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UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL
INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES
APARTADO POSTAL No. 2535 TELEFONO 5971
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October 1, 1941.

Dear Louis:

I feel that right off I owe you an apology for writing in a manner which offended you. Please believe me that the letter was not written in a spirit of anger, but of disappointment, Louis. Your letter seemed to imply to me when it first arrived that I was asking you to send the plant material unnecessarily, whereas I had carefully talked over the possibility of buying such stuff down here with Archer, Killip, Pennell and Smith, and the consensus of opinion was "Take everything along with you." When in your letter you referred to it as "all that junk" it certainly seemed to me that you were writing in anger. I hope you will accept my apology for anything I wrote which you might have found impertinent.

As you know, had there been time before I left I would myself have attended to the shipment. And I do not want you to think I don't realize and appreciate the amount of trouble and time you took trying to help me out in this. It is no small favour. However, I had hoped that when Mr. Bierweiler returned you would not have had to bother with it, but his misfortune with Mrs. Bierweiler's accident certainly must have tied him up.

It was and is my hope that I can in some way repay you for your work on my behalf by sending you some fine orchids. I think you realize that wherever I have gone, I have always tried to make contacts for you - to send you orchids as well as to help out on the Bulletin. I shall continue to do this.

So I hope that any thing which I might say which would seem to be impertinent will never come between us to disrupt our friendship.

It was good to get the news in your letter. I am glad to hear that the persistent rumours that Lyman Smith was dead are without foundation, and now I shall write him several things which have been waiting for this news. Where and how is the wing being put on Gray? Where does it "hook on"? If you have Vestal's address in Canada, I'd like to write to him. I shall try to have the \$5 stamps on the boxes salvaged for you and Mr. Bierweiler and if, while I am here, I can get you some Colombian stamps, please let me know what you want. But I warn you that everything here is frightfully

expensive. For example: high boots — \$15 (Am. curr.); woolen socks — \$1.30 pr.; trousers (khaki) — \$9. These are the lowest prices I could secure even with a Colombian to help me out in bargaining!

Young Smith writes me that he arrives in Buenaventura Oct. 3 and, if he doesn't miss the train connection, he will arrive in Bogotá Oct. 5. On Oct. 7, I am going with Cuatrecasas to visit for 40 days the region in SE Norte de Santander from Pamplona, following the rivers SE, esp. the Rio Margua + Rio Arauca. At the confluence of the Rivers Chubugon, Cobarua and Margua there are a few Indian villages where I shall stop for some ethnobotanizing. We may proceed along the by-way to Arauca, weather, etc., permitting and we should like to cross country (for this is their driest (!) season) to Socorro to Cravon + at the confluence of the Meta and Liza rivers catch a government "gunboat" up to Villavicencio. This last part of the trip is only a hope + it seems quite probable that we shall have to return from Arauca the way we came. Young Smith will be making general collections and when I am not trying to gather ethnobotanical data I shall try to get all I can. When we return (40 days), I expect to go down into the Putumayo, possibly coming out to Cali in January to attend the Palmira Exposition of Agriculture. Late in the spring, I may go to the Sierra Nevada region, but so many botanists have told about the need of work in the northern Chocó + there are very primitive Indians there that I may go there instead. What do you think about the mountains that run down the Northern Chocó for orchids?

Please let me hear from you and if there is anything I can do for you down here you have only to ask.

Yours,

Dick.

P.S. Did you ever receive the bulbs I left with Halbing for you? He was to keep half + send the rest on to you.



Schultes, Richard Evans. 1941. "Schultes, Richard Evans Oct. 1, 1941 [to L.O. Williams]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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