

January 4, 1934.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

I am sorry that the check sent in November has not yet reached you. The only thing to do is to send another check with the hope that the missing one will turn up in the course of time. It is sad, indeed, to have financial troubles come along at a time when we are in despair regarding the results of our expenditures. You still feel, I doubt not, that we have no reason to expect more of you, but in this regard I must tell you that in a letter to Mr. Rehder, my friend Paul Standley expressed surprise at the number of things he knew you had missed in regions he had passed through. I am deeply discouraged and utterly unable to explain why you have failed so signally. Once more I beg of you to collect intensively and to increase production. Saying nothing of woody plants, the number you have collected being too small to mention, it is a sad statement that in two years, or nearly two years, you have not been able to collect more than seven hundred numbers. And consider the cost! A man and his wife are to collect for us in northern Mexico for six months and they have set their price for the work at two hundred and fifty dollars! I doubt not but in that length of time they will make a collection of two or three thousand numbers.

I note what you say about going into the field as a general collector after you have finished your present year with the Arnold Arboretum. Your suggestion that you have failed to make a good showing for us and feel that you should continue to work for the Arboretum free of charge after your year is up until you have made up what we had every right to expect in your second year of effort is very kind. If you wish to carry out this suggestion I feel that you should collect on a per specimen basis rather than on a time basis, counting orchids worthy twenty cents and other specimens worth fifteen cents each. These are the regular rates that we are accustomed to pay and are fair. I realize that you have referred to these rates as ridiculous, but you will remember that I wrote to you that these were the prices set by Chaplain Clemens for his Bornean plants. When orchids are accompanied by specimens in alcohol I think twenty cents each is very fair if we pay postage. Of course I do not feel that you should obligate yourself in any way. When you have completed your contract time, that is all we have any right to expect. If, on the other hand, you really believe that you have fallen far short of giving value received, then it is your right to make up any deficiency you desire to make up. In any event we should wish to receive specimens when you collect for your own account, but we should maintain our price level. It would be for you to collect or not on this basis as you saw fit.

The specimens just arrived are very good indeed. I think only two numbers are new to your list. The others are simply repetitions of previous numbers.

Very sincerely yours,



Ames, Oakes. 1934. "Ames, Oakes Jan. 4, 1934 [to J.B. Edwards]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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