

February 22, 1933.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

On the fifteenth I authorized payment to you by air-mail at Siguatepeque, the final installment on you present contract, of \$450.00. I hope the check reaches you promptly and that you will have no difficulty in cashing it.

Yesterday I received a box from you containing two seed capsules of a Cycnoches. I am afraid these are not sufficiently ripe to be of use to us. Their coming however brings to the fore a matter that will be as distressing to you as it has been to us. I refer to the fact that I have been waiting for the arrival of the balance of the nine packages sent some time ago. Only part of the shipment came in. I supposed that the packages had become separated and that the delayed ones would come in safely. Now that the box containing the fruits has arrived postmarked Feb. 3, I am worried. It is nor reasonable to suppose that the fruits would pass the missing packages. Do you suppose the post office people have again indulged in vandalism or theft? Would the postage stamps attract injurious attention? Of the hundreds and hundreds of packages that come to the Arboretum from all parts of the world we rarely have losses. Very rarely; almost never.

I have budgeted three thousand, six hundred dollars for exploration in Spanish Honduras, but as I look back over the amount of material that has come in, I do not feel that you are quite earning the amount set aside. Can you not step up production? On a per specimen basis your collections are extraordinarily costly. I have but the highest

for the quality of your orchids and the material in bottles is perfectly marvellous when it comes to the description of new species. Yet, we have to consider whether or not our money is bringing in material in sufficient amounts to pay for spending it. With regard to orchids I sometimes wonder if you are simply finding and not searching, if you know what I mean. I realize that orchids are tree dwelling plants and that it is almost impossible to make a showing if we depend on what is simply within reach, or on what we can pick up in a ramble through the forest.

Just now I am in the midst of preparations for a trip to the West Indies. I shall be away until about April first. When I return I shall expect to have final news for you with regard to the missing orchids. In the meantime I hope you will find an abundance of good material. Is not this a favorable time of year? May, I understand is a good month for your part of the Central American realm.

There are several new species in the last shipment. I have described them and hope to get them published promptly.

At the end of this letter I will enter a record of the missing packages.

With the best of good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Orchids nos. 315-326 inclusive are missing (dried specimen)
Orchids nos. 315-326 inclusive are missing (two bottles of flowers in alcohol)
Unfortunately I have not at hand the record of the woody plants, but I am
sure even among these are many. I will report on them when I return*

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Ames, Oakes. 1933. "Ames, Oakes Feb. 22, 1933 [to J.B. Edwards]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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