

OAKES AMES, DIRECTOR.

BOTANIC GARDEN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. U.S.A.

May 30th, 1922.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Your letters of May 18th and 21st, arrived this morning. I was delighted to receive them. The stamps you so kindly enclosed were very welcome to the little girl across the breakfast table. She sends to you her best thanks.

Now, to take up your questions and requests in the order of their appearance:

Powell 22 in Herb. Hort. Reg. Kew. is an unnamed *Maxillaria*. I would gladly send a flower to you, but the rules of the game necessitate that I first obtain the consent of the Director of Kew.

Powell 78 does not seem to be among the Kew specimens.

I am sorry that Dr. Schlechter is not more prompt in sending you the determinations of your material. I feared when you informed me of his promise to act on a two week's schedule that he would only sustain it for a brief period of time. I would feel much easier in my mind, where your interests are concerned, if Schlechter would publish your novelties promptly. It is so simple to name things that one may never publish, just to make a show of getting work done! I find in my studies of Schlechter's work for the National Herbarium that he has messed things

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badly by following this system. Let me give you an example. He identified as two new species a couple of specimens that represented the same number. Identical specimens in every respect. He published neither name. But they stand in the herbarium as Epidendrum Adolphii and E. Tonduzii. Later he published as a new species his E. Henrici, based on the same number as the unpublished names! Then he published an E. Adolphi, but this was quite another plant which belonged to a different section of the genus Epidendrum. This new species he promptly reduced to the synonymy of Epidendrum pumilum Rolfe! As a result of such methods I am never sure of Schlechter until he commits himself in print, in the meantime he causes vexing perplexity.

As to metal drying frames: I am sending you the wooden type that we have found very satisfactory. If you do not like them, metal ones will be forwarded.

Camera lucida: See my letters of May 22.

Mould: See my letter of May 22.

Palaenopsis. Write to Elmer D. Merrill, Director, Bureau of Science, Philippine Islands. Use my name. I will write to him also.

Specimens may be sent as prepared. There is no need to await my return from Europe, unless you wish to do so.

Technique* Your specimens are exceptionally good. In mounting, the strips need not be so wide; If you are near

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a stationer's shop where they have one of those paper cutting boards you will find it very simple to cut the strips into the desired ^{with} lengths with desirable evenness. When you are ready to mount up a series of specimens it saves time to have the strips ready for clipping into the needed lengths.

The gummed silk will be sent in future with wax paper to keep the roll from sticking.

Masdevallia Livinstoneana. This is unknown to me. It was one of the species that Schlechter was to make a tracing of when he went to Vienna for me. As he was unable to locate all of the Reichenbachian things, it is probable that this was one of the species that he could not find. Cf. Orchid Review 26(1918)119.

Drawing of Selenipedium was finished at noon and has been sent.

Trichopilea marginata is the name I am using at this time.

Dried flowers of variations will be acceptable always!

The Panaman Epidendrum leucocardium of which I sent you a photo of Schlechter's type, is simple E. eburneum. I should have written this in my last letter.

With the drawing of Selenipedium I am sending you a reprint of another paper.

The length of this letter will explain why it is so snappy.

With the best of good wishes,

Yours cordially,

Oakes Ames.



Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes May 30, 1922 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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