

(Postleitzahl) (Ort)

U.S.A.

Botanischer Garten
und Botanisches Museum
Berlin-Dahlem
Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8
D-1000 Berlin 33

Dr. J. B. P.

Botanischer Garten
und Botanisches Museum
Berlin-Dahlem
Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8
D-1000 Berlin 33

BERLIN

(030) 8 31 40 41

1. 9. 1981

Mit verbindlichem Dank bestätigen wir den Eingang von:

18 No. Herbarmaterial

We acknowledge with best thanks the receipt of:

Botanischer Garten u. Botanisches Museum
Berlin-Dahlem
Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8
D-1000 BERLIN 33

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER

P.O. Box 134

Volcano, Hawaii

96785 U.S.A.

June 4, 1981.

Dear Don:

John Torrey is such a terrifically famous name in Botany, and the name is so unusual; should you not suspect some blood relationship with R.E.T.? You can find biographical data in any bot. library. John Torrey evidently flourished (or should I say "flowered") about 1860.

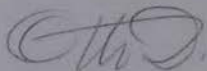
The Torrey Herbarium is apparently at the NY Bot. Garden.

I wrote you that I botanized during the summer of 1919 in the Rockies. R.E.T., "helped me" identify my catch, of which M.A.C., got duplicates, using Torrey (& Gray's ?) Flora of that general region. J.T., worked up the plants collected during U.S. surveys when building our transcontinental RR. Naturally I asked Doc. T., in 1919 if he was related to John, & I think a couple of thousand of my brain cells register today (6/4/81) that he modestly answered "yes". Donk bang on my rumor, but perhaps you should investigate

Is it just a coincidence that a Conn., Torrey & a Mass., Torrey both were botanists in colleges? Or is it due to a peculiar gene in their bodies? Why would it be surprising if a third Torrey, if blood related, also possessed the same gene make up? GOOD HINTING.

Isa will be back at Mokuleia for a week or so Monday before returning with another carload of thingamajigs. I am scribbling plant labels, and dog-sitting in the meantime.

Aloha to Lyn & the * T.S.,



*Tor rey sleuth.

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT HALLE-WITTENBERG

Sektion Biowissenschaften
Botanik/Bot. Garten

Martin-Luther-Universität
Dr. K. Werner Sektion Biowissenschaften
- HERBARIUM -
DDR-402 Halle (S.), Neuwerk 21



Martin-Luther-Universität, 401 Halle

Dr. O. Degener

P.O. Box 154

Volcano

Hawaii 96785

-USA-

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom

Unsere Zeichen

401 Halle (Saale).

Dr. Wer/je

5.4. 1981

Betreff:

Dear Dr. Degener:

With many thanks I acknowledge the receipt of
7 specimens of Hawaiian plants you kindly
sent us for our herbarium.

With the best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

K. Werner
Dr. K. Werner
Curator

Fernschreiber:
04 358 uni hal dd

Fernruf 83 20

Staatsbank der DDR, Filiale Halle
3781-25-127 012
Postcheckkonto: Magdeburg 122 02

IV/20/23 Pz G 010/1/79 10 10420

Jan 13/20/91
P.O. Box 134,
Volcan, HI. 96785.

[June 1985]

Dear Harold & Alma:

I do not know what I had written you in the letter you stated had never reached you! I did mail you a slender package of *Heliotropium* car., s.l., AND a sample of clean Pahala volcanic ash in which the taxon was thriving. Perhaps the ash (earth) kept the package from reaching you with my letter within. When I do that, I always stick an extra 16 center on outside with note: "Letter enclosed."

Thanks for the thoughtfulness regarding the *Persicaria*. Actually as *nachts nights* are what the species may be as far as our work is concerned. I believe it is the specimen that came in a package of exchanges from Peking. I remember your early interest in *Persicaria*, & thought you should look at it.

2/4/86 Our gentle, kindly friend Hörmann just died. Isa & I had expected it for some time, of course, and had (in)delicately written the couple for a bibliography COMPLETE. They never sent one, so Bryologist Smith and we did the best we could for our Tribute to him published in our Fl. Haw., and hence practically unknown to the outside world. We did distribute up to 100 copies to effect publication, but the great bulk of 1,800 copies of Book 7 are still unsold. Though not yet completed nor covered, we do sell copies for 10-15 dollars "as is, where is". Remember each sheet is practically a distinct paper with author & precise date, not of printing, but of publication - date of dumping into the mailbox.

