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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

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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.

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

Dear Sirs:

Many thanks for your informational letter.

I need about 1,000 copies of the enclosed book. Please:

1. Quote me your price.
2. About how long would it take to complete the job?
3. Can I pick up the job from the Hilo or Honolulu wharf in my own VW minibus? I believe shipping by mail from Taiwan would be prohibitive, especially after March 22.
4. Would change of color of cover to lava red cost more?

I have another problem that, however, can wait until the present book of 316 pages is about sold out. The present book is satisfactory for the tourist trade chiefly at Volcano and Haleakala. The price must remain low to attract such transient customers. In fact, I have been selling copies for years wholesale at $3.00 each, and only this year upped the price to $4.00

Mrs. Degener & I completed another edition in ms., of about 500 pages, adapted for tourists and more serious botanical readers. We are always our own publishers. Can you replace the last 100 or so pages of the old book with the revised pages of the ms.? Then after such partially revised lot has been sold, we should add our new ms., to the middle part of the present book. Finally to get our "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" entirely revised, can you replace the beginning with our new ms., pages?

This "rebirth" of an entirely new edition, we believe, might take two years to accomplish; and it would spread the cost.

Incidentally, Mrs. Degener & I are this careful with expenses as we plan to attend the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney this summer. They advertise some fascinating conducted tours that are of course expensive especially with our debased US dollars.

Aloha,

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

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Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

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Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

T. H., 19

Old bill. Had carnegie Hunt or Mellon W., bought Books, they now complete copy of the 4 works, or have a

TO **OTTO DEGENER,** DR.
WAIALUA, OAHU, T. H.
2220 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
HONOLULU, T. H.

Degener's **"Plants of Hawaii National Park with Descriptions of Ancient Hawaiian Customs and an Introduction to the Geologic History of the Islands".** 328 pages profusely illustrated with 96 full-page plates (1 in color) and 44 other illustrations. Not a flora but a non-technical book emphasizing the culture of the ancient Hawaiians as exemplified by their usage of certain plants.

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A reminder!

Volcano, Hawaii. June 15, 1983. 130

Though unusually healthy for our ages (I am 84), Mrs. Degener & I judge it prudent to entrust our cases of accumulated herbarium specimens. Such identified ones have been studied with care often with aid of museums available to us in New York, Honolulu, Berlin and a few other institution libraries. Other material, even if we guess we know the name, we are now never distributing often unidentified as we lack the time, and the needed literature both in our Mokuleia Beach winter home on Oahu and our Volcano Village summer one on Hawaii, Moro-graphers eventually should get order out of present chaos. Watch for botanical papers regarding Hawaii, Archipelago Polynesia, and hope the authors have cited collectors and collection dates on herbarium sheets. Dates, ignored by many modern authors, fail to inform us when a locality has not yet been exterminated by mouflon and other destructive beasts.

Our most important task is to get our set of present duplicates, of which we are still members. Thus duplicates and other material are distributed among over 60 leading World herbaria with the conviction that if World War III, IV etc should destroy some, World centers in some crazy dictator inaugurated holocaust, some degener collections will survive somewhere for wiser minds to admire and study. Many taxa we have already distributed are on the verge of extinction due to domesticated & feral herbivores; Humans, to admire and study. Many taxa we have already distributed are on the verge of extinction due to domesticated & feral herbivores; personally and accidentally introduced weed bushes, herbs, weed trees like Psidium, Lantana, Acacia, Eucalypta; exotic insects; and fungus and viral diseases. The bulldozer is to help either when used to bulldoze out, for example, endemic, fascinating night blooming Capparis to replace it with exotic Bougainvillea to "beautify" our visitor hotel grounds!

Of all the professional botanists about whom we know, only one individual armed with a razor blade, filched specimen pages (some of O. Deg., collecting) from herbarium sheets and actually chopping down the magnificent, flag pole-like type specimen of an endangered lobelioid for laboratory study. Amoral musicians and artists, for instance, we must occasionally be sparse of genius to be accompanied with a spark of insanity. Black individuals may arise among European mouflon as well as among Western American bighorn sheep and must not be confused with the prevalent same color white ones that further the science of Botany by judicious collecting to enrich museums for the benefit of future Botanizing. Remember to collect, collect, collect before it is too late! In the case of unique trees, true determinations of Treasures, like Hibiscadelphus gildedardianus of O. Deg. Rock, we gather as the years fallen leaves & flowers, not living ones, for museums of the World, and scattered available seeds in the neighborhood.

Should our unidentified taxa be a nuisance in your herbarium, please do not discard them; but mail them to another institution as gifts or exchanges.

By the way, have you our Loraperback and our "Books"?

1. "Plants of Haw. Nat Parks" — — — — — — — — — — $5.00
2. Flora Haw. (2 vols "Books") 1-4 in a single paper World War II emergency cover, & on poor paper; 1192 illustrated pages — — — — $22.50
3. Flora Haw. "Book" 5 — — — (Calabash sheets printed by unavailable)
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Each sheet (edition is 1,500 copies) of the Flora is usually a separate publication with date of publication (not of printing) and author of authors recorded on first page. The above issues are "Books", and not volumes. "Books" are merely for convenience of handling & sale. Sheets, being loose leaf, their plates can be shown easily on the screen to illustrate lectures. Remove all screws, and rebuild all sheets according to printed instructions to facilitate using the Flora conveniently.

We, two degeners, having lived among the Haw. Flora and having collected & studied it a total of about 90 years without much teaching interruption, are amazed how little we, our late predecessors and our contemporaries actually know or know about it. A loose leaf Flora, prepared so that obsolete sheets can be replaced by more modern ones from time to time, avoids the disadvantage of typically bound books which cannot keep up with the advances of modern collecting and research.

O. & I. Degener

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Wednesday

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

Dear Mr. Degener:

I am deeply grateful to you for your confidence in me and for your support of my re-election as your President.

With your vote, you have helped put our nation on the threshold of what can become the greatest period of economic growth, opportunity and peace in our history.

But if I am to carry out fully the mandate you gave me I will need God's blessing and your continued personal support.

In the coming months we must launch the legislative programs which will chart our nation's direction for the remainder of this decade and beyond.

Just as you participated in making my election victory possible, I want to ask you now to join me in an unprecedented partnership in setting our national agenda.

At my request, the Republican Congressional Committee has prepared for you the National Agenda Survey--The Second Reagan Administration.

This Survey covers some of the most pressing and important issues facing you and our nation.

Your answers will enable my Administration to have the benefit of your opinions as I prepare my legislative programs for Congress. So please return your completed Survey to the Committee today.

Once I submit my legislative proposals to Congress, we will still face one major obstacle.

Despite the mandate I received and the re-election of our Republican majority in the Senate, the liberal Democrats managed to hold on to their majority in the House.

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Although I am sure the Democratic leaders share our concerns for America, most of them support the liberal big government programs that would dramatically raise your taxes and oppose my programs of peace through strength.

As long as our Republicans are outnumbered in the House it will be very difficult to win approval of our programs and carry out the mandate the American people gave me.

