



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](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://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.



SCHWEIZERISCHE KONSULARAGENTUR  
AGENCE CONSULAIRE SUISSE  
AGENZIA CONSOLARE SVIZZERA

(Waiting for a friend  
who works here)

Lima, Peru  
May, 1921.

Dear Degener,

Many thanks for your letter and enclosure,  
re-forwarded to me at last. One of the Petroglyphs is almost  
identical with a painting on an old seal from the  
museums at Lucern, Peru - which makes it the  
second. I have just been conferring with people  
who have been experimenting with totora reed  
rafts - one has been in the water at Callao  
for over a year with no sign of water-logging,  
rot, or marine animal damage. They are planning  
to leave for Talcahuano in June in a new one, also  
made according to specifications of old Inca reed  
rafts. It seems the totora of Titi-caca is much  
better than the seeds of the coast. I must get  
more done on it, as Skottsberg says seeds of Easter  
Island, Hawaii and S. California are identical,  
which doesn't prove anything except that they were  
good for boats. But I don't know if they are the  
same as Titi-caca. These Titi-caca look exactly  
like those at Uai-neke, Kauai.  
Sweet potatoes taste the same, are white.  
But <sup>Hawaii</sup> ~~Kauai~~ has hundreds of varieties of



SCHWEIZERISCHE KONSULARAGENTUR  
AGENCE CONSULAIRE SUISSE  
AGENZIA CONSOLARE SVIZZERA

sweet potato - who has studied it already? Cook?  
Ribet? The names are signif'cant, more  
significant for migration than the plant itself, and  
Ribet's analysis of the names would have them  
originating in Indonesia or India, going to Madagascar  
and eastwards to Peru. <sup>Kumara was used as a</sup> <sup>not in mountains</sup> <sup>7 Peru</sup> Ribet says.  
name for them only on the coast.  
Yes! I'll add to be a book with you, and you  
are welcome to my house and car on Kauai.  
Craige about the time this summer, as I have  
promised it to the Bishop Museum, while they  
have their dig down there, and I don't know the  
dates of it.

I am not returning to Hawaii until  
Oct. of '57, as two girls I took care of when  
their mother died are now to be for nurse for  
a year or so. They are 16 & 18 yrs old now,  
and their father is letting me take them to Europe  
to school for a year or two. This is a great  
joy, as I love them dearly, and we are going to  
visit their relatives in Germany, and find a





SCHWEIZERISCHE KONSULARAGENTUR  
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AGENZIA CONSOLARE SVIZZERA

year or two in Munich. I won't be able to see  
your parents, as I don't reach Germany until  
July. The children and I are flying to  
France on June 27<sup>th</sup>, to be met by a cousin  
with a Volkswagen, have three weeks in France,  
then to Germany, then to find a place to live  
in Munich.

But if the book on Hawaiian plants could be  
after that, when I won't have the expense of the  
girls - say '59, I'd love to do it with you  
as a Lohie museum project. I could get a  
good rake off on taxes and so could you, for  
the money we put into it. Anyway my  
house, car and animals are yours -  
Keep in touch with me there Bishop Trust Co,  
as they will have my address, and after Sept.  
I will be settled in Munich.

Aloha to you both and  
Pats to all your animals -

Patti

2/2/7

MRS. WM. MITCHELL  
923 EAST LEXINGTON STREET  
LAKE LAND, FLORIDA 33801

My very dear friends:

Your postal arrived + I think you have endured lots of trouble with the weather - N. West part of USA were indeed under snow + we still, I think, have very bad roads in our north + snow. My son goes a good deal + expects to all sorts of trips in the N. W. of U.S.A.

I hope you will not be too worn out from watching the very "dandified" snow + all. Hope you both are safe, and are at home.

I have several people moving in New York - the Maladenkes, to N. Jersey and dear young Bro. -

Alain Liogier. is still in U.S.  
now he is working in the N.Y.  
Botanic-garden. He is especially  
interested in the Flora of Santo  
Domingo, also. Life here is dull,  
except when some news from my  
very scattered botanical friends  
who give me news of their botanical  
doings, and how the Island (yours)  
is enduring dreadful storms!?