When in Germany for two months, I spent my full time combing the descriptions in Bartram's Haw., moss manual with Hörmann's more or less German ms. D.E. Smith improved my editing, and we want to publish, (with Hörmann posthumus author), but printing costs are too high. Smith may have a few illustrated species published in Guam or Taiwan.

Isa & I thought a Hörmann necrology might be appropriate for "Phytologia". It is of course up to you.

It is almost senseless to ask each other in our age group how healthy we happen to be. Due to my age, I am scribbling, scribbling, scribbling labels & distributing our backlog of plants as widely as possible lest some World War III annihilates our priceless collection of soon-to-be-extinct taxa. We want to spread our prizes, following your lead. Did you not mail duplicates to Aarhus for that reason? Did you give up Aarhus for Austin? We mail to both plus perhaps 50 other institutions. Are Andy & Alison connected there?

Last month, while Isa happened to be on Oahu to be with her mother a week & attend to a rental unit turnover, I wrote labels without moving from my chair for over three hours when I received a really serious "heart attack." My entire viscera (except arms & legs) suddenly hurt severely. I expected to die., and took a nitro pill. Now about, I felt better. On Isa's return, I visited my cardiologist in Hilo, who noted NO change in my rather favorable heart condition for my age. He could not explain my "heart attack". Flying to Oahu a month later, I went to my expert in Honolulu. He explained that my apypten did not come from the heart, but from my unimportant hiatal hernia. Evidently squashing it for three hours while scribbling was too much. Sooooo, we may as well go to Sydney next month. We have already paid up for the business pleasure. We hope to spend a week in Tasmania.

Perhaps we shall get your plant pets, at least a few.

Aloha,

Conf. B.M.

Conservatoire
et
Jardin
botaniques



Ville
de
Genève

Directeur:
Prof. Gilbert Bocquet

Chemin de l'Impératrice 1
Case postale 60
CH-1292 Chambésy/GE
Tél. (022) 32 69 69

Genève, le 11 juin 1981.

Drs. Otto & Isa DEGENER
P.O. Box 154

VOLCANO

Hawaii 96785 - USA.

Monsieur / Sir,

L'envoi mentionné ci-dessous m'est bien parvenu / We have received the material listed below:

26 spécimens d'Hawaii

Je vous prie d'agréer l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs / Please accept our most grateful thanks.

Le Conservateur des Herbiers
Keeper of Herbarium

A. D. H. M. d.

Dear C.S.: We no longer, tritely expressed, keep all our eggs in one basket. We have close to 100 to which we mail specimens indiscriminately with, however, major shipments to NY, Berlin, Stockholm, Graz & Vienna, the two last being close to where my Austrian ancestors flowered, fruited & perhaps gone to seed. Serious monographers should contact Curators of leading herbaria listed in the "Index Herbariorum" for taxa in genera in which they are interested I regret you got none from University of Mass. Prof. Ahlers, with whom I had corresponded, died.

When I shipped my Gleason-estimated herbarium of 50,000 specimens to NY at beginning of World War II, Dr. Merrill assigned two secretaries to copy the master labels I wrote during that time. These 50,000 were distributed widely by sale & gift except to enemy countries.

During the same time Director Merrill engaged FWA (or was it WPA?) women to comb the library for all references to Haw., Philippine, Guam, Samoa, etc., plants. I constantly referred to it. The list even quoted type localities. The files are voluminous and on pink paper, hence conveniently called "The Pink Slips". Interested in Haw., partly through me & probably the late fern collector Topping (whom he had known well in the Philippines), he deposited a carbon copy at B.M. I advise you to look at these slips. They were invaluable to me in NY. Ed. Bryan had them in his office what last I saw them a decade or two ago.

Also, please remember an herbarium is not supposed to be a show place to see the pretty fls. It is a reference collection for research. With labor-free to the NYEG, Dir. Merrill had such women ransack the library for pertinent literature. This was copied, and generic facts pasted on the proper genus covers and species facts on species covers. Thus cheap labor was used to save the time of expensive scientists. At a glance I would get much information right at my table with the specimens, AND often find references to still more information in the library. Why not make BM herbarium more useful with xerox pages costing only a nickel a piece? Why have the botanist leave the herb., table to browse through library indexes & shelves.

Aloha, O.D.