That's why I consider protecting the gains we just made and winning a working majority in the House in the next election to be our Party's number one priority.

I believe the key to electing this majority is to launch immediately the Committee's comprehensive 1985 GOP Victory Plan.

Committee Chairman Congressman Guy Vander Jagt informs me that unless they raise a total of $3.1 million, our entire campaign plan to win such a majority is jeopardized. This would be a disaster for our Party and our nation.

I hope, at this crucial time, you will make a $15, $25, $50 or even $100 contribution to the Committee and become a Sponsor of our 1985 GOP Victory Fund.

President Eisenhower was the only Republican President in the last fifty years to have a Republican Congress even for a short time.

Unlike the Democrats who have held this office, every other Republican President has been forced to seriously compromise his plans and programs because of a hostile Democratic majority in Congress.

Throughout my campaign, I pledged to protect your tax cut, accelerate the growth of economic opportunities, cut wasteful spending and fully restore our national defenses to assure security for us and our children.

The American people overwhelmingly endorsed our plans when they cast their votes last November.

But it will be extremely difficult to carry out these programs fully unless you will help me protect and build on the gains we've made in Congress.

Unless the Committee can count on your most generous contribution now, they simply will not have the funds they urgently need to put these plans into action.

The GOP Victory Plan carefully blends direct cash contributions, candidate TV advertising, special news releases exposing Democrats' liberal voting records, issue

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research and up-to-date voter survey information into one hard-hitting campaign program for our candidates.

Using a very similar plan before the 1984 congressional election played the key role in electing a total of 33 Republicans and picking up 16 seats in the House.

Many of our candidates would never have won their close races without the expert help of the Committee. I am convinced that if we start right now we can win a major victory in 1986.

The Committee urgently needs $680,000 for candidate recruitment; $800,500 for campaign schools for candidates and managers; $780,500 for issue and voter research and $839,000 set aside in a special fund reserved for our candidates to launch their campaigns early.

That means the Committee must raise a total of $3.1 million in less than 30 days. Your contribution today of $15, $25, $50 or even $100 will enable the Committee to launch the first critical phase of the Plan.

If the Committee fails to raise our full GOP Victory Fund, we could lose to the liberal special interests our best chance in years to have a working majority party in the U.S. House.

By becoming a Sponsor of the Fund today you will also be helping me carry out our legislative agenda in another very important way.

With your financial support the Committee will be able to publicize the voting records of those Democrats who won re-election by promising to support my policies.

Not only will this make it more difficult for the liberal Democrats to vote against those programs which you elected me to carry out but it will help pave the way for their defeat if they fail to carry out their promises. We have to keep the pressure on if we are to reach our 1986 goal.

In just four short years we have made a good beginning towards undoing the damage done by 40 years of non-stop liberal policies.

Today, there is renewed energy and optimism throughout our land. America is back, standing tall, looking to the rest of the eighties with courage, confidence and hope.

We're seeing a rededication to our bedrock values of faith, family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom. These are the values that help bring us together as one people, from the youngest child to our most senior citizen.

Paid for by the National Republican Congressional Committee

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But there is still much to do and the going won't be easy. As they demonstrated during my first term, the Democrats are determined to do everything in their power to stop my programs.

I need your help once again. By casting your vote on November 6, 1984 you took the first critical step to enable us to complete our vision for the nation's future.

By answering your Survey and by contributing to the GOP Victory Fund you can take the second important step to help me fulfill the mandate you gave me.

If you will join me in this unique partnership I am confident we can turn our nation fully away from the failed liberal policies of the past, reaffirm our values and set a course towards new opportunity and hope for our people and the rest of the world.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan

Paid for by the National Republican Congressional Committee

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(1) Collins, J.B., The Pineapple. 1-294.1960. Ananas comosus (L.)Merr., cultivated by Indians before discovery of America by Columbus and nonexistent in wild state. "There ((p. 21)) are at present no reliable records indicating that pine apples were in Hawaii previous to Cook's discovery of the Islands in 1778." Columbus discovered the pineapple plant on Monday, Nov. 4, 1493 on Guadeloupe, one of the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies. All species of Ananas have 2N 50 chromosomes. Because pineapple species in the wild seem pollinated largely hummingbirds, legal restrictions were imposed upon the introduction of hummingbirds into Hawaii - their feeding might perhaps cause crop to bear seeds. To stimulate flowering and subsequent early fruiting, pineapple plants can be subjected to smoke, dur to unsaturated hydrocarbon gases. Granular calcium-carvide sprinkled in leaf axils will also stimulate fruiting, as the resulting gas gradually evaporate to be absorbed by plant.

Key to species of Ananas:

1. Syncarp well over 15 cm. long at maturity, with copious palatable flesh; scape stout and usually short:
   2. Leaf spines all ascending; floral bracts colored at maturity; petals bearing scales - - - - - A. bracteatus
   2. Leaf spines recurved towards base; floral bracts pale green at maturity; petals bearing vertical folds - - - A.fritzmuelleri
   2. Floral bracts relatively inconspicuous and soon exposing the tops of the ovaries, weakly serulate or entire; seeds lacking or very rare - - A. comosus
1. Sincarp 15 cm. long or usually much shorter, with scant, unpalatable flesh at maturity; scape elongate, slender:
   2. Leaves stiffly erect, entire except for a long terminal spine, 35 mm. wide - - - - - - A.erectifolius
   2. Leaves recurving, serrate, not over 25 mm. wide - - A. ananassoides

Kent, Harold W., Charles Reed Bishop. 34. 1965. The King Street home for a quarter century was the hospitality center of the Kingdom. William T. Brigham and Horace Mann disembarked from the barkentine Smyrniote one day in the spring of 1864, and Brigham later described his pleasure with the friendly greeting that Mann and he had enjoyed: 'Mrs. Bishop explained the many new and native dishes as I sat by her side, while the little hahilis waved over our heads. This proved the first of many delightful entertainments in Haleakala, at the Waikiki home, and on picnics, from the Bishop hospitality. - - - -' Many years later in thinking of a director for his new museum, Bishop looked back to that 1864 visit of the two men and remembered his fine impressions of William T. Brigham and invited him to accept the position. Page 186 In Thrum's Annual for 1916, William Tufts Brigham, the Director of the Bishop Museum, reviewed the circumstances and events of his firts months in Honolulu when he returned for the second i time in 1888. ((Actually, his second time was 1880)). In the article he mentioned his initial reluctance to assist with the Museum development: 'I had, before I came to reside in these islands in 1888, some correspondence with Judge S.B. Dole and Dr. C.M. Hyde concerning this Museum, but when I found it was to be simply a mortuary chapel, as it were, of relics, I lost all interest in it, and devoted myself on my arrival at Mr. Bishop's request to collecting material and making photographs for a History of Hawaii, and for two years with Mr. Acland Wensey, I scoured the group for facts and views, then finding that my old friend, Dr. W.D. Alexander was already engaged in writing such a history, I gave up the plan - - - I decided to continue the practice of law - - - Mr. Bishop - - - asked me to arrange the collection in the finished building (Museum) This I agreed to do - - -' On December 12, 1868, Bishop wrote to him and made overtures towards a Museum connection, although it was secondary to the idea of preparation of a manuscript on Hawaiian history: 'I would like to have you undertake the writing of a comprehensive, authentic and finish