May you and "Madame" be  
well, and avoid further dangers.  
You were a dear to tell me  
about the weather-. I think  
of you both, and thanks for sending  
the new package of the work, so  
kind of you to send me this book  
several pages!! My love to you both,  
and thanks!. Palmyre





Bubble Pond Bridge and Cadillac Mountain  
Acadia National Park Bar Harbor, Maine

HAND-COLORED  
POST CARD

Mr. Otto Degener,

Dear Sir:

I appreciate your solicitous inquiry very much indeed. Have been ill most of this year except for this autumn in Maine - Major operation in May ('35) in Berkeley. In the main, am gaining well. Hope all goes splendidly with you. You are a model for everyone to follow! & all possible success in the present undertaking & a grand good year to you. Honolulu is a delightful memory!

Most sincerely,  
Elizabeth E. Morse

[Hydrologist]





## Feather River Villa

PAXTON, CAL.

Friday Night

Dear Degener:-

This is really a most attractive place - could and spend a week and with me.

I fear that you will have to quote to your friend Dr. Howell that it is impossible for him to get *P. D.* + *Bornes delaginellae* from your friend Mr. Topping as he has no duplicates excepting what are made up in sets.

Is he somewhat of a chiseler?

The enclosed *Lycopodium* I give to you - use it for drag if you share

I have to go into the hospital  
Monday night for another  
operation on my knee.

Colin is now in Queens  
for some pelvic pain,  
external not internal: they  
do not know what caused it

Aloha

[Potted of Foster Topping  
Bot. Gard.]

Honolulu - June 2

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Degener,

What a wonderful surprise! The Fiji book is everything we'd heard about it and more. You were most generous to send it to us. I am already up to the cannibal part, which is why I haven't had time to thank you before! It is a superb work & Lindsay & I are delighted to have it.

We both enjoyed so much our visit with you last Sunday. I wish it were all to do over again. While I'm at it, might as well wish these packing boxes ~~and~~ every corner were just leaving instead of departing, & we had four Hawaiian months ahead.

Have a fine time in Lanai. Write a lot more books - and the next time you're around New York, please don't fly right over it -

Thank you again, and every good wish,

Jeannie Olive

wife of  
[N.Y. Botanist]

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 4

The College

BOTANICAL LABORATORY  
38th and Woodland Ave.

March 30

Dear Degener:  
You bet I'll  
go with you. Thank Mrs.  
Hannay still but I'll be  
delighted. I had planned  
a short 2 weeks - Hawaii.  
Now I'll try to make it a long  
2 weeks. - As for tidal waves,  
pneumonia, & volcanoes I  
am immune. You see, when  
I was born (in the shadow of  
the Capitol in Wash.) there was  
an Indian in my house, &  
he predicted that I would  
fear nothing in life. So,



I'll ship <sup>will</sup> (have shipped <sup>about Aug. 15</sup>), camera  
(of no great value), & films  
(all sealed in tropical tubes)  
in August, because to buy  
them here, the U. of Pa. pays  
to bring the Kodak with me  
means weight, & I expect to  
fly via Europe. Cost will  
be the major factor. As any-  
thing goes wrong, we'll just  
start over. I may settle in Ha-  
waii, anyway.

So it's Kawai with you! -  
I hope to arrive, from  
Japan, the first few days  
in Sept. <sup>Maybe Sept. 1.</sup> My best to you &  
Mrs. DeGree.

Sincerely, William S. Shuford

# THE CANADIAN PRIMULA AND ALPINE SOCIETY

MEETING EVERY 4TH THURSDAY 1166 W. GEORGIA 8 P.M.

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YU 4-9224

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AL 6491-B

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St. Degener  
Hawaii

Dear St. Degener

I am a member of a wonderful  
society the name of which you will see above.  
Among the members there are many very high  
grade growers. Some - in fact a good many -  
have climbed the Alpine areas all over the  
world, brought back many rare species  
& cultivated them.

