

255 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.
October 12th, 1924.

My dear Lankester: You must forgive me, if for a time I seem to have dropt from the face of the earth. I have had trouble with the farm at North Easton. That has meant a great amount of time spent in supervision. Then, a few weeks ago, my co-trustee shot himself. That meant that I had to entertain fears of mismanagement in the Estate Office. It took time to get matters righted. Then the University opened and there were students to meet and instruct. Next week I am to move to Boston for the winter, and then with the vacation spirit thoroughly downed, I intend to give every effort to scientific work, to Costa Rican orchids and to my correspondents.

I am afraid that Powell thinks I am a bad fellow. I wrote to him last night to clear away any misgivings he may have had regarding my work for him. I wish I could get to Panama and cheer him up with real contact. And then, on the way home, stop over to see how you do things in Costa Rica.

I have not yet found an opportunity to examine the last bundle of specimens that came from you, but I am looking forward to that pleasure. Just as soon as I get the names established you shall have a list of them.

The autumn here has been too brilliant for anything, to use a vulgar phrase. I have never seen the leaves so highly colored or so persistent. I have been motoring to Boston from North Easton almost every day for a month and it is like driving through a landscape painted by color-drunk artists. The autumn is a sad time, however and it needs something cheerful about it to make one unconscious of its dire significance,

Please keep in touch with your neighbors, the orchids, and when you find a little time hanging heavy on your hands, use it in my behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Walter C. Coker



Ames, Oakes. 1924. "Ames, Oakes Oct. 12, 1924 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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