N.B. For Brigham biography

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(2)

ed History of Hawaii and also to assist me with my museum, though how much there will be to do with the latter is uncertain now. You could at least assist me with advice about collecting and arrangement of interior of buildings and contents; and I might want you to help me actively in these matters. - - - I do not feel like pledging to you four thousand dollars per annum for two years, but I will promise $3000 for one year, and at the same rate for any part of another year that your work may require with the understanding that during the whole time you will give me such advice and assistance about my museum as you can without interfering too much with your history work.' Thus did the dream begin to achieve reality. It was inevitable that he would turn to Brigham as he thought of establishing a museum. He was impressed with Brigham's whole scientific approach, his apparent practical and matter-of-fact personal qualities, and his unusual fund of general knowledge. Bishop's first impressions were gained from the round of initial visits that Brigham made at the Bishops' home on King Street in the company of Horace Mann, son of the distinguished educator, in 1864. Harvard University had requested the two men to explore the islands in the interests of botany and geology. They travelled throughout the islands from May 4, 1864, to May 18, 1865. In 1880, Brigham interrupted his New England legal career with a quick trip to Hawaii to make a special study of an expected eruption of Mauna Loa. He visited with the Bishops on that trip. The history of Hawaii was worked at, but it never became anything more than a subject for annoyed comment by Bishop. A few years later, on August 30, 1894, he wrote to Carter: 'No wonder that you are surprised at my assisting him to become a historian of Hawaii! Before doing so I consulted Mr. Dole who knew him intimately, and spoke about his extravagant speeches ~~etc.~~ etc. - - - I forget whether I consulted Mr. Alexander or not, but I requested Mr. Brigham to submit to Messrs. Dole and Alexander whatever he might write before publishing, and he made an objection to that. To admit that I made poor use of my money and effort does not help anything now.' - - - P. 189: On November 5, 1894, it was suggested the dedication ((Polynesian Hall)) be set for December 19, and that it be a joint Kamehameha Schools-Museum program. Brigham objected strenuously and promised he would not attend. He went off to Australia to collect specimens and left a helper, Kealoha, in charge. But the dedication went off smoothly enough- - - . P. 192: William T. Brigham had worked very diligently on manuscripts relating to Hawaiian history and geography and had offered considerable advice to Bishop while the Museum was building. Shortly after the opening of the Museum, Brigham wrote, August 6, 1890, requesting appointment as curator, effective February 17, 1891, for two years at an annual salary of $2500. He outlined his suggestions very carefully and very fully. By way of reply, on August 18, 1890, Bishop stated: '- - - -I have concluded to give you that appointment - - -.' This was to signalize the initiation of a stormy relationship. He was called upon again and again to hold Brigham in his position. There was a real forecast of trial and tribulation in a letter he directed to Brigham, October 14, 1890. Brigham was not appointed curator officially as yet. He was, however, constantly hovering about not to say almost haunting the Museum. 'Your letter of the 13th inst, was rec'd this morning, and although I do not think its tone and tenor are altogether what they should be, I shall reply to it without unnecessary reference to the past. --- - I appreciate your talents and knowledge - - - it will be vain for me to aid you, unless you control your speech, more than you have done - - - In this small community you know that reported imprudent talk spreads quickly, and may become very damaging. In intimating that you are imprudent in speech, and I might add hasty with your pen, I am not judging you from my own experience alone, but upon that of other friends also, who may not be so frank with you as I have been, lest you should take offense.' P. 201: Upon assuming the trusteeship ((Museum)) ((Sanford B.)) Dole became involved in the Brigham debate; but he seems to have been the only one of the Trustees, after Hyde's death, who could

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(3) maintain an 'even keel' relationship with Brigham. Partly in frustration and partly in bluff, Brigham had resigned; and on July 9, 1897, his resignation was accepted. Acland Wensey was installed as curator while a search was instituted for a replacement. There was a serious question as to whether a reconciliation between the Trustees and Brigham could be accomplished. - - - Basically, the problem besetting Brigham lay deep within his own emotional nature. In this 'crisis" of late 1897, he wrote in a mood of swift anger to Bishop that he had already 'destroyed large baskets full of photography and letters,' and said when he left Honolulu he would 'Destroy everything I have relating to the Hawaiian Islands.' Page 202: My feeling((Bishop)) about Mr. Brigham is, that in order to get on with him peaceably and get the best service he is capable of, it is necessary to make large allowances for his peculiarities, and not to be easily offended with him- - -. There are great artists in various lines, professors, poets, doctors, etc., who are so different from the man of ordinary common sense. Mr. Brigham seems to be that kind of man. - - - After all that I have written on this matter I wish to add that I shall be much pleased if the trustees of the Museum will accept Mr. Brigham's letter to Mr. Dole as a basis of reconciliation and a step toward an engagement as director - - -.' After much verbal skirmishing, and with the strong recommendation of Bishop, Brigham was reinstated, effective January 1, 1898, with the title of Director and on condition that he would not conduct any visitor about the Museum without the express approval of the Trustees. A little later, October, 1901, Brigham was in trouble again. Page 203: It was not that Brigham did not like people, although he was prejudiced against the Hawaiian boys at Kamehameha (and admitted it); but rather that he loved to work, arranging exhibits, identifying specimens, doing a dozen kinds of research in preparation for writing, and did not relish interruptions. His caustic tongue, however, embroiled him with almost everyone with whom he came in contact/ He criticized the Kamehameha students and apologized for his remarks. A Catholic bishop demanded that the Trustees remove him for remarks about Father Damien, attributed to him by museum visitors. He tried his level best to hold the visitor days at the Museum to one or two a week and for limited hours. Foreign boat days were important opportunities for passengers to visit the Museum, and even these visitors were ignored or barred. Frequently, when a ship entered Honolulu harbor a "closed" sign appeared on the outside entrance of the Museum. This evoked a comment from Bishop in a letter to J.O. Carter, June 25, 1898; "It should not be difficult or inconvenient for respectable passengers in steamers calling at Honolulu to see the Museum. - Many have been disappointed." In many ways, the story of the Museum is the story of Brigham. He was a superior organizer; he was a driver, and his contribution was magnificent in terms of the birth, the growth, the organization of materials, the acquisition of collections, and the program of publications. - - - Brigham ranted and roared his determined way, first as curator and then as Director, for about thirty years, retiring in 1920. After his visit in Hawaii with Horace Mann, in 1864, he had returned to Massachusetts, passed the bar examination and for the next twenty years practiced law and taught school. He taught botany for one year at Harvard and then embarked on a botanizing expedition to Australia.