Mrs. Kaye A. Jordan
1511 Nuuanu Ave., No. 99
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

17 June 1981

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

Dear Drs Degener:

My check to cover Book 7 of your Flora Hawaiiensis is enclosed. I have been carrying it around in my check book for a whole month.

Please forgive me.

I stalled at first to check out the Bishop Museum book shop. They must have a stock of your books because there are more on their shelves now. I thought you might be interested to know that.

My set is now complete with the exception of Volume 6. If you want to sell me that one, please quote price and I will send you a check in advance.

I don't understand why your books are not in our libraries. I am the Air Force Historian at Hickam and I am going to show our librarian, Miss Watanabe, your books and suggest that she acquire them. I can understand why your books are not in the local public libraries because they would be torn apart or stolen in a very short time, but military libraries are relatively secure and they usually have a Hawaiian collection for the rotating military personnel.

Thanks for your patience. Thanks also for the message you wrote for my Volume 7. You have made my set unique.

Kaye Jordan

owed for Book 6 \$10.50 Fiji, defective PTHMP

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

Dear Mrs. Jordan:

June 26, 1981

I have your June 17 letter before me here at Volcano. Mrs. D. & I flew to Honolulu to be dentally & medically checked before flying to Australia in early August for the XIII International Botanical Congress. We hope to dash off to Tasmania before returning home. The closest we have come to Australia was New Zealand. It is high time to do this before a Sword of Damocles drops on me. The string must be wearing pretty thin for a man over 82.

The Mid-Pac. Book Distributors are supposed to handle my books; but casual visits to bookstores, curio shops & libraries by us invariably fails to turn them up. There ARE a few exceptions, like the B. Museum. I complained to the Reeds, owners, a week or so ago, without any results. I explained it is likely that some one else will step into the vacuum they are neglecting. Of course the fundamental trouble is that Mrs. D., & I are interested in putting down our observations; not taking much time trying to sell them.

My paperback is not even sold at Kilauea Military Camp PX. We eat at the delightful mess about twice a week. Book orders must come from Schofield. We can't bother. BUT if anyone wants to sell our books, they can have them at one third discount if they will purchase three of a kind at a time from us.

These are our present RETAIL prices:

Fl. Haw., Books 1-4, (Ed. 2) in one bad war emergency cover sells for \$15.

Fl. Haw. Book 5, Ed. 1, for \$15. It is practically "out of print" now as my collating shelves are stocked with unfinished Book 7! At 82 of age, I am too lazy to restack sheets of Book 5. They are all carefully stored.

Book 6, ed. 1, for \$15.

Book 7, "as is, where is" for \$15.

Plants Haw. Nat. Park, boards, ed 1, \$30; paperback \$6.

Nat. South Pacific Expedition: Fiji, boards, ed. 1 (Collector's copies by this time) \$30.

Mrs. D., agrees with me that we should sell our books even at a loss, lest some Executor of our Estate eventually discards them. We have outlived so many friends - like volcanologist Thomas Jaggar, Jr., - whose scientific, invaluable notes, were hauled to the dump. His ashes were surreptitiously scattered in Halemauana.

Why not let the price for Book 7 be similarly \$10.50, the rest are gratis. You might as now them to Miss Watanabe!

Aloha,

O.D. --

June 19, 1981

Here is just a note with enclosures to interrupt that love affair that you're carrying on with your label-writing.

It will be interesting to see whether Mr. Long responds. You'll note from the enclosures:

1. Ltr to me from Long with Steve attachment -- Xcs. 12/15/80
2. Notation on this ltr that I sent \$1 cash and request for Torrey article on 12/20/80 -- No answer.
3. About 3 weeks ago I sent both Xcs again to Long with a \$1 check and requested same material.

to date -- I have rec'd neither the cash nor the cancelled check --- NOR ANY ANSWER TO EITHER OF MY LETTERS.

I really think that Steve is wrong in his saying that there was a Torrey item in the Wesleyan Univ. Bull. Vol. 12, no. 2 of 1940. I'm trying to check this out ----

All the Wesleyan people have is from their Vol. 12, no. 2 Bulletin of 1918. I don't imagine that there is any such animal as a Vol. 12 of 1940. If Steve is correct about the date 1940; well, he's wrong about the volume number(?). The Wesleyan people have sent me a Xc of the 1918-1919 catalog with Dr. Torrey's name carrying Botany I, etc., -- and that's all they have -- they say. This comes from the Wes. Univ. Bull. Vol. 12, No. 2, pps. 99-101. (1918-19)

Have also heard from Grove City with a photogenic print of Doc! A real nugget --- .

