

This is an unedited transcript summary of the letters of Henry Nehrling to Theodore Luqueer Mead with my typographical errors and misinterpretations of Henry Nehrling's handwriting. This transcript needs to be edited and indexed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'TLL' or similar, written in a cursive style.

22 April 1985

LETTERS FROM HENRY NEHRLING TO THEODORE L. MEAD

- Oct. 30, 1890. Milwaukee Public Museum.  
Self-introduction based on Mead article on  
Pancratrium ovatum in The Florida Dispatch. Many questions  
about TLM's gardens and methods of growing palms.
- Dec. 31, 1892 MPM. Thanks TLM for letter (n.d.). Gives information about  
the climate and soil of the Riviera, near Nice. Includes  
list of plants grown there--19 genera and their species.  
Plans to write an article about TLM's place for the  
Gartenflora and perhaps for Garden & Forest and asks  
for list of plants, ferns, crinums, and other subtropical  
plants "that you are growing out of doors?" Asks of  
TLM has tried Araucaria bidwillii in the open.  
Asks for sale list of Cocus species for the Gotha place.  
Thanks him for information about hymenocallis and orchids.
- March 8, 1893 MPM. Reminds TLM about list of palms and says he especially  
is interested in Cocos, Sabals, and Phoenix.
- March 22, 1893 MPM. Cannot send desired orchid pollen because has only a  
few orchids in flower (lists them). Encloses order for  
palms and asks for discount "as I am a very poor fellow."
- June 26, 1893 MPM. Order for palms.
- Aug. 31, 1893 MPM. Encloses \$5.00 and notes that he has sent his  
Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty as a present
- Sept. 30, 1893 MPM. Encloses \$5.00 for palms.
- Dec. 14, 1893 MPM. "On page XLIII (of Native Birds) I have erected for  
you a little monument. While visiting you I was struck  
with the masses of beautiful climbers on the verandah of  
your house and your fine palms." MML lacks vol. 1.  
  
Expresses interest in hymenocallis and in all amaryllis.  
Promises to send crosses of various amaryllis. Plans  
to buy a collection of crinums from Dutnam (sp?) in Italy  
and asks for advice. Talks about Crinum angustum and  
C. amabile and compares them. More about crinums. More  
about palms. Has a gift Lantania bobonica (sp) and asks  
if worth the cost of shipping to Florida.
- Jan. 8, 1895 Temperature at Gotha at 16° and almost everything has  
been killed "on my place." Asks TLM for opinion as to  
whether lost or damaged
- Jan. 31 1895 Sends money. Asks for as full an account of the frost  
damage for Garden & Forest
- Sept. 5 1895 MPM. Thanks TLM for orchids. TLM evidently did not  
suffer great cold damage. HN says that he is not yet certain  
whether or not he will continue in Florida. Plans to  
visit TLM again in November.

- Jan 22, 1897 Discouraged with the failure of many of his plants to grow at Gotha. The magnolias and some others (some illegible), *Persea curlinensis*, *Olea americana* grow nicely. Asks for photographs of TLM palms.
- April 28 1903 HN has moved his family to Gotha and he invites TLM to visit. He has studied the literature and lists his sources in studying bulbous plants--*amaryllis* and *crinum*.  
  
Has ten *Cocus* species, one with yellowish and purplish flowers, "Do you know the name of it?" Mrs. N. does not like Florida.
- Feb 1, 1904 HN writes from Philadelphia, Pa, The Philadelphia Commercial Museum. A part-time position and expects to return to Gotha by March 15. Has collected a large series of photographs on palms and Florida landscapes and anxious to get pictures from TLM for use in magazine articles and for a book that he is planning. Also asks for notes on various plantings near the Mead house.  
  
[There must be some letters missing because HN mentions in the 1904 letter that he visited TLM "two years ago... "]
- July 24 1904 Gotha. Asks for advice on overcoming a fungus infesting his caladiums. Offers several hundred cypress wood orchid baskets. He fertilized with cotton seed meal and thinks that probably has something to do with ----"this fungus makes among my plants, but has seen also on pot plants.  
  