Next Director Herbert E. Gregory, a discarded tyrant from Yale, conspired with the new Pres. David L. Crawford of the University of Hawaii to dismiss Botany Instructor Otto Degener from the University in 1927 as potential museum botany competitor. Disillusioned with enough Territorial locals to develop chronic tachycardia, O.D., became the first Naturalist of Haw. National Park in 1929 under the more responsible Federal Government. His "Flora Hawaiiensis" was to be his doctoral thesis under Columbia University affiliated with the N.Y. Bot. Garden. All study requirements were met in two years' N.Y. City stay. Though resident of Hawaii Nei since 1922, his contacts have become increasingly centered at N.Y., and with collaborator Dr. Isa Degener, generally cosmopolitan as locations of Degeners' herbarium specimens shows. To publish a local Flora DON'T forget to "botanize" for recently extinct taxa preserved in up to 150 herbaria of the World besides those of NYBG., BM., & Univ. of Mass. O.D. L985

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

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13

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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Permission is hereby granted Drs. Otto + Isa Degener to collect botanical specimens from the gov't lands within the Hawaii Island area outside of State Watershed F.R. until Dec 31, 1977

Provided, that the provisions of Chapter 19, R. L. H. 1955, and any other laws applicable thereto, and all rules and regulations of the Department of Land and Natural Resources pertaining to forestry shall be strictly observed.

State Forester

Jan 4 19 77 By Robert K. Lowell
Issuing Officer

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Braun-Brumfield, Inc.
ANN ARBOR / MICHIGAN

JS 20 416000
PAGE 1

IMPOSED NEGATIVE FLAT PROGRAM

10/31/85

DEGENER, OTTO & ISA DRS.

P.O. BOX 154
VOLCANO HI 96791

BRAUN-BRUMFIELD, INC.
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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 DEC 31ST 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		8/29/84
						ACTIVE ORDERS	1**
						TOTAL ORDERS	1**

Same information as before — I still have several thousand Hawaii Hand-colored copies remaining. When sold out, I'd like to reprint this edition slanted for tourists ~~are~~ visiting Hawaii National Parks. Many tourists are non-English readers!

Dr. Otto Degener

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

1928

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HONOLULU HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

2220 Vancouver Highway,
Honolulu, T.H.

Jan. 8, 1928

Dear Dr. Barney:

I did not know that a perfectly harmless individual like me could make so many enemies by merely minding my own business, trying to teach to the best of my ability, and trying to plug on in research whenever spare time permitted it. Apparently, for my vocational hours, I should have taught [illegible] my pay and finally my pension and thus avoided Dr. Bergman's wrath. For my avocation I should have attended pink teas and movies instead of plugging on with describing plants so as to be no rival of the Bishop Museum.

As you may remember, last year Pres. Crawford told me that for this reason, next he wanted to change Freshman Botany from a year's course to a one semester course, and that this course should be made very agricultural. I was not fitted for that and should give Systematics and do research. This seems merely to have been an excuse to shift me into part-time museum work as there is absolutely no change in Freshman Botany this year - it runs two semesters.

Inasmuch this is the time for settling appointments for next year's teaching, I write Pres. Crawford Saturday that if he required another man to teach Botany, I would be able to do so but that I was in no hurry but would gladly wait until the reorganization of the Bot. Dept. I wrote this because Crawford had told me previously that he was going to make Bergman head of the Federal Experiment Station as soon as it became affiliated with the University. Then I also wrote that if he really planned to have me teach at the University after its connection with an experiment station, it might be advisable to tell me now what courses I should give at that time so that I might begin amassing laboratory material for it. I also mentioned the fact that the Freshman Course I had been teaching was so popular that it had appeared in book form. I cited the institutions where it had been taught and enclosed your two books and "Potter's own" two books for his inspection.

Crawford's answer, received yesterday, clears up the entire mystery: "If we are successful in obtaining some additional federal funds it is quite possible that we may employ a botanical taxonomist on a part time basis, sharing his services with the Bishop Museum. Probably the major part of his services would be at the Museum and he would have a limited teaching schedule at the University as a side issue. From what I know of the situation, however, I think you would probably not be interested in this and I am not sure how the Director of the Bishop Museum would view your appointment."

The Director of the Museum, Dr. Gregory, actually is not connected with the University yet seems to be able to influence Crawford. I believe some of the regents are connected with the Museum and this is no doubt why Gregory can dictate terms. The entire mess resolves itself down to this:

1. You give up trying to write an independent Flora or we will starve you into it by withholding your position, or,
2. You donate your herbarium to the Museum and write the Flora under Gregory's direction and we will reward you with a teaching position.

Kent Lange kindly sent Hunt Library, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

I am not going to give in to grandiose banditry. I have decided to starve, collect, and plug for the rest of my life on systematics. Things might change anyway, especially if I can amass a valuable herbarium which they desire. Maybe I can accomplish just as much this way (and maybe not).

Gregory drove young enthusiastic C.N.Forbes, his first botanist into a brainstorm from which he died by forcing him to publish when he had nothing to publish and by making him be his amanuensis. Then he got Rock to work for him on half time with the University and finally fought with him. Thereafter he got the legislature to pass a bill that the University Herbarium should be deposited at the Bishop Museum. The herbarium, made up chiefly of Rock's plants were then taken to the Museum and whenever Rock wanted to study his own collection, he was forced to go to the museum where Gregory stationed a guard over him so that he might not "steal" specimens out of the Museum. Rock finally resigned from the University (or was starved the way they are trying to starve me) and became a collector in Thibet for the Arnold Arboretum. Rock's herbarium is now practically destroyed by insects due to neglect.

I am told that I should not work on the hornits as I am a botanist and not a zoologist. More Gregoryisms no doubt. Sheriff of Chicago, whom I am helping somewhat with the Hawaiian Silkens species and who by the way will publish his results in the Bot. Gaz. shortly, wrote me: "By the way I hate that a Doctor Forrest Brown, who I suppose is still at Bishop Museum, has for some strange reason blocked all attempts for the past five years to obtain further specimens from Bishop Museum for study. Consequently, I fear that my conspectus of Pacific species will be incomplete of certain parts, - especially as concerns the Marquis Islands. Dr. Brown let me understand that he collected material in the Marquis Islands, but he has refused steadfastly to loan it."

You can see that it is no use for me trying to do anything with the Museum. So am I going to give in to starvation tactics by Crawford, I will work on my flora as best I can, and instead of leading a hundred or so Freshmen ahead by my teaching each year, will pick up promising and decent fellows who otherwise would not go to college and give them a chance to do so. It is interesting to watch results and worthwhile. In 30 years I can probably develop fifteen decent college graduates.

My family has gone. Mrs. Wiebke graduated from Normal School and received a position to teach on Molokai at $105 per month. She could not take her babies and so Henry has moved with them to his sister-in-law's house where she is helping him with their care while attends college. I have asked him to eat lunch with me on college days which saves him money, costs me practically nothing, and saves me from complete isolation. I think everything will go well with him. His "guardian" Mr. Givens, who is at present Supt. of Educ. at Oakland is going to be Supt. of Berkeley next year. Henry will be able to live with him and thus partly earn his way through Stanford while his wife earns money for herself and children by teaching. She probably will be able to send him $40 per month for his college expenses. This arrangement relieves me of anxiety as Mr. Givens will have a strong influence over him, especially during his spells of homesickness when his Hawaiian nature may weaken him for relaxation among rowdies. Remember his uncivilized phylogeny and his uncivilized gangster ontogeny. By the time he graduates, he will have grown up into a completely civilized physician.

