



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

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

Usage guidelines

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

Statement on harmful and offensive content

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences.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of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions.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 Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections'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

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

About the Institute

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

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

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

Xmas 1985

Dear Ray & Susan:

Isa & I have been oscillating between our Hawaii and Oahu Islands homes doing nonbotanical business. Thus correspondence piles up confusingly, your very kind May 10 letter among the lot. We travel, not when we wish, but when some military tenant informs us he is being transferred to another Army Post. That means we dash from one ~~one~~ island to the other to attend to inventory and to hunting for a replacement. Hence just about all classes of mail for us accumulated in the two village postoffices in cardboard boxes until we actually appear to pick them up. The postmen are unusually good natured to us postal pests. Utility, tax, bank statements, etc., are culled for immediate processing, and other mail often from friends is set aside for answering when we are not in a rushed business mood.

Though advancing in age, we seem much healthier than people who have survived into the '60s & even '80s.. Nevertheless we remain convinced that even we are mortal and should scatter our botanical treasures (duplicate herbarium specimens & books) ~~the~~

to botanical institutions of the World for future generations of wiser botanists to contemplate and study with better instruments of precision. So Don Smith sees us about once a week writing labels and wrapping herbarium specimens with proper data & more or less additional permanent data on xerox copies for shipment to as many as 100 institutions. The original set goes to the New York Bot. Garden of which we are staff members. Better sets go to Univ. of Mass., Harvard, Smithsonian, Berlin, Tokyo, Vienna, Graz, Leningrad, Peking and, to end it all, Zurich.

Especially I, feel almost a religious satisfaction that our, already extinct or almost extinct International Treasures shall at least be available for our future peers. Having lived through two World Wars and having seen bosom friend Nations in one War become deadly enemies in another, we just don't consider the average citizen of any one Nation a real enemy. The enemies are actually some of the questionable politicians at heads of Governments. I am not to blame for a Nixon than an average Austrian is responsible for a Hitler.

Spending over a month in Russia during the International Botanical Congress & joining a bot., conducted tour through the Caucasus, we were astonished at the superiority of so many of the average persons in Leningrad in comparison to those in Honolulu. Youngsters worked hard as laborers and seemed to enjoy it; no hippies nor marijuana dopes as here. A street cleaner woman dashed from the sidewalk in Leningrad into the gutter to pick up a discarded match stick which dirtied it! We strangers flew from Frankfurt to Leningrad in a Russian plane, and noted fellow passengers taking photographs of the countryside below. We walked freely everywhere, and when the people noted from our speech that we were Americans, they actually liked & respected us. In Pyatygorsk (Caucasus), when we went into a store to buy odds & ends, we were honored with bargain prices. Of course, the sales people lost nothing personally thereby, but they should their friendship.

Isa & I were horrified that we Americans a couple of years later elected an honest enough but perhaps not socially wise Carter who INSULTED most of the Russians by keeping them out of the Olympics. Even the Greeks 2,000 years ago would not have done so. He turned the average Russian against us in favor of their gangster-like rulers!

Should a World War III, IV, V - - - ever occur and Russia or China explode a holocaust upon the US destroying Degeners' collection of extinct ferns & angiosperms in the US, a good supply will be found in Leningrad, Moscow & Peking. Probably a generation after enmity, such Nations will become bosom friends, and US botanists can study Degener herbarium specimens there & perhaps nowhere else.

Because of your training and extensive experience in the Orient, it would be interesting to learn of your ideas about the origin of the Hawaiians. Although they have been in the islands less than a few thousand years, they have interbred sufficiently to have become a distinct breed of Homo. A negative type of proof apparently came to my attention: Isa & I spent some time in Tasmania & Queensland, botanising a bit out of habit. At the Australian airport we for several days got tourist information from a youngish Polynesian lady. Getting to know her well enough I got the courage to blurt out my suspicion that the Hawaiians were no different from the Maori. I then told this Australian secretary that I never considered her anything but a Hawaiian by appearance and general attitude. She then replied: "You know, both my parents are originally from Hawaii, having emigrated from there many years ago." This in an upside down way, actually shows that Hawaiians and Maoris are two different strains or almost varieties of Polynesians. You know Niihau has relics of apparently a different race, now extinct or practically bred out of existence. The people according to Haw., mele were small, and were called "menehune". Some other tropical Pacific Islands had "manahune". Perhaps these were actually very, very early adventurous settlers similar to the pigmies Negritos of parts of the Philippines and elsewhere.

With the help of a real scholar, Noah Pekalo, of Polynesian ancestry with whom we did a little collecting on Molokai, we published the enclosed, VERY provisional paper ten years ago. Would a philological perusal of the sounds of words indicate that the Hawaiians are largely members of the White Race, to be exact, really Dravidians who in slow South-East migrations interbred with Malays and a few Melanesians (with kinky hair, African hair) before they took to canoes and peopled the Hawaiian Islands? What's your offhand hunch? I wrote something like that, after some library reading, in my book "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji."

Greetings of the Season from,

Otto

Isa

M.A.C., '22

P.S. With the South American endemic sweet potato growing in many prehistoric, cultigens in the Pacific and being named "uala" in the Andes as well as in Haw., we suspect a few drops of Amerindian blood in our natives.



Pacific
Union
College

December 18, 1985

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

Dear Drs. Degener:

Thank you very much for the book, PLANTS OF HAWAII
NATIONAL PARKS. It is very nicely done and we at the Pacific
Union College Biology Department appreciate your thoughtfulness
in sending us a copy.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you.

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert J. Muth, Ph.D.
Chairman

Pertti Uotila
Botanical Museum
University of Helsinki
Unioninkatu 44
SF-00170 Helsinki
Finland

Helsinki, Nov. 23, 1985

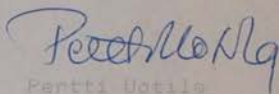
Drs. Otto & Isa Degener
P.O. Box 154
Volcano
Hawaii, 96785
U. S. A.

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you very much of the interesting book "Plants of Hawaii
National Parks" and reprints received this week. They have been
placed in our library.

Wishing all the best for you, and Peaceful Christmas

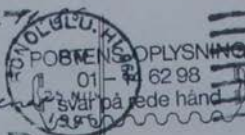
Yours sincerely


Pertti Uotila



København Universitets Botaniske Have.
Meryanthes trifoliata L. Bukkeblad.
Gengivet efter tavle 541, 10. bind af
Flora Danica udgivet 1777.

15. 7. 78



Dear Otto & Fra Deger

*Thank you so very much
for sending us your recent
publications on the flora
of Hawaii.*

Sincerely yours

Fette Lemnisk
THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
GOTTERSGADE 130
DK-1123 COPENHAGEN K
DENMARK

Dr. O. & F. Deger
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu,
Hawaii 96791

U. S. A.

PO BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96785

Don't spoil the earth. It's for us all, men and animals.



地球は 人類だけのものではないぞー

郵便はがき



Drs. Otto & Isa Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waiialua, Oahu
Hawaii 96791, USA



AIR MAIL

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you very much for sending
miscellaneous notes which are inter-
esting for me to know the history
and present status of Degener's botany.