Mentions his highly colored caladiums such as .... and names 13 names cultivars. Asks for information about lubber grasshoppers.
- Jan 2, 1905 HN's daughter Hildegard died of consumption Nov. 1. Has decided to specialize in growing fancy caladiums. Has ordered a "correctly named collection" of 325 kinds from a reliable German grower for \$75.00. Includes about 25 species and subspecies. Some of his tubers were as large as a soup plate and almost of the same form.
- Sept. 23, 1905 Thanks TLM for six special caladiums. His son, Arno has brought him 38 different plants including *alocasia cuprea* and others, *Colocasia*, *C* or *A. sclerm-burghii* (sp), *Aglaonema*, *Anthuriums*, *Philodendrums*, *Spathiphyllums*, ----- *marahatas* and a few *Achimenes*

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- Sept. 23, 1905 (another letter, same day). Thanks TLM for package of caladium leaves, scientific treatise on Pancratinum (?) and hymenocallis. Mentions his fragrant caladiums.
- Dec. 10, 1905 Has forwarded first lot of caladiums. They gave him a lot of trouble which he describes. He names many cultivars. Has ordered more caladiums from Lietze. Will increase his collection to about 800-850 different kinds.  
Sold his orange crop of about 1,000 boxes for \$1.05 per box on the trees. Visited Mr. Allen (?) and surprised about his many rarities and lists some of them
- March 12, 1906 send TLM a few caladiums and piece of tall Japanese bamboo. Some of his land where he planted caladiums is under water.
- Mar. 14, 1906 Planting caladkums. Bought an old pineapple shed of about 22 thousand feet of lumber and has ordered posts. Hopes to set out 25- 30,000 older varieties and about 2,000 more of the rarer kinds. Lake very high. concerned that his shed will be oriented incorrectly and may affect plant growth.  
Asks for piece of Bamboo verticillata, and Polypodiums, and iris ...
- Mar. 23, 1906 TLM has been very ill. HN's little daughter Hedwig Else ill and not likely to recover. Miss Hedwig schlechting and his daughter Hulda and Dr. Reuben Strong of the U. of Chicago visited. The dr. filled HN's den with his natural history specimens. More about caladium exchanging.  
Set out Xanthusomas and taros, about 50 different kinds. Dug up and ate taro tubers, good flavor. Raised a taro of about 4 pounds. Plant came from Trinidad
- June 13, 1906 HN's daughter Hedwig-Else died yesterday
- June 22, 1906 More about planting caladiums, sheds, naming a caladium for Mrs. Mead.
- Aug. 14, 1906. He lists plants grown through the winter under a cover of pine needles. Lost only Anthurium andreanum and A. warocqueanum. Marantas, anthuriums, philodendrums, alocacasias, colocasias, xanthusomas, homalomenas, aglaonemas, dieffenbachias, and (illegible) do very well. Also Kaempferia rotunda and K. gilberti, Curcuma several species do very well. Heliconias except bihai died.  
Received his appointment as "Collaborator in the Bureau of Plant Industry" a few days ago. Means additional work in the line of (Gantias?) and taroe.

- Sept. 11, 1906 More problems with high water level of his lake and need to lift and transplant caladiums. Has accepted position to teach school. Names many ferns that he is growing: one unnamed "with leaf-stalks as thick as a broom-stick" and also *Cibotium Schiedeii*, *C. barometz*, *Alsophila* ---, *Blechnum braziliense*, *B. ciliatum*, *Lomaria gibba*; adiantums, very beautiful, marantas growing well (several species not listed L.H. Bailey, 1949 or *Exotica*. All wintered in the ground covered with thick layer of pine needles. Caladiums doing well.
- Has tall fern- Mr. Rensour names it *Pteris marginata*. Asks TLM if he has grown *Acrostichum scandens* in the open.
- Nov. 8, 1907 Planted 65,000 caladiums but practically a failure as had scarcely enough rain to keep half of them alive. Lake fallen more than 5 feet. "Gotha's prestige is lost." *Amaryllis* a success, has about 10,000 plants and plans for 50,000 next year. Has *Hippeastrum reticulatum* and *H. pardinum*
- Oct 6 1908 (there is no correspondence in this file for the past 11 months) HN now has his own stationery "Palm Cottage Experiment Gardens, H. Nehrling, director." More on caladiums and lack of rain. Hopes to sell tubers for \$1,000.
- Nov. 30, 1908 TLM had very meager returns on his vegetable crop. HN would like to have a good horticultural talk with you, "Your general knowledge about exotic plants is so great that I do not know of any one else who can compete with you."..."you have grown so many plants, not even to be found in the horticultural papers or in the cyclopedias, that I have always profited from your experience." HN now more than ever interested in bamboos. "As far as I know you were the first in Florida who made these plants a specialty. Much on bamboos and nomenclature.
- Dec. 16, 1908 Weather ruined TLM lettuce crop. HN planted 87,000 caladiums, but only about 60,000 came up, and scarcely a third as saleable tubers.
- Dec. 22, 1908 TLM has sent him large clumps of bamboos. Now asks TLM to take pictures of *B. verticulata*, the fish-tail variety, and the *Arundinaria falcata*. Says Henry Veitch has informed him that "last summer, all over Europe, *Phyllostachys castilloni* and *Ph. Borgana*(sp) and that all the old plants were lost, not only the old plants, but all the plants that existed."