More later,

PS: The 68-617 parties and I have been circling 'round one another like a couple of dogs -- and yesterday I left some onions at their gatestop. That should smell 'em out of their lair ---

D.



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

ANS'd
12/20/80

December 15, 1980

Mr. Don Smith
P. O. Box 548
Waialua, Oahu, HI 96791

Dear Mr. Smith:

Dr. Otto Degener has alerted us to your project on Ray E. Torrey. I asked our archivist to see what we have. As it turns out, there isn't too much here (see enclosure).

If we can assist you in obtaining a copy of the Wesleyan Univ. Bull. or other sources for information you know of here in the East, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Long

Charles R. Long, Director
Library and Plant Information Services

CRL/d

Encl: 1

ASK'd
\$1.00

ENC.

7

9 Dec 1980

Bob:

I found little information on Raymond E. Torrey beyond that which is in the Times obituary (vertical file), that is, life dates, dates of degrees and teaching positions. Though R. E. Torrey has an entry in the Barnhart biographical file (in both card and published versions), he is not represented in the Barnhart correspondence. His name does not appear in the published archives catalog or the supplement cards. In addition, I checked the following collections for R. E. Torrey correspondence with negative results:

Director's Office - Britton

Director's Office - Robbins

Director's Office - Steere

N. L. Britton scientific correspondence

E. G. Britton scientific Correspondence

WFPSA - E. G. Britton correspondence

H. A. Gleason correspondence

I could search other collections for R. E. T. correspondence, but the odds against finding any seem quite slim indeed. Searching correspondence for mentions of R. E. T. would of course be a much longer, time consuming business. It might be worth it if we knew that one of our staff members was a student of R.E.T.

There was an article on R. E. T. in the Wesleyan University Bulletin vol. 12 no. 2, 1940. We could probably get a copy of this from the research library, but I would think that R. E. T.'s biographer would already have a copy.

Since Torrey spent so much of his life at Massachusetts Agricultural College, I would think that institution would be the likely spot to find material pertinent to this query, both in a hypothetical. Torrey collection or in office files, papers of other faculty, etc.

Let me know how you want me to proceed.

Steve

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 134
Volcano, Hawaii
June 21/1961..

Dear Dr. Schmer:

Thanks for the herbarium specimen acknowledgment. Mrs. D., & I consider our time spent with specimens of greater value per hour than that of carpenters, plumbers & yardmen. Hence when we donate plants to about 20 US eleemosynary institutions, allow ourselves the yearly tax credit. Acknowledgments are for the tax inspector to check. We thought you should see what foreigners have identified in the exotic Haw., weed line. Thus you might ascertain whether corresponding species, varieties & forms here are identical or not. Regarding Bermudagrass, about forty wild & cultigen taxa exist. What have we here? The Chinese form seems gigantic.

- As a Botany graduate I could have taught Systematics & conducted some research on the side in the Mainland US for life. I guess in fifty years I might have described among Phans., two new species & half a dozen varieties and/or forms (most likely in Craetagus, Rubus & Vaccinium). Instead, footloose, I emigrated to Haw. Nei, the most interesting biological region in the World because of the archipelago's isolation and great age. I lived in a hotel, now gone, opposite Puhahou School, for a year with my sister. While driving to class, I noticed a sign on University Ave., in 1926 that the lot with two houses was for sale because of a bank foreclosure. The bank wanted merely the money back it had lent the owner, so I got the property at a bargain fee simple, helped out with my nestegg from home as my father had died in 1916 and my mother in 1920. Whether you have a nestegg or not, you have been teaching for years at a salary. My sister & I lived in my new home for about a year. When she left for her Manhattan home, and conspirators Museum Director Gregory and University Pres. Crawford dropped me from the University as a potential Museum competitor in writing a local Flora, I did not leave the Islands like so many other victims of the former had done. I rented my property for needed cash to Botany Prof. R.S. Bean, and rented at Kawela Bay a modified railroad car for \$5 per MONTH (where I lived) and an adjoining cottage for \$5 per MONTH where two boys at \$1. each per day lived. These helped me botanize, make drawings, repair the leaking roofs for which work I rented the lot so reasonably. Then to improve my financial condition still more, yet remain in the Islands where Gregory & Crawford were powerful in Territorial politics, I took the position as Ranger-Naturalist - the first - at Haw. National Park under Federal jurisdiction at the luxurious salary (for that time) of \$180 per month! I took some of my past best natural-born student artists to Hawaii. In all I had four or five (one or two were loafers who I amicably shipped back to Honolulu) whom I paid \$200 each plus keep for the summer vacation to illustrate what became my potboiler "Plants Haw. Nat. Park". Realizing that being a National Park scientist for the long run was hopeless, I resigned but remained in the area for two years. With boys gone, I moved into the Volcano House. What is the use of specializing in a unique region when the Park Service can transfer you to Yosemite or Yellowstone, and your past studies are useless in a different environment? The method tends to have untrained carpetbaggers attempting to lecture intelligently to tourists, when it is actually the blind leading the blind. We experienced that recently when an employee religiously exterminated two flowering 35 foot high Hibiscadelphus giffardianus trees June 1980 along the "Maui Highway", the most unique endangered species for which the park is famed. Mistaking it for a hybrid - what of it? - the entire species was exterminated in the wild; while the Park is rampant with exotic weeds reproducing unchecked!