Yours sincerely,
M. Numata,

Makoto NUMATA
74-2 Bentecho
Chiba 280, Japan

PLANNING - COPIES PRINTED IN JAPAN



Kala Degener

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Oct. 25, 1985

Dear Mr. Wayne:

I received the Rames books. They are certainly in A 1 condition. I cannot understand, however, why this new second edition is not up to date! Not a word, as I noted, has been changed from the previous edition. Botany is a progressive Science and hence this new edition should have included NEW observations!

Mrs. D., & I have been side tracked from our usual activity. We have concentrated on dental & medical checkups usually involving a 60 mile round trip between Honolulu and our North Shore beach home. Then we had a disastrous rain - our garbage pails in one day had about 8 inches of rainwater in them. Now we must have two roofs repaired, part of the expense luckily of a rental unit roof being absorbed as a tax income loss; and now to the roof work inspection, we find we must spend \$500 to tent a two story house to fumigate against carpenter ants and termites. When these tasks have been completed, we shall move to our alternate home on the Island of Hawaii near the Volcano to concentrate on our herbarium work AND collating. We have a large basement with shelves galore. We can do next to nothing regarding xeroxes of correspondence as our library is on THIS Island of Oahu. Enclosed are a few xeroxes that have accumulated.

Please credit me toward purchase of additional Rames copies, as banged up as possible if they are then dirt cheap. I have a brilliant idea (?) in which you may be able to help me and to your advantage at the same time:

I don't believe human nature has changed such over thousands of years! Remember that Pharaoh Cheops of Egypt had a pyramid constructed to toot his own horn. We saw it some years ago during our trip around the World when we attended an Int. Bot. Congress. Rames, whom we have met with Mrs. Rames during several of such Congresses, has published much about the living Fijian fossil *Degeneria vitensis*. It would be fun for the Hawaiian fossil Otto Degener born in 1899 to toot his own horn by including one copy of Rames' book in SOME packages of herbarium specimens we mail off to over 150 leading botanical institutions of the World. American institutions probably have copies of Rames, but I doubt many in foreign countries have them. Most of such scientists have a reading knowledge of English as have *ich mit deutsch*. I could easily surprise 100 foreign Museums, Universities & Bot. Gardens even with insect riddled & foxed copies of Rames. I bet I have welcome names & ~~add~~ addresses here available to me in Patricia Holmgren's Index Herbariorum. Let me know your reaction.

Regarding my bill to you, credit me for the xeroxes you can use, and eventually return the unwanted. I can always use them by simply inserting them in book orders to whet the appetite of bibliophiles.

I regret you sold only one of my books. You no longer list my paperback "Fl. Haw. Nat. Parks". Do you want a couple more to be sold at best price you can get, with 60% of sum for me?

Aloha mi,

Kala Degener

Sept. 12, 1965

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I have your Sept. 11 letter with enclosures. I hardly need say that Mrs. Degener (who was Dr. Isa Ingegard Hansen before I married her in Berlin in 1953 - do please emphasize this fact to your Production Manager) and I are delighted with Mrs. Brown's article appearing in the Sept. 11 issue of the "Big Island Trading Post." I guess Labor Day delayed my timing with the Post Office.

Mrs. D., & I have two main literary projects:

- 1.) The production and sale of my paperback published ~~in~~ 1960, a year after I was Naturalist of Haw. National Park, including Hawaii & Maui. This is slated for sale to average readers, naturalists and visitors ("tourists"). Due to our advanced ages, we now simply supply National Park orders in unit boxes as they come from the printer - no unpacking & rewrapping for me. Over half a Century, thousands of copies have been sold in revised editions and reprints.
- 2.) The "Flora Hawaïensis", an expensive undertaking, is limited to an edition of 1,500 copies. It is slated for libraries of Botanical Gardens and Museums, and Universities throughout the World. There are hundreds of them. Sales are infrequent, but worth it.

Were we to advertise any of our books in the "Trading Post", readers of my biography might think I used commercial influence for having the article published. We wish to avoid that possibility.

We mail Hawaiian, preserved plant specimens gratis to about 150 institutions of the World. Many of these centers of learning have purchased our Flora over the years. It would please us Degeners to toot our own horns by mailing a tear sheet to each one of these institutions from time to time as we have a package of material to mail them.

In summary, I wish to have at least 150 tear sheets of the Sept. 11 "Trading Post" issue if still available. Please mail the bill to the above address.. In about a month, we shall be back at our alternate address at Volcano, just outside the Park boundary.

Aloha nui,

Dr. Otto Degener

P.S. Should anyone want a box of 24 "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" books in the original boxes in which they came from the Michigan printer, they can have them postage and tax free for \$120 IN ADVANCE.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii
96785 U.S.A.

alternate
address

Mailed 4 P.L. Haw Nat. P., 1-4, 2, 3, 6

William G. Ziarnik
426 Birch Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
April 19, 1985

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you very much for your April 13 letter. It was a pleasure-- and a fascinating one at that--to read the personal historical notes enclosed. Your name had become so synonymous with the Pacific for me that I was most surprised indeed to learn that your roots go back to East Orange.

Unfortunately I did not get along well with Dr. Wilbur while I studied at Duke. He seemed to discourage my Old World botanical interests perhaps because of his own emphasis on the Americas. Consequently, I ventured into the Duke Herbarium (of which Dr. Wilbur is curator) rarely. I must have seen some of your collections since I spent some time on Pacific specimens. I will be making a brief visit to Durham in two weeks and will carefully inquire further concerning the extent of your collections there. I will also try to have a look at them, if possible.

I am well aware of your original collection of Degeneria vitiensis. In fact, one of the goals of my visit to Fiji last summer was to collect specimens of this plant. I was extremely excited to find it in the Waibau and Wailoku districts near Suva and I sent several fruiting specimens to the Bishop Museum's herbarium.

Your comments on the alkaloids derived from Rauvolfia are of considerable interest to me. I collected endemic species of the genus in New Caledonia in 1982 but was unaware of its occurrence in Hawaii. As I had been thinking about a research project during my fourth year, and as I am developing a greater interest in pharmacology, your comments were intriguing. I would appreciate any information you might have concerning this genus in the Hawaiian Islands. I am also interested in the clippings you might have concerning the potential for pharmacologic use of Degeneria. I fear that these requests, however, may inconvenience you. So I will get started myself on some literary investigation.

I cannot say that I am ashamed of joining the medical profession. However, I do regret the extent to which it has distracted me from botanical pursuits. I still consider my botanical interests just as important as my medical interests and I only hope that I will eventually be able to continue in botany (perhaps combining botany & medicine) toward a significant contribution to the knowledge of the Pacific flora. It has become more difficult, however, to define what that contribution might ultimately be, now that I am studying medicine. In fact, it was concerning this topic that I had hoped to consult you upon ~~had~~ visited the islands this summer.

Although I was aware of your august age, I was unaware of your state of health, which I pray is not precarious. In light of your comments I feel an added regret for the cancellation of my visit this summer. I do, however, sincerely hope to meet you and your wife next year.

Maruru, 

P.S. Please permit me the occasion to look at your typewriter when I do visit. Your wit and good humor are most entertaining and inspiring!



