

Telephones  
Boston, 447 Back Bay  
Stoughton, 74-2

Three hundred and fifty-five  
Commonwealth Avenue

November 8th, 1922.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Your letter of October 24th arrived 1  
last evening. Your proposition outlined under eight  
headings is most attractive, although it calls for a  
larger expenditure in Panama than I had contemplated  
and omits a consideration of the time element which is  
so important in all private enterprises. You understand,  
of course, that my interest is purely a botanical one,  
that my desire is for herbarium specimens and that my  
measure of success is the number of specimens secured.  
1 The expenditure of two hundred dollars a month to be  
worth while would mean that the number of specimens  
collected and delivered would equal the money value of  
specimens as usually purchased. As an example let us as-  
sume that the rate per specimen was set at twenty cents.  
Then for each dollar expended, to be profitable, the  
venture should yield five specimens. That would be at  
the rate of one thousand specimens every month or twelve  
thousand specimens a year. While twelve thousand specime



Telephones  
Boston, 447 Back Bay  
Stoughton, 74-2

2

Three hundred and fifty-five  
Commonwealth Avenue

mens is not a large amount of material for daily collecting through a whole year, it is perhaps beyond the realm of reason when the time for field work is in a measure governed by climatic conditions.

2 Although the advantages offered under headings b,c,d,e,&f of your letter of October 24th might prove attractive at some future time, I am unable to profit by them now. This being the case, my expenditure would be non-productive except for clause "a". Even if I wished to take advantage of the facilities offered for field men and experimental efforts, there is no immediate prospect of my being able to do so, because I have no field workers near Panama and have no means at present of directing experimental work so far away from home.

3 You will understand, then, that my reaction to your proposition is stimulated wholly by present prospects and by the probability of successful field-work being done through a space of twelve months.

4 In my mind the thought is prevalent that a trial enterprise would be the wisest policy. Why not limit the peak-load to the best orchid season, say three or four



Three hundred and fifty-five  
Commonwealth Avenue

months. When the flowering season is practically over, the man you have trained could be retained in your garden at fifty dollars per month to do routine work and to make such excursions as reason would warrant. In this way I would have the feeling that my investment was wise and there would be no likelihood of the very human thought that my subscription to the enterprise <sup>was</sup> questionable.

5 It is with the understanding that you will agree with me that I enclose ~~as~~ a preliminary draft to your order for two hundred dollars. If you do agree with me I am ready to send the necessary additional funds and equipment to carry on our project as outlined in my paragraph #4 above.

6 When you receive this letter please read it closely. I am sure that there is need for co-operation between us, not only for the pleasure that we should derive from constructive work in a fascinating flora, but for the advantages our efforts would bring to American orchidology. Undoubtedly the best plan is to begin. As our project goes forward modifications may be made and instituted.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. C. W. Powell,  
Balboa, Panama.

*Charles C. Moore*





Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes Nov. 8, 1922 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/262809>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/281102>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Harvard University. Anonymous Donor.

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.