My Chinese Haleakala guide is scrimping about attending college due to our arguments. He will come Monday and take Henry's place. As he is over 21, he

Otto Degener

Missing third page probably at N.Y. or Harv. Archives

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THE ASA GRAY BULLETIN, NEW SERIES.--An irregularly published journal of which four numbers constitute a volume, devoted to more or less informal communication among the members of the three organizations listed below and our subscribers in general. Progress reports of current field, garden, and herbarium work, with readable and relatively non-technical articles in the fields related to systematics, botanical history, biography, and bibliography, will be preferred. There will be special emphasis upon preparatory work for a new "Flora of Michigan". Free use will be made of letters to the Editors (if released for publication by their writers) and of current news notes regarding botanists.

Items for publication should be addressed to either of the Editors at the Department of Botany, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Contributors of major articles may secure 100 copies of their contributions, at a cost of $1.25 per page or fraction thereof. Covers furnished without additional charge.

Address subscriptions to Miss Hazel Bartlett, 1601 Brooklyn Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan. Subscription price for Voume I (if available) is $6.00; single copies of Nos. 2, 3, and 4, $1.00 each. Vols. II and III, $3.00 each; single copies (if not breaking volumes) 75¢ each.

THE GRAY MEMORIAL BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION, FOUNDED 1887.--This organization sponsored publication of early volumes of the Asa Gray Bulletin. Later it issued a mimeographed "Bulletin". Its object is to commemorate the life and botanical work of Asa Gray and to assist its members in botanical activity by furthering friendly correspondence and cooperation among them. Interested persons are invited to communicate with the Permanent Secretary, Professor R. Lee Walp, Department of Biology, Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio.

MICHIGAN BOTANICAL GARDENS ASSOCIATION.--Founded in 1925 to include persons interested in promoting the development and current activities of the Botanical Gardens of the University of Michigan. There are no dues, but subscription to the Asa Gray Bulletin is invited. For further information, communicate with Dr. Frieda Cobb Blanchard, Secretary, 2014 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MICHIGAN BOTANICAL CLUB.--The membership is about 283, made up of persons interested in the Michigan flora, nature-study, wild-flower protection, preservation of natural areas, and conservation. It has members at large and the following chapters: Southeastern, Bay County, Marquette, Wild-Life (Houghton). For information address Mr. Paul W. Thompson, 17503 Kirkshire, Birmingham, Michigan, or Mrs. Robert Frehse, 506 W. Maplehurst St., Ferndale, Michigan.

N.S. Vol. III Spring, 1957 No. 2

Edited and published for

THE GRAY MEMORIAL BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION,

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and
THE MICHIGAN BOTANICAL CLUB
by
Harley H. Bartlett and Rogers McVaugh

C O N T E N T S

WILLHELM HILLEBRAND, 1821-1886

by

Otto Degener

Author's Separate

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

[Hardly Botany; must read p. 5 f.]

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

6/22/71

Monday Morning
June 28, 1971

Dear Otto and Isa -

It is always a delight to read your letters - But apparently something else to know of your Whereabouts - since you seem to enjoy travel and the pleasure of two Lovers

Regarding forwarding your letter to Aunt Helen - my family and especially Carmie decided it was Wiser to refrain from telling Aunt Helen about Armin's Wife - Carmie had received a news clipping of her death from a friend living in California. So was aware of it - before I Received your letter - I would have no idea how Aunt Helen would feel about such news - I for never known her

Armin was divorced. Helen's sister Carmelita

C. D. 1936

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to mention Armin's name - either as her former husband or as Glenn's father - I do remember him as tall and generally handsome - They both stopped off in Chicago to see Glenn's shortly after their marriage - and that was the only time I ever saw Armine - As you probably know Carrie died here for two years ago while she lived with Aunt Helen - So has always spoke kindly of him. you probably never heard of Jack's tragic death - If you should ask me how I felt - I can only say - I never harbored - any bitterness or ill will toward Jack. And was truly happy when he re-married - I seldom saw him after his re-marriage - his wife Hildegard seemed very attractive and was exceptionally talented - They

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had only lived in a beautifully newly built home - When unfortunately Hildegard's Mother 89 yrs of age - stabbed him with a kitchen knife - No one knew where she had the strength to do it. But as she was truly Mentally ill - loved have been resentful of Jack because he refused to have her live with them - She lived in a Catholic home for elderly people - and that day Hildegard had brought her to their home - from what I heard - Jack was not expected home for lunch - and Hildegard gave her the knife to cut up some meats - and had left the room - What caused the trouble between Jack and her Mother no one will ever know - My family heard the noises on the T.V - So as you can guess - it was truly a horrible experience - The Mother was definitely found Mentally

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senile and ill – It was very quietly handled by a Judge a friend of my Children – Who knew both of Pearl – Her Mother is in a Kalamazoo hospital – a State institution – Must be about 93 years old – Doesn't know Hildegard Who left Grand Rapids and my daughter – Mary Carmelita looks after her interest – We were all so happy that Jack's Mother wasn't still living – I think that would have about killed her – She more than had her share of sorrow – Judge Guernsey drowned at 47yrs – Bill – her youngest son killed out in Los Angeles – in his early 30 tries – Tom – close to 50 – died most unexpectedly of a heart attack. Mrs Guernsey – whom we all called "Gummy" died in 1960 – age 89yrs – So now Carmelita is the only one left – and Aunt Helen – This I hope is not too dreary news –

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but You have been so sincerely frank about your family feelings — I thought You would be interested in knowing about My family — To be more cheerful. While with Aunt Helen last summer I never failed to marvel not only at Aunt Helen — but her magnificent Collection of gorgeous Antiques — You and Pa should plan to make her a visit — I haven't heard from her — but Diana keeps me informed — as they frequently invite her for a Sunday and Sadie drives over and Packs her up. I'm interested in a Cabinet she has in her living room. If I remember Correctly — It belonged to your Grand-father — Who owned an estate and Castle in (Braunswatt, Germany)? at least some where near the Austrian border — They were with Maximilian and Charlotte when he was supposed

Braunschweig
Is recall Brunswick
Hatzfeld Es-
tate & castle
near Lyck P.

to be Emperor of Mexico - That Cabinet was built them in Mexico and again returned to Germany - It is a "China Ornament Cabinet" of the Biedermeyer Period - I had recently read a book about Maximilian's reign in Mexico - Since he had been executed in 1867 - I am sure the Steiner "Cabinet" must be of quite an age - He story about it fascinated me - I think Aunt Helen also has a dresser of the same furniture. I am enclosing a snap-shot taken at Diana about two summer's ago - left to rt. Monica (now 14 yrs) - Diana - Aunt Helen - and a couple - friends of Roger + Diana - I think they reside in Essen - Germany - I've met them - first in Herrenalb, when they visited Roger + Diana - All I can think of - is urging you to - Please visit Aunt Helen.