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

October 7, 1985

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu
HAWAII 96761

Dear Dr. Degener:

The Garden Library would be most happy to add the Clawson correspondence to the archive.

Please excuse delay in responding to your generous offer.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Long

Charles R. Long
Assistant Vice President
and Director of the Library

CRL/d



October 1985 - Spring

Postcard

Greetings from...kiwiland
Thank you for your kind letter rec'd. in Hilo just prior to our departure.

What a marvelous idea you suggest about botanizing here. Wish you could teach me how! We are enjoying the countryside so much. Everything is in spring bloom now. Rotorua is a great center for Maori culture as well as geothermal activity. Happy holidays to you both. Regards,
...ALOHA... Barbara Cole

F3

ROTORUA
PM



Dr. + Mrs. O. Degener

68-617 Grozier Dr.

WaiAlua, Oahu, Hi

U.S.A. 96791

GEYSER FIELD - Pohutu Geyser dominates the main terrace at Whakarewarewa, Rotorua, New Zealand.

(Photo By Don Cole)

our host

Produced By Friend Wholesale, P.O. Box 1834, Rotorua, N.Z.



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

1525 BERNICE STREET • P.O. BOX 19000-A • HONOLULU, HAWAII • 96817 0916 • (808) 847-3511

7 October 1985

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

I am herewith returning the check you sent in August and about which I wrote you in September after I had returned from my trip. Not having heard from you with respect to the disposition of this check I must return it to you.

As mentioned in my earlier letter, it appears as if you have confused the Association of Pacific Systematists (APS) with the Bishop Museum Association (BMA). I am secretary of the former (annual dues \$5.00) and have nothing official to do with the latter (membership dues paid according to category - hopefully you will choose one of the higher categories in that BMA membership form I sent you). Your check is addressed to me as "Secr.-Treas.", which must be of the APS, but your memo on that same check reads "BM membership, etc." I think I am fairly certain that you mean to renew your APS membership.

Please help us by issuing a check for \$5.00 to the "Association of Pacific Systematists" and send that to me. Send \$10.25 to the Bishop Museum Press (not to me) to purchase a copy of the FORUM. I am enclosing an order blank for the FORUM. That price includes handling. We will send you extra reprints of the Mill et. al. article at no charge.

Sincerely,

S. H. Sohmer
Assistant Director, Research
and Scholarly Studies and Chairman,
Department of Botany

SHS/smr



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

October 3, 1985

Dr. Otto Degener
68617 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu
HAWAII 96761

Dear Dr. Degener:

Sincere apologies for our lack of response to your letter of July 25 to Mr. Long regarding your Clawson correspondence. Mr. Long has been ill and away from the library since early August. In his absence I cannot give you a response as to whether we would either want or have room for these papers. I am hopeful Mr. Long will be back quite soon, and we will be in touch with you.

Meanwhile, I have today send a packet of xerox copies of your correspondence. We tried very hard to keep all pages together so as to make it easier for you to keep all pertinent data together.

Sincerely,

Elaine DiLorenzo
Administrative Assistant

Rec 296485

Hunt



Kala Degener

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

July 10, 1985

Dear Librarian:

I knew the Elmer D. Merrill intimately. How did it happen that Dr. Merrill destroyed his letters when of advanced age? Has any botanical unit of Harvard any of his holographs?

Dr. Merrill was my host while I studied historical Hawaiian plants in the New York Botanical Garden; and also turned over my personal herbarium to that institution. That was during World War II.

I can furnish you with some xeroxes of our correspondence ~~if~~ should your institution prize them. I am opposed having letters showing botanists' thoughts in only one place. During WW II the Japanese bombers flew over my two story home at the beach; AND since 1935 I have experienced three tsunamis with the waves splashing up at my dining room ceiling. My private library is just above it. In a sense, we are overdue for another one.

Please give us a summary of what happened to his interesting correspondence. Both of us enjoyed the friendship of the amateur pteridologist D.L. Topping, who had been in Manila during the Governorship of (Leter Pres.) Taft.

I first mailed herbarium specimens to the Gray Herbarium. Upon his advice I changed my shipments to the Arnold Arboretum. Mrs. Degener & I feel so relieved that, should our personal collection now at NY be destroyed, a good set of duplicates MAY be safe some distance away. We are particularly nervous as my wife, botanist in Berlin-Dahlem, saw the Museum bombed by the British half heartedly helped by our own fliers! Many of my Hawaiian plants, given to Berlin in the '20s in exchange for "Engler-Prantl" volumes, were destroyed except for ferns secreted in salt mines and Lobeliaceae at the time on loan to Rev. Dr. Wimmer in Vienna for his monographic study.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener

Copy put in Merrill's orig. file

Hunt

With aloha. the Hawaiian endemics
 you may expect many of the bulldozing, tree-lam
 to become exterminated by bulldozing, tree-lam
 removal for export sale, wood chopping in chiles
 to gain electricity, and eucalyptus planting on
 such destroyed forest land for biomass to
 turn into electricity in a continuous future
 supply after botanizing in Tasmania in 1981
 we did observe of this last plant as land be-
 neath these oily trees is poisonous for other
 plants and for animals.

Furthermore, such oily trees don't burn as a
 usual forest fire, but as an explosive cloud of vapor
 ized oil. Such a fire (eucalypt) in occasional amolde-
 ing tree trunks) can burn itself out within
 three minutes, in-Book 7 including neighbor-
 ing homes

O. G. D.

of

2. FLORA HAWAIIENSIS

1985

or

New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands

by

Otto Degener, Sc.D.

Isa Degener, Dr. Rer. Nat.



It took many kinds of Flowering Plants (Angiosperms), like some shown in this Flora 30,000,000 years to evolve to their unique shapes and complex chemical contents. With eudemics pathetically reduced at great speed by Modern Man as well as many tourists fly to our former "Paradise of the Pacific" to view the present beautiful but monotonous displays of common Brazilian bougainvillea, Chinese hibiscus, Greek oleander, and African and South American nilivili? I came as a

Printed in U.S.A.

1960-1969
 tourist from New York in 1922 because of the remarkable, unique flora & fauna, not for the aliens replacing them. Why discourage the coming of similarly interested visitors in the future when tourism is becoming our main legal, paying industry and the least disturbing to our few remaining true Hawaiian features?

C. D.

1925

And I brought you into a plentiful country,
 To eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof;
 But when ye entered, ye defiled my land,
 And made mine heritage an abomination.

Jeremiah 2:7

Other profusely illustrated books by same author still available:

FLORA HAWAIIENSIS or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands, Edition 2, Books 1-4 in single board binding, 1192 pages. 1946. \$6.50. Edition 1, Book 5. \$10.00. Edition 1, Book 6, \$10.00.

Plants of Hawaii National Park, Illustrative of Plants and Customs of the South Seas, Edition 2, paper, 333 pages. 1945. \$4.00.

Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji, boards, 312 pages. 1949. \$5.00.

