

Three hundred and fifty-five
Commonwealth Avenue

November 25, 1922

My dear Mr. Schlechter:

Here are a few lines to let you know that I am still above ground. The reason for my long silence is found in the very busy life I have been leading this winter since I came from North Easton to winter quarters. A few days ago I sent you a little pamphlet that may interest you. This is about all I have found time for.

Did I understand you to say that Kränzlin had published his monographs of *Masdevallia* and *Dielsia*? I ask this question because my agents have not yet forwarded copies.

Recently I have been looking through my catalogue to plan out a system. Just at present printing costs are very high. But there are indications that prices will become easier. It cost over \$100.00 to get out 200 copies of the pamphlet I sent you. I got it out myself because our scientific papers are over-crowded and having a hard time to meet costs. I may continue the Schudrae, that is why I numbered it. But with the uncertainties of dividends one feels hesitation about assuming obligations.

You will be surprised to learn that we have not yet started our furnace fire. The coal strike causes such uncertainties as to supplies, that we have been living by open fires ever since the cold weather set in. So, you see, you Germans are not the only ones who are in danger of frost bitten feet.

Fortunately for us the weather has been normal with plenty of sunshine. Only recently has the thermometer registered freezing during the day. My herbarium is pretty cold in the early morning, but the open fire is always there to back up to. I wonder if you get that habit. Sometimes in summer time one instinctively stands with one's back to a fire place.

Mr. Powell sent me some flowers in alcohol of Selenipedium clusia Reutib. f. This is very close to S. palmifolium Reutib. f. Undoubtedly the plate in Xenia was prepared from expanding buds. The mature flowers fall very easily if pollination has not resulted in fertilization. Fruits flowers and buds are present simultaneously. Mrs. Ames has made a delightful drawing of the species. It grows, as originally reported, about 10 feet in height. As we say in American slang "Some orchid!"

I have not yet found an opportunity to examine my Bolivian orchids. In fact time is of such a nature in my life that I wonder why Einstein bothered with it. I suppose you have the feeling that time was longer when you were a boy. So much for relativity. As to the curvedness of gravity, I find that my curves all lead away from orchids. That is, unimportant things like business meetings are the centres on which my curves of motion impinge.

Please pass on our good wishes. It is not too much to say that every day your name is before me.

Yours sincerely
Oakes Ames

P.S. Has the young orchid man learned English and Spanish yet? The time will soon arrive when an expedition will be planned. We might send him for the first trip to Central America with a U.S. Natl. Herbarium party. One will go next winter.



Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes Nov. 25, 1922 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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