



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

January 15, 1982

Dear Dr. Degener,

Over the last five years or so I have used your books as sources for research papers, as leisure time reading and as guides to plants of the volcano area. Presently I am sprouting seeds as a small demonstration project for some school children. I would like to empha-

size the use of sprouts as fresh food and the portability which makes the sprout garden useful to the itinerant. I wonder if you knew of instances in which Hawaiians or other polynesians sprouted seeds for consumption while on the move. The coconut, ginger and fern fronds come to mind. Can you suggest examples of legumes or grasses?

also I have enclosed a stamped
self addressed envelope for your
inscription. I hope you will
not mind.

Mahealani,
Pi'ilani LePorte Bauer
2217 #3 Hamakua Street
Honolulu, Hawaii
96815

Answered - Don't know etc

15. Januar 1982

Liebe Isa, lieber Otto!

Vorerst einmal ganz herzlichen Dank für die Übersendung der Copien, die Du von Deinem Grazer Freund über Schloß Kranichsfeld bekommen hast. Sie sind recht interessant.

Eure Schilderung über Eure Erlebnisse zum Botanischen Kongreß in Australien und der Bericht über Euren Trip nach Tasmanien sind sehr interessant. Es war sehr richtig, daß Ihr Euch auch noch Tasmanien etwas näher angesehen habt, nachdem Ihr nun einmal so dicht daran gewesen seid. Auf Reisen kann man sich immer einmal leicht erkälten und ich weiß nicht ob nun gerade der Mann, der einmal hinter Euch im Bus genießt hat, wirklich die Ursache für Eure Influenza gewesen ist. Ich selbst bin ziemlich abgehärtet gegen Erkältung, trage Sommer und Winter nur kurze Unterhosen und besitze keinen Pullover, Strickjacke oder dergleichen, weil ich diese Kleidungsstücke für ungesund halte. Ausserdem nehme ich täglich vor dem Frühstück den Saft eines ausgedrückten Grapefruit und eine bestimmte Menge pulverisiertes Vitamin "C" gebe ich dazu. Das ist ein ausgezeichnetes Mittel zur Vorbeugung gegen Erkältung und Influenza und das mache ich jeden Tag, ob Sommer oder Winter.

Zu Deiner Frage über Kranichsfeld möchte ich Dir noch erklärend sagen, daß nur ein Teil, der Westflügel, als Altersheim eingerichtet ist. In dem übrigen Teil sind die Landarbeiterfamilien untergebracht. Man hat einfach ganz primitiv die großen Räume durch Bretterwände unterteilt und so kleine Wohnungen für die Landarbeiterfamilien geschaffen. Es war trübsallos das zu sehen. Ein Teil des Schlosses kann nicht bewohnt werden, weil das Dach defekt ist und es regnet bis hinab zum Erdgeschoß hinein, aber es wird nichts repariert.

Urgroßvater Denicke ist am 26. April 1873 verstorben. Das habe ich bei meinem letzten Besuch an Ort und Stelle erfahren können. Weitere Daten sind nicht mehr auffindbar, weil die deutschen Truppen bei ihrem Einmarsch 1941 die Kirchendächer und sonstigen Unterlagen verbrannt haben. So ein Irrsinn!

Es stimmt, das Gut ging verloren, weil Urgroßvater Denicke nicht zu wirtschaften verstand, trotz noch einmaliger weiterer Unterstützung von 3000 Talern durch die Braunschweiger Verwandtschaft. Zu welchem Zeitpunkt das Gut verloren ging, konnte ich nicht erfahren. Ich konnte auch nicht erfahren, wann Urgroßmutter Denicke gestorben ist. Dagegen konnte ich feststellen, daß das Gut bis 1941 in Privatbesitz gewesen und in gutem Zustand gewesen ist.

Ja, Du hast recht, ich werde mich einmal brieflich an den Herrn Heinrich Degner in Gütersloh wenden und mich mit ihm brieflich bekannt machen. Da ich jedes Jahr mindestens einmal zu meinen Freunden nach Gütersloh komme, werde ich dann auch bei einer solchen Gelegenheit ihn einmal persönlich aufsuchen.

Meine Kreuzfahrt mit der "Vistafjord" war traumhaft schön. Ich bin am 21. November 1981 von Frankfurt in einem 9 1/2 stündigen Nonstopflug auf die Seychellen im Indischen Ozean geflogen und dort an Bord des Schiffes gegangen. Vorher hatten wir noch eine 4 stündige Kreuzfahrt über die paradiesisch schöne Insel mit ihrer vielfältigen Vegetation. Wir hatten

Glück. Zwei Tage, nachdem wir von der Insel abgefahren waren, brach dort eine Revolution aus. Hafen und Flugplatz wurden gesperrt und alle Touristen saßen fest. Da haben wir gerade noch Glück gehabt, daß wir schon abgedampft waren.

Als nächstes sind wir die Insel Madagaskar angelaufen; wir wurden ausgebootet, weil es nur ein kleiner unbedeutender Hafen war. Der Ort war von Tourismus noch kaum beleckt und daher ziemlich ursprünglich. Noch mehr war das Fall auf der nächsten Insel, einer der Komorninseln, die überhaupt noch keine Touristen kannten, das war sehr interessant und noch sehr urwüchsig. Weiter ging es zur Insel Zanzibar, die bis 1890 deutsche Kolonie war und dann an England gegen die Insel Helgoland ausgetauscht wurde. Interessant auf dieser Insel ist der ausgedehnte Handel mit Gewürznelken und Kokosfrüchten, sowie hervorragende Schnitzarbeiten. Der nächste Hafen war Mombasa/Kenia, eine afrikanische, moderne Großstadt. Dann ging es nach Mogadischu an der Ostküste von Afrika, bekannt geworden durch den Einsatz moderner Spezialtruppen der Bundesrepublik zur Befreiung eines geidnepten deutschen Passagierflugzeuges vor etwa 2 Jahren. Wir dampften dann in den Golf von Aden und nach Aden selbst, heute ein rein kommunistischer Staat unter sowjetischer Strategie und entsprechend lagen auch viele sowjetische Handelsdampfer dort auf Reede. Die Weiterfahrt ging durch das Rote Meer nach Port Sudan und dann nach Suez. Interessant war die 13 stündige Fahrt durch den Suezkanal, die wir bei Tage erleben konnten. Dann folgte Port Said und anschliessend eine 3 tägige Fahrt durch das Mittelmeer bis nach Marseille, wo die Reise endete. Eine sehr interessante 4 stündige Busfahrt durch Marseille war dann der Abschluß, bevor wir per Flug nach Frankfurt zurückkehrten. Alles in allem eine sehr schöne und interessante Reise, die auch genug Gelegenheit zum Ausruhen und Ausspannen gegeben hat. Die Temperaturen von bis zu 42° Celsius im Schatten waren mir sehr angenehm und haben meinen Bandschmerzen sehr gut getan. Ich vertrage viel Wärme und mag sie auch, während Kälte mich lähmt.

Wie geht es Frau Rühle? Hat sie sich weiter von ihrer Darmerkrankung erholt. Ich lasse sie bestens grüßen und weitere gute Besserung wünschen.

Weihnachten und Sylvester war ich bei Lutz und seiner Familie. Lutz's Schwiegereltern aus Düsseldorf waren auch gekommen und so haben wir im Familienkreis sehr schön Weihnachten verlebt und ebenso das Neue Jahr gut angetreten.

Wir haben hier seit einer Woche sehr viel Schnee und Kälte, sodaß man kaum noch mit dem Auto fahren kann, weil die Strassen so vereist sind und es deshalb sehr viel schwere Unfälle gibt.

Herzliche Grüße



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

THE PRESIDENT

February 25, 1982

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

We are in receipt of your latest letter with copies of the various articles. Thank you for sending them to me.

Sincerely yours,

Fujio Matsuda



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Concerning clippings out of "Sentinel",
etc., etc., describing unbroglis
between J. F. Rocks & Univ. of H.,
Pres. D. C. Crawford & latter's pro-
bable removal.

C.D.

Dr. Daniel K. Inouye, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, Feb. 25, 1982.



Hale Pigeon

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Feb. 25, 1982.

Hon. Daniel K. Inouye,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C., 20510.

Dear Mr. Inouye:

The World is becoming increasingly more monotonous and Hawaii Kei, once a Paradise of the Pacific, is no exception. Being so isolated in the Pacific our islands have developed a unique native flora found nowhere else on Earth, and hence the animals depending on such a flora for food and shelter have likewise become fascinatingly peculiar. An example with which you are no doubt familiar is the occurrence of many of our plants with curved flowers like those of the wiliwili. Due to such curves many of our native birds like the apapane and iiwi have developed similarly curved beaks to penetrate to the bottom of the flower to sip the secreted nectar for food. For this reason, the birds fertilize the flowers to insure the production of seed. The wiliwili paid for this service. Such wonders, thanks to education begun by the National Park Service (I was Naturalist there in 1929) and still neglected by our Tourist industry, is a surprising attraction to fresh tourists year after year!

I am an example of a New York tourist who visited Bermuda in 1921, ornamented with Bougainvillea from Brazil, cacti from Mexico, hibiscus from China and olander from Greece - all very pretty but uninspiringly monotonous. But when I visited the Territory of Hawaii the following summer, I was so fascinated with its biological wonders that I enrolled under Pres. Arthur L. Dean at the University of Hawaii and have remained in the Islands ever since. I am not unique. Thousands of Continental tourists yearly react as I had done over a half Century ago. Why obliterate unique, irreplaceable assets as we are doing now by too weak, ineffective Laws and Regulations?

To keep elderly people happy and healthy until they are really old, physicians have perfected a medicine from the bush rauwolfia native to India. It is so beneficial that now the chemist has discovered how to make its valued drug synthetically. We know it as reserpine. We had a different kind of rauwolfia, all trees with us, on each one of our islands; in fact, on Oahu the one in the Koolau Range was different from the one on the Waianae Range. Most of these different kinds of rauwolfia have become extinct since I collected specimens for the Bishop and other museums before anyone found out if their medicinal bark was a still better cure than what physicians got from the bush in India! Out of about ten different kinds of plants it would be a wonder if the first one found in India would happen to be the very best. Why not the one in the Waianae of Oahu or the one on Kauai? We missed our chance forever.

In short we humans, according to my opinion, are not very much wiser than our very early hairy ape ancestors and our contemporary cousins in the Kapiolani Zoo - we are exterminating FOREVER plants and animals that could continue more and more to benefit directly our tourist industry and thus indirectly all residents of the State of Hawaii. Moreover, we are exterminating species without knowing whether they can be of outstanding value as medicines or as chemicals in industry. Another value, not to be forgotten, is their use in gen-

etics to promote variation in seedlings so that such offspring can be selected that are superior to both parents/- hybrid vigor is involved also.

I after being a professional Naturalist specializing on the Hawaiian flora since 1922 and Mrs. Degener after teaching Pharmacognosy to preemies in Berlin and specializing on the Hawaiian flora since 1953 are convinced the best safeguard for retarding the present extermination of our remaining unique species is the ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

I wish to alert you, Senator Inouye, and your colleagues that the Species Act is itself endangered by being presently weakened in its ability to protect our environment not only in the State of Hawaii but throughout our Nation as a whole. Mrs. Degener and I beseech you to strengthen it with stricter Laws and Regulations - Before it is too late SHARPEN ITS CLAWS AND GIVE IT TEETH!

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

University of Hawaii, M. Sc. '23; Faculty, '25-'27;
Naturalist, Haw. National Park, '29; Staff Member,
New York Botanical Garden, resident in Hawaii, '33-.



