

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 8, 1924.

Mr. Oakes Ames,  
355 Commonwealth Avenue,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Ames:

Today we started to you by express a box containing the orchid collection that I obtained in Costa Rica this year. The material forwarded consists of two lots: (1) the numbers of which there was sufficient material for division, and (2) those which it did not seem possible to divide. The packages of the latter are marked "unicates" and will be easily recognized.

In the case of the unicates, you are, of course, at liberty to dispose of them as may seem desirable, retaining all or any part of them. There must be among these a good many species repeated, and in case there should be more than you require for your own herbarium, we should be very glad to have them here.

The specimens in our own set of these orchids are much the same as those we are now forwarding, although in some instances we have retained only fragmentary material. In case you should wish to examine any or all of our portion of the collection, we shall be glad to forward it for study, although I believe that in most cases it would not help greatly in the identification. Our material has not been mounted yet, for it seems better to hold some of the specimens until we find whether they are in condition for determination.

I am very anxious to learn what your impressions will be after examination of the collection. Please do not hesitate to give your frankest opinion of it, for I should like to have your views for use in case I have an opportunity to make further collections of orchids. There are some quite sterile specimens that were preserved because their foliage seemed especially distinctive. In a few cases I find color notes with regard to the flowers, when I have not been able to locate the flowers themselves among the dried material.

If it is convenient for you to furnish the determinations of the more common species in advance of a full report, we should appreciate having them, so that our set may be placed in the herbarium. I should like, also, to use the names of some of the species in various publications that I have in mind.

Today I began labeling the collection of plants from Panama, and the orchids will be forwarded when available. They are not numerous, however, and it is not likely that there is anything of interest among them, at least Mr. Powell did not seem to think that there was.

In the near future I hope to be able to begin preparation of a semi-popular report upon the flora of the Canal Zone. It is probable that I may make another visit to the Zone, probably about a year from now, in order to fill gaps in the data. If



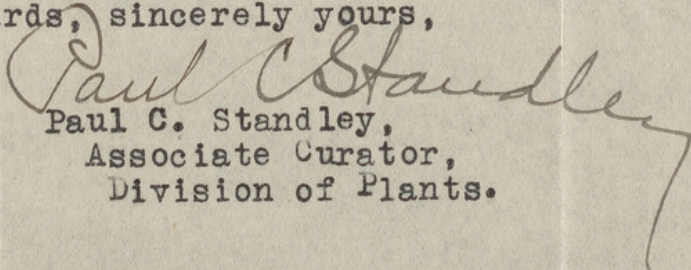
I should do so, I should like to make a visit also to some other part of Panama, perhaps to Bocas del Toro, or to Costa Rica. It is too soon, however, to be making definite plans.

A couple of weeks ago money was offered me for a trip to British Honduras, if I could make it during the present calendar year. If Mr. Maxon were not planning to go to Central America next winter, I should have accepted at once, but it is not practicable for the two of us to be absent at the same time. In case I do not go again to the Canal Zone, which is about the poorest and least interesting part of Central America, unless one goes there for some special purpose, I hope to visit next either some part of Honduras, or some part of Guatemala, particularly the region of Alta Verapaz.

Yesterday I had a letter from Valerio in which he stated that he had more Guanacaste plants ready to send. He is now located in that part of Costa Rica, and perhaps will continue with his collecting.

In a letter recently received from Lankester, he states that he has received three visits from Alberto Brenes. Upon one occasion he became rather excited, and said that there were people in Costa Rica conspiring against him. Lankester was at first unable to understand, but finally learned that Brenes had read an article about the collections I made in Costa Rica, the article consisting of excerpts from letters that I had sent to Dr. Calderón. Brenes stated that it was impossible for one person to make so many specimens in so short a time, and demanded to know who had given them to me! I am glad to say that all Central Americans are not like that, although I do believe that Brenes is really a very good man. It is disheartening, though, to see the opportunities that the local botanists have in Central America, and how little advantage they take of them. Dr. Calderón is the only exception. He does do the very best that he can, and is certainly improving all the time. The difficulty is that it is necessary for him to devote the larger part of his time to other matters.

With best regards, sincerely yours,

  
Paul C. Standley,  
Associate Curator,  
Division of Plants.





Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1924. "Standley, Paul Carpenter July 8, 1924 [to O. Ames]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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