One a McGill degree man is extremely  
experienced - so I want to give him one  
of "FLORA HAWAIIENSIS". I have been hunting  
for an add: about it & just found the  
review of it in "Horticulture" Oct 1958.  
Here's my cheque & if this does not cover  
please let me know.

I am going to send you some of our little  
Bulletins, under separate cover & should  
like to hear from you - if I may presume -

Very Sincerely

A. E. Sprange

Book 5, \$5.00 paid

New has 1-6

Mrs. E. Harden Bishop

14946 Alva Drive, Pacific Palisades, California

April 12th

My dear Dr. Degener:

The Flora Haw. Book 6 arrived in fine shape and I want to thank you ever so much for sending the copies of book 1 thru book 4. First of all, I put all the sheets of No. 6 in their proper places and then I started from page 1 of the 1 to 4 volume and inserted in its proper place every sheet that I was missing. So I am sure now that my books are complete. We have had very stormy weather and I have a crippled hand and was unable to do any other work. It took a lot of time to finish this re-arranging because I had to use my left hand almost entirely.

Could I buy an extra book cover from you? Never having had book 4, I find myself with five "bound" books and at least 500 pages that I have fastened together with some temporary staples. It does not matter how the extra one that I want to get is numbered. Of course, if you do happen to have one labeled "Book 4", it would be rather nice. My set now reads, Book No. 1 Book No. 2, Book No. 3, Book No. 5, Book No. 6.

I could not find any kind of a binder in our stationery store that would fit the holes of my loose pages. I want to have them protected and your binders are strong and when Book N. 7 comes along I can keep my books in proper shape. As I say, it does not matter what number is on the binder you send me- I can always re-number it.

You know, I think your designation of the fruit of the coconut tree as a "nut" is better than "drupe". I am pretty ignorant about such things, but I always thought that a drupe was a pulpy, fleshy fruit containing a hard seed in its center. I was interested in what you wrote about the macadamia nut tree in the pamphlet you enclosed- namely, that the nut is really a seed. I have been thinking of planting a macadamia tree here. Today, I called the best nursery hereabouts and found that I could get a grafted tree in a 5 gallon tin for \$12.50 and if I wished a larger one, balled, field grown, I could do that. The man I talked to, said it was unadvisable to get anything but a grafted tree- the seedlings are too unreliable. He also told me that quite extensive groves of macadamia nut trees have been planted here and are doing very well. I had not known that before.

In view of what<sup>4</sup> you write about having to have your coconut palms de-fruited every now and then makes me believe that I must forget the old legend that coconuts never fall and injure human beings because they have three eyes to guide them on their downward plunge. It seems to me that I remember, when I first arrived in Hawaii, that there was a reward offered to anyone who ever got conked with a coconut, just to uphold the truth of this legend. I hate to discard any kind of folk tale or legend- I like to believe them all.

I don't imagine, however, that you would mind exchanging that forty-year-ago struggle to the top of Kaala-for the paved road that now exists. I'm sure you enjoyed it at the time, but think how much spare strength you would have today to ferrett (spelling ?) out new specimens.

I guess you can see, by this awful typing, how handicapped I am- not that I ever could type very well. But this crippled right hand is no help.

If you have the binder and will be kind enough to send it, my check will go to you by return mail and I will be most grateful.

Aloha,

Wanda Bishop

Thanks for the pamphlet "Logical Plants  
The World Around". I'm glad to have you -  
also very much interested to learn what you  
are receiving on the stereophonic radio station -  
"Our Xmas present was a ~~stereo~~ Stereo-  
phonic FM-Multiplex Receiver - I almost  
swore up on hearing my first Stereo Music -



Apr 24 -  
Dear Otto:- Many thanks  
for the new shirt.

So perhaps you know  
I have left the service of  
the State & gone into  
business for myself as a  
consulting Forester.

If you come to Kona  
please look me up. I am  
always interested in plants  
yourself + wife  
aloha to  
Bill Buzen

Box 124  
Kailua-Kona  
Hawaii