Hale Pūpona

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Feb. 25, 1982

The World is becoming increasingly more monotonous and Hawaii Nei, once a Paradise of the Pacific, is no exception. Being so isolated in the Pacific our islands have developed a unique native flora found nowhere else on Earth, and hence the animals depending on such a flora for food and shelter have likewise become fascinatingly peculiar. An example with which you are no doubt familiar is the occurrence of many of our plants having curved flowers like those of the wiliwili. Due to such curves many of our native bird like the apapane and iwi have developed similarly curved beaks to penetrate to the bottom of the flower to sip the secreted nectar for food. For this reward, the birds fertilize the flowers to insure the production of seed. The wiliwili thus "paid" for this service. Such wonders, thanks to education begun by the National Park Service (I was the first Naturalist there in 1929) but still neglected by our tourist industry, is a surprising attraction to fresh groups of visitors year after year!

I am an example of a New York tourist who visited Bermuda in 1921, ornamented with bougainvillea and lantana from Brasil, cacti and plumeria from Mexico, hibiscus from China and oleander from Greece - all very pretty but uninspiringly monotonous. But when I visited the Territory of Hawaii as yet little spoiled the following summer, I was so fascinated with its biological wonders that I enrolled under Pres. Arthur L. Dean at the University of Hawaii and have remained in the Islands ever since. I am not unique. Thousands of Continental visitors yearly react as I had done over half a Century ago. It is their usual misfortune that their stay cannot be so long as mine. Why continue to obliterate unique, irreplaceable asset as we are doing now by tolerating too weak, ineffective Laws and Regulations?

To keep elderly people happy and healthy until they are really old, physicians have developed a medicine from the bush rauwolfia native to India. It is so beneficial that now the chemist has discovered how to make it synthetically. We know it as reserpine. We had a different kind of rauwolfia or hao, all trees, on each of our major islands; in fact, on Oahu the one in the Koolau Range differed from the one on the Waianae Range. Most of these different rauwolfia have become extinct or nearly so since I collected twig specimens for the Bishop and other museums before anyone ascertained if their medicinal bark was a still better cure than what physicians were getting from the bush in India. Out of about ten different kinds of rauwolfia it would be a wonder if the first one studied in India would happen to be the very best. Why not perhaps the one in the Waianae of Oahu or the one on Kauai? By wanton extermination, we missed our chance forever for possible further improvement of this life-prolonging medicine!

In short we humans, according to my opinion, are not very much wiser than our very early, hairy ape ancestors and our contemporary distant cousins in the Kapiolani Zoo - we are exterminating FOREVER plants and animals that could continue more and more to benefit directly our lucrative tourist industry and thus indirectly all pineapple- and sugar-poor residents of the State of Hawaii. Moreover, we are exterminating species without knowing whether they can be of outstanding value as medicines or as chemicals in industry. Another value, not to be forgotten, is their use in genetics to promote variation in seedlings and "baby" animals so that such hybrids can be selected that are superior to both parents - hybrid vigor also is involved.

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I wish to alert you and your colleagues that the Species Act is itself ENDANGERED by being presently weakened in its ability to protect our environment not only in the State of Hawaii but throughout our Nation as a whole. Mrs. Degener and I beseech you to strengthen it with stricter Laws and Regulations - before it is too late SHARPEN ITS CLAWS AND GIVE IT TEETH!

Aloha,

Dr. H. Degener

University of Hawaii, M. Sc., '23; Faculty, '25-'27;
Naturalist, Hawaii National Park, '29; Staff Member,
New York Botanical Garden, resident of Hawaii, 833 - .



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
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AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01003

February 26, 1982

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Dr.
Mokuleia Beach
Waialua, Ohahu, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

I have received for the University Archives copies of letters from Dr. Ray Ethan Torrey to you, which you supplied to Don Smith. We are very pleased to be able to add these to the Torrey files here in the Archives. I hope you will see fit to make arrangements for the originals of his letters to come here, since they have a particular significance here on this campus. Any other Torrey materials would also be welcome.

I would also be very pleased to have for the Archives any of your own papers that document your career. As one of our most distinguished alumni your research notes, correspondence with other scientists, journals, and the like would be most welcome, as would copies of your published articles. We have one slim file folder of materials relating to you, including xerox copies of citations from the Senate of Hawaii, congratulations on that from Berlin - Dahlem scientists, and the New York Botanical Garden's distinguished service award to you and your wife. We also have copies of reviews of your books and a news note from the Alumni Bulletin reporting the naming of plants for you, including a family of angiosperms, and we have copies of the biographies of you and your wife from Men and Women of Hawaii, 1966.

It would be valuable to the Archives, as the repository of the history of this college, to have as many of your papers as you see fit to deposit here. We can offer permanent security and preservation. Since much of your research has been done in collaboration with your wife, we would also, of course, welcome her papers. Though the University cannot advance the shipping costs, it can reimburse you upon receipt. I would be happy to discuss any questions you may have about such an arrangement for your papers.

Sincerely,

Katherine Emerson

Katherine Emerson
University Archivist

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U.S.A.
Feb. 26, 1982

Dear Bill & Mae:

I have your Feb. 24 note, and believe I wrote you a letter WITHOUT your P.O. Box, so I suspect it is in the "dead letter" part of the post office in Hilo or Washington, D.C.

Mother Ellie died Feb. 10, and we have mixed feelings: missing her, yet thankful her pain is over. Her operation for what was really terminal cancer was Dec. 30 at Kaiser Hospital. Isa commuted to the nursing home nuka of the Bishop Museum daily. It insured her mother having greater comfort, more cleanliness & less pain. Isa had to be insistant with some negligent nurses as Alice Chauvet had been for her mother for a couple of years at this same home. Finally, we strengthened ourselves in our arguments - should believe it - by buying ten shares for about \$20 each from Dean, Witter and letting the Home know we had become POWERFUL stockholders. By the way, the stock has gone up in value since our purchase.

I somehow anticipated your environmental request. Todays ago I already started mailing out slightly modified copies of enclosed to Inouye, Carnegie Mellon University, Kew, Heftel, Akaka, Whitten, Graz, Montreal & NY.; also to Nat. Reg. Defense Council which had alerted me. Should you mail out any protests of your own please, if you think it wise, fill in the recipient's name & enclose a xerox copy of my carbon in your letter. Of course, had I the cash, I would mail xeroxes of my letter to each member of Congress in D.D. Please return my carbon to me when we return to Volcano next month. We are presently too preoccupied with our own medical check-ups and Mother Ellie's legal matters. to reach a xerox machine.

Isa is today in Honolulu at a nerve specialist for additional test.. I was with her a few days ago. I hope the trouble is only psychosomatic from commuting, hard work, worry and grief. But until Dr. Inman has finished tests, he says little.

Could you mail a copy of my carbon to the Nat. Alliance for plants for me?

(Superduper secretissimus: I consider the Red Book attitude, & I mentioned it in print years ago, is wrong for Haw. Nei. We need instead a Blue Book which assumes all living things in Haw Nei is on verge of extinction and is to be considered SACRED unless listed in the Blue Book: kukui, beach morningglory, Vitex naupaka Lyc. cernuum UNTIL a revision establishes them some day as endangered.

Aloha,

SPARK M. MATSUNAGA
HAWAII

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
5121 DUKESON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

HONOLULU OFFICE:
3104 PRINCE KUHIO BUILDING
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96830

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CHIEF DEPUTY
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March 2, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Degener:

Re: Endangered Species

This is just to acknowledge receipt
of your recent communication addressed to
Senator Spark Matsunaga.

Please be assured that the Senator
will be responding to you at the earliest
possible moment.

Yours truly,



Cherry Matano (Ms.)
Administrative Assistant
to Senator Matsunaga

DANIEL K. INOUE
HAWAII

3/2/82
PRINCE KUMU FEDERAL BUILDING
ROOM 6104, 300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850
(808) 546-7550

United States Senate

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

March 2, 1982

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

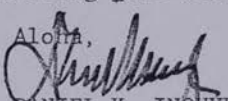
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 25th expressing your support for strong legislation when the Endangered Species Act is reauthorized this year.

The Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution held oversight hearing on the Endangered Species Act on December 8th and December 10, 1981. There are no further hearings scheduled in this Subcommittee at the present time. The House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation and the Environment held hearings in January, and it has scheduled its next meeting for March 8th. The House and the Senate plan on completing their analyses of the Act by May 15, 1982. Final legislation is expected to be signed by October 1, 1982, the expiration date of the current Act.

I have consistently supported legislation that has provided protection for our wilderness and wildlife, and I have every intention to continue to do so. You can be assured that when this bill comes before the full Senate I will be giving your views my utmost consideration.

Your thoughtfulness in sharing your views with me is most appreciated.

Aloha,


DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:bhm

BOTANICAL MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
Unioninkatu 44
SF-00170 HELSINKI 17
FINLAND

Helsinki, March 2, 1982


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

Dear Dr Degener,

Thank you very much for the 4 vascular plants and c. 10 algae from Hawaii sent by you to our Herbarium. They will be added to our balance of exchange with NY. Best thanks also for reprints delivered to our library.

With best regards

yours sincerely


Pertti Uotila

c.c. New Your Botanical Garden

Mrs. Mae E. Mull
Island of HI Representatives
Hawaii Audubon Society
P.O. Box 275
Volcano, HI 96785

Design by Binette Nickl-Schroeder, Federal
Republic of Germany. Contributed to benefit
the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Composition par Binette Nickl-Schroeder, Re-
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Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
(UNICEF).

Obra de Binette Nickl-Schroeder, República
Federal de Alemania. Contribución al Fondo de
las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF).

531-E

PRINTED IN CANADA



3 March 1982

Dear Otto and Isa,

We are so sorry to hear that Mother Ellie passed away. We feel great empathy for you, having had the anguish of our mother's dying. I felt such an enormous sense of loss when my mother died in her sleep after a losing bout with pneumonia. Even though I was 45 with a family of my own, it really struck me that I was no one's little girl any more. Our hearts go out to you in this difficult time in your lives.

I xeroxed the carbon and return it here with a copy. A copy and note is going off now to the National Alliance for Plants. Did you note the illustration of your Kokia Cookei on the Nat. Resources Defense Council leaflet?

The Nat'l Park gave us the Jan. issue of Science you sent to us there, but the Park will send back such mail in the future, so please use our Volcano P.O. Box 275. Mahalo and aloha, Mae

March 4, 1982.

Dear Dr. Sohner:

On our return from the XIII Int. Bot. Congress Mrs. D., Mother was ailing from what the M.B.s misidentified as intestinal flu. The Dec. 30 operation proved the cause to be terminal cancer. We miss her a lot, but are relieved her torture has ended. With our routine upset, we neglected to thank you for your note about the steel cases and your personally conducted tour of them should we be able to come to Hon. We are still terribly busy with all kinds of nonbotanical matters.

Getting down to Botany: we want to express our joy & satisfaction that irreplaceable herb., specimens will be housed in Al condition and be safe for all time in modern steel cabinets PROVIDED some crazed politician does not bomb neighboring Pearl Harbor in World War III. Are these cabinets the result of your trip to the Mainland instead of to Sydney?