For information write Drs. Degener, Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER
68-617 Erozier Drive
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U.S.A.
Aug. 26, 1985

Dear Dick: ^{Isa} & I were disappointed that our meeting with you and Mrs. Howard somehow failed! We got up early Thursday morning, had breakfast with our good friend the retired oceanographer Herbert Mann at the Volcano House at 7:30. Then we drove back to our home & closed all shutters, disconnected questionable electric wiring & packed some suitcases. Mr. Mann, a distant neighbor, then drove us down to Hilo at 10:30 to catch the plane for Honolulu. There our kind friend Mrs. Scott picked us up for the 30 mile drive home to Mokuleia Beach. She repeated your message, phoned us already a few days before to Volcano. But she neither knew your phone number nor your Honolulu Hotel. Anyway, it seemed unimportant as you planned phoning us Saturday. Both of us were exhausted Thursday; but Isa, being a perfectionist, was horrified with the appearance of our house filled with a ten day accumulation (I noted none) of fur from our five dogs. So she worked like a Trojan with the vacuum cleaner all Friday.

By the way, if we rural livers don't cooperate with one another to get to and from airports, we would be paying a huge fortune in taxi fare as they charge not one way but for the 60-mile round trip of which we use only half!

(Got up before 6 this morning and as Isa has not yet called me for breakfast, I shall continue waiting your time thanks to the typewriter.)
We assumed you might drive around Oahu in a U-drive car, stop off at our place to be driven in ours to Kaena Point to look at some surviving endemics. Then we would lunch at the hotel at Turtle Bay before your drive around the OTHER half of Oahu to your Waikiki(?) hotel. We assumed you planned flying back to Mass., Sunday.

What surprises & pleases me so is that thanks to medication I seem to be better in health than ten years ago! So many of my classmates (Univ. of Mass., '22), even robust athletes, have died ten and more years ago. About ten years ago while living at our Volcano home, we expected the visit of a Singapore botanist while on a stopover in the Islands on his way to the coast. We arranged for lunch reservations at the Kilauea Military Camp. As our unknown friend failed flying from Oahu to Hawaii and did not appear, Isa, her mother and I ^{then} went to lunch as planned. Since 1927 when the Director of the local museum and the new President of the University conspired successfully to remove me from my teaching position at the University because of writing a local Flora more or less under jurisdiction of NYBG (I was thus getting credit for a Doctorate from affiliated Columbia Univ.), I have suffered chronic tachycardia. I feel perfectly alright but SUBCONSCIOUSLY worried, my "nervous" heart may beat irregularly and very rarely even fibrillate. At the dinner party with the absent guest I suddenly felt delightfully sleepy. Between fruit cup & steak I seemed to fall into a wonderful euphoric sleep from which I was rudely awakened by Isa & her mother slapping and punching me severely. I had stiffened suddenly to almost upset the table.

I had of course practically died of heart arrest. By chance a physician sat at an adjoining table, and got me into an Army ambulance in a neighboring building. Thus I was whisked away to the Hilo Hospital for insertion under my collarbone of a heart pacemaker. This, and an occasional "nitro" pill and a daily bandage of Nitro-Dur has made me a lucky living fossil interested in life about me AND eager to have Isa & my activity influence the thinking of our peers far into the future. ----- Intermission; I hear breakfast calling me!!!!

A After imbibing hard taro, a banana, half a papaya, toast with honey, fishsticks with the fatty breadcrumbs given our five (1) dogs (mostly pathetic, tenant discards), and washing a few pills down with sanka, I pressed my second fifty herbarium specimens of *Conocarpus* & wrote some POETIC labels. Now, about 20 hours after the above, I may as well continue the above garrulosity even if I waste your time!

I am essentially a New Yorker, living on Manhattan island since 1899. Visiting Bermuda in 1921 as a tourist with my sister after my mother's death, I happened to meet Dr. H.H. Whetzel of Cornell and Alan Mac Allan (spelling?), later of Boyce Thompson Institute. We three, botanized during the summer vacation. I then worked up my plants at Mass. Agr. College in Amherst where I was a student, and whenever possible at the NYBG, using Dr. N.L. Britton's Fl. of Bermuda.

Fascinated with the subtropics I emigrated to Honolulu, got my Master's at the Univ. of Haw., in 1923, and returned to NYBG to work up my Haw. plants for a Degener's Flora Haw.

well as Degener good & shopworn books. Thus we discovered some Fl. Haw., first editions we had considered sold out. We packaged a complete set and mailed it to BM bookstore with the suggestion they sell these collector's items at highest price possible on consignment, paying us 60% of the sum. BM returned the shipment with the remark they lacked storage space! Why in the May Taxon issue is such a fuss made that our publications seem nonexistent? As we have never discarded any, except for a few pre-World War II copies, 1,500 have been sold, exchanged or donated. Such donations to US institutions some years ago just as good as sale for us as we collect the eleemosynary gift tax deduction. We still have some postwar copies on hand, but are getting rid of them also. We want everything housed in museums before we die, and some nonbotanist attorney dumps remains in the garbage. When completed with this task, we shall publish as usual. We have some original drawings which should not go to waste.

I may be repeating myself and don't want to read day before yesterday's and yesterday's effusions. So excuse the following: Bothered with tachycardia I spent much of 1928 botanizing on Molokai. Then, avoiding some Terr. of Haw., position, I became the first Naturalist of Haw. Nat. Park in 1929. I had trained Univ. etc., students to draw for my Fl. Haw., and paid some to work for me in a house I rented next to the Park. Not legally allowed a driver's license because of my illness. They chauffeured me back & forth to the lecture building, now the Observatory overlooking Halemauau.

Losing my drivers with beginning of classes in Fall, I moved to the Volcano House to work on my tourist potboiler "Flora Haw. Nat. Park(s)". This took almost two years. I combed the area for ferns and angiosperms within walking distance of the hotel. As the Park lacked an herbarium, all voucher specimens are at the NYBG, with dupe., scattered to AA (in the early days to Gray's) and elsewhere.

When we bought our mountain home at Volcano about 20 years ago, we like others volunteered our time to help the Nat. Park. We identified the sheets in the herbarium, writing and dating our opinions of determinations in pencil. This is encouraged, as you know, in modern herbaria. Following the NY practice, we wasted about \$100 worth of our books to add pertinent sheets to genus and species covers. After leaving for some months for our Oahu home, we returned to find all our pencil notations erased and informative articles discarded. A year or so later, we wanted to consult the herbarium regarding some species, and were then informed that the herbarium was on loan at the Smithsonian. Months later, eager to solve our problem, we were told by the long-employed Naturalist that the herbarium had been lost in the mails between Washington, D.C., & the Park. We took the hint and have not visited the herbarium since. I have a Lt. Col., relative by marriage who, with wife, often lived at Kilauea Military Camp. We of course visited back & forth for dinners and otherwise. He informed us that the wife of the Naturalist with whom I had been dealing, had been such a nuisance as a prostitute that the Commander of Kilauea Military Camp, on land leased from the National Park, had forbidden her access to the Camp. ^{Isa}, a European, is more sensitive to insults than I. Also, being the daughter of a prison director, she is particularly careful. In a way, she was raised with German Police Gazettes lying about the house. Now you will realize that we Degeners consider ourselves cosmopolitan botanists with allegiances to Berlin (Isa) and NY (Isa & I). We feel antagonistic toward local University, Museum and National Park, though not necessarily to everyone of their employees. The Territory and later State of Hawaii is simply where I have been working since 1922 and Isa since 1953. The above horrible scribble of gossip took three early mornings of typewriter exercise. In a way, this change from wrapping & writing labels seems to be an outlet for some subconscious feelings that might otherwise build up and act on the diminutive "second brain" in my heart controlling its beat. It seems therapeutic.