- Dec 22, 1908 (continued) More on caladiums and need for irrigation system for them. Will send amaryllis hybrids in exchange for the bamboos
- March 28, 1910 (another long break in the correspondence)  
TLM has sent a collection of denbrobiums.  
HN's amaryllis are blooming and invites TLM to visit "go from Sanford to Winter Garden ... we have daily trains from Apopka to Kissimmee
- Nov. 4, 1911 (another break)) Mrs. Nehrling has died.  
TLM will resume hybridizing caladiums and HN says he will send a collection of his best
- Dec 21, 1912 (another break) Digging caladiums. TLM had no success with some amaryllis seeds. TLM gave him a *Cattleya* or *Lollia* (sp) with fine perfume and HN wants a plant of it.
- Feb 15, 1913 "The only thing that seems to sell well is vegetables-- 'something to eat'" Most of his buyers have ceased to order from me because they now get their supply just as they need it from -----? He intends to visit TLM with young Mrs. L'oughlin in her automobile.
- Sept 4, 1913 Orders 150 amaryllis bulbs from TLM.
- March 13, 1916 ((another break))TLM has lost caladiums and HN says he may have all he wants. "Out-Verduned and out-bombarded a la Marne by Jack Frost." HN has planted 1500 different palms: *C. plumosa*, *flexuosa*, *cornuta*, *Livistona olivaeformis*, *Seaforthia elegans*, *arshantophoenix* (sp) *Alexander*, *sabal*, *Arecastrum* (?), *Areodoxa* (?) *regia*, *Washingtonia robusta*, and very many Phoenix seeds. Others named, but illegible. Also *C. australis* from seeds received from Paraguay and *C. Marie* (blotted), *c. macrocarpa*. Talks about the restrictive inspection laws. Had a good year. Caladiums turned out to be fine and the sales satisfactory, with 10,000 tubers still on hand.
- Mar. 31, 1916 Has visited south Florida and taken with the palms at Ft. Myers. Saw only one *Acrocomia totai* and asked TLM to look for seeds on the ground under your tree. Mentions Mrs. McAdams, the "modern Hypatia."
- Misc. papers. The 1911 letter head reads: Palm Cottage Gardens, Gotha, Orange County, Florida. H. Nehrling, director, Werner Nehrling, secretary.
- Misc: A very poor copy (unidentified process), chapter headings of a proposed book?
- "Certain Cacti." Copy, illegible, 2¼ pages, by T. L. Mead, Sept. 18, 1871(?)
- Illegible copy, one page in HN's script.

- April 21, 1916 Received seeds of *Acrocomia totai* from TLM.  
Talks about amaryllis
- March 22, 1917 Dr. Fairchild is visiting HN. Tried to induce  
him to go to Lake Charm, but he is going to  
Brooksville.
- Oct. 1917 TLM proposes a visit. HN says, "greatly obliged to you  
particularly for Tillandsia ionantha. Please come  
with the morning bus ..." HN has remarried--"My Frau."  
She runs the car. He will be at Naples from Nov. 1 to  
Nov 15 (evidently has already bought the Naples place).  
Will take his amaryllis seedlings and quite a number of  
other bulbs.
- Oct. 15, 1917 Notes that the Reasoners have been visiting TLM.  
Says that he has written to several botanical gardens for  
rare plants and I shall get fine anthuriums, philodendrons,  
bromeliads, etc. I intend also to plant a number of  
orchids and I call on you to help me along. I like some  
of your beautiful Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, etc.... I like  
a small plant of your *Tillandsia* you spoke about. Offers  
to buy a collection of orchids
- Nov. 3, 1917 Writes about possibility of hybridizing native *Iris hexagona*.  
Enjoyed TLM visit. "Some one told me the other day that  
*Epidendrum nost-----*(?) and *Oncidium luridum* (SP) are found  
at or near Naples. Asks for *Watsonia ardinei alba* and  
*Rhipsalis*. Sent 1200 pounds of amaryllis, crinums,  
bromeliadd, etc. Thanks him for the orchids.
- Nov 29, 1917 Back from Naples. Thanks him for the *Watsonia avernei*.  
"One Sunday Judge Wil---- and I went out to Henderson  
Creek and other swampy places and in one place we found the  
wild ----- apple trees overhanging gnarly trunks full  
of *Epidendrum nost----*, *E. tampense*, *Dendrophylax*  
*lindenii*, *Campyloneu---*(SP) *phyllidtis* (SP), and in  
another place I found *Epidendrum cochleatum* and wonderful  
specimens of the beautiful fern *Asplenium serratum*."  
Found a single specimen of *Cyrtopodium-----* and many  
orchid s in decaying cypress knees. He thought young  
palms were springing up, but the jedge "showed me the matter  
of pseudobulbs ... and I mail you a specimen.  
Collected lots of *Habenarias*.



