## North Easton, Massachusetts. June 1, 1933.

## My dear Mr. Edwards:

Your letter dated May 13, came in yesterday. I have been hoping to hear from you that another package of specimens was on the way, because it would seem that you have slowed down conspicuously in output. I have not received any orchids from you since the shipment of March 25 including numbers 380 to 389. The specimens numbered 390 to 398 mentioned in your letter of April 17, have not arrived. I fear this is another lost package! Nine numbers in about three months and those nine specimen numbers lost is not an encouraging proposition. In thirty or forty years of experience with collectors I have never experienced such a record. I dislike to criticise you in this manner, but I am deeply worried about the situation. I simply cannot spend University money at the rate of three thousand six hundred dollars a year for the services you are rendering. I wrote a very long letter to you onApril 9, (this seems to be the Letter that did not reach you). I quote the following lines: I am in a position to inform you that I should much prefer to have you work on a "per specimen basis", We would undertake to accept all of your orchids and woody plants up to three thousand dollars at fifteen cents per specimen for woody plants and twenty cents a specimen for orchids. That would be approximately fifteen thousand and with a limit of four duplicates to each number. That would be somewhere in the vicinity of four thousand numbers. In this connection I draw your attention to the fact that in nearly a year you have only collected about four hundre numbers of orchids with very few duplicates. And woody plants I understand that you have not yet passed the one thousand mark. If you will estimate the cost perspecimen of your collections, I am sure that you will realize that you will find every reason to be satisfied with the arrangement that has been in force, and to understand why we would much prefer to pay for specimens at a stated rate.

I think this part of that letter is enough to clarify my statements on April 11 regarding what your final reaction would be to a "per specimen basis". I suggested an i mediate reply to my proposition with the propos 1 that we would send to you four hundred dollars at once and four hundred on July first, to keep you giong until you could make a final decision as to whether you wished to act as a general collector or continue with the Arnold Arboretum. INENXREMEXINEXXIX MATEXAUAIEAXEBORE . The lines quoted at the end of the first paragraph introduced this proposition.

I desire to be fair in my position. I think the record and my letters prove this. Sincerely yours,



Ames, Oakes. 1933. "Ames, Oakes June 1, 1933 [to J.B. Edwards]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files* 

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