Aloha,

O. D.



Hawaiian Eye
CENTER

6/27/85 (2)

606 Kilani Avenue
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786-1993
(808) 621-8448

Director:

John M. Corboy, M.D.

American Board of Ophthalmology
Assoc. Clinical Prof.,
Univ. of Hawaii School of Medicine

Carlos A. Omphroy, M.D.
Ophthalmology

→ His M. D. further
attended to my
medical permit to
reside on Kauai
at all.
LODI

Name: Mr. Degner

Procedure: Chalazion exc.

Procedure Date: 6/27 @ 9:00 am

Post-op Visit: @

INSTRUCTIONS

Before coming to the office, wash your face and especially the eyelid area thoroughly with soap and water. Make sure there is no remaining make-up or skin lotion around your cheeks and eyes on the day of your procedure. Lipstick is okay.

Plan to be in the office for about one hour. The doctor will numb your eye area before your procedure. It will be completely painless. Your eye will probably be patched for 24 hours. **PLAN TO HAVE SOMEONE DRIVE YOU HOME AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE.**

Usually in about one hour the anesthetic wears off. You will have very little discomfort and we will give you instructions regarding mild pain medicine before you go home.

Usually you will be able to return to work or school the day after your procedure for minor lid lumps or growths. For pterygium, you should plan to take off work for about 4-5 days. Talk with us about this. If you need a return to work slip be sure to let us know.

Make sure that you speak with Pat or Debbie at the front desk regarding your insurance coverage and estimate of charges before your procedure.

Please call Jackie at 621-8448 if you have questions regarding your procedure.

Thank You.

Hawaii's only
Medical & Surgical
Eye Center

Pre-op (chalz, ptery, etc.)



June 5, 1985

Dear Drs. Otto & Isa Degener;

I have just received your works on the following copies, with many thank, by way of Smithsonian Institution, international Exchange Service."

1. Flora HAWAIIENSIS Books 1-4, (as bound unit)
2. Flora HAWAIIENSIS Book 6,
3. Plant of Hawaii National Parks. illustrative of plant & Customs of the ^{South Seas.}
4. plant of HAWAIIENSIS Book 7. in sheets

Recently I retired from university.

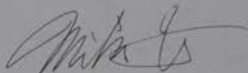
Add;

Mr. Mitsugu Ito

Nomura Onochyo Ibigun

Gifuken 501-05 JAPAN

Very Sincerely yours





Hale Degener

68617 Crozier Drive

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

June 9, 1985

Dear Prof. Ito:

Mrs. Degener & I received your attractive postcard, and congratulate you on your "retirement". We know what that means: You will be busier than ever before, working on your most interesting research problems!

I taught Botany at the University of Hawaii, and in my Freshman Course had 102 students. Hence I had three laboratory sections of over 30 students each. To teach the second and third groups was rather tedious! After standing and looking into students' microscopes, I did suffer considerably from back ache pain.

Then in 1929, I was the first Naturalist of Hawaii National Park. There was no airplane travel yet, but thousands of tourists came to Hawaii via luxury steamers. They drove by bus loads in sections to the Park museum building where I would give the same fundamental, hour-long lecture with the same lantern slides and same motion pictures to different groups on the same day. I resigned and became self-employed writing my books. I collected endemic plants, writing my books to sell and having some tenants to earn money for living. Then when in Germany in 1952-53 studying Naw., herbarium specimens, I met the Berlin botanist who became Mrs. Degener.

We two Degeneres are horrified and saddened that so many of the Angiosperms (Gymnosperms never reached our islands) have become extinct or nearly so since we collected them. But we are proud that future generations of botanists will be able to admire and study them, we hope, at the New York Botanical Garden. Fearing some idiotic politician in World War III, IV, V, ? ? ? may bomb the Museum Building like what happened in Berlin when Mrs. D., was a staff member there, we like to distribute available duplicates ~~and~~ elsewhere where they may be safe from destruction.

Since the Viet Nam War criminal Americans are growing Cannabis in the Hawaiian jungles. Hunters and hikers coming near the hidden plants may be murdered and thrown into a lava crevice or into the ocean. Mrs. D., & I were both shot at while botanizing a few years ago probably near some marijuana, so don't expect many good plants from us. We are afraid to look for them! ALSO, ALSO, ALSO: Due to modern Man and the aggressiveness of escaped, wanted and unwanted plants (weeds), our delicate endemics are being quickly crowded out of existence. Botanists in the future may be obliged to "botanize" in the Gifu herbarium instead in the Hawaiian jungles to find out what the flora of the Hawaiian Islands was like before the year 2,000.

We are staff members of the NY Bot. Garden. Our President Dr. James M. Hester, lived in the Hawaiian Islands as a boy, knows the conditions, and approves of our work. If you have any outstanding herbarium specimens to spare, I am sure NY would be glad to get them as a gift from you!

My father, born in 1844, was a German businessman for three years in the Orient before emigrating to the United States in the 1860s to go into the wholesale textile business in New York. He even started a silk mill in the '90s. I was born in 1899, and Sundays in N.Y. City we often had Japanese businessmen as dinner guests. Japanese were practically unknown in NY at that time. They NEVER brought their wives! His "Unicorn Silk Mill" in Chatauqua, NY, finally failed. My father mainly concentrated on importing woolen textiles

Scanned June 9, 1985.

from Europe, with a partner each in London and Paris. These Japanese dinner guests often brought beautiful lacquer presents. We children were shocked when we learned that our parents had been invited to a Japanese club and had eaten sashimi. We of course eat it all the time now IF the fish is really fresh.

My wife joins me with aloha and congratulations,

Otto Degener



Kale Degener

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

July 6, 1985

Mr. Richard Johns
Pres. Pac., Division, "Science"
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johns:

Mrs. Degener & I were delighted with Miss Holden's important article about continued vandalism in the Hawaiian Islands as published in your May 31 issue.

As leading botanical libraries of the World subscribe to "Science", we plan to mail to over 100 institutions xeroxes of the enclosed article about the local situation. We shall revise this draft a bit and single-space the result. Should you have 100 or so tear sheets available of pages 1073-1074 we would enclose them in our letter. The minimum cost to "Science" might be offset by some new subscriptions. If you lack the tear sheets, interested readers can always read the proper issue in better libraries.

We did think of writing a short "Reader's" comment in "Science," but our delay makes this impracticable.

The present blurb is as you know not scientific, and certainly not news as everything we describe is self evident. We more or less distributed such items in various "poison pen" letters to our peers during the last half Century or more. The article is facetious and a bit insulting in part, thus perhaps attracting readers' attention. It is not copyrighted, so if your personnel should notice anything worth quoting, we gladly have them do so over our signatures.

