

September 7th, 1923

My dear Mr. Powell:

I expected to be able to send you a check in this letter, but on my last trip to Boston I was so rushed with work that the bank had closed before I gave a thought to finances. On Monday I will make up the deficiency.

Your letter of August 29th reached me to-day. I was much interested in the enclosed letter to you from Dr. Schlechter. Queerly enough, I received my first letter from him since last winter in to-day's mail. He reports that his health failed him and that his physician insisted on a complete rest from scientific thoughts. He informs me that his Costa Rican paper will appear on September 30th.

With regard to the sending of specimens to Schlechter, it seems to me that a set of your duplicate field specimens forwarded from here as an exchange will take care of him. I think you will agree with me that his reasoning is a bit at fault when he assumes that you are in a position to make one set for me and distribute duplicates where you will. As I understood our arrangement all dried specimens were to be sent here. I am sure your understanding is similar to mine. What you wish to send him from your garden is a matter wholly at your discretion. There is surely no reason for me to suppose that our co-operative basis ties your hands. That would be absurd. But the specimens collected for me are surely a part of our joint enterprise, and as to the workings of that I am sure there is no room for doubt. Until the plants are named that you cultivate, it

would seem wise to hold them pretty close.

Standley is going to Costa Rica this coming winter. Before going there, however, he intends to do some collecting in Panama. This should give you a wonderful opportunity as it is highly probable that there would be no objection to your man going along on some of the expeditions. The purpose in view is a flora of the Zone and adjacent territory. After the Panama enterprise is done Standley will go directly to Costa Rica and make collections on Turrialba and near-by mountains. He suggests that any specimens not in flower be sent to you for cultivation. I think you will welcome such an arrangement. Standley would be able to give your man an insight into the orchids of the ground that I am sure would result in his becoming a more efficient helper in our project. At least I would ask Standley to take a special interest in him and show him in the field what constitutes some of the lesser known genera which at present may not be clear even to your eye. All in all I think things are "looking up".

The package of specimens has not yet been released from the Customs. Just a bit of red-tape. You are not a bit more impatient than I am about this delay. Epidendrum 319 looks new. I have the bottle-specimen and the little packet of supplementary flowers. But until I get the herbarium material it will be impossible to be sure of anything. I am impatient to see the large flowered form of *Habenaria Warszewiczii*. It may confirm my suspicion that we simply have one polymorphic species in the Zone referable to *H. petalodes*.

On Monday I will write again and include check.

Yours always faithfully



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Sept. 7, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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