

(A)

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. Dec. 11, 1923.

My dear Lankester: I have just returned from Philadelphia from a meeting held in celebration of the birth of Joseph Leidy. I went as a delegate of the Linnean Society of London. At the Academy of Sciences, I met Dr. Rindge(?), Secretary of the Academy, who referred to you with admiration in his voice when he described your skill in the field. I must allow the lure of the tropics full sway soon, and discover for myself, the man who stimulates delightful thoughts in those who have met him.

There is not much to report from here. I wish, however, that your diligence gave me more opportunities to serve you and to make long lists of things.

Three subjects keep us pretty much on the alert these days: the soldiers' bonus, tax-reduction and the German mark. When these subjects fail or get talked out, there is always the rum-fleet, the bootleggers and the evils of prohibition to carry on the entertainment afforded by social gatherings. Do you wonder that a package of orchids from Lankester is an acceptable diversion for a winter evening.

The portrait gallery of *Pleurothallis* is progressing slowly, and is about ready for publicity.

Yours of the 28th, November has just come in. Of course, the paragraph that held my attention closest is the one which refers to your willingness to go out of your way to help me. When I see Mr. Cutter again, I will pop the question about a railroad-pass. In the meantime, use the small sum of fifty dollars enclosed in this letter.

Now, with regard to Stork's *Epidendrums*. They are two species that you might easily pass by because of their resemblance to *E. difforme* and *E. paranthicum*. The supposedly new *Stelis*, turned out to be *S. cucullata* Ames. This was collected south of Catago.

Why not send me one of your camera slides as a sample. I will try to duplicate it or have new ones made for you.

The photograph of *Odontoglossum Krameri*, is a dandy. This will make a valuable addition to the herbarium. But above all things, I like to have a dried flower or two to complete the record. Please make a note and hang it on your shaving-mirror. Ames wants *Odontoglossum Krameri*

You speak of a *Pleurothallis* that is too fragile to press. Perish the thought! Just place it between driers in a folder. It will come out all right. If you had mentioned *Stanhopea* as too fragile to press, you would have received words of sympathy.

If this letter reaches you at Christmas time, read between the lines the best wishes in the world for an ideal tropical holiday. I passed my one and only Christmas away from home, in the tropics, on a lonely trail in the mountains of Brazil. I remember the day clearly! My Christmas dinner consisted of chicked buried in cassava meal, wrapped in a news-paper. That was the expedition on which I discovered a little *Tetramiera** that had been "lost" for thirty years. A few days before I found it, Dr. Loeftgren had shown me a delicate watercolor sketch of it, as he told me how the only specimen had become lost in the mails on its way to Prof. Cogniaux. Jocularly, I told Loeftgren that I would find his orchid for him. When I returned to Rio along the above mentioned lonely trail, my progress was interrupted by a large tree which had fallen across the trail after I had passed on going up. On the trunk of the tree, on the side toward me, over the middle of the trail, I saw a small white flower. I had rediscovered Loeftgren's lost orchid.

When Standley arrives in January or February, I wish you would turn over to him many of the common orchids that you find it inconvenient to bother with. Standley ought to press all flowering species whether or not they are common. He is prepared to do this in my behalf. I regard Standley's expedition as an exceptional opportunity to enrich our knowledge of the Costa Rican orchid flora.

With the best wishes in the world for the Christmas season,

Yours faithfully,

Charles Ames

* *Lepidote*



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Dec. 11, 1923 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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