I shipped a luxurious autotrailer from New York via Panama to Honolulu. It was the very FIRST in the Territory, notwithstanding a published report that Dr. Kenneth Emory had an earlier one. So as not to be starved out of the Islands, I kept on earning rent money. In the meantime a Korean who made drawings for me & helped collect, drove me about Oahu mostly in the drier areas. With one or two wooden boxes (two 5 gal. tins of kerosene were being sold in them) in which I had Coleman lanterns burning to process a wealth of plants, in part now extinct due to modern "progress". In those days Campbell soups & peanut butter sandwiches were the main diet, with of course lots else.

Though I owned a car ever since 1925 when I drove across the States from Amherst, Mass., to California and embarked with it for Honolulu, I have not driven since

losing my University position due to contracting tachycardia after the Gregory-Crawford imbroglio. A patient at the Straub Clinic in Honolulu, I got to know the physician-technologist Dr. Eric Pennell & family intimately. They had a beach place at Mokuleia - you know the area from your visit to us - and were complaining bitterly about a Korean Club next to them which they considered a horrible nuisance week ends with crowds of picnickers. To stop criticism, the realtor agreed to move the club to a lot nearer Haleiwa., and that the Pennells could pick out their own neighbor. When they told me about this, I camped there in my trailer a couple of nights, liked it, and bought this abandoned cow pasture fee simple at a tremendous bargain. I designed the two-story house myself - forgetting clothes closets - and had a plantation carpenter build it, also cheaply.

Keeping University Avenue rented, I lived here with two "normal" boys at \$1 per day & keep each to keep house & yard, botanize, press & draw for the Flora Haw. Printing was getting increasingly expensive, so to economize for almost 25 years I kept in my servants' quarters of two rooms & bath one "normal" boy at \$1 per day & keep and a "sub-normal" one at 50 cents & keep per day on parole to me from the Home for Feeble-minded and the Waialee Industrial School. I avoided the idea of punishment as it fosters resentment. I would twist, by hook or crook, wrong doings by the boys into thinking the fault cost me money so that I had to economize for instance by omitting going to the movies, buying icecream or some other treat. For actual, born incorrigibles, who should have been aborted like a boy who purposely cooked filth with our food, I simply 'phoned the parole officer for a replacement. Remember, Campbell soups are lifesavers. Of course only a bachelor can run such a menage.

Happily married with a lady of my own kind except that I am a plug horse & she a race-horse mentally, we lived at Mokuleia with overnight stays in our University Avenue servants' quarters when busy in Honolulu. We finally craved a mountain cottage or dacha near my old stamping ground, Kilauea Volcano. So we flew there, rented a place, & looked around. A beautiful, 2-story house and lot with a patch of treefern forest not far from the National Park boundary had a posted "for sale" sign. We realized it far above anything we could ever afford. As places available to us were too shanty-like, we prepared to return dejected to Oahu. Nevertheless, we were curious what the owner asked for the apple of our eyes. Enquiring, we discovered the owner was a recently widowed lady homesick to return to her relatives in the East as soon as possible. In short, we bought the place fee simple at a tremendous bargain, plus all contents such as furniture & linen. I guess she left, happy, forever with little more than two flight bags. Our estate is "land poor", with a tremendous potential to finance the study & publication of local plants in Degener's Fl. Hawaiensis & Fl. Hawaiiana provided some shyster Degener Trustee perhaps appointed by the Court does not sell future hotel beach property and future University Faculty Senior Citizen Condominium property to some buddy to earn legally for all Degener Trustees a high percentage windfall of cash.

