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NORTH EASTON, MASS.

November 1, 1933.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

Your letters dated Sept. 23, and Oct. 14 have been received. Also I have received the specimens sent with the exception of 522. In my last letter I reported that no. 509 was missing. This was an error in listing. That number is Maxillaria unciata Lindl. I have looked through all of the papers twice and do not find any trace of no. 522. Your letter of the 14th Oct. with its terrible news adds simply another tragedy to the many that have happened in my experience with collectors. The loss of your assistant makes the loss of the specimens a wholly secondary matter. But what can be done. It surely was not through any fault of yours that the canoe was upset and lost and the penalty you had to pay seems a queer interpretation of human affairs. I realize and this you know, that your output has not been adequate and that for the money we have spent our return has been most disappointing. Your record for woody plants has been too slight. And for this I have no explanation, because in the case of woody plants you are not up against the proposition that so often characterizes orchids.

I do not know what arrangement we should make for the future after your contract time is up. It may, depending on your showing from now on, be best to continue on a three months basis. That is, if our financial structure here does not go entirely to the dogs. One has to be very cautious in planning ahead these days, and I should hesitate to make any binding agreement as far ahead as the last day of your present service. I suppose it will be well to send another payment at once. This I shall attend to before the end of this week.

I hope you will be able to make up for the lost specimens and in your return to Comayagua I certainly hope you were able to add some of the lost species to your bag. It is most disappointing to think that many good things were lost in that river accident.

There were several good things in your last shipment the one referred to in your letter of Sept. 23, (The Oct. lot has not yet come in).

There is certainly criticism here of your production in the line of woody plant specimens. Can you not step up production by simplifying your methods? They want material in quantity and I think you should bend your efforts to mass production. I dislike very much to include a criticism in this letter written at a time when you must feel pretty well discouraged. But I do feel that in the closing months of this fiscal year you should get out of the rut you seem to be in.

Very truly yours,

Oakes Ames



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

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