

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.

January 10th, 1925.

My dear Dr. Standley: Your good letter of the seventh was most welcome. It is always a pleasure to learn from you regarding your plans for tropical exploration.

I have had a most unsatisfactory winter from a botanical point of view, because numerous burdens have been added to an already oppressive load of duties. I have had to depend on my staff of assistants for the routine work of tentative determinations. At this time I have about fifty Central American novelties ready for the press. I intend to push these into print before the end of the coming week. The Alfaro collection is worked up and I have made progress with your Costa Rican material. It is too early to tell you about your results, but at present it would seem that you duplicated species more often than you found new ones. This has advantages.

Send sample pages of your Panama Flora. I think I can help you to get what you want.

The Guatemalan programme meets with my approval. I hope, however, that you will finally decide to make another campaign in Costa Rica. When your plans are matured let me know what you need from me. I am, as you know by this time, a very willing contributor to your war-chest.



Last summer I received a long letter from Brenes. I answered his letter with a great deal of tact and suggested that a montly payment for his services could be arranged. I believe I offered fifty dollars as a monthly allowance with additions for field work and transportation. I have not heard from Brenes, and from your letter of the seventh January, it would seem that he has maintained his position toward Schlechter. This is too bad and at the same time most incomprehensible. I have had in mind another letter to Brenes, but my time has been so taken up with diversions in the detestable business field, that letters have had to be few. Do you suppose it would be diplomatic for you to write to Brenes and explain matters at the same time telling him that I am ready to make advantageous arrangements with him? You know him and he would probably be frank with you. If you do write, please refer to the sudden turn of events that carried me from the realm of orchidology into the realm of finance. Parenthetically I am glad to tell you that I have made progress in my work and that in another month I expect to be back again in the orchid game.

I have sent a complete set of Shed. Orch. to Alfaro.

Best wishes for the New Year. And pass along this same wish to Mr. Maxon.

Yours faithfully,

*Walter D. Smith*





Ames, Oakes. 1925. "Ames, Oakes Jan. 10, 1925 [to P.C. Standley]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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