

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN

CHICAGO

September 2, 1931.

Dear Professor Ames:

There are enclosed some sample pages of the flora of Peru, showing the general style of the work. Please pardon their appearance. I find that sheets once used previously have been employed for the carbons, and I can not find any really clean ones in the duplicate copy.

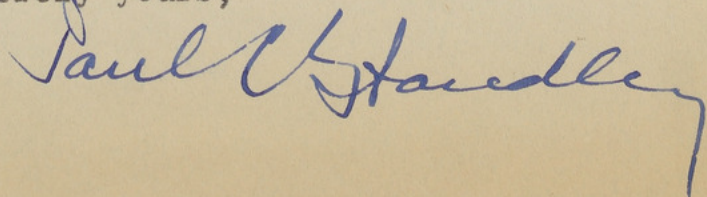
This style admits of some variation, and in case you prefer some other mode of treatment for the orchids, it can be accommodated. Most of Macbride's descriptions of species are shorter than I think they should be. The specimens are listed by departments, the latter arranged alphabetically. In case you should have difficulties with local names, we probably can place them easily, since we have a highly satisfactory geographic dictionary of the country.

We have the first instalment of the flora almost ready for the press, but probably it will not be submitted to the printer for two months. Macbride hoped to see it published by the end of the year, but that is scarcely possible. Our printing is done within the Museum, and ordinarily rather expeditiously. Unfortunately, just now the printing office is some months behind in its work. Short papers can be printed inside a few weeks, but longer ones require much more time.

With regard to the flora of Central America, I hardly know what to say. If I had here the Central American collections that are in Washington, I should go ahead with the flora. But unfortunately our Central American collections are not extensive enough. Since I have been here the Central American work has been more or less sidetracked, and I don't know what the result will be. I have devoted most of my time here to South American plants. I have been considering the preparation of a flora of British Honduras, but that would be a minor undertaking. I have had in mind also a flora of Costa Rica, but that is almost as elaborate a task as a flora of all Central America. I really should complete the Central American flora, for I have the plants better in mind than perhaps any other person will have them soon. However, when I look now at the pages of the volume on the trees of Mexico, I wonder whether I would have the heart to undertake another piece of work of that extent.

Publication upon the orchids of Central America would make a fine volume in itself, and it would be a simple matter, I think, to find a place for its publication. Of course, they would be glad to take care of it in the National Museum, although their volumes are certainly no works of art. It is quite possible that it would be printed here, too. I hope that you will prepare it.

Sincerely yours,





Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1931. "Standley, Paul Carpenter Sept. 2, 1931 [to O. Ames]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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