Here is some ancient history that you should know. I, and Mrs. D., joins me in it, have been convinced since earliest times (i.e., Gregory's Directorship & Crawford's Presidency) that individuals are ephemeral and most institutions just about immortal. So, with B.M., in mind as the center for production of the Fl. Hawaiensis & Fl. Hawaiiana until Frances' death, tribe to Dr. Creutz switched us to the NY Bot. Garden, I and later Mrs. D., & I siphoned our more important specimens to B.M., officially "on permanent loan." Being a student there in 1924 to study my 1922-23 Haw. catch and thus earning credit for my doctorate from neighboring Columbia U., my aloha for NY has been great. Then when I became staff member in the early '30s and was royally treated during WW II years, my aloha became really overwhelming. Dr. Merrill, seeing my 50,000 specimens I had shipped to the Garden in the Bronx (my brother & family lived in Fieldston, Riverdale), gave me free of charge two secretaries to copy my master labels for duplicates that I gave away or sold. When he became upset that B.M., was in arrears in plant exchanges, I signed over my "permanent loan" lien I had with B.M., to the Garden. When B.M., paid little attention to additional letters he wrote them, Merrill finally used the Big Stick and demanded shipment of all Degener material to NY IF B.M., did not even the exchange debt. In other words, I have no claim whatsoever on the Degener material I had given ~~off~~ outright to NY. Moreover, as B.M., then evened out the exchange arrangements with NY for Degener plants, these belong outright to BM with no strings attached.

If you want to be a purist, the material Mrs. D., & I have sent B.M., since that time are legally on "permanent loan", and hence not credited to me in years passed tax wise as a gift to an eleemosynary institution.

Furthermore, we just got fr on Tasmania by SLOW surface mail three boxes containing our catch of herb., specimens. We shall label them crudely within the next couple of months, sending the best set to NY, and logically the best dupl., set to B.M., if you want it. For clear ownership rather than on "permanent loan", please give us for all such shipments an official statement that B.M., received so and so many specimens from us. We need no details as the tax office can get it directly from B.M., if they wish. We need such information for our list of gifts to eleemosynary institutions in the US for the tax year 1982.

Another thing: Some of us are writing a biography of the fern enthusiast William Herbert Dole, who collected on Kauai just short of 100 years ago. I met him in New York in 1934 when I noted his Kauai ferns in the Garden cabinets. Please write us soon if BM has any of plants and, if so, how many. We would want to add such information to our biography of this nephew of President Sanford Ballard Dole. We would publish it in our Fl. Haw. We may go on an extended trip this late Spring or early Summer, and would like to get this project pau.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

March 6, 1982

Dear Dr. Orchard:

During the last few days three beautifully packed packages of our Tasmanian herbarium specimens came to us by mail! We are so grateful to you and your staff for attending to this matter. Now that flying is so popular, I guess it took some time until a freighter would leave from Hobart for the Hawaiian Islands with parcels. As we are terribly occupied with nonbotanical matters presently, we have not yet inspected the shipment beyond opening it.

You don't realise how difficult it is for us yearly to attend to State of Hawaii and to US Federal Government taxes. We have no salary, where the tax is withheld before the recipient gets the remainder of his paycheck from his employer. We are self employed - no pension nor shameful handout from the Government that unfortunates as well as lazy loafers get - and depend entirely on the sale of our books, income from a few tenant families, and a few investments.

In less than two months away from home we spent twice as much as during our two months at Congress XII in Russia! There, as in Tasmania, we were graciously treated as guests who could botanize to our hearts' content rather than at times valued, overcharged tourists jealously guarded from botanizing.

We had no difficulty proving to the US tax officials that our attendance at the XII International Botanical Congress was for professional improvement and WORK. We showed it by mailing mainly Caucasian Phanerogams to New York Bot. Garden (the first set as we both are staff members of this magnificent institution), and to botanical institutions in Ames, Amherst, Ann Arbor, Austin, Berkeley, Bloomington, Cambridge, Carbondale, College Station, Dallas, Gainesville, Honolulu, Ithaca, Lansing, Los Angeles, Madison, Miami, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, San Francisco, Seattle, Stanford, St. Louis, St. Paul, Tampa, Urbana, Washington's arboretum and Washington's Smithsonian. The precise addresses are in Holmgren & Kauken's "Index Herbariorum". You perhaps should keep this list in case some future Tasmanian wonders where some material from his island reposes in the United States. We get acknowledgements from the curators US Government ELEMOSYNARY institutions. The value given to such institutions is then subtracted from our tax bill, in this case almost \$4,000 over a period of six years!

than We have until April 20 to convince our tax office that our XIII Congress trip was not largely a joy ride or pleasure trip rather, for improvement and work. With our niggardly collection of Continental Australian plants, it will be difficult for us to get credit for our two months' expenses as we did for Congress XII. The Tasmanian collection will be a help. Furthermore, what we have never tried before, we have written the "BEWARE OF FIRE" blurb to show we learned something of value last summer for Hawaii and thus prove were actually useful as well as ornamental last year. We have about 200 copies of this article and are distributing them to our 84 State of Hawaii Legislators, other officials, and institutions World wide. We mailed a bunch to the latter before we gathered the three Hobart fire clippings. This second "edition" goes to the 84 who really count financially for us. Should you still have some newspaper clippings about these sad Tasmanian fires, please mail them to us as printed matter, and I & I may xerox them - it costs less than 5 cents per page - to mail to the

be interested in seeing "distant cousin" of your endemics. Tasmania, however, has not as many of the same genera as has New Zealand. No doubt some geologist can explain the reason - plate tectonics???

Isa joins me in grateful aloha to you and your family. Our wishes, please, to our other Tasmanian friends.

Ethel Seeger

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

March 8, 1982.

Dear Wolfie:

It was nice to hear your voice over the Pacific by long distance all the way from Maui, but Isa & I were disappointed you could not come with Ward to Mokuia.

We do hope everything went well with your mother's operation. Somehow we feel physicians in Europe are ten years ahead of us in the US (the Government seems overcareful in allowing the use of modern medicines), and so we really would prefer treatment in Germany.

Over the 'phone you mentioned my Fiji book. My edition is sold out - have about ten copies left - and in its present condition is outdated. So Isa & I thought, since I investigated some of the Caucasians for their nasty, uneducated mistreatment of the far more socially intelligent Fijians, a paperback second edition might have a better chance for sale in Suva now that Fiji is quasi-independent.

We would delete all scientific treatment of plants and lots more that is outdated or boring. Then Isa & I would want a collaborator to get the book up-to-date, Isa and I owning EACH one-third of the copyright and the collaborator the other third. With this in mind I approached Ratu Mara, enclosing a copy of my book as sample in the letter to him in Suva. I asked if he would want to take over or find perhaps an expert at the Museum in Suva to do so. I wrote him a few days BEFORE you 'phoned me!

Now please forget Ratu Mara, & apply the same agreement to yourself and Dorcas. Do you two "Fijians" want to play with this idea & give me your decision? Ratu Mara may never answer me. It might be a worthwhile hobby for you to interrogate the older, wiser natives and (citing names if they REALLY helped) put out such a paperback. You as M.D., would automatically get their confidence. You Haole kahuna!

Mit luff & kisses,
Sa noce,



Dear Drs. Degener.

March 13
1982

HELLAS



17 MAR
1982

George Washington



We thank you for the eucalyptus fire warning letter. We shudder and shall keep burning the mental picture of little trucks of melted spoons! There are so many threats to Hawaii's fragile ecosystem that it is a wonder we have as much left as we do. The *Drosophila* population in Oahu tract is smaller at present. Is it due to that huge new menace the western yellow jacket? Now we are facing geothermal energy.

But I am so happy you had the trip to Australia and Tasmania. Yes, my riding son says the same about the latter. But interesting.

Best wishes Meredith Carson

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener

68-617 Craigier Drive

Waialua

Oahu

96791

ΑΘΗΝΑ, ΕΘΝ. ΑΡΧ. ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ. Θήρα. 'Η τοιχογραφία της 'Ανοιξης (Λεπτομέρεια) (γύρω στο 1500 π.Χ.).
ATHENS NATIONAL MUSEUM. Thera. The Spring fresco (detail) (about 1500 B.C.).
ATHÈNES, MUSÉE NATIONAL. Théra. 'Le Fresque du printemps (détail) (vers 1500 av. J.-C.).
ATHEN. NATIONALMUSEUM. Thera. Das Fresko der Frühlingslandschaft (Detail) (um 1500 v. Chr.).

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3/17/82

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U.S.A.
March 17, 1982

NY

Dear Miss Emerson:

I have your March 12/ letter with its very gracious first paragraph. Mrs. D., & I wish it were true.

Regarding our holographs & newspaper, etc., clippings, Mrs. D. & I, on the death of the last survivor of us two childless survivors, have willed establishment of a "Degeners' Flora Hawaiensis Trust" in which NY, St. L., & Honolulu Bot. Institutions will be involved. Should future events make it impossible to do so, everything is to be liquidated and the resulting cash turned over to the Nature Conservancy to purchase land of biological importance in the Hawaiian Islands.

As to keeping all treasures in one place, Mrs. D., & I are cured against following that custom.

Mrs. D., a Berliner, saw the historical collection of Hawaiian plants - many now extinct - being bombed to smithereens by British 'planes with half hearted help from US in World War II. She was connected with the Berlin Bot. Garden & Museum until our marriage in 1953.

I came to Hawaii in 1922, getting a Master's at the University of Hawaii for flora work. My Prof. James B. Pollock, with some museum resistance, insisted I study the historical collections there. He was an expert, there for the year from the Univ. of Michigan. I thus saw that much of the early collection had been destroyed. The Curator, Dr. Ball, was a zoologist and not a botanist. To keep insects out of the cabinets with the herbarium specimens all cracks, without first scattering camphor therein, were puttyed. He thus had conditions ideal for cigaret beetles already housed there to breed, multiply and change the specimens to powdery frass. Practically no duplicates exist elsewhere!

→ To avoid loss to our notes and clippings, we have our original and/or copies at Hunt or NY., and at our own home here at the beach. If one set should be destroyed, a second will most like survive the holocaust.

Regarding our dried herbarium specimens, the original set goes to NY; while duplicate, fragmentary sets are scattered World wide among close to 100 ~~XXXX~~ institutions, including some of the best to our Univ. of Mass.

We are not too confident in the safety of the Honolulu museum because of its proximity to the Naval base of Pearl Harbor. The Japanese flew over my Mokuia home Dec. 7 to attack Schofield Barracks. They flew also over my Honolulu home, dropping a bomb on the hillside in back. In World War III Degener treasures deposited in a major city like NY or a strategic one like Honolulu & suburbs may very likely go up in smoke.

I doubt we are particularly pessimistic; we are just particularly careful not to have our lives work wasted.

You mention Florida. My mother & I visited Green Cove Springs for a month around 1906. Two outstanding experiences occurred so far as a 7-year old judged. I bought a long piece of sugarcane for a penny, removed the rind, and ate the pleasantly sweet pith. As no one had informed me, I swallowed all that masticated "sawdust" and was really upheavally sick. On our return to New York City, I brought home a baby alligator in a wooden cigarbox. It later lived in the typical city back yard - we had a fish pond there, during warm weather. In winter it lived in one of two bath tubs until some one wanted to bathe. Then it rested in the wash basin. When will you take your pet alligator out of the library washbasin & put it in the pond for the summer?

Aloha,

Retyped because of errors

March 20, 1982.

Dear Mr. Raleigh:

Your Nov. 20 letter was fascinating!

My father, born in 1844 in Brunswick, left Germany for three years in the Orient as a businessman in the early '60s. Thereafter he was a wholesale textile importer in New York City until his death in 1916. He consciously did not become affiliated with German groups in America, though we did speak German at home & every five years or so spent a few summer months in Europe, chiefly Austria & Germany. He had a branch office in England and one in Paris. All of us five children, born in the U.S., were pretty much Americanized.

