

W
January 2, 1943

Mr. C. H. Lankester
Las Concavas
Cartago, Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Lankester:

I was very glad to have your letter of the 20th of December, and to know that you are getting along quite famously.

The Sobralia will probably be some time in coming up by ordinary mail, and I may not see it but my assistant or one of the other men in the museum will take care of the matter for you.

I am leaving for Bahia about the 23rd of this month, and will be down there for the duration of the war. This, I think explains the reason that I shall not be able to attend to your plant when it arrives.

I don't know yet how I will go South, but probably I will not pass through Costa Rica. If, however, it does prove that I shall be there overnight or something of that matter I shall send you a cable as to the probable time of my arrival. I think that it is most probable however that I will go from Miami straight across the Caribbean.

I have just been having a go at the Sobralias for the Flora of Panama and I must say that they are by all odds the toughest genus, for a small one, in the flora. It would not be so bad if friend Reichenbach had kept his hands off of them.

I am glad that the orchid Bulletin has finally gotten through, and that you found something in it of interest. I think probably my assistant here will take over during my absence unless he is taken into the Army which is not too remote a possibility.

Rolfe, as you say, was certainly a fine man, and had a very good grasp of horticultural orchids as well as others. It is too bad that he did not live to see some of the fine things that have appeared within recent years. As I understand from Professor Ames Rolfe was not given his free hand as he might have been at Kew, and perhaps would have been able to do a great deal more had he been.

I am almost amused at some of the names that orchid hybridists attach to some of the finest creations. Some are ludicrous like those which you call to mind, and some are just chosen like for example Laeliocattleya Sunburn, which appeared on the cover of a recent Bulletin.

Professor Ames is in Florida as usual, and does not fail to mention the warm climate when he writes his all too infrequent letters. He is, I think, in the best of health.

With my sincere regards,

Yours truly,

LOW/cl

P.S. I have just had a call from the museum saying that a specimen has arrived there air mail, so I presume that it is the Sobralia. I shall take care of it the first thing when I go into the laboratory on Monday.



Williams, Louis O. 1943. "Williams, Louis O. Jan. 2, 1943 [to C.H. Lankester]."
Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files

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