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#### *About the Institute*

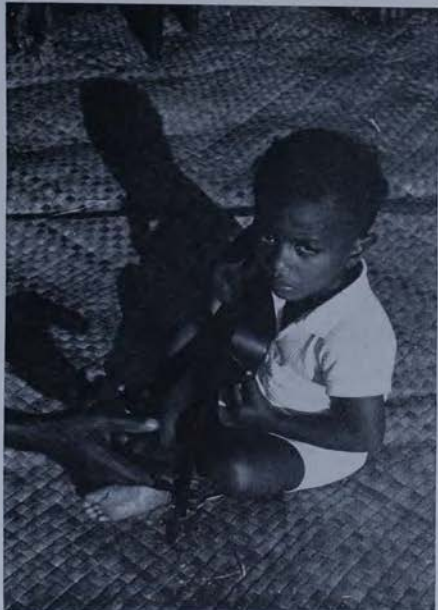
The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains 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.



A Fijian preparing copra on the plantation which Degener rented for one pound or three dollars and seventy-five cents per week, including servants and food.

A youngster takes his first lesson on the guitar. Fijians are fond of music and like to sing. Drums and other percussion instruments are used for dances.



### Beyond the Hawaiian Horizon: Fiji

It was, for me, a memorable day in 1941 when Ordoñez, my Filipino assistant from Hawaii, and I followed Timoe, our faithful Fijian guide, into the Nauwanga forest. We found a tree with rather ugly flowers and being, as usual, greedy for specimens, I collected ample material.

There were numerous flowers but considerable search disclosed only a single fruit. This collection was pressed and dried and in due time mailed to Dr. A. C. Smith, of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University.

Later, when I returned to my Mokuleia Beach home in Hawaii, I received some astoundingly gratifying letters from Smith. My name had become associated with an entirely new plant family, an honor almost unheard of. Only one other valid plant family commemorates a living botanist at this time.

The story was told officially in a magazine article in 1942 by Dr. Smith and I. W. Bailey. Smith had collected specimens of a fruiting tree on the Fijian island of Vanua Levu. "Efforts to place the plant in a family failed. Neither fruit nor foliage suggested any plant previously known from the Pacific. Although wood from the trunk was available, no definite suggestion of a family could be made by those who examined the specimen . . . It has been ascertained that the plant is conspecific with a tree collected in flowering condition in the interior of Viti Levu by Mr. Otto Degener in 1941." The article then referred to the plant family as *Degeneriaceae*.

Although Smith originally discovered trees belonging to the *Degeneriaceae*, he could not name them for himself. This would violate good taste and a long-established custom. The second discoverer of *Degeneria* was B. E. V. Parham, government botanist in Suva, who shipped specimens of this family to Smith for determination. This specimen was collected at Viti Levu four years after Smith's find and two years before mine.

The only other living botanist whose name has been given to a valid plant family is Herbert L. Mason who, in 1925, collected a peculiar brown seaweed southwest of Lower California. It is so different from any other seaweed known that it constitutes a family all its own and has been named *Masonophycus paradoxa*, after its discoverer.

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Mr. Degener's trip in Fiji was made aboard the exotic teak and camphor wood junk-yacht, *Cheng Ho*, as guest botanist of Mrs. Anne Archbold, of Washington, D. C. and Nassau. In a previous trip with the *Cheng Ho*, Mrs. Archbold, big game hunter and patron of science, explored "The Garden Islands of the Great East" (Scribner's) with Dr. and Mrs. David Fairchild. The war interrupted further exploratory work and the *Cheng Ho* was taken over by the Navy. Upon her release, February 3, 1947, she was purchased from her original owner by Mr. Degener, who plans to use her for further research in spite of her severe war wounds.