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You must be bored reading all this news - I forwarded your table-leaf to Sharon Suzanne - Sharon - does quite a bit of flying - and recently moved to this address -
(5801 Ernie Ave - Ewa Beach - Hawaii)
I do hope they call on you - I am sure you will hear from them - they have a car - so no doubt can conveniently look you up -

I so appreciate your writing to me - I regret not being able to read your last letter to Aunt Helen - I cannot understand her not writing to you - But I know how dearly she holds you in her heart. I do hope you feel much better - And you both keep in good health.

I assure you of my affection.

Grace

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Some of King Maximilian of Mexico's now antiquated furniture in O.D's., boyhood home at 316 West 89th Street, New York City is material evidence that some of his ancestors or cousins were "mixed up" with this executed Monarch. See Degner Genealogy in H. Haw., "Book 7".

2/15/66. O.D. 1986

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

May 3, 1966

$2.00

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

Dear Dr. Degener: Re: G-2216

Since Dr. Hodge is out of the country until early June, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 28 and the four sets of sheets for Book 7 of the FLORA HAWAIIENSIS.

I am sure Dr. Hodge will be interested in having your letter and will also appreciate your concern for his welfare.

Sincerely,

J Frances Allen

J Frances Allen
Associate Program Director
for Systematic Biology

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

2/14/61

Honolulu Febr. 14/61

Dear N. Degener

On my return to Honolulu on the 9th from a trip around the world I found your various reprints of the Flora Hawaiiensis for which I thank you.

While in Vienna I called on Prof. Wiesner at Lang-Enzersdorf. He is a very sick man, he is suffering from intestinal cancer, they were forced to operate again and made an opening on his left side. He looked very bad indeed and I fear the end cannot be far off. He had finished his supplement of the Lobeliaceae for the Pflanzenreich and was then making the Index.

He wanted to make new keys to the Hawaiian species of Cyanea and Clermontia but said he had given it up as he had not the strength to do it.

From Rome and spent my time there reading proof of my Kukui dictionary, the first volume over 500 pp was ready. The second volume is being set up now.

I am now starting on the Historical Geography of the three Greek principalities of West China, Mu-li, Ming-Chang and Cho-ui they extended from the northern borders of Yunnan to the Kokonor. It's a lengthy job but interesting.

Again thanking you, I remain with kind regards to you and Mrs. Degener

Sincerely

J. F. Rock

P.O. Box 497, Honolulu

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

7/4/56

1/.

[Rediscovery of Penny Royal]

34 Roosevelt Ave
Honolulu
4 July, 1956

Dear Mr. Mrs. Degener—

If I had not had such a very nice time on my visit with you, I would be wailing + wailing, for troubles have piled up on me! I won't take time to go into details except to say that the finding that a mouse had been in the lab. necessitated my spending most of morning in that hot place hunting through many drawers + boxes and cleaning up the mess shaved paper, etc. The trap had no

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attraction for the mouse + the warfarin seemed not touched. Then the kitchen sink refused to drain at all. I pumped + used drano + swear-words, + had three men today with various lengths of hose fastened to different taps shooting water down in. A great mystery! That water went somewhere but the obstruction remained! Now I must get a plumber.

My young friends were here today from 1pm until 5 + I got tea, in spite of a sink full of dirty water.

Bob Lee, his nephew + the

Japanese at back were the three men. I think I got it across to Lee what you wanted.

I do hope you will not be too concerned about the parents' reservations. Travel brings annoying things at times. Like my sore and itchy arms! But that trip — and all else — was worth the sunburn. I am so grateful to you, but sorry Mrs. Degener worked so hard to keep me fed + happy.

Aloha! Isabel Jaggar.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

P.S. (Thurs. a.m.)

I hope you'll come soon so we can have a real visit + I can show you things I cooked. At least, I think I did, for you were hurried + I spent the time mostly in the kitchen.

U

Love

EARL EDWARD SHERFF

Hunt

Chicago Normal College

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE (Botany)

Chicago, Illinois, Feb. 28th. 1938

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

Dear Mr. Degener:

Just a line or two in closing up some correspondence here before filing your last two letters for future reference. I believe I replied once before that I would stand ready to launch upon Schiedea next autumn or winter and would go at it with all my spare time and strength. So you may keep me in mind in making up your batches of specimens. I would add tob that as you collect more plants I would welcome most heartily any additional field data that you may be able to jot down on at least one of the labels. Color of flowers, shrub or tree and how tall, etc.---all these points are as you of course know supremely valuable for a monographer, especially one who like myself has to work from a distance.

I have read your Oct. 8th letter several times and have thought repeatedly of what you said about Cyrtandra, Pelea, and Suttonia. It may be that I can find enough to do for three or four years more in working upon smaller groups as at present. Probably by the end of that time certain obstructing factors alluded to by you will have shifted from the scenes and it will be possible to proceed with Cyrtandra etc. Opportunities come to but few people to assemble practicallyall the types of a genus under one roof as I have been privileged to do here in Chicago and I believe that when the time comes Dr. Buck, if he has free choice in the matter, will see the wisdom of shipping all of the Bishop Museum material in one large genus at a time to me for work. Even if I had to publish all my novelties through him and the final monographs, too, it would not matter to me, if Bishop Museum would use a good grade of permanent paper and give me some small voice in the illustrations. The big thing after all is of course the actual monographing of the genera. And I personally take keener delight if the genus is reputedly "hard." I find, for example, that the Labordia species, which have been described to me by almost everyone as in an awful mess, are gradually shaping themselves up into a very orderly group. I regret of course that in some cases I cannot go as far as I would like to because of inadequate material but in the main I am sure I will have a key and text that most of you can follow through and with which you can put your name on almost any species or variety very quickly.

I fear that I never replied as to picking over your Pelea or Cyrtandra material for novelties. My reaction was this: There is so much uncertainty in such a genus about almost all identities until a monographer undertakes to do a really thorough piece of revising that I would never dare go on record for a single novelty.---I am convinced, however, from my preview of your Pelea and Cyrtandra material that if I ever do get a chance to revise these genera for the Hawaiian Islands your vast collections will play a most important part. (I HOPE YOU ARE NOT MAKING THE MISTAKE OF LETTING A SINGLE SPECIMEN IN THESE GENERA GET OUT TO HERBARIA, WHERE THEY MAY BE LOANED MORE OR LESS PERMANENTLY BACK TO HONOLULU AS STATED IN YOUR LETTER.)

With all good wishes, I am, as ever,

Yours very truly,

Earl E. Sherff

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM
HONOLULU, HAWAII

October 20, 1936.

Mr. Otto Degener,
Waialua, Oahu.

Dear Mr. Degener:

I overlooked acknowledging the receipt of your paper on Hokoolau and a number of leaflets from your Flora Hawaiiensis. Please accept my thanks.

Russ brought in a specimen of Fagara yesterday afternoon and I am having a photograph taken of it this morning while the plant is fresh. Do you want us to publish the paper as an Occasional Paper with an illustration prepared by us, or would you prefer to make your own drawing from the plant, and publish yourself in your Flora Hawaiiensis. The plant just now is in berry. I will stand by which ever course you decide upon.

Yours very sincerely,

Peter H. Buck.

