

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

December 31st, 1922.

My dear Dr. Schlechter: I am not going to allow the old year to pass without writing to give you my best wishes for the New Year. The year 1922 must go down in my records as the time of our first meeting. It must also mark the time of a most pleasant visit to your home in Berlin. Mrs. Ames joins me in sending to you, Mrs. Schlechter and your children, the best of good wishes. Tell the children that I have carried home a very clear picture of the wonderful managerie that adorns their balcony and that I hope someday to have the pleasure of inspecting again their biological treasures. We have not forgotten Mrs. Schlechter's wonderful tea. The talisman is one of our best possessions. I think it must have been the talisman that saved my camera.

Yesterday I sent you by registered mail a draft on Berlin for a large number of marks. This should bring to me several hundred tracings of your Central and South American types. The Costa Rican species are, of course, the ones that interest me just at present, although Colombian species are always welcome.

The trip to Honduras is practically decided on. The Vice President of the United Fruit Company dines with me on January second to make arrangements for the expedition. While in Honduras we are to have the use of launches and other means of conveyance and every facility for drying plants. If the orchids are there, we ought to get them. You may be sure that in every case I will collect a duplicate for you. Anything from Honduras ought to be acceptable. It would seem that the United Fruit co. is interested in my hobby, and that even when I am not in the field the timekeepers and managers are to prepare specimens for me. Of course, all such prospects are rosy at first. But this time I really expect to get results of a most important kind. First we go to Yucatan

to inspect some Maya ruins. I hardly expect to find much there in the way of orchids, although it is planned to enter some of the regions where there is a heavy rainfall.

Send me a sample of your idea of an orchid catalogue. That is, set up a genus and two or three species so that I can ascertain if our ideas coincide. I do not imagine that this would be a difficult thing to bring out if we followed an alphabetical arrangement. It seems to me, off-hand, that a natural arrangement would be open to extreme difficulty. I do not remember that we really reached a decision as to this.

Send me a copy of the Powell orchids. Even the proof sheets would be of value to me, if the day of publication is to be delayed for any reason.

If I sit up much longer I will have to double-date this letter. The New Year is creeping in. Just one hour from now the bells of the city will begin to ring.

Dont forget the Stelis flowers. These are very much wanted.

Prosit!

Yours sincerely,

Walter Oakes



Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes Dec. 31, 1922 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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