

COPY

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan
Chicago, January 19, 1931

Mr. Oliver Hoyen
25 Broadway
New York

Dear Mr. Hoyen:

Thank you for your letter and good wishes. I am glad to hear that Dr. Ovre feels kindly toward me; he knows that I do not agree very well with him on some points which I suppose he considers essential.

I know of Mr. Roerich and his Himalayan research program. He is apparently in close touch with the N.Y. Bot. Garden, especially with Mr. Merrill the Director, who some time ago was looking for a botanical collector to go to India for Mr. Roerich. Mr. Merrill was for a long time in Manila and continues to be interested in that part of the world - otherwise covered mostly by European institutions.

The Department of Botany of this Museum is at present restricting its activities chiefly to tropical America. I found some years ago that with our staff and resources rather limited we could not well spread out over the entire world, as do other departments of this institution, at least not without spreading very thin, and our organization has been shaped to deal with Central and South America. As long as that continues to be a fertile field we expect to stick to it, passing up all sorts of other opportunities to enrich our collections and to complicate our existence.

It is in connection with that program that I asked Rockefeller Foundation for some funds, only a small amount, 5,000 a year, to meet an equal expenditure on part of the Museum for the purpose of obtaining photographic copies of the type specimens of tropical American plants in European herbaria, for ourselves and for distribution among other American institutions. Unfortunately for us, all the early collections in the American tropics, especially in So. America, were made by Europeans and their types are deposited in European institutions. We have not the time and money to make annual pilgrimages to study their plants to compare them with our own. That is the main idea of the work they are assisting us to carry out in Germany and Switzerland for the present. Though I am sure of the grant only for this, the third year, I hope it may be continued for some time to come.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

B.E. Dahlgren

*perhaps we could also appeal
Could Dr. Koez give us details in order
to do this.*