Director.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

2/5738

Hunt

Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb. 5, 1938

Dear Otto:

I received the three boxes of Rubiaceae, Broussaisia, etc. last week. I went over the Broussaisia and Gouldia specimens and have them ready to send back. In fact, they are already in a box, but not wrapped up, and I am leaving tomorrow morning for a few days in New York, so will not have time to send them until I get back. Included also are a number of Gouldia specimens that I have had for a year or two. I am keeping one small unlabeled collection that I can't quite figure out. It is some sort of var. ovata hybrid from Maui, but I wouldn't like to venture a guess as to its possible parentage until I find out if the parents that I would suggest really occur in the place where it was found.

I haven't had a chance to look at the various Bobeas that you sent yet. And the Straussia I am simply putting aside for a while. If I were you, I wouldn't spend too much money printing Straussia pages. A paper that I have practically ready on the Marquesan Psychotrias rather is going to knock the bottom out of Straussia as a genus, I think. This is not really definite yet, though, as Straussia may have some characters that I do not know about. I will try to get at the Bobea timonioides proposition as soon as possible and let you know my conclusion on it. Then we can decide what to do. Let me know about the Psychotria business as soon as possible. I haven't heard from Hosaka yet as to whether he has found my specimen, but expect to soon.

What about the miscellaneous Rubiaceae, mostly from other places? Most of them I as yet know very little about. May I just keep them for a while until I learn something about them? The much bug-eaten specimen of Posoqueria latifolia I will return soon, as there is no doubt as to its identity. I will make a note of it and cite it when I have occasion to refer to it.

I can probably use the drawing of the Kadua from Sacred Falls and print the thing with you, if it really turns out to be anything. I haven't seriously worked on that part of Kadua as yet.

I am ready to publish a short paper including a description of Eragrostis paupera Jedw. from Oahu, (E. falcata of Hitchc.) and a new species, E. Whitneyi from Christmas Island, and a variety of the latter from Midway Island. Do you want me to write a description of E. paupera for your flora while I am at it? And do you include Midway in your flora? If so, shall I write one of E. Whitneyi var. Caumii?

Diospyros sandwicensis is a hell of a mess. I have wasted a lot of time and am not satisfied that I have arrived anywhere. In fact, the whole section Ferreola of the genus hasn't more than about two or three species in in that would be good in any other genus. If I labeled almost any of the East Indian ones Hawaii and showed them to you you would say Maba sandwicensis without any hesitation.

As for var. typica, just wait till you see the alternative on your Broussaisia. And, for useless multiplication of names, I think Psilhoregma Gaudichaudi is perhaps a better example.

Aloha,

I'll be glad to see the Kadua

Ray E R Forbes

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

NY 8/26/32

2220 University Ave.,
Honolulu, T.H.
Aug. 26, 1932.

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am mailing you under separate cover what has been printed to date of the First Fascicle of my Hawaiian Flora. Within another two months or so it should be completed. Please look the pages over carefully. They consist chiefly of Oahu plants because I am situated on that island and naturally have access to those plants only.

If you can furnish me with a house at the Park (which either allows for privacy or has a better class of neighbors), I will be ready to move in with my books and two artists as soon as my present work is done. I would then describe the Park plants botanically and have my boys draw them as they have been doing in the past. There are hundreds of different plants in the Park which I never described or illustrated - in fact, I have hardly touched the Ferns at all. And as far as the plants in my Park book are concerned, these have not been described botanically but only in regard to their employment by the Hawaiians.

At a rough estimate I should say that I can describe one plant per day, while my two artists together might complete one illustration per day. It would take about one day to make the pencil sketch and fully another day to ink this in. These descriptions and illustrations in some cases could be published immediately. But the greater number I would be forced to set aside because the facilities for identifying these plants critically can be found only at some botanical center. Therefore at the end of this Park enterprise I would dash off to the New York Botanical Garden and later to the Berlin Bot. Garden to identify the more difficult plants.

By this method you would get the Park Flora worked up and published in a satisfactory way. These Park plants could constitute the Second and possibly Third Fascicles of my Flora Hawaiiensis. If this arrangement should prove mutually agreeable, we could try it out for the Haleakala Section some year as well.

Let me know your reaction to this proposition soon because upon it depends whether I get ready to leave for the N.Y.Bot. Garden in a couple of months or not.

Sincerely,

Otto Degener

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

2220 University Ave.,
Honolulu, T.H.
June 30, 1930.

6/30/30

Dear B. [Trumaghim]

I was glad to get the Alapai information about burying and I added it on.

I think you are making a mistake by making drawings of birds UNL you are copying those shown in colors in Wilson's Birds of Hawaii some title like that. Ask the Jaggar's about it.

Kalakaua wrote out most of the Hawaiian legends, I hear, and had printed in a book as thick as a dictionary. It is in English. Better the gook up in the Hilo Library. By the way, they have excellent books there which you should read on Hawaii. They are in a special case and only let certain people take them because they are too valuable. Maybe through Mr. Allen you can get the ppivelege.

I sold my Sinclair Flower book to Baker, the photographer, for $25 and 50 lantern slides. I am to have him make the slides for me out of anything I want. Now this is my idea: I want a good set of slides for lecturing and here is my chance to get them. Wiebke wants to borrow some so that when he leaves for medical school, he can give a couple of lectures on the islands and possibly earn a little pin money. So he may take a set of them at one time, possibly 30 as that would be just about enough for an hour's lecture. IF YOU AND TO I WILL LEND YOU or the Park, just as you think best, a number of slides, I to get them back in case I must lecture. These slides would have in very fine print at the bottom "Adapted from Park Guide" or something like it at the bottom. In that way I would help sell my book and not lose so much money on it. Please tell me one. What are your suggestions??????

I have read an unprinted translation of Hawaii Loa's fourth voyage. He visited China because he says the "beasts ate white pebbles, which they had gathered in swamps, with sticks". He meant eating rice with chop sticks. This is pretty much of a secret which I got from Henry who knows Beckley, a descendant of one of the chiefs or kings. I have forgotten which.

Rock's pamphlet of names I still need. Soon I shall be finished with the Guide and will then mail the pamphlet to you.

Better wait with the lanterns and keep them some place if you can. Hope it is not too much trouble. Too bad Aknu could not ship them on his ticket. I will try to look him up.

Hope the future scientist in the Trumaghim family is well again.

If you have any good photographs send them along. I might use them in the Guide or have slides made of them.

I had a terrible time writing up the coconut. Finished it today except for a few uncertain things. Namely do branch thorn to Hawaii. Has it Hawaii Loa? Any myths connected with it?

[Otto Degener]

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12/26/27

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for the
Advancement of Science

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OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEC 26 1927

Otto Degener,
Department of Botany,
GF University of Hawaii,
27F28 Honolulu, T. H.

I have the honor to inform you that you have been elected a Fellow of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. *Your certificate of fellowship is herewith enclosed.*

Respectfully yours,

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
Permanent Secretary.