CONFIDENTIALLY, the Haw. Island native biota is particularly vulnerable as the population largely (many of our good friends belong here) have a \$1.00 a day wage background - parents or grandparents - as plantation laborers. Such ancestors considered any plant not edible by man or his domestic animals "waste time" or a weed. This fundamental belief tends to show itself even today. CONFIDENTIAL.

Aloha,

Kale Degener

Hunt

SANTIAGO, JUNE 3, 1985.

DRS OTTO AND ISA DEGENER
P.O. Box 154
VOLCANO, HAWAII 96785
U.S.A.

DEAR MR. AND MRS. DEGENER:

I HAVE RECEIVED NOW A PACKAGE CONTAINING THE FLORA
HAWAIIENSIS, BOOK 6 AND 7. THIS PACKAGE CAME FROM SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION.

I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COUR-
TESY. LAST ~~MAY~~ 6, 1985 WAS MY LAST LETTER TO YOU. THIS TIME I
HAD THE PLEASURE TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE BOOK ENTITLED "DR.
JOSÉ DE JESÚS JIMÉNEZ: UNA VIDA DEDICADA A LA CIENCIA" (A LIFE
DEDICATED TO SCIENCE). THERE SEEMS TO BE THAT THE FIRST COPY
I MAILED YOU GOT LOST.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
I HOPE BOTH OF YOU ARE HAPPY AND IN GOOD HEALTH.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Dr. José Jesús Jiménez
JOSÉ DE JESÚS JIMÉNEZ JR, M.D.
CALLE MÁXIMO GOMEZ 34
SANTIAGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Mailed "Help Yourself to Good Health" 7/17/85

IMPOSED NEGATIVE FLAT PROGRAM

4/30/85

DEGENER, OTTO & ISA DRs.

P.O. BOX 154
VOLCANO

HI 96791

BRAUN-BRUMFIELD, INC.
P.O. BOX 1203
ANN ARBOR, MI. 48106
(313) 662-3291

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ITEMIZED LIST OF YOUR TITLES AND IMPOSED NEGATIVE FLATS PRESENTLY IN STORAGE AT BRAUN-BRUMFIELD. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS PER TITLE IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX, KEEPING IN MIND THERE WILL NOT BE A STORAGE CHARGE ON ACTIVE ORDERS (3 YEARS FROM DATE OF SHIPMENT). IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CORRECTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ABOVE. YOUR LETTER MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ABOVE BY JUNE 30TH. THANK YOU.

S - STORE

D - DESTROY

R - RETURN

U - UNIDENTIFIED

S	D	R	U	ORDER	TITLE	REFERENCE	SHIP DATE
				100778	PLANTS OF HAWAII NATIONAL PARKS	6/11/85	8/29/84
					ACTIVE ORDERS		1**
					TOTAL ORDERS		1**
					<p>We shall order more of the same paper book where our supply gets low. Unfortunately we are selling less copies due to our limiting our sales practically to the two Hawaiian National Parks. They buy by the box you mailed us — just sold one of 24 copies before leaving Hawaii for Oahu. Being just outside the Park boundary, we just equally drop boxes off at the Administration Building as we happen to pass it. They pay immediately, not like book & curio shops which take odd numbers of copies on consignment and don't always pay. They can be an awful nuisance.</p> <p>Another reason for less sales is competition from less scientific but so beautifully illustrated colored plates, mostly printed in Taiwan. Also strikes against U.S. plane companies are reducing English reading tourists, and the many honey-mooners from Japan don't read.</p>		

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

English

We might sell favorably were we to have our paperback translated into Japanese. But our profit would of course be reduced by the percentage we would be obliged to pay the translator.

By the way, we can always distinguish Japanese tourists from local Japanese-Americans. The former are ghostly pale, the latter sun-tanned.

As things are going now our next order was a bit large. Our next order should come in a couple of years.

Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener



Hale Degener

68617 Crozier Drive, WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

May 30, 1985.

Controller of Examinations
University Buildings
University of Madras
Triplicane P.O., Chempak
Madras 600 005, India

Dear Sir:

I received your 20 May letter regarding No. Ph. D/2502 yesterday.

Having had considerable difficulty with the State of Hawaii postal service as it seems to abide by some regulations not condoned by Mainland offices, I mailed Thiru P. Masilamoney's thesis about the Genus Ficus to you the safest, though slow, way possible. I am glad it arrived. Fearing the bulky package might reach you too late, I rushed the Profunda to you by safe Air Mail. It should have reached your office, or perhaps to the Registrar, University of Madras - 600 005, the address I believe appearing on the envelope, weeks before the bulky package.

I lack a copy of my finding as expressed in the Proforma mailed you. Nevertheless, I remember the salient features concerning the thesis. I repeat, I am convinced that your candidate certainly is well qualified by his knowledge of the subject to receive a Doctorate of Philosophy degree, but only after he has drastically revised his thesis. I myself no doubt talk and write an American dialect of English which deserves criticism, but I fear the candidate's English is such that even American editors would hesitate accepting the manuscript in its present form for publication. It should approach the "King's English". My suggestion was to:

1. Delete Unnecessary words and space-wasting paragraphs.
2. Avoid scattering plant descriptions of each taxon. Combine each in a single paragraph following the scientific name with its important synonyms.
3. Cite scientific names following the Recommendations of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature of 1966 and later years.
4. Cite all mentioned works in the Bibliography according to the above Recommendations.
5. Continue historical research. Some citations are preceded by an asterik (*) denoting that the author has not had access to them. There is little excuse for such negligence at a time when xerox copies of the rarest publications can be purchased from one or another leading botanical library in Europe and elsewhere at trivial expense. I, for instance, get some of mine from Washington. If not there, try via a postcard to the librarian in Berlin, Calcutta, Kew, Leiden, NY, Singapore, etc., etc.
6. Note the difference between "Figure" and "Plate".
7. Have a summary of the body of the thesis published at its beginning in two other languages: the Author's and perhaps in Chinese, German or Portuguese.

To repeat, I am convinced the candidate deserves a Ph. D. degree after he has altered and slightly amended the copy of the thesis submitted for my study.

Sincerely,

Dr. Otto Degener
Otto Degener, New York Botanical Garden.



Botanisches Institut
und Botanischer Garten
der Universität Wien

Hunt
Wien, den 10.5.1985

Rennweg 14
A-1030 Wien

/VE

Sehr geehrter Herr Doktor!

Hiermit bestätigen wir dankend den Erhalt Ihrer
Büchersendung.

Mit den besten Grüßen

Dr. Liselotte Niklas





JANE FESSENDEN
LIBRARIAN

Hunt

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

WOODS HOLE • MASSACHUSETTS • 02543 • (617) 548-3705

Mar 15, 1985

Dear Drs. Degener:

Your Botany picture with identification of students was a delightful surprise. We do have the 1924 photograph but very few of the people are named.

This will certainly add to our archival records and we thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Jane Fessenden
Librarian



POMONA COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

THE SEAVER HOUSE
305 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
CLAREMONT, CA 91711
Phone: (714) 621-8110

May 15, 1985

Mr. Don H. Smith
Information Hawaii
P. O. Box 548
Waialua, HI 96791

Dear Mr. Smith:

It is our policy not to disclose information on our alumni without their permission to anyone other than fellow alumni. Therefore, we have forwarded your letter on to her.