BUT, existing during two World Wars, my name "Otto" did expose me to some few insults during two periods of four years each. Perhaps that is why I tended more to play with animals not of my own species.

Years after WW II, namely in 1952, my sister and I visited Austria, France, England (where I botanized along the chalk cliffs about Dover), Switzerland & Germany. In G., we visited my late Uncle & Aunts, formerly entailed estate Lauenbrück (Löwenbrücke) between Bremen and Hamburg. I knew the place as I had spent some weeks there with my parents in 1906 and 1910. My cousin, an outspoken, educated elderly lady who would never have lied to us, mentioned that she, not really far from Buchenwald (I guess that was the place), had never known about the atrocities perpetrated there. Evidently the Nazis were secretive, at least so far as country people like my cousin, were concerned.

I mention my visiting Germany in 1952. There I studied some of the "Sandwich Island" ferns collected by Hillebrand & others. Before leaving, I married "Isa" Ingeborg Hansen, of (Danish) Schleswig-Holstein, French & "Wend" ancestry in 1953. The name "Hansen" shows part of the ancestry. She was at the time staff member of the Berlin-Dahlem Bot. Garden & Museum. Her father had died during WW I of illness, not connected with the war. Her mother & stepfather visited numerous times during the last few decades. What I am getting at is that my stepfather had been the Director for years of the large Holding Prison in Berlin; no such thing of institution exists in the U.S. In Berlin suspicious individuals are incarcerated there, many of course perfectly innocent, until they could be tried with resulting freedom, jailing in a typical prison, or hanging.

My stepfather-in-law was absolutely delightful, regaling us here in the Islands with an unending supply of good jokes inherited from his prison days. When new prisoners, naturally despondent & nervous, were brought before him in his office, he would put them at ease by asking them to tell him the very best joke they knew. This social intelligence trick helped put them at ease. He also improved the diet of his prison by protesting that better food was given to the hogs in the neighborhood! The most important antinazi prisoners - many later condemned - became his friends.

Here is the sequel: His action toward prisoners, not even tried & found guilty of any crime or trumped up crime, drew the attention of Hitler, who condemned my ~~step~~^{wife's} stepfather to death!. Luckily, the sentence was commuted, & he was put out on pasture. My wife & I, a bit nervous that the couple continued living in Berlin surrounded by the Russians, prevailed upon them to live in an apartment in Freiburg (Mrs. D., had attended the University there during WW II), Black Forest. In case of some nasty political upheaval, they might easily slip into Switzerland 60 miles distant.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

RALEIGH
Box 3024
WAIKOLA,
KAMUELA, HI.
96743

NOV. 20, 1981

DEAR DR. DEGENER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER AND THE ARTICLES ON A HOPEFULLY POTENTIAL RAINBOW FALLS HOSPITAL FOR HILO AND THE PIECE ON BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE. IF I HAD MY WAY, EVERY AMERICAN CHILD WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF LATIN IN HIGH SCHOOL IN ORDER TO GRADUATE! THAT MAY BE HARSH, BUT I AM CONVINCED THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE IS THE PROPER VEHICLE WITHIN WHICH ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND SPELLING ARE MASTERED. MY LAST TEN WORKING YEARS WERE SPENT WITH THE BOEING COMPANY. THE MEMOS FROM ENGINEERS AND EXECUTIVES THAT PASSED ACROSS MY DESK WERE OFTEN EXECRABLE; MUCH MISSPELLING AND, CLEARLY, REFLECTIVE OF MISERABLE ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE. CERTAINLY, LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ART WAS EVIDENT. IF OUR AIRCRAFT WERE BUILT AS POORLY AS THE DESIGNERS HANDLED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, SENSIBLE PEOPLE WOULD NEVER GET IN ONE! O.K. SO, THAT'S A PET PEEVE TAKEN CARE OF. . . ON THE OTHER HAND, I WAS LOUZY AT MATH AND HAD A TERRIBLE TIME GETTING THROUGH PURDUE UNIVERSITY, MY ALMA MATER. I WAS NOT AN ENGINEER, BUT IN THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, WHERE I DID WELL IN BIOLOGY (BECAUSE I COULD DRAW A LITTLE) AND IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN, AS WELL AS HISTORY - ONE REASON WHY YOUR FINE BOOK ON FIJI ESPECIALLY APPEALED.

I HAVE BEEN IN BRAUNSCHWEIG, BUT DO NOT REMEMBER MUCH OF THE CITY. IN 1939 AND '40, I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BERLIN BUREAU ^{OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE} AND, WHEN THE WAR BEGAN, WAS BILLED BY THE TRIB AS ITS "CORRESPONDENT WITH THE GERMAN ARMY IN THE FIELD," A DISTINCTION NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A RAISE IN SALARY, I AM SORRY TO SAY! THE BRAUNSCHWEIG VISIT WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NAZI PROPAGANDA MINISTRY-ARRANGED TOUR OF THE SIEGFRIED LINE AFTER THE POLISH CAMPAIGN, MUCH OF WHICH I WITNESSED. REMEMBER. THE U.S. WAS THEN NEUTRAL AND THE MINISTRY CATERED TO AMERICAN NEWSMEN, THOUGH IT DID OUR FUTURE ENEMY VERY LITTLE GOOD. MOST AMERICAN WRITERS ^{(ABROAD) THE} FAVORED ALLIED CAUSE, AS DID I, THOUGH WE WERE REASONABLY SCRUPULOUS IN BEING OBJECTIVE, AS MUCH AS WE COULD, ANYWAY. ACTUALLY, THREE OF US STATIONED IN GERMANY PRIOR TO OUR ENTRY INTO THE WAR KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT THE NAZIS TO BE IN THE LEAST SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR CAUSE. AFTER INTERVIEWING HITLER IN WARSAW THE DAY AFTER THE CITY FELL TO SIX WELL TRAINED AND BATTLE HARDENED GERMAN DIVISIONS, MY POSSIBLE REPORTERIAL OBJECTIVITY AS A NECESSARY PROFESSIONAL TOOL DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY! IN MARCH OF '42, THE NAZIS, I GUESS, GOT THE MESSAGE, FOR THEY EXPELLED ME FROM THE COUNTRY, A DEED WHICH, FRANKLY, SUITED EVERYONE! I'M SORRY TO SAY, THE ONLY PEOPLE, ASIDE FROM COLLEAGUES, I LIKED AT ALL

IN HITLER'S GERMANY WERE A FEW ARMY OFFICERS I MET IN POLAND. THEY WERE GENTLEMEN AND WOULD NOT DISCUSS POLITICS BY CHOICE. NEARLY ALL THE BERLINERS I SAW DAILY WERE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE AND, PERFORCE, ARDENT NAZIS. THE STRAIN OF BEING A NEWSMAN IN THE GERMAN CAPITAL AT THE TIME WAS, WELL, MORE THAN SOMEWHAT, AS, POSSIBLY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND. STILL, I HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF PARTS OF GERMANY WHICH WERE QUITE BEAUTIFUL AND RURALLY GEMÜTLICH. THE CLOSER ONE CAME TO THE SEAT OF POWER, THE MORE STRICTURED LIFE BECAME. TO SUMMARIZE, THE VALUE OF BEING A FREE AMERICAN WAS, IN MY JUDGMENT, NEVER MORE PRECIOUS. I BELIEVE I MADE THIS ABUNDANTLY PLAIN IN MY FIRST BOOK, "BEHIND THE NAZI FRONT", PUBLISHED BY DODD MEAD AND NOW LONG OUT OF PRINT. TOTALITARIANISM IS AN AWFUL THING AND MY INITIAL EXPERIENCE WITH IT LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION. WHEN I RETURNED TO THE U.S. AND EMBARKED ON A LECTURE TOUR, I WAS TRULY SHOCKED BY SO-CALLED INTELLIGENT AUDIENCES THAT LACKED A VESTIGE OF COMPREHENSION OF WHAT THE NAZIS INTENDED FOR THE WORLD AND HOW THEY WERE GOING ABOUT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THEIR INTENTS, AT HOME AND ELSEWHERE IN CAPTURED LANDS. IT SEEMED, TOO SMALL A PERCENTAGE OF MY LISTENERS WAS INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH.

AM SORRY TO HEAR YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOT UP TO A JOURNEY TO WAIKULOLO. MY WIFE AND I SHOULD VERY MUCH LIKE MEETING YOU AND YOUR GOOD LADY IN PERSON. WHAT-EVER, THE LATCH STRING IS ALWAYS OPEN, BE ASSURED.

YOUR FATHER'S LETTERS FROM THE ORIENT MUST BE FASCINATING. HIS SENSIBLE APPROACH TO NEW YORK'S HUMID SUMMER HEAT (AND I KNOW IT WELL!) IS DELIGHTFUL. I RECALL BEING INTRODUCED TO BANGKOK PAJAMAS AND HOW MARVELOUS I FOUND THEM IN JAVANESE SUTTRINESS IN BATAVIA. THERE WERE SO MANY PRACTICAL THINGS ONE DISCOVERED IN THE FAR EAST. NO?

PLEASE WRITE AGAIN, WHEN YOU FIND TIME AND DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. TODAY'S WEST GERMANY, AND THE COUNTRY BEFORE HITLER, ARE, AND WERE, CHARMING IN MANY WAYS. ONE OF THE SADDEST THINGS IN HISTORY WAS WHAT HAPPENED TO DEUTSCHLAND UNDER THE FUERNER.

ALOHA,

John Raleigh

P.S. "Die Insel" in Braunschweig was
my grandfather Otto Rohbeke's estate -
Hitler stole it for Nazi headquarters



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

March 23, 1982

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Drive
Waiialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96761

Dear Dr. Degener:

Your packet of letters, cards and other materials dated 3 February 1982 arrived here today. The package had fallen apart in the course of the bulk rate journey.

On behalf of The New York Botanical Garden I wish to thank you for donating 149 annotated filing cards concerning the Topping fern collections. We will add these to the Degener archives.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Long

Charles R. Long, Director
Library and Plant Information Services

/d

96791, U.S.A.

March 24, 1982.

Director,
Jardin Canario Botanical Garden,
Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain.

Dear Sir:

Mrs. Decaens & I, both botanists resident in the Hawaiian Islands, hope to stop over in your islands for a few weeks this summer on our flight between the Hawaiian Islands and Europe. We should like your Government's kind permission to collect some of your plants as herbarium specimens for the New York Botanical Garden of which we are staff members. If we need a permit to go so, please inform us how to get it. As you can imagine, we would collect far less than a wild goat would eat during the same length of time.

We have met Dr. Bramwell all too briefly at the International Botanical Congress, and have his & Mrs. Bramwells' excellent "Wild Flowers of the Canary Islands", published in 1974. This book, of course, draws us to your islands. From photographs they so resemble our own, even with vast lava fields. We are interested to compare the two archipelagoes.

Should Dr. & Mrs. Bramwell be at your Garden, please give them our greetings.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

3/28/82 NY

After April 2:



Hala Degener

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

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

March 28, 1982.

Dear Mr. Woolliams:

The December hala article needs a reply, and here it is. Can you publish it and, if so, when?

I tried to have 100 reprinted of the Notes some years back by your Honolulu man, but found him prohibitive in price. With this bad experience, I will retype this ms., single spaced and have 100 copies duplicated for only 5 cents per page. I can run it off myself on the machine in the Univ of Haw., library IN HILC. We will be back at Volcano April 2 for about a month's stay. Then, after about ten day's stay at Kokeleia Beach, we dash off to Europe, Madeira & Canaries for perhaps two months. Have you been in those islands?