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guished Service Award

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener

The following was published in the *Honolulu Advertiser:* "Botanists ought to be considered the most important people in the world for they are specialists in plant life, without which no animal life, including man himself, could exist. Actually, you don't hear much about them. The atom smashers get the play . . ." That was written in March 1958. The occasion was publication of the fifth volume of *Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands,* co-authored by Drs. Otto and Isa Degener. The article went on to speak of botanists combining adventure with scholarship, and plant explorers writing about their adventures as well as their scientific findings. The Degeners have done this in exemplary fashion.

While *Flora Hawaiiensis* focuses on the flora of the Hawaiian Islands, Dr. Otto Degener's roots run deep into the Botanical Garden. Born in East Orange, New Jersey, in 1899, this noted botanist, for whom the plant family Degeneriaceae is named, has made the Garden's Herbarium the main depository of his field collections. And since taking up residence in Hawaii in 1922, it has been to the Garden he has returned time and again these many years for study while enriching our Herbarium holdings.

Dr. Isa Irmgard Degener was born in Berlin, Germany, and in 1949 received her doctorate from the University of Berlin. The Degeners were married in 1953 and, as Otto Degener puts it, "have been teammates ever since."

While pressing onward with publication of additional volumes of *Flora Hawaiiensis* and other works, the Drs. Degener, as our Collaborators in Hawaiian Botany, have directed many of their efforts toward documentation and preservation of Hawaii's magnificent wildlife resources. In a resolution of commendation adopted March 22, 1979, the Hawaii Senate paid tribute to their "lifetime perseverance in relating humankind to the natural environment upon which we ultimately depend for survival as a species."

It is in recognition of their continuing contributions, through botany, to botanical science in general and to The New York Botanical Garden in particular, that the Board of Managers presents to Drs. Otto and Isa Degener the Distinguished Service Award.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

A few weeks ago the Hawaii State Senate passed a resolution commending Dr. Otto Degener for his many contributions and unceasing efforts to preserve Hawaii's nearly 900 species of threatened and endangered native plants. For 50 of his 80 years, Otto Degener's has been a voice of the wilderness of unrestrained development overspreading and engulfing Hawaii's unique island ecosystem, its uniqueness the result of the isolated evolution of a great diversity of plants over many thousands of years. He has fearlessly and energetically worked to educate and influence government officials, developers, journalists, conservationists, and the general public, not to a dreamy-eyed return to an imagined sylvan or pastoral ideal, but to their own little-realized self-interest in saving a portion of the Islands' various native habitats from the bulldozer, feral mammals, introduced game animals, and alien weeds. Long before the term "endangered species" entered the popular lexicon, Otto Degener was sounding the trumpet, calling attention to the high number of Hawaiian plant species destined to imminent extinction. Today the proportion of threatened and endangered native plants species on U. S. territory is nowhere higher than in Hawaii.

Working side by side with Otto has been Dr. Isa Irmgard Degener, his wife and a botanist in her own right. While Otto spent his early years just after World War I in the Bronx, a student of Nathaniel Lord Britton assigned to identify plants collected by ~~Per Axel Rydberg~~ in the Rockies and by ~~Dr. Britton's associates in the West Indies~~ Bermuda, and later a student of Elmer Merrill, the Garden's third director, studying more than 50,000 specimens of Hawaiian plants sent for safekeeping, Isa grew up in her native Germany, graduating magna cum laude from Berlin University just after World War II. She served for a time as botanical assistant to Dr. Sleumer, presently our Krukoff curator. After Otto and Isa married in 1953, the Degeners took up their studies on site in Hawaii, supported by a long series of NSF grants. With the possible exception of Dr. B. A. Krukoff, who was presented the Garden's Distinguished Service Award in 1970, no one living has had a longer professional association with the Garden than Otto Degener. The Degeners' Flora Hawaiiensis is a monument to their dedication to the sagacity in the complex floristic botany of the Islands. The family Degeneraciae and genus Degeneria, named for their discoverers, are tributes to their energy as botanical explorers and their discerning eye in sampling the diversity of plants in the Pacific Islands.

Given the Degeners' unswerving messianic zeal for their work and the depth of their commitment, it seems appropriate to quote the biblical reference illuminating the fly sheet in one of the volumes of Flora Hawaiiensis:

> 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.

It is in the spirit of acknowledging their tireless efforts in conservation and their tangible successes in awakening consciences and consciousness near and far that the Garden is very pleased indeed to present this Distinguished Service Award to Drs. Isa and Otto Degener.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

AWARD OF MERIT

This is to certify that

Otto Degener

has been justly recognized by the
American Biographical Institute
for outstanding professional and public service
and has been included in
TWO THOUSAND NOTABLE AMERICANS
THIRD EDITION

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Dear Ola,

Your Freiburg letter I put aside pending the arrival of further news; you also suggested my holding onto the photos until you had news from your publisher.

Dipping it up accidentally it strikes me that I have not heard from you for a very long time. I on my side have been extraordinarily busy with other matters, unfortunately.

Now I wonder how you are, both of you. Hope everything is well. Or send me a few lines. Here everything well.

As you see, I am not going to the Paris congress. But I shall not miss Brussels in 1958. Am in fact saving my funds for Canada.

My aloha to both of you.

Olof

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Der Direktor
des
Botanischen Gartens und Museums

Tgb.-No. .....

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

Berlin-Dahlem, den 14. April 192 8.
Königin-Luise-Straße 6–8

Herrn
Otto Degener,
The University of Hawaii Department of Botany,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sehr geehrter Herr Degener!

Bezugnehmend auf Jhr Schreiben an Professor Engler vom 5. März teile ich Jhnen mit, daß das Botanische Museum an Pflanzen aus Hawaii Jnteresse hat. Jch wäre bereit einen Satz für das Museum anzukaufen, falls es sich um Bestandteile der indigenen Flora der Jnseln und nicht um eingeschleppte Arten handelt, und bitte um Angabe der verfügbaren Anzahl der Dupla und des Preises der Pflanzen.

Viele

Degener duplicate plants, except Pteridophytes stored in abandoned salt mines and Lobeliaceae on loan to Wimmer in Vienna were destroyed by aerial bombing by the British a bit aided by the U.S. during World War II. The staff member Esa Hansen (since 1953 Mrs. O. D.) was there at the time. Early Degener collection, practically duplicate of Berlin one, is at this Alma Mater University of Mass., in Amherst. This should be studied especially for taxa now extinct.

O. & I.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

T. H., ... 19

TO **OTTO DEGENER,** DR.
WAIALUA, OAHU, T. H.
2220 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
HONOLULU, T. H.

	Degener's **"Plants of Hawaii National Park with Descriptions of Ancient Hawaiian Customs and an Introduction to the Geologic History of the Islands"**. 328 pages profusely illustrated with 96 full-page plates (1 in color) and 44 other illustrations. Not a flora but a non-technical book emphasizing the culture of the ancient Hawaiians as exemplified by their usage of certain plants. **$4.00 per copy**		
	Degener's **"Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands," Book I.** 336 pages profusely illustrated with 107 full-page plates (4 in color). A flora describing native and introduced ferns and flowering plants, giving their correct common and scientific names as well as range, present and former uses and other facts of interest. Written by the authority on the subject. **$3.50 per copy**		
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