

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

May 28th, 1924.

My dear Lankester: A most welcome reminder of your industry came in this morning. I have looked at the specimens and now they are in a fumigating compartment while the Costa Rican bugs that secured a free passage to this country are being separated from life. I am sure that there are several stangers in the collection. It will be possible to identify and include the novelties contained in this recent acquisition in the 9th number of the Sched. Orch. This noble publication is already on its way to completion and gives to you and dear old Powell an abundance of notoriety.

It would be great sport to take a flying chance in coffee under your experienced guidance, but all I have to spend these days is income (what the Government does not need), as my funds are tightly invested. Then again, I might pull you down to failure, because my luck in new ventures has always been sad. I have at hand at this very minute a most attractive offer from a man in New York who desires my co-operation in the banana business. He wants \$25,000 advanced at once. He will pay me \$50,000 at the end of a year. In reviewing my varied ventures in the realm of finance I find only two records that look good: I once sold a yoke of oxen for more than I paid out; I once sold a Ford automobile for more than it cost me. All of my other ventures have been dismal failures, and I concluded long ago that the only safe place for my surplus cash was a savings bank or a reliable insurance company. And now the insurance companies eat into my quarterly income in a savage way.

The summer is creeping in and I am contemplating a hurried departure for the country and a well deserved rest. This winter has been a hard one because it has been filled with administrative duties.

Yours with the best wishes in the world,

Charles Ames.



Ames, Oakes. 1924. "Ames, Oakes May 28, 1924 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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