When Skip and the Celestial Biped, both acknowledged world authorities on hala, squabble, Isa & I have lost some respect for hala publications by others. Are your identifications of your hala cultivated at the Arboretum the best possible? Due to the above, Mrs. D., & I have acquired greater confidence that our binomial *P. tectorius* (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., is pretty close to being correct.

Have you EVER, we have NEVER, seen a plant so absurdly named as Stone suggests on your page 6? Would any Bot. Garden EVER have that on a plant label? The public would laugh. I bet in the entire Kew Index you would not see a single atrocity like "*Pandanus tectorius* J.P. du Roi as 'Z'"

If, if you publish, how about showing Plate 13 out of my paperback? The trouble is that if the size is altered, the magnification figures on the plate would be entirely wrong? Of course the correct NEW figures could be pasted over the old before the plate is photographed for the fresh zinco. To make more room, I don't see why the name must appear below the drawing as everyone knows it is the hala we are writing about.

I did not hear from you if the *Degeneria* seeds from Fiji ever germinated. I must write the man who sent them to me. Do you remember who it was? I somewhere have his letter. Was it a Dr. Bauer?

Isa joins in aloha,

Otto Degener

April 11, 1982

Dear Don:

Isa & I mailed the Torrey Chapter to Librarian Long of New York according to your instruction via "Library Rate" for only 32 cents! I do think that is the best solution. I hate to have but a single sample of Doc. Torrey's thoughts in some single library where it may disappear due to insects, fire, house cleaning by a new librarian eager for space for new accessions, or WW III. With idiotic Carter giving away the Panama Canal and the Falklands perhaps under Russian influence, our Navy could hardly cross from one ocean to the other. So I fear a possible eruption. A duplicate ms., salted away is a prudent method. As you know, I am ^ging the SAME THING, SCATTERING MY HERB., SPECIMENS WIDELY.

Many thanks for the "xeroxes" - evidently from now on I will need usually about 125 instead of a hundred, due to our contacts during the XIII Int. Bot. Congress last summer.

We think a few newspaper articles thanks to scattering xeroxes helped stimulate sales: got an order from Reed of Hilo for over \$500 and of just under \$200 from the ^h_k Par. As you know, we are grateful more for the flatter than for the cash, YET:

Isa & I are getting into the same fix as Doc. Torrey, allowing our new 500-page edition of the paperback linger for the third year in page proof because of printing cost & the feeling that we are being overcharged by Ann Arbor. So we are using "publishing cash", as we did last year for Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand, this year for the Canary & neighboring Islands. Mother Ellie would approve. We may as well see a little more of the World than having perhaps 100 copies sold yearly of our new edition posthumously.

Will see Lyn & you in a couple of weeks as we fly off on our trip May 10.

Aloha,



may induce readers to side with us.

Regarding my work with Sheriff: After botanizing the major islands (except Molokai) in 1922-23 I spent two years at the Garden in the Bronx earning credit for a doctorate from affiliated Columbia. In working up my Bideens flora, I naturally grabbed Sheriff's recent World monograph of the genus. I disagreed with him about certain Hawaiian species, publishing myself my correction of *Campylotheca Remyi* Hillebr. to *B. Hillebrandiana* Degener in Sheriff's article in the Bot Gaz. 55:6, 1928. This was my change without collaboration with Sheriff. This started our collaboration for years, with Mrs. D. joining after our marriage in 1953. It lasted until Sheriff's death in 1966. Naturally it is understood that I would concentrate on collecting as I lacked access to B.M. & U. library tomes due to the historical Gregory-Crawford embargo to starve me out of the Islands. Naturally it is understood that Sheriff would concentrate on library work as he was pretty well tied down to Michigan due to his wheelchair only son. But we two, and Mrs. D. later forged ahead successfully and knew what we were doing. In fact, twice I visited Sheriff in Michigan for several days. If someone considers our work as ex or in it is a mere matter of opinion. We may publish further to bolster our opinion. ^{According to Mrs. D.} Sheriff's Francis, is impeccable (a Pan community he was raised by his sensible, wise grandfather, minister), we are frightened by his paradoxical differences with Ship Stone. His recent letter published statement concerning Sheriff's Bideens work before the latter's death in 1966 (Sheriff then nicknamed him the "Celestial Biped") has present lax use of ex & in in the strange omission in his excellent book of Degener's grown by the late Gillett and others in the University's Herbarium and elsewhere in a couple of decades! Not to mention it as a distinct family we thought to have been lumped it under the Ranunculaceae, but no such luck. Does he plan to surprise us with a publication in summary, when mailing copies of our Wills to N.Y., we wrote the President, who has lived in some years as a youngster on Oahu, that B.M. logically must be on part of our project. Perhaps some B.M. taxonomist might be involved on a salary paid from two sources. But we are scared to have people in the state of Hawaii affected to business matters, nor direct our project. We simply have lost confidence, hook at the mess in which the sister Trust is now involved! Well anyway if at least one of us Degeners gets home alive from that summer's trip, a codicil could be added to each Will to eliminate rough spots.

Aloha, Dr. D. Degener

BOTANISCHER GARTEN
UND
BOTANISCHES MUSEUM
BERLIN-DAHLEM

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

3.V. 82

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

Liebe Isa,
hergl. Dank für deinen Brief v. 17.4.
(bin gerade aus Paris zurück),
Ich überbringe alles aus Frankfurt
Hotel Excelsior.

hergl. grüße an Dich
und deinen Mann

Deine Eva.

Hunt

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • DAVIS • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

7 May 1982

UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

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

Dear Drs. Degener:

We have received your shipment of Hawaiian plants and are very pleased to have this gift. A few days later, we received a second package the contents of which apparently were intended for Bloomington. We are forwarding it there.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Strother
Research Botanist
In Charge of Acquisitions



HERBARIA OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM AND GRAY HERBARIUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

10 May 1982

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the 60 misc. plant specimens which we have just received from you. They will make a good addition to our present collection.

Hope all is well with you. Best wishes to you and Mrs. Degener.

Sincerely,

Michael Canoso

Michael Canoso
Manager, Systematic Collections

HARVARD UNIVERSITY HERBARIA BUILDING
22 DIVINITY AVENUE · CAMBRIDGE · MASSACHUSETTS · 02138 · U.S.A.
PHONE: (617) 495-2365



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Library
Amherst 01002

May 10, 1982

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you for taking the trouble in your letter of May 2 to explain so clearly where your and your wife's records, specimens, and scrapbooks are and will be located. I am very distressed by the history recorded in your letter. I hope you will overlook any previous comments of mine that may seem flip and/or insensitive; I had totally underestimated the reduplicative extent of the law of maximum perversity.

The newspaper photograph of the volcanic eruption of Kilauea you sent is spectacular; it seems cruel that 24 hours kept you from seeing this, which ought to have been one of the best of local sights from your habitat.

As I write, you are flying to Europe. When you read this, I hope you will have had a wonderful trip and will be happily settling again into one of the most beautiful places in the world.

Sincerely,

Katherine Emerson

Katherine Emerson
University Archivist

Hunt
2
L. H. BAILEY HORTORIUM
467 MANN LIBRARY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14853
TELEPHONE: 607-256-2131

12 May 1982

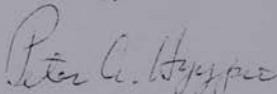
Drs. Otto and Isa Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96791

Dear Friends:

Your recently sent gift to the Bailey Hortorium
has arrived. It consisted of 55 botanical specimens,
12 pieces of photocopy literature and 12 used postage
stamps.

Thank you very much for these valuable additions
to the Hortorium herbarium.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Hyypio

Curator

jmr

DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
A STATUTORY COLLEGE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

May 17, 1982

Dr. Otto Degener
Crozier Drive
Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you very much for the further information on Dole. We seem to have about 45 specimens (representing about 32 species), all marked "Kauai, 88" on labels of "Herb. G. Van Ingen".

I would dearly love to return to Hawaii myself and do some botanizing with ferns. There are several very interesting (and complex) problems yet to be worked out.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN T. MICKEL
Sr. Curator of Ferns

JTM/bw



Hunt 2
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

TAMPA • ST. PETERSBURG • FORT MYERS • SARASOTA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33620

813: 974-2668


24 May 1982

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

Dear Drs. Degener:

This is to acknowledge receipt of 24 herbarium specimens of plants from Hawaii and package of miscellaneous reprints. Thank you very much for sending the materials to us. They are welcome additions to our collections.

Sincerely yours,


Richard P. Wunderlin
Associate Professor and
Director of the Herbarium

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

Hunt

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

JORDAN HALL 138

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

TEL. NO. 812-337

26 May 1982

Dear Drs. Degener,

I am writing to acknowledge your gift of 55 herbarium specimens to the herbarium of Indiana University. I thank you for the specimens and the accompanying printed material. I always enjoy receiving your gifts and becoming a little more familiar with some of the tropical genera. It is an interesting change from the plants of Indiana.

Sincerely,

Lewis Johnson

Lewis Johnson
Herbarium Curator



Hunt 2
B I S H O P M U S E U M

1355 KALIHI STREET • P.O. BOX 19000-A • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 • (808) 847-3511

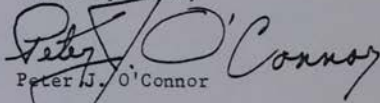
May 27, 1982

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

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you very much for the gift of 12 plant specimens which you recently sent to the Bishop Museum Herbarium. The shipment of 11 dried specimens and 1 alcohol-preserved specimen arrived in good condition. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely yours,


Peter J. O'Connor
Collections Manager

Missouri
Botanical
Garden



29 May 1982

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

Dear Dr Degener:

Thank you for your last shipment of plants and papers. Unfortunately one of your collections was missing a label. The newspaper has on it the following information : 6/-/81 Dg St.L....the plant seems to be a poppy. Please send a label.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Pool

Label Production Manager MO

*Endemic
Argemone*

*"Degener
garden"*

P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
314 577 5100



Hunt 2
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32611

THE VASCULAR PLANT HERBARIUM
BOTANY DEPARTMENT
209 ROLFS HALL

7 June 1982

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

We are sincerely grateful for your gift of 27 vascular and 5 non-vascular (mosses, algae, lichens) pressed plants and miscellaneous xeroxes and reprints which we received this morning. These are very useful to us and will be accessioned into our collections right away.

We very much appreciate your thinking of us.

The Herbarium of the University of Florida, FLAS, has undergone a number of changes in the past few years. Dr. Norris H. Williams has been appointed Keeper of the Herbarium and concurrently, we have become an administrative unit of the Florida State Museum. I continue here with a new title, Herbarium Registrar, and manage the loans, exchange and accessions of the Vascular Plant Herbarium.

In order to expedite our mail delivery, please do not use Department of Botany or Florida State Museum in our address. Our address is as follows:

Vascular Plant Herbarium
209 Rolfs Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
U.S.A.

phone: (904)-392-1767

Thank you once more for your gift.

With warm regards,

Kent D. Perkins
Herbarium Registrar

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

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Jardin Botanique National de Belgique

Domaine de Bouchout
B-1860 MEISE (Belgique)

SP. 235/72

Le 11 Juin 1982

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

contenant 10 spécimens d'herbier que vous avez bien voulu lui envoyer :

~~prêt ni retour de prêt ni~~

~~échange - des pour détermination~~

et vous en remercie vivement.

LE CHEF DU DEPARTEMENT
SPERMATOPHYTES-PTERIDOPHYTES,

André Lapeere

A Monsieur Dr. Otto DEGENER

P.O. BOX 154

VOLCANA, Hawai 96785 U.S.A.