Sincerely,

Lee Harlan '55
Director
Alumni Relations

LH:fc



Founding Member of The Claremont Colleges

18 May 1985

Over, Otto,

will indicate, I believe, that
at least two members of the photo taken
at Woods Hole in 1924 will be able to
correspond with one another ---- if they
so wish, although

we'll have to wait on the young
lady with the flapper hair cut -- that
later became the Mamie Eisenhower hairdo.
The Pomona Alumni Office seems to be of
the protective sort, but I'm assuming that
they forwarded my letter to #11 last week.

Until the 25th, *Margaret Carby*
Pomona

enc. (1)

Re: HI Group photo # 454



UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

An Independent University

University Park, Denver, Colorado 80208-0182

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

May 10, 1985

Dear Otto,

I am confident, given the efficiency or lack thereof of our mail system, this note will not reach you in time for your birthday. But in any case, on time or late, Susan and I would like to wish you a Happy Birthday!

I thought the two enclosed snapshots might interest you -- foliage from two different parts of the world. One is obviously bamboo (take in Japanese). I can't read the place name, but the inscription says that the photo was taken in April. The second photo is Vermont in June, oh some six or seven years ago, taken from Killington Mountain, looking south toward Mt. Okemo, near the town of Ludlow. As you can see, it's very humid territory; nice hiking but plenty of insects.

Susan and I, again, wish to congratulate you on eighty-six productive years! Our best wishes to Mrs. D.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond & Susan
Treyer.

560 Kawaiahao Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone
(808) 537-6271

May 10, 1985

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you very much for giving the Society permission to use the pineapple drawing on the cover of The Hawaiian Journal of History. We will send you a copy when it is available next fall.

Thank you also for presenting us autographed copies of your books, TROPICAL PLANTS THE WORLD AROUND, NATURALIST'S SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION: FIJI, FLORA HAWAIIENSIS Books 1-4, and FLORA HAWAIIENSIS Book 6. They will be added to the Library collection and made available to researchers.

We appreciate your offer of copies of your correspondence with botanists, zoologists, and conservationists, but it is a specialized area a bit outside the scope of our collections. I do believe the Bishop Museum Library would be interested as the museum has a botanical collection. The librarian's name is Mrs. Cynthia Timberlake.

Thank you for your interesting letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Barbara E. Dunn".

Barbara E. Dunn
Librarian & Executive Secretary

BD:CKA



Ville de Genève

Bibliothèque du
Conservatoire botanique
de la Ville de Genève

Casse postale 60
CH-1292 Chambésy/GE
(Suisse)

22/19

Drs Otto & Isa DEGENER
P.O. Box 154

VOLCANO, Hawaii 96785 / Etats-Unis

Degenera
68-617 Crozier
Waiialua HI 96791

Genève, le May 7, 1985

Nous vous remercions
vivement de l'envoi
de vos travaux:

We gratefully
acknowledge the
receipt of your
publications:

Herzlichen Dank
für die Ueber-
sendung Ihrer
Veröffentlichungen:

Мы благодарим вас
за присланные
ваших отписок:

- The new ill. flora of the Hawaiian Islands, books 1-4
- Plants of Hawaii National Parks. - Repr. 1975

Veuillez agréer nos
sentiments les
meilleurs

Yours sincerely

Mit den besten
Grüssen

Искренне Ваш

CONSERVATOIRE ET
JARDIN BOTANQUES

Bibliothèque
Case postale 60

CH-1292 CHAMBESY / GE



1843



KONINKLIJKE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR DIERKUNDE VAN ANTWERPEN ☐ SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE ZOOLOGIE D'ANVERS
ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ANTWERP ☐ KÖNIGLICHE ZOOLOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT ZU ANTWERPEN

V.Z.W.

KONINGIN ASTRIDPLEIN 26
B-2018 ANTWERPEN

Mr. and Mrs. Otto & Isa Degener
Mokuleia Bch
Waialua, Oahu,
Hawaii 96791
U.S.A.

Antwerpen, 7th May 1985

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Degener,

We have pleasure to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipts of the publication "Plants of Hawaii National Parks".

Your kindness in providing us with this material, will be greatly appreciated by our scientific personnel.

Thanking you once again for your prompt attention, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

F. Schrevers,
Librarian



Kala Pigeon

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

May 5, 1985.

Hon. Gary Vander Jagt:
National Garden Survey
U.S. Republican Congressional Committee
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Vander Jagt:

My wife & I, both Professors of Botany with Doctorates, attended the International Botanical Congress in Leningrad, U.S.S.R. in 1975. We both are Capitalist landlords by profession (besides botanists) and Capitalist and Republicans by conviction. The quarrels against the Russian Government and its people, we left our careers at home. We were then so surprised to find our fellow passengers in the plane from West Germany to Leningrad, electing 2 pictures of the country and over which we were flying without any objection by the stewardess.

We attended the botanical lectures with other foreign and Russian in Leningrad and thereafter visited Moscow (the University is magnificent), a religious center where peasants and their descendants would be found in some Christian religions, and took an extended botanical excursion to the Caucasus. Incidentally, we collected and prepared Russian plants for later study by anyone in the U.S., so arranged, donating a set to the Smithsonian Institution.

We had perfect freedom to wander about the cities and countryside we visited in perfect safety and without any surveillance by anyone. We lived peacefully in Plovdiv in the Caucasus to concentrate on the flora and a University professor who had published about it. A couple of times we wandered alone into a large, general store, and when the clerks realized from our lack of the language we were Americans, they were immediately friendly and obliging, actually giving us larger quantities than our money warranted. We had just missed the U.S. average Communist store did not belong to them. However, the least I doubt they would have been so kind to most other Nationals.

Unlike many we observe here in the State of Hawaii, youngsters in Russia worked cheerfully and

industrially in road repair, carpentry, etc. In Benic-
grad we even noticed a middle-aged, robust woman
as street cleaner. She was so proud of her section of the
street that she made a detour from the sidewalk to
pick up a wooden match that some smoker had
thrown into the gutter! Large fields were planted to
marijuana (Cannabis) plants, some of which were used
for smoking, but for the making of hemp string.

To be sure, Russia was a Capitalist Nation
under the Tsars, but I guess 95% of the people were
simply serfs at that time. Hence Communism for
them was an improvement. Had they had a chance
for a more Capitalist form of government, I have
no doubt practically all would have embraced it.
I would not blame the Russians for having Com-
munist leaders any more than they blame the right
to blame us for having had a Nixon for President.
They are trapped, as were we years ago!

We felt safe living in Russia when we were there
in 1975. We don't suppose the State of Hawaii now. As
botanists we collect plants for study and illustration
description. A few years ago, apparently, wandering
in our search for specimens too closely to some hidden
illicit marijuana patch in the jungle, both of us were
shot at. Hunters & hikers, according to common news-
paper accounts, simply disappear for ever. Afraid now to
leave an isolated road in our research, we sold our
jeep as useless. About a month ago a man arrived with a briefcase
filled with a near-neighbor's house and refused the wife! What
a situation is that? The average Russian we met casu-
ally in Leningrad, Moscow & the Caucasus in 1975, as the aver-
age American walking our street and going to work? I prefer the
former.

