

355 Commonwealth Ave. Boston

20th. November 1923.

My dear Mr. Schlechter:

Your postcard of the 29th. October reached me promptly. The Ceylonese orchids will be very acceptable.

I did not send a draft for twenty-five dollars as I understood that the banks had ceased issuing drafts. Then I sent ten dollars in a letter. Another objection to a draft was an impression I got that in cashing drafts a percentage was retained for satisfaction of a tax. In this letter I enclose ten dollars in bills.

Why have you overlooked Maxillaria microphylla in the collection of Harris? I would like to have this. Also Pleurothallis Huntingtonii.

I have been expecting your Costa Rican paper to arrive, but as yet I have seen nothing of it. Please send me your new work as it appears. If the outlandish cost of postage deters you from sending papers and specimens, apply some of the money I send to you to that purpose.

Everything is moving smoothly here. But there is much work to be done. Recently I accepted the curatorship of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University. This position means added burdens at a time when I have more to do than I can really accomplish.

Our knowledge of the situation in Germany is formed chiefly from news-paper reports and "photonews" in the moving-picture shows. Surely you are passing through awful trials

you sent to me a single flower of Stelis acmella. When I examined it, I found the labellum missing. If you can spare it, an additional flower will be acceptable. Just at present I am having my Central American species of Pleurothallis drawn for publication. The work is nearly done and I expect to issue the plates this year.

The situation in orchidology has become^{so} intolerable, that a rule should be made which would invalidate any new species proposed without analytical drawings. To relieve the pressure, a time limit of two years should be established within which time an author could validate his species. Descriptions are wholly inadequate for purposes of identification and the time will soon come when progress will be impossible. It does not require extraordinary imagination to picture the future when our successors will stand aghast when they attempt to interpret our proposals and at the same time strive to interpret new collections. Until the species of the genus Stelis are correctly illustrated, the descriptor species must remain indistinguishable.

Please remember me to Mr. Schlechter. I hope she is well and braving up under the strain of political blunders. Your letters regarding your impaired strength are alarming. You must be kind to yourself and use wise precautions in your efforts to restore your system to normal condition.

Yours sincerely
Charles Ames.



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Nov. 20, 1923 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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