With the conviction that people come & go; while institutions are just about immortal, RM, according to my next to the last Will, had been my heir since about 1925 on condition it push Degener's Fl. Haw., ad infinitum. But when what we judge as an overaged hippie type, whose lovely, capable wife cried her heart out on my wife's shoulders, showed his close friendship in a fifteen cent postage letter with RM, Mrs. D. (stepdaughter of the Director of the famed Berlin Holding Prison before & during World War II & hence by training suspicious), she prevailed on me to join her in having NY with St. L., as benevolent watchdog, push Degener's Flora Haw. (Notice how the apostrophe changed position since early bachelor days). Should a man like you with roots - is it the tap? - in NY outlive us Degeners, you might be the proper intermediary between NY & Honolulu. As that is up to Trustees of the time to decide, we won't add your name in a codicil. Who knows how nasty you will become after picking up fee simple real estate at bargain sales. Beach property on ANY island has a tremendous favorable future!

Do you know why RM was denied accreditation until relatively recently, and the little Hilo Lyman Museum got it many years before RM did? AS I UNDERSTAND IT - I may be wrong - the weight around the museum's neck at least in early days consisted of too many businessmen Trustees. I knew charming Chief Territorial Forester Charlie Judd who, while hiking, would shoot off flowering sprigs from the highest trees for my herbarium. His lawyer brother Albert was an aggressive Trustee. I am sure a lawyer - his daughter Bernice was Mission Children's librarian - would keep within the law (study meanings of words in the dictionary). I remember a newspaper hullabaloo and hence in the public

everybody up in library newspaper files, where Albert engineered numerous questionable transactions involving museum trust assets. The more money changed hands in Trust transactions, the more cash based on percentage, would each Trustee earn at the expense of the Estate. He probably cleared himself, but I don't know. I remember tall Albert, very much a gentleman; but not so human as his brothers Charlie & the Governor. Years ago Albert drove me to the Judd Ranch at Chinaman's Hat Island near Kaneohe to see Rock's chaulmoogra trees. Months later I visited my friend Dr. Fennell in his laboratory in Honolulu. On a shelf I was attracted by an ordinary Mason jar with a pasted label bearing the scribble "Albert Judd". Within was "gunk" submerged in some liquid, formalin or alcohol I suppose. Mr. Judd apparently had died of cancer of the spleen, and this was all that was left of my acquaintance. Sic transit gloria mundi!

Of course Gregory, a typical, talented, problem child grown up, cooked his own goose with grease supplied by me to speed the cooking & tales to the present to remember his tragic victims. All pertinent documents are archived in duplicate. Another grown-up problem child was Pres. Crawford. He wrote "Haw. Crop Parade", 'phoned me repeatedly for correct scientific names which I conscientiously supplied. He published, but never mailed me a complimentary copy out of courtesy, never credited me for help & ascribed it instead to his Botany Department which undoubtedly helped as well as I. I wrote an honest review, publishing it (uncensored by the Faculty presumably because Crawford was feeling his oats & getting over dictatorial). My article in "Ka Palapala" caused a furor on the Campus, reducing sales. I also submitted my ms., to the newspapers. As properly licensed book dealer I then purchased all the unsold copies at wholesale in addition to a discount. I then corrected each book in red ink "According to my Lights" as I would a Freshman notebook. I sent complimentary copies to the Legislators & with my review to our newspaper editors. Well advertised, I sold at a good profit all corrected copies. Faculty members bought a bit secretly I thought. I wonder whether BM censored a copy & kept it off the shelf. Thinking I had done enough & yet wishing my review to stand "evermore" as a formal publication, I chose the most obscure for our islands bot. publication I could think of: in Montevideo! Here is a collector's copy for you worth its weight in gold or arsenic. Later, somewhat dull, megalomaniacal Crawford got overbearing with genius J.F. Rock. The latter published a blistering reply in the newspaper. I distributed copies widely, even recently when Mr. X was trying to chop heads indiscriminately at my Alma Mater (U. of Haw., M.Sc. '23). This distribution to Regents, action by Chemistry Bilgers and our good friend the Regent N.S. Castle induced Crawford "to resign". He sailed with Family to the Mainland Dec. 5, two days before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