10 spécimens d'herbier coll. O. Degener en échange.

Shipping Notice

SIUC Herbarium
Department of Botany
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

- {This copy to be endorsed and returned as soon as shipment received.
.....This copy for your files to be returned only when returning a loan.

To Dr. Otto DegenerDate 22 June 1982P. O. Box 154

No. of Packages _____

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Shipped by {Parcel Post
.....Expressprepaid
.....Freightcollect

The Southern Illinois University Herbarium is sending you herbarium specimens as indicated below. Upon the arrival of the shipment, kindly verify its contents and acknowledge by signing the GREEN sheet and returning it to the Curator. 1.....Gift. 2.....Exchange. 3.....For identification. 4.....Return of borrowed material. 5.....Loan No. Return is expected by prepaid express or parcel post before Extension of this period may be granted on request to the Curator. The Southern Illinois Herbarium will appreciate having every sheet of the loan annotated, and will be glad to receive a copy of the publication in which these specimens are mentioned. All material included in this loan must be returned at one time. Packing should be carefully done to avoid breakage of specimens. The PINK duplicate sheet is to be retained by the borrower as a record of the loan and is to be mailed under separate cover when specimens are returned. The PINK duplicate will be remailed to the borrower when the returned loan has been received and checked, indicating cancellation of the loan.

Mike Mibb
Curator
Ass't.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIMENS

This is to notify of the receipt of 60 unmounted herbarium specimens,
and 25 copies of printed material. Gift material donated to the SIU-C
herbarium.

Notes: _____

Exchange statement: Including this shipment our exchange records show a balance of specimens in your/our favor. Please notify us if the above figure is incorrect.

All correspondence concerning the
herbarium should be addressed to the
Curator.

Received the above in good order

Date _____

Signed _____

Dear Mrs. ^{and Mr. Engelm.} ~~Engelm.~~ ^{thanks} for our ~~two~~ ^{two} orders for ¹⁹⁸² two National Parks. You mailed them to me May 14 and June 25.

We got no results for two good reasons;

1.) May ~~14~~ ¹⁴ Isa & I landed in Freiburg, Germany

2.) June 25, Isa & I were on Terceira Island one of the Azores. We got back recently, and are still a little confused due to jet lag and fatigue.

Isa & I botanized on 2 Canary, 1 Madeira and 6 Azore islands. We mailed 20 boxes of herbarium specimens via surface mail ^{plus 9 volcanic} & otherwise nothing has arrived yet.

We sold out our Mokulele Beach ~~sofa~~

To save postage ~~for~~
~~the next party~~ ~~we will~~ deliver the ~~the~~
2 boxes of books to
you personally
when at Volcano.
We expect to come
next week.

Aloha
F. A. DeGener

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
63-617 Crozier Drive
Waiolua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U.S.A.

June 30, 1982.

Dear Dr. Rogerson:

Though a bit sopey again from jet lag, I want to inform you for our bibliography that we have published during the past year numerous articles mostly privately in edition of 100 or more. These, thanks to Mrs. Holgren & Dr. Ken's Index Herbariorum I, go to 100 leading botanists & institutions listed in this vademecum of ours.

Living on two islands with possessions on both and exhausted from our trip, we can't mail you a set of our publications. A full one, however, was mailed from time to time to Mr. Long during the year with other matter for the archives. For outside institutions, we mail such papers in the same packages with herbarium specimens when possible to save extra postage.

The above inefficiency on our part is due to Mrs. D., & I leaving unexpectedly Germany May 10, reaching there two days later. Then we returned to Hawaii with stopovers in the Canaries, Madeira and the Azores, grabbing plants for the Garden whenever possible. Unfortunately most of the endemic flora has been exterminated.

We left the Azores day before yesterday, landed in New York around five P.M., your time, and after midnight our past Azores times. We had hoped to stay longer in New York to visit with a few surviving relatives (I am a New Yorker) & the Garden. But when we registered at the Hilton Inn at the Airport, one night & supper came to about \$100! We decided not to be fooled any longer, left yesterday morning at 10 A.M., and flew back directly to Honolulu. We landed here at ~~XXXXX~~ 7 P.M., NY time. We got to bed late last night after a \$35 taxi ride from the airport to our home at Mokuleia Beach. We seem perfectly healthy but suffer from jet lag. Good night or is it day?

Handwritten notes:
at the XIII Int. Bot. Congress with the two Degener
We were there early for nomenclature meetings,
but when our time was being frustrated by lengthy
sessions about the status of Dr. Otto Degener
the swing toward non-caus. species,
left in disgust for conducted intraspecific
studies and Tasmania and unconducted
studies.
in northern New

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

Jdd/24, 1982.
July 1

Dear Pres. Hester:

Isa & I left the Island of Terceira, Azores, Monday June 28, spent that night in the Hilton Inn at the Kennedy Airport, and flew the next morning via Los Angeles to Honolulu. We had arrived there two hours late, hired a taxi for \$35, and got home at Mokuia Beach late on Tuesday June 29. The speed is really incredible, and both Isa & I are now dulled by jet lag. This may last a week.

We had intended remaining longer in New York, visiting the Garden by U-Drive car and using the complimentary Garden parking pass; but we had become spoiled: the hotel in the city of Angra de Heroismo, Terceira we two lived for \$25 per day in a beautiful hotel room with excellent bath plus free breakfast served by white-gloved waiters! At the Hilton we had a good room with bath (minus toilet paper) for \$97 per night, disgusted and shocked by the price of this tourist trap, 12 hours in N.Y., was long enough for us. So we left for the airport at 10 A.M., with a very pleasant & reasonably priced first class ticket. Yesterday we looked at our accumulated mail from the Waialua post office. It included your important letter and the interesting Garden Report for Fiscal 1979-81. What mail awaits us at Volcano, we shall know in about two weeks.

While in Freiburg, Germany, Isa 'phoned long distance her good friend and former associate Berlin-Dahlem, Eva Potzsch. She is now in charge of the Museum displays and according to my opinion the uncrowned Queen of the institution. Dr. P., in her long conversation mentioned that Berlin, having had its herbarium largely destroyed in World War II by British bombers with U.S. help, intended to put its herbarium underground! Can this be wise? As I remember, Dahlem is on a low, sandy plain. Should a WW III bomb crack any part of an underground wall of the building, would not ground water rush in & completely destroy dry herb., specimens?

In 1923 I met my Master's at the University of Hawaii under Pres. Arthur L. Dean. Not long after, I returned to New York (my home had been 316 West 89 Street, fronted by the Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument on Riverside) to live in the Pickwick Arms on Moshulu. From there, as I probably told you before, I walked to the Garden upon my personal collection of Hawaiian plants to produce the Fl. Haw. On the way home evenings, I would often walk with Dr. Rydberg, who lived not quite as far from the Garden as I. He dragged one foot as though a stroke victim. He corrected my suspicion by telling me that he had studied out Bent to become a mining engineer. While walking along a loose board over a mining pit, it teetered and dropped him into the pit. ~~He was injured severely.~~ ^{He was} This painfully lucky accident induced him to become a botanist. A trivial tale he told me was - at a time when hardly anyone except a Frenchman wore them - was that he had a goatee ^{like} to his receding chin.

Now that you know the above, I want to add that Britton, Rydberg, Barnhart & A.B. Stout (of Hemerocallis fame) were responsible at Bronx Park in my winning postgraduate credits for a Doctorate from Columbia University, and that I attended one afternoon a week a Seminar in Botany under Dr. Harper in Schermerhorn Hall in upper Manhattan. In the Report I noticed no reference to the Garden and Columbia nor New York University having students at our magnificent Garden library & herbarium. Should not scholarships be established with this aim in mind?

Of course, over a month on two Spanish Canary Islands, on Portuguese Madeira and six Portuguese Azore islands we wasted time from our Fl. Haw., project. But the trip helped wipe away, as Isa's mother wisely wished, many of the cobwebs of Isa's sorrow, and showed us more of what an interesting World is like before we leave it because of old age.

Botanically the "harvesting" of potential unicats & duplicate herbarium specimens (does the Hester family own a dog?), filling about 20 Friskie-sized corrugated cardboard boxes still in the mails to us is worth while. The dried & drying plants are between newspapers moist with formalin & wrapped in two thicknesses of plastic garbage bags. We did this once with a Fiji lot years ago, pouring the formalin along the four sides of the plant bundle and tied ~~everything~~ ^{everything} tightly. As a result the plants reached us by mail with those near periphery in excellent condition but the major part about tightly squeezed center had never been touched by formalin fumes and hence badly moulded. We hope the present method will prove superior.

You know as well as I that I am physically tired, this time from hauling two months' accumulation of coconut fronds from our lawn to the garbage and hence am letting off nervous energy writing you piffle while comfortably seated at my typewriter.

To continue: We collected via U-Drive cars and, due to danger of tourist traps by questionable insurance policies, at length by taxis. In fact, these last were actually cheaper. Most of the islands are biologically devastated by pasture land for Holstein-looking cattle and, where we would expect stands of surviving endemics, by roving goats and sheep. We made a point of ~~reaching~~ ^{reaching} highest possible elevations (the piec or peak) for special endemic prizes surviving there. Instead they were often garbage dumps thanks to picnickers with everything chewed away so far as the teeth of nibbling TOOTHED goats and sheep could press. They are worse grazers than cattle which, due to less teeth, graze via ~~vegetation~~ ^{vegetation}.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Maheira, a garbage dump from lowtide level to summit, is full of cliffs & ledges where endemics can better survive UNTIL the Mexican Eupatorium glandulosum weed (a taxi driver mentioned its introduction as an ornamental) takes over. In fact, in the city, in a crack of our hotel wall, couple of stories high, it was courageously seeding. The island also has narrow ditch trail along cliffs & some tunnels. Having been shot at at Volcano a couple of years back by dope gers, we considered it unwise taking any of them. Comparatively well-dressed, one foot taller strangers than the average native might be considered to be fair game to jump off a precipice then gather passports, cash and everything else except the cadavers. *flush*

In the pasture devastated islands we did discover kipukas with endemics where least expected steep, bull dozed roadcuts not reachable by ~~by~~ bulls & cows through cinder cones, etc. While 1 taxi driver would smoke a cigaret, we would rush along bothsides of roadside, quickly grabbing every promising plant with tangled rubbish, volcanic cinders & earth. Such mess we would toss our garbage bags and add a note of precise locality by asking our dumbfounded driver. To induce drivers to realize that we weed grabbers are not demented ALWAYS tell them we are looking for cinal & dye plants. Then we get respect & cooperation.

I am a specialist on Spanish & Portuguese garbage bins & modern kitchen middens, discovering in such places, free, proper cardboard boxes & newspapers. Back at the hotels we would clean the plants of rubbish, ~~XXXXXX~~ and, if available, put as much dry newspaper between as possible. We then pressed the bundle with our heavy suitcases. Next morning the flaccid, more or less dying plants had lost some moisture to the papers. They therefore did not curl on further drying. We then laid them with the surrounding newspapers overlapping about four-fifths of the way, on the floor with the "Don't Disturb" door placard over the lot for the chambermaid to notice. After 12 hours of day or of night, the newspapers were crispy dry and the plants much drier WITHOUT curling! We would then gather them and give them another 12 hour pressing with the new catch of plants. After that we bagged with formalin as described before, and if package was full, mailed it home. I guess we shall get the 20 packages in 2-3 months as they went by steamer mail. On arrival, we plan to arrange some notoriously folded leaves as the plants will still be damp enough to do so, and put between corrugation before our dehumidifier at Volcano. We shall label fully but not identify as we lack the Flores, and ship to the Garden & elsewhere. Ten, 20 or 500 years from now, monogrammers at the Garden and in the dungeon of Berlin, etc., will be gratified that the Degeners collected endangered species in the monographer's time no doubt extinct. The weeds may be new records for introduction, and otherwise interesting. They in so many cases (like *Prunella*) don't have the same aspect as ours going by Linnean names (Correctly identified or not).

