

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

February 6th, 1924.

My dear Lankester:

Your letters of the 16th, and 25th, January and post-card of the 18th, January, are all at hand. Just as soon as I obtain a breathing space, I intend to attack the specimens sent in butterfly-holders.

Your 550 is surely the same as Schlechter's Oncidium Pittieri. In this laboratory we consider this species and O. cheiroporphoroides Kraenzl. one and the same. As Schlechter's name is the earlier one, it should prevail. All things considered you will be on the safe side if you discard the Kraenzlin proposal. It all depends on how close you wish your conceptions to be to the present day artificiality of the extremists. If you are in search of broad and sane views, pass the word along and I shall be delighted to give you what you want. I am really weary of the attempt to see in every little quirk good reasons for splitting. As my old teacher, Dr. Farlow, used to tell us, when referring to the modern systematists: if they can see a difference, then a new genus is made; if they can imagine a difference, then a new species is described.

When we entered the World War, I did my bit by teaching military hygiene to the classes at Harvard, assembled under the Students Army Training Corps. Dr. Shipley visited the University at that time, and I remember that it was my good fortune to be his chauffeur for a forenoon. Your reference to his visit to you, brings back vividly those dreadful days of German folly.

I am delighted to have the good news that Standley is about to begin his Costa Rican campaign. If the season is at all good, he will, in the short time at his disposal make the work of Werckle, Brenes and the others look like a "tea party". He will also hand you the missing volume of Orchidaceae with the author's autograph and photograph conspicuous as can be within its covers.

Please send to me through Standley some samples of coffee for my Museum. The best and the poorest with intermediate grades. All carefully mark-

ed. I would also like to have some ears of native corn. And any other material of an economic nature.

Your kind invitation to visit Costa Rica as your guest has much in it that appeals to me. Who knows what the future has in store for you? If the weather we have been having for three days, continues I may volplane down to you. Sleety rain has fallen off and on, changing now and again to wet snow. Under foot the pavements are treacherous and deep in slush. A few days ago the thermometer went down to 33 degrees F. and then, in a very short space of time ran up to 40 degrees. What a marvellous creature man is (to say nothing of the horse and the dog) to be able to adjust himself to such outrageous freaks of New England nature!

Powell keeps up his enthusiasm and now and again adds a new orchid to his beloved flora. I have in hand two mighty true photographs of the old boy that will find a place on one of the sheets of the herbarium, because I like to have such things to remind me of the collectors who have helped me.

In May I shall send to you a copy of the little book I have just finished for the American Orchid Society. This is entitled "An Enumeration of the Orchids of the United States and Canada." The contents may not interest you a bit, but as a specimen of book-making you will be pleased to add the volume to your library.

I am afraid I have failed to give you much that is solid in this this letter, but you may be sure that my best wishes go to you in your delightful Costa Rica.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Ames

Please use a black pencil when you write your labels.



Ames, Oakes. 1924. "Ames, Oakes Feb. 6, 1924 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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