If you will look at the list of Trustees (unless they improved the selection recently) is there a single scientist among the lot? Are they not predominately businessmen, a lawyer and an accountant? This businessman emphasis, I fear, has prejudiced in the past esp., scientists against the museum & still does. Roger T. Biringer of the Business Office of the NY Bot. Garden, is now retired in Sarasota. Before his NY connection for years, he was an official of the Asan., of Museums. He & wife Jeanne visited us at Mokuleia some years ago. He explained, as I remember, that BM's trouble was lack of scientists among the Trustees.. If it was damaging then, such situation can't be too favorable now that BM perhaps merely squeezes with a low grade into accreditation. What it needs according to yours truly, on their letter heads as member Trustees are: a doctorate in Botany, one in Zoology, one in Archaeology, one in Geology, a real Haw., scholar who knows the language & perhaps was raised on Niihau (There is one); a lawyer, not more than one businessman who knows bookkeeping. To add such a selection without dropping gracefully most businessmen would be a waste of Trust funds with an overburden of salaries. By the way, a fellow in his prime by name of Sohmer would fit the position as botanist even if for a year he acted partly as a figurehead until he got the feel of things; a wide awake, engaged Zoologist Ziegler; a specialist in Ent., like Howarth; you pick out the rest. Octogenarians are no good nor individuals of questionable morals who can't visit foreign countries with better habits without drawing questionable glances at all of us Americans. Foreigners, class conscious, resent being forced to dine with gutteren snipes at formal and other parties.

Do you know of any case where a businessman Trustee for the good of science, plowed under part of his annual salary, & extra fees for an improved museum? As mentioned elsewhere, I believe 30% of gross income can be donated to an eleemosynary institution annually for a tax credit.

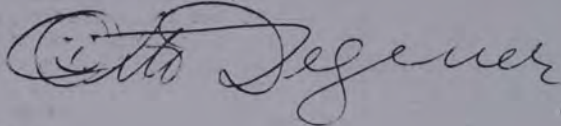
This letter started as a mental washrag. I got three packages of herbarium specimens off in the mails to three foreign institutions. Should NY or Honolulu be wiped out in World War III as was Hiroshima in WW II, extinct Haw. plants will be on hand at least as museum specimens for monographers to study in the far distant future in Edinburgh, Praha, Chiba plus about 75 more. In addition to packing, I labeled all day. This long, chatty letter began to cleanse my brain from dreaming about label, Number, genus, date and locality which (I confess) I cite badly as I am too lazy to add macrons & hyphens to Haw., place names. Without these last, they really make no sense.

Rock's amassed College of Hawaii herbarium as well as his own personal one was hauled legally from the campus to BM due to Montague Cook's Senator brother. When BM purchased metal cases years later, these beautifully built cabinets (not the yellow pine ones so far as I am concerned) were offered for sale by the museum. I purchased two, and am now emptying them to distribute the contents plus other plant accumulations.

Serious statements I have been making about people and/or conditions since about 1922 are not idle prattle, but have holographs, carbon or xerox vouchers in two Mainland archives. We have xeroxes of many in our own library, arranged for instant perusal via filing cards. When someone has time & inclination to write a museum-university history, the result will be a best seller. It should start with a reproduction of Bishop's Will in his original script, & then naturally deal heavily with wonderful Brigham, rather than let him become a "nonperson" as the museum seems to be doing now. I believe his brother was a M.D., & William had an early interest to follow this profession. Instead (for lack of cash?) he became involved in immigration work. Van Dyke, still living in Honolulu, came to our home at Mokuia to show us a fascinating movie reel of Brigham of which BM should have purchased a copy long ago. An unpublished photo of this delightfully playful person should appear in the BM History as well as one of each other Director including the Mete noire Gregory with his prognathous jaw. Brigham remained playful, amputated leg or not, as when he got a sedate heavyweight Haw. matron to plop on the floor at a BM meeting. Why does not BM reprint in color at Kam. School student printshop or in Taiwan cheaply his "Ka Hana Kapa" for tourist sales? When he died, his personal effects were auctioned & his magnificent koa bed made a sensation.