Regarding the Fl. Haw., project, with library help, Isa & I have collected in the field three species that should be added to Book 7.

As you know, because of life insurance statistics regarding octogenarians, Isa & I intend to distribute all specimens cluttering our Mokuleia & Volcano homes. Thereafter, if still alive & kicking, we shall concentrate on published many more Fl. Haw., sheets. We have not been idle. For the last couple of years, even though we have our Nat. Park book in a revised page-proof copy with Continental Drift etc. & grown from 315 pages to about 500 - we don't dare publish because Braun-Bromfield, Inc., of Ann Arbor, Mich., in the small print of their contract with us can theoretically bankrupt us by unspecified overcharges. We refuse to sign unless they delete the obscure deadly phrase or at least limit the overcharge possibility to a reasonable ceiling of which we approve. In my mother-in-law's Honolulu nursing home (Maui of the Bishop Museum), the contract which we refused to sign has depleted the capital of senile patients by several \$10,000 per year by overcharges & (not so high of course for unused medicines). Our M.D., noted exorbitant charges for large amounts of pills so potent that the patient could never take more than 1 per day. Perhaps they thus restock their drug dept. We at least, as I may have mentioned before, at least safe guarded our interest at the nursing home by quietly buying \$200 worth of shares in the company, and then confronting the business office with the fact that WE were part owners of the outfit and THEY in a way in OUR employ. We no longer got double billings.

Oh, yes, during our trip we saw NATO installations, landed on US cash built air ports and lived in a very good hotel modified from a barrack for US military personnel.

By the way, have I been writing the above effusion during day or night - the sun is shining but what does that mean to my physiology. Isa still eats breakfast at 3 A.M.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

The New York Botanical Garden

Office of the President, Bronx, N.Y. 10458 Telephone: (212) 220-8722

July 26, 1982

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

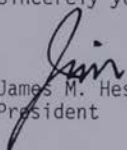
Dear Drs. Degener:

Thank you for your recent letter with the news about your successful visit to the Azores and Canary Islands. I also appreciate learning about some interesting historical insights of the New York Botanical Garden. I am glad that you were able to collect so successfully on the various islands that you visited.

Here from New York, the Garden's scientific activities around the world continue. This summer we have expeditions in Ecuador, Brazil, French Guiana and Santo Domingo. We have recently received a grant from the World Wildlife Foundation to prepare a plan for the inventory of the remaining tropical forests.

Best wishes for the continued production of the Flora Hawaiensis.

Sincerely yours,



James M. Hester
President

JMH/mm

Aug. 2, 1982.

Dear Darrell:

Isa & I were in Germany in May, and then returned to Mokuleia via stop-overs on two Canary islands, on Madeira and on six Azore islands. We were able to collect enough herbarium specimens to fill ~~20 corrugated herbarium specimens~~ to fill 20 corrugated boxes. Mailed by us by cheap surface mail, they have not yet reached us. In ~~other~~ other words, we were botanizing in the Atlantic off Africa while your paintings were on exhibit!

You and your entire family in Maui & Pa.,(?) must have been considerably excited and proud that the intelligent World recognizes your gift.

Dick McBride, a former Haw. Volc. Nat. Park Ranger, drew or photographed plants for us. These I published somewhere, mailing the originals to the Hunt Library, which, with work by others, was exhibited by them. I would have had D. M., draw for us forever had he not raised his price beyond our means. We were so glad for him regarding the show.

I am mailing the announcement of June 2-25 to Hunt for their Archives. Perhaps you will be helping others with plant illustrations. Should you do so, keep Hunt Institute Botanical Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15213, in mind.

You of Pennsylvania Dutch origin should be of special interest to a Pa., library should you spend more time on plants.

We two Degeners wish to express our aloha to the two Orwigs,

Otto & Isa
D.

96791

Aug. 9, 1982.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Read:

Thanks for your order. Mrs. D., & I left for Germany, arriving in Freiburg the middle of May. We attended to nonbotanical duties and then, instead of returning the same direct way, we flew over Spain & Portugal and in a curve from there over Atlantic for stopovers on two Canary islands, on Madeira and on six Azore islands. We were interested to see how the vegetation of those Atlantic islands compared with our Pacific ones. We collected enough plants to fill, drying between newspapers, twenty boxes. We are still awaiting their arrival by slow surface mail. On Tenerife some plants belonging to the Borage family looked similar to our silverwords, belonging to the Composite Family!

By a little hunting, we lived in the very best hotels, with excellent room and bathroom, often color-TV, and Continental breakfast. All this cost us two-TOGETHER, usually only \$25 per night. How about the Read family imitating the Degener family?

Your outstanding bill here enclosed, paid by cheque to us would have languished useless at the postoffice until our return. But now that we are back, it would be so nice to get it off our ears, without paying his \$800 July rent. Don't you want us to use your cheque in part payment for termite treatment of the house?

When we left home, we were getting short in our supply of "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks". We ordered a batch from the Ann Arbor printer. On our return, we found our order, in too large an envelope, in our postoffice undelivered! So for your new order we are mailing you three copies from Oahu herewith. Before Sept., we will be back at Volcano, hunt up some more copies & deliver them to you personally to save postage. I hope you don't mind. We shall then give you the NEW bill.

On reaching the NY Airport from the Azores - only 5 hours' flight - we had planned to remain about a week & do a little visiting. We signed in at an airport inn and got an average good room & bath (without toilet paper) and NO breakfast for \$97.50 for the night. After being accustomed to paying \$25, we hopped on a 'plane next morning for a nonstop flight to Honolulu.

Oh, yes, avoid Madeira - perhaps one day in Funchal is enough. The island is a garbage dump from below sea level to the mountain tops. It is no wonder so many emigrated from there to Haw. Nei. Funny, the place is so awful when many of the other islands are spic & span.

Are you not lucky I am giving you all this advice free of charge?!?!?!

Aloha,

D. & M. Degener

Aug. 12, 1982.

Dear Dick:

Isa & I saw your old letter shortly, but now it has disappeared temporarily under two huge accumulations of mail, one from our Volcano place. We tarried answering as we are head over heels, rushing back & forth between our houses in Manoa & Mokuia because a tenant in the former place, a U. of H. ex-Faculty bum, skipped to Calif., without paying the July rent. We now must waste still more time in Court, with collectors, etc.

The Smithsonian library should have the Fl. Haw., sheets you want. Book 7 in which they appear, sells from us at \$22.50 "as is, where is". Do you want them to order a second copy? Since Nixon & Frances, for mental health, we have just about written off DC from our thoughts and don't have a record as we have of other customers, of ~~the~~ past orders.

We are so behind in correspondence because we were in Freiburg, Germany, last May because of the terminal illness of Isa's mother. Instead of returning to the Islands in a bee line, Isa & I detoured and took stopovers on two Canaries, on Madeira and on six Azores. We amassed 20 large boxes - many dups. - of herb. specimens of which the original set goes to NY, and duplicate sets throughout the World. Besides you & Wasshausen, the only other Smithsonian we know does not instill much confidence. Anyway, if a National capital is the choice for bombing by an enemy, we prefer building up Leningrad, Moscow, Brisbane and such institutions with Degener barbarium specimens. From past experience I know that the most violent enemies in one World war are often the bosom friends in another. Got specimens housed on both sides of a firing line, and some specimens should be saved for saner, wiser botanists to study a couple of centuries hence. We were favorably impressed by botanists at our Congress meetings from the must "suspicious" countries.

Last summer's catch is most unimportant systematically as the original Flora is just about gone due to overpopulation by man, terraced vineyards to mt. tops, feral & tame goats, etc. We have a horrible batch of exotic weeds. By the way, the best kipukas for us were oldish, bulldozed roadcuts, too steep for cattle and too near traffic for timid feral goats to approach.

Isa & I, as usual, scattered 100 our Fl. Haw., sheets when published to about 150 institutions to officially show they are published & at same time to ~~XXXX~~ advertise our books. If any institution wants complete sets, they can buy them from us. To abstract a sheet for the Smithsonian from a bound copy or set would make the book or copy unsaleable.

We may go to Peking next. It is so much nicer to drop dead of a heart attack climbing the wall than to die by inches in a Honolulu nursing home. The museum knows us somewhat from our past Haw. gifts. Monographers of Haw. plants in the future had better botanize in their cabinets for treasures than in our badly scared islands. So much, extinct in the field, exists in herbaria.

Walter D. S. Hunt

THE WHITE HOUSE



Archives #72 10

Mr. Otto Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu HI 96791



Thank you for sharing the inscribed copy of your book with us. We look forward to enjoying it now and shall retain it for inclusion in our future Presidential collection. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness and we send our best wishes to you.

Nancy and Ronald Reagan

5/3/82



Mr. Otto Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu HI 96791

5/3/82
We have been clearing
our shelves of shopworn
copies of our books as well
as of pamphlets & leaflets
furthering conservation of
Haw. Islands endemic
biota. Recipients were
politicians in Washington
elsewhere, and groups in-
terested in furthering our
ideals. Perhaps some one
of these forwarded some
of our articles to the White
House. Mrs. D., & I are
of course delighted. We
lacked the nerve to
do so ourselves.

O.D.

THE WHITE HOUSE

As the stranger
Nathan Vogelson
addressed his letter
to me as Dear
Otto, I am
answering with
a mixture of
prattle & business
to "Dear Nathan."

I included lots
of xeroxes & reprints

CD,
/



Hale Degen

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Aug. 24, 1982.

Nathan Vogelsson, LL.B.
Suite 1606, 150 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10038

Dear Nathan:

I got your August 12 letter in answer to mine of the eighth. Mrs. D., & I have been preoccupied with rental units. We have been driving back and forth, 30 miles one way, between the beach and one of our Honolulu units vacated illegally Aug. 1 by a rent skipper, a teacher !!! at the University of Hawaii. It is convenient for us he skipped to Calif., apparently to teach at Berkeley. Our attorney has a branch office in that State. Not knowing his precise address, we sent copies of his bills for repair, damage, etc. (merely cleaning house & yard came to \$500) "C/o Office of the President, University of Hawaii, - - -"; and C/o Office of the President, University of Calif., - - -". If we receive no cheque, the attorney is to attend to the collection as we had decided in the Mabel D., case Aug. 3 of this year. We rented the place about a week ago to two youngish sister. One is a geneticist. By coincidence both graduated from MY alma mater, the University of Mass., where I received my doctorate. Both took Botany in the same building where I was Graduate Assistant during the 1923-'24 school year! FURTHERMORE,

Mrs. D., & I have been like spiders waiting for tenants to appear to rent our nicely furnished house near the road on the beach lot where we live facing the ocean. It is a sad shock to her to have a stranger in the home of her deceased mother. We have just now signed a WAAC for it who gets from the US Govt., a housing allowance of \$550 a month, which comes to us.