The average Russian, probably not the political leaders, sur-
vived admirably in America in 1975. Then President Carter ex-
actly stopped them with the 1976 Olympic Games
boycott! Today's czar has turned many former KGB & Kees-
sels against us and connected their loyalty to their question-
able rise, from Mahars-like leaders.

20-30 years ago increased armament because of a pos-
sible world war III, but an exchange of 100,000 University students;
average Russians for the U.S. and had packed, dope for Ameri-
cans for Russia.

We have been botanically fraternizing with each other since
1945, in Moscow, Leningrad & Pyatigorsk since 1975 mail-
ing them for their institutions botanical specimens with
more than \$500,000. We hope such civilized American
action will help foster friendship and peace.

How about trying to Russia unofficially to see
conditions there for yourself? Aloha,

Dr. Otto Degener



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

16 April 1985

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

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of "Plants of Hawaii National Parks." It is full of useful information, and I am glad to have a copy.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Pat

PKH:ldm

Patricia K. Holmgren
Director of the Herbarium



The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

April 12, 1985

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
U.S. State Senator
Prince Kuki Federal Office Building
300 Alamoana
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Senator Inouye:

We at the New York Botanical Garden are most disturbed to learn about the current fate of the native ōhi'a forest in Hawaii. This is a unique type of forest yet we find that it is being logged and chipped to produce electrical energy by the Bio Power Corporation, on the Campbell Estate land in Puna.

The ōhi'a forest harbours some of the rarest and most interesting plant and animal species on the Islands. It is a forest that has taken thousands of years to develop to its present state.

As an institution that is deeply involved in the conservation and wise utilization of the tropical forests of the world, we are particularly distressed that such things are happening within the U.S. It is hard to convince the Brazilian government that they should be taking greater care of their tropical forests when such atrocities as the destruction of the ōhi'a forests are still taking place within our own borders. The ōhi'a forest of Puna is the last remaining lowland tropical rainforest without significant disturbance within our Country.

I fully realize the need for sources of electrical energy in Hawaii, but still feel that the use of the ōhi'a forest was not fully thought out. I hope that the energy project can concentrate on the planting of fast growing trees such as eucalyptus elsewhere and that a large portion of the unique native forests and the natural heritage of Hawaii can be saved.

I urge you to use your influence to terminate the logging of this forest.

Sincerely yours,

Ghillean T. Prance
Senior Vice President for Science
Director, Institute of Economic Botany

GTP/rl

c.c. Dr. Dieter Mueller-Dombois - Univ. of Hawaii

Mr. Warren Ramsey, President Bio Power

Dr. Otto Degener, Collaborator in Hawaiian Botany



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI
GOVERNOR

April 11, 1985

Otto Degener, Sc.D.
Isa Degener, Dr. Rer. Nat.
P.O. Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Drs. Degener:

Thank you for "Plants of Hawaii National Parks."
I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing this publication
with me.

With warm personal regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,


George R. Ariyoshi



THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY HERBARIA
HERBARIUM OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM •
FARLOW HERBARIUM • GRAY HERBARIUM
22 DIVINITY AVENUE • CAMBRIDGE • MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • U.S.A.

7 February 1985

Dr. Otto Degener
Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the plants from the
Azores and Hawaii and the notes which we have received from you. The
notes have been placed in the library.

Hope all is well with you and Mrs. Degener. With best
wishes,

Sincerely,

Michael Canoso
Manager, Systematic Collections



ALWAYS USE

John Hancock



U.S. Postage 10¢



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

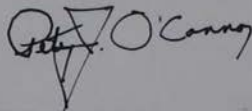
© USPS 1978

Address of Mrs. Ruth
Crawell Smith is:

2040 East Drachman Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Note: Derral Herbst did receive
your package. (It arrived in good
condition.)

Sincerely,

 J. O'Conroy

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

3 Feb. 1985

Sehr geehrter Herr Prof. Lange:

A.A. Heller ist im P. Holmgren, Keuken & Schofield, "Index Herbariorum" angegeben als Sammler von Pflanzen die Sie in Würzburg haben. Ein P. X. Heller ist auch angegeben! Ist dieses der A.A. Heller der beinahe vor 100 Jahren in den Hawaiischen Inseln wunderbar sammelte? Seine gut präparierte Exemplare sind im N.Y. Bot. Garden Herbar! Haben Sie eine Biographie über ihm, oder irgendeine Nachricht? Viel das er sammelte ist schon längst vernichtet worden. Wenn ich & Frau Degener lang genug leben, wollen wir, so wie für Andere, eine Biographie mit "ilt drucken in unserer Fl. Haw. Natürlich schickten wir Ihnen Manches wegen dem Namen A.A. Heller und Zürich.

Unsere endemische Flora wird jetzt sehr, sehr schnell vernichtet - auch Fauna - weil Arbeiter so viel verlangen dass die Ananas & Zucker Plantagen bankrott werden oder die grossen Geschäfte einfach nach Zentralamerika oder zum Orient gehn. Also wollen die "praktischen" Leute hier wenigstens Geld sparen indem die Fabriken jetzt die wenigen Urwälder abholzen um Elektrizität zu machen anstatt teure Kohle oder Öl zu importieren. Die Zukunft ist schrecklich biologisch!!!!

Viele Taxen existieren nur noch als totes Herbarmaterial in Herbaria. Was traurig ist, ist dass in Weltkriegen sogar diese Exemplare verbrannt werden (so wie in Berlin wo meine Frau (née Hansen) Botaniker war). Wir heirateten in 1955 wie ich Hillebrand's Haw., Pflanzen studierte und leben beide in Haw., seitdem. Ich kam erst in 1922 zu der Univ. von Haw., um ein M.Sc. zu bekommen in 1923. Was wird in WK III, etc., passieren? Vielleicht wenn wir Haw., Pflanzen Exemplare verbreiten in Museen der Welt, (wir tun zu 100), wird etwas weiter existieren um Botanikern der Zukunft zu zeigen was im Paradies Hawaii war voran wir Affenverwandte es zerstören/.

Wie Sie eben gelesen haben, spreche ich "Patois" so wie "Die Kuh ist über die Fenze gejump't und hat den Cabbage gedamaged."

P.S. Unsere Fenster schütteln eben weil Kilauea wieder spuckt 13 Meilen entfernt. Der Lava ist sehr flüssig und darum ~~und darum~~ haben wir beinahe nie eine gefährliche Explosion. ABER dieses ist noch ein guter Grund unsere Dubletten zu zerstreuen.



National Museums
of Canada

National Museum
of Natural Sciences

Musées nationaux
du Canada

Musée national
des sciences naturelles

23 January 1985

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener
Box 154
Volcano, Hawaii

Dear Drs. Degener:

The specimen of Brexia madagascarensis arrived safely and we very much appreciate this gift from our friends in Hawaii.

We also enjoyed reading about your exploits and we wish you many more years of fruitful study of the flora of Hawaii.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George Argus
Curator of Vascular Plants