By the way, wanna lease 2234 University Avenue. Start a company with a BM colleague Trustee, get a zoning variance for about \$100, lease or better buy both neighboring properties, and eventually build a Faculty Housing Condominium for Senior Citizens opposite a beautiful park. Then play seriously with Systematics, and donate to BM eleemosynary institution 30% of your income for a tax deduction. We Degeners are too old to bother. There were land bargains in my generation, but no one thought so at the time except a few like O.D. There are bargains in your generation, but who thinks of it? Watch for them, especially beach property on ANY island. Give up paying rent & change your diet from sirloin steak to Campbell soup and peanut butter Island Sandwiches for a healthy life in the Sandwich Islands.

Aloha,



Cc.

Dr. Creutz

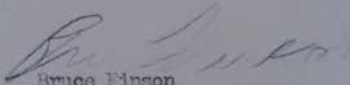
Archives

Misc., recipients of plant packages.

June 26, 1981

Dr. Degener:

We would like to use about 6-8 drawings from your Flora of Hawaii to help illustrate a popular article on Hawaiian wildflowers. The text, and our use of the drawings, will be checked by our Curator of Botany, Dr. Frank Almeda.



Bruce Finson
Editor, PACIFIC DISCOVERY

copy to other address

June 29, 1981.

Dear Senator Fong:

Mrs. Degener & I read Debra Yuen's article concerning your Tourist Paradise.

I was at the University during your days there. Since that time I, and Mrs. D., & I, have published a number of books about Hawaii. They are well known internationally.

My "Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands" have been sold out long ago so far as Books 1-4 are concerned. So during World War II I re-published all four on POOR war emergency paper in a poor war emergency cover. The price for these 1192 bound pages is \$15.

Flora. Haw., Book 5 (Ed. 1 in excellent condition) sells for \$15. The edition is practically sold out.

Flora Haw., Book 6 (Ed 1, like the above) sells for \$15.

"Plants Haw. Nat Park", Ed.1 (1930) in boards is a collector's copy selling for \$30. The paperback edition sells for \$6.

If you or family are interested in plants, I believe you should have my books in your Bot. Garden library.

As you plan to have visitors, I offer you the above if you wish to purchase three of a kind at a time at a trade discount of 1/3. Mrs. Degener & I are our own publishers and have no agent, thus reducing ultimate cost of our books tremendously.

"Library Rate" & wholesale tax are a trivial extra charge.

As I see it, your "Paradise" will not only attract tourists; but also botanists wanting advanced bot., information as my books supply.

I did publish my "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji", ed. 1. It is a collector's copy in boards selling for \$30. It touches on cannibalism, etc., but is hardly about Haw., plants.

May I have your order? The paperback from the printer in Michigan is packed in boxes, each containing 24 copies.

Aloha,



HISTORIC PRESERVATION USA **10c**

Dr. Otto Degener,

P. O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

© USPS 1978

June 30, 1981

Dear Otto,

Thank you so much for the duplicate specimens to add to my sets, I can always use them.

As to the Persicaria — the NYBG collection has apparently not been revised by anyone for a LONG time. Anyhow they now have everything sunk in Polygonum, making a hodge-podge one has to wade through to find anything. I find a sheet from Hawaii matching yours in size, etc., in the cover of P. hydropiper but all the rest in the cover are the typical ones that are much larger as we know it in the East. But there is also a sheet matching yours under Polygonum ~~4444~~ minor Kuds. I cannot find this has ever been transferred to Persicaria in the I.K., so probably it is now sunk under some other species. At all events, these are the only 2 sheets I found matching your plant.

With all best wishes to you both from us both

HAROLD N. MOLDENKE
303 PARKSIDE ROAD
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

as ever

Harold

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

June 30, 1981.

Dear Mr. Finson:

I have your June 26 letter regarding the use of 6-8 drawings from my "Flora Hawaiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands."

I herewith grant the Academy of Sciences of Golden Gate Park the use of up to a dozen illustrations appearing in my or Mrs. Degener & my publications PROVIDED acknowledgment is given briefly in the text and "After Degener" somewhere near the illustrations.

In case you wish to revise your present selection, please note that in my "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" are cuts not appearing in the Fl. Haw. Moreover, I doubt you have seen the plates in our yet incomplete Book 7, of which I herewith mail you a copy.

If you will mail me "Library Rate" 50 or more tearsheets of the article, I shall mail them to 50 or more leading institutions mentioned in Holmgren & Keuken's "Index Herbariorum. The Academy is listed on pages 244-245. You must have a copy in your library. Such distribution of the sheets should be good advertising at little cost for both of us.

Have you noted the article about cancer research in the San Francisco Chronicle for May 21. My name is misspelled.

Aloha,

Otto Degener