Dealing with tenants, we know that yardsmen get \$25 per hour to mow the lawn, etc.; cleaning women of the "Busybody Company" for an hour get the same; carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc., get a minimum of at least \$50. If attorneys presumably with the usual LL.B., degree after four years' University training expect remuneration per hour at very fancy figures, a man and a woman both with doctorates (the latter actually with the very highest magna cum laude rating) are worth far, far, more. To be sure, Mrs. D., & I are no attorneys; but if Mabel D., alone or through her representatives induces us to spend our time on her malfeasance or what have you instead of our complicated Science of Botany, she must expect to pay our fee. She evidently assumes we are retired, when the situation is just the opposite! You will understand that we have spent a small fortune for hotels, taxis & U-Drive cars, 'plane travel and botanical working hours on nine islands in the Atlantic not too far from Africa. This entire investment is worthless unless we experts process it

for botanical museum cabinets and bot. publications. If Mabel D., directly or through her agents takes still more of our valuable time, I expect to withdraw my modest Aug. 3 bill of far less than \$2,000 to more than \$2,000.

Do, please, unofficially explain how my brother Will could have been tolerated SOLE TRUSTEE of my father's 1916 Trust when Will was a major beneficiary? Was the Surrogate's Court, perhaps in Tamany days, influenced by lawyers? You may be interested historically that the Trust for my parent's five children was established by the law firm in which Tricky Dicky Nixon and his henchmen like criminal Byrnes were partners or at least associates. I am curious how this flaw was tolerated by the Surrogate's Court until practically the present day.

Noting the change of name of your (?) company I am reminded that my father's textile importing firm (last at 2 Park Ave., Manhattan) was not represented by the Nixon shysters, but by the very decent Blumenstiel & Blumenstiel. One of the brothers or a son perhaps had the brilliant idea of legally changing his name from "Blumenstiel" to plain "Blumen". I remember as a boy how my parents were amused that the firm's name changed to something like "Blumenstiel, Blumen & Blumenstiel." Personally I do think you are, from a practical social standpoint, cutting down on the number of new clients when you alter the firm name to a difficult mouthful to swallow. I, perhaps an average American, would write the NY Bar Association for confidential ratings of both name combinations. "Fogelson, Fogelson & Collins" is a perfectly good Jewish-Irish mouthful to remember and confide in. My name "Otto" during two World Wars worked against me for two sets of five years each. An English name like Archibald might even have been better.

Oh, yes, why not write for the COMPLETE NY Bot. Garden Report for 1979-1981. Look at page 25. There you will note mention of the Heckscher Foundation for Children (remember it is on Fifth Ave., with an underpass to Central Park). August Heckscher was the outstanding Anaconda Copper millionaire, a man of German-Jewish ancestry. My father knew him before the latter's death in 1916. His very beautiful niece Caroline deSaules, was one of the very efficient directors or managers of the Foundation, busy there daily. She, now deceased, was my cousin by marriage. Heckscher's son, I believe it is, was some high NY park official. You probably have come across his name in the newspaper. Why he changed the spelling of his perfectly honorable and famous name recently is a mystery to me. Now I have come to the climax: It would be so nice if a Nathan Vogelson were to imitate Heckscher and donate cash to the NY Bot. Garden for some scientific project. Besides personal satisfaction, it would be good advertising for wealthy clients. Barst, Mukamal & Babitt would look rather foreign in print to an old New Yorker like me.

Getting back to my bill regarding malfeasance or whatever you call it: I am not bothering about overcharges (perhaps in slang called skimming off some of the cream), my loss of use of MY money to invest at fabulous interest rates, the nerve of keeping the Trust in "Street Name" allowing some employee to play with assets & having the Trust subject to loss should the Hannover Square concern get involved in financial difficulties, apparent former secrecy where assets were held, damages, etc. Handling of the Trust was bad enough from almost 1916. I had some verification as late as a few decades ago when Mr. & Mrs. Buchl, Trust business friends of my brother Will, were our guests here at the beach. He was quite frank, and as my brother was involved I tolerated the inefficiency even though at my cost.

I don't know how it is in New York State, but in my occasional troubles with tenants, I make use successfully of the four Bs: Bar. Assn., and the Better Business Bureau with confidential letters plus exhibits from me. I get careful replies, BBB adding a small charge. I did flirt with the idea of getting the two addresses of the Bs from nephew Glenn from the Manhattan 'phone book. But as you seem not to be a Tricky Dicky, I have not bothered for ratings. By the way, out of curiosity years ago, I anonymously asked for my own business rating. I was rather dismayed that I had none. The explanation was that as I had always paid my bills by cash or cheque since 1922, no one had ever approached BBB about me. Your early letter that you had attended to my brother's affairs for a terrifically long time might be as excellent service if you had much to do with DD. My quarterly dividends were usually unusually late, etc. Now that you have been soothed by the above, I hope you will read the following meat of my letter without fainting.

Regarding having the Burns-Degener clan, as objected to in my paragraph 1.), involved is out of the question. This would be anathema to me. Enclosed is a list from the Oahu 'phone book of the Honolulu Trust Companies. I would approve of any one of the three major companies listed. If you are doubtful, write the Bar., Assn., in Honolulu and even our BBB. The men involved are not bigoted New England Missionaries that came to the Islands in the 1820s & later; but mostly their thrifty, practical, honest grand- and great-grandsons. To have a Honolulu Trust Company as Successor Trustee,

at great expense as you intimate, is dirt cheap in comparison to the frequent overcharges and fiascos prevalent since about 1916 and to practically the present. I as Trustee of three and then two (reduced by death) Trusts under Manhattan's Surrogate's Court never had sticky fingers for extra fees & commissions as you cry about. I simply collected my legal 6%. Had I been stumped by some question requiring an attorney's advice, I would have paid out of my pocket for my ignorance of the problem for which I had gotten the 6%. Should one of the Haw., Trust start fancy charges, my attitude probably would be to pay, and then immediately switch to a sister trust company (with beneficiaries's consent that has our Bar. Association's approval). Kidder, Peabody is impossible!! I have been prejudiced against one of its employees.

Now, as before mentioned, consider the above another pipe dream of mine without much importance. This letter is the first draft (of which I am mailing a xerox now to Mrs. Karg) which I beg you to correct & embellish at YOUR expense, with nonlegalese wording. Then as coauthors "Degener & Vogelsson" after my editing, we can distribute up to 100 xeroxes to the 100 or so recipients of Degener Museum plant specimens with either:

- 1.) the fact that henceforth due to no loss of income the Degeners intend to continue distributing specimens gratis as before, OR,
- 2.) the fact that henceforth due to loss of income the Degeners' intend to continue distributing specimens gratis as before ~~must be altered to include~~ ^{with} a charge of \$5.00 per specimen, postage extra, until conditions change for the better.

IN SUMMARY AND SERIOUSLY:

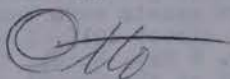
Please mail me the August 8, 1982 RECEIPT properly signed and a new certified cheque, for the obsolete one, of \$7,946.31 to show the Fed. Tax Examiner.

Next, mail me a cheque for \$1,568.85 for my Aug. 3, 1982 bill for (a small part) of expenses incurred up to Aug. 1, 1982 in time. If I must spend additional hours on Mabel's problem, please add \$500.00 to the cheque of \$1,568.85 to bring it up to date. The cheque should be separate as it must be classified taxwise under a different category.

We fly Aug. 25 (actually tomorrow) to our alternate home at Volcano, Island of Hawaii, for at least a month's concentration on Botany. Inbroglio papers we shall not drag from Waiialua with us in a flight bag. If you cannot resolve the malfeasance matter during September, I fear I must get professional advice with unfortunately a corrected higher figure for Mabel or whoever the expert attorney decides is responsible.

Oh, yes, with all the botanical inclusions, I am convinced that a Nathan Vogelsson will become an amateur botanist donating funds liberally, like August Heckscher, to the welfare of "Bronx Park" or NY Bot. Garden. Certainly, he should become a member & meet the attorneys officially & unofficially with this outstanding institution.

Aloha,



Dr. Otton Degener

Ccof this first draft to Pittsburgh.

Date. 10/15/82

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A. Sept. 4,

Dear Mr. Karg: I have your note that you are rushed for a biography of Mrs Fritz Kühle ("Kuehle" when we small and write in typewrite), "Fritz's" mother. Her given name is Elisabeth, in German spelled with an "s", not a "z".

I can't rush a biography as my wife just completed the house on our lot at Mokuleia Beach where her mother had lived, of all personal effects. The new tenant moved in Sept. 1. Though coming posed, this change of place is fresh. The name of her mother's death from cancer. The place is now called as of Sept. 1, Paris we have shown (or glad) to our alternate clearing house for a change and to write plant labels to radio news & classical tapes on TV. The lunger is milder thus.

During our summer trip, Isa twice had symptoms of a coming stroke (excitement from no hotel reservation on a 1-hotel island, so I hesitate to have her concentrate on your present wish. She is taking anticoagulants, and is doing well. When I meant to write your letter, she remembered that, not she, but her mother translated the big book from my English into German.

Isa's father Hansen was in the wholesale oil business in Berlin, and an enthusiastic athlete, rowing & swimming in the Wannsee (spelling?) in June. He died during World War II, not of wounds, but I believe chills in his kidneys while on the lake. Later Mrs. Hansen, Isa's mother, married Fritz Kühle who was Director of a large, famed holding prison in Berlin. There is nothing like it in the U.S. Guilty & guiltless were imprisoned until a trial decided their status.

Being too humane to anti-Nazi prisoners, Director Kühle was finally condemned to death, but reprieved by Hitler.

I found Fritz K., a fascinating raconteur. To put newcomers to the prison at ease, he would ask them to tell him the funniest joke they knew. It helped psychologically. He befriended the leading politicians & of course others in the prison, and was remembered with admiration after their release. He could have written a fascinating book, but feared

losing his pension were he to do so. The
camps usually visited us writers at the
beach.

Mrs. Kühle, like so many ladies in Wartorn
Germany, had medical training and
worked years in an M. D.'s office.

With W. Berlin an island surrounded by the
Russians, we priviledged upon the camp's strategy
after my marriage to Isa, to leave Berlin where
they during W.W.II had been bombed out, to
settle in Bollburg to that in the event of another
war, they could flee the 60 miles to safety in
Switzerland.

During W.W.II Isa & parents had to flee the
Russian Army advance. They luckily did
not reach Dresden as desired, but saw the city
go up in flames. Isa discovered during the
flight that, when thirsty, she could smell
water at a distance!

Though not racially Jewish in any way,
Mr Kühle advised Jewish friends as early as
1936 to emigrate from Germany because
of the antisemitic threat getting worse.

The Nazis obliged Germans to work out their
genealogy, and Isa has the official booklet.
Her mother, (nee Roasch) is actually of part
Jewish ancestry. I presume this Mole's
like wandered into Germany 1,000 or so
years ago. I attribute Isa's prominent cheek
bones to this part of her ancestry.

To delve into her mother's biography is a
bit too soon for Isa to think about. To play
wait a bit. Since W.W.II's beginning, until
our marriage, she has lived a strenuous life
in the '50s - she would walse nights with a
screaming nightmare.

Say the way, though it is not official "Isa"
is actually a nickname for "Ingrid"
(which ~~Isa~~ she even uses on official
papers). Perhaps by "equality's rights" it
can be used, too. I remember Francis
Raymond Fosberg once telling me that
his father's Scandinavian family name
was spelled differently. Ray, by the way,
lived in his youth in a primitive
sod house. I admire him for it, though
we strongly differ (we being so letters)
not an cally, and socially. Isa & I know
this lovely part. How are wife in-
timately. She died, with metal heart valves
checked at her's because of an argu-
ment about a last Will & Testament.
I go had I had to end this letter to make
it a person you type. Aloha.

A.D.