- March 26, 1918 Sends pollen of 'Carl -----'. Asks for seeds of Sabal palmetto for a friend.
- April 10, 1918 Sends pollen of *Hippeastrum solandiflorum conspicuum*. Enjoyed the day with TLM and thanks him for rare plant gifts. "I am particularly interested in aroids and bromeliads. Have you ever seen any of the -----Vriesias that were raised by Duval and in Germany? Duval of Versailles-----has a long scientific article of his work with these plants in "Die Gartenflora" in the nineties. . . I think I can grow lots of these plants at Naples, but they are hard to get in this country. People do not seem to appreciate their unique beauty. In Milwaukee I saw in the private collections of an old German gardener many of them, particularly *Billbergia* and *Nidulariums*. Have you ever seen *Encholirion* (*Tillandsia saundersii*? It has bluish green leaves with red spots."
- June 6, 1918 Wishes the war was over so ... could obtain again some new amaryllis from England and Germany. He digs for nuggets in *Gardeners Chronicle* and *Die Gartenwelt*. "I am very enthusiastic about bromeliads because they do so well here and at Naples. The trees on my place down there are covered with several species (among?) them *Tillandsia bulbosa* ... Years ago I found somewhere in north(?) [his paren] Florida a small *Tillandsia* (smaller than *T. juncea*) with tufts of beautiful red leaves. I think this is Chapman's *T. calis*-----(?) which may be identical with Small's *T. tenuifolia*. Have you ever seen it and does it grow in your -----? If so please send me a few clumps by mail, also about a dozen clumps of *T. juncea* which is so common in your locality. I cannot find it here. Years ago I sent some specimens to Dr. Alvin Berger of the Hauburg Gardens, La Martola (?), Italy and he succeeded to establish it with other species from Paraguay and artentina. Small gives a number of species which I do not know--

*Tillandsia festucoides*  
*T. valenzuelana*  
*T. fasciculata*  
*T. balbisiana*  
*T. baileyi*  
*T. circinnata*  
*T. polystachya*  
*T. aloifolia*

Do you know where I can get live plants of any or all of these? The large-----we find in cypress swamps near here is, I think, *T. utriculata*. Is this correct?"

Will soon have a fine large collection of tropical birds. Found an unusual begonia in back of somebody's house and brought home some cuttings. May be *Begonia* President Carnot. Two of his sons enlisted--one the dept. of Justice.

June 18, 1918

TLM send HN a large collection of plants. "I received *T. caupitosa*(?) from Soar and Reasoner and it is exactly like your oneplant you suppose to be *T. juncea*, and according to Small you are right. While you think the majority to be *T. caupitosa* I do not know where to place the much larger plant. It cannot be *T. fasciculata*, or is it that species? What do you think it is? I am very much interested in your description and treatment of *Aechmea Mariae Regina*. I have a small plant under that name received from Reasoner. I found on my place at Naples a *Tillandsia* which I think is *T. balbosa*, and I found another one with a-----side shoot--a rather small plant but very interesting. ....Had I known that you had to creep through the dense hammock with your 15-foot ladder I surely would not have requested you to send me specimens."

[These references to Small are probably:

John Kunkel Small. *Flora of Miami*; being descriptions of the seed-plants growing naturally on the Everglade Keys and in the adjacent everglades, southern peninsular Florida. New York: published by the author, 1913. and his

*Flora of the Florida Keys*; being descriptions of the seed-plants growing naturally on the islands of the Florida Reef from Virginia Key to Dry Tortugas. New York: published by the author, 1913.

In addition to his writings about plants in the American Eagle, Estero, Fla (collected in My Garden in Florida by the editor of the American Eagle, there is:

*The Plant World in Florida*, from the published manuscripts of Dr. Henry Nehrling. Collected and edited by Alfred and Elizabeth Kay. New York: Macmillan, 1933.

Both of these collected writings are especially useful for identifying plants mentioned in these letters, especially those with illegible names.

Oct. 5, 1918

Proposes to visit TLM. Has "a few fine caladiums that you must have - Zona Gale and a few others, also a Vanda -----which my friend Andre sent me from Trinidad. My collection of bromeliads is worth seeing. I have some fine things now. I intend to get all I can from Andre (Trinidad) and Werakle (?) (Costa Rica) before Uncle Sam shuts his doors

Oct. 16, 1918

Thanks TLM for specimen plant of *Naegelia* (! what is this?) "I wonder whether this is *N. cinnabarina* or *N. zebrina*. The gesneriads always have appealed to me. I have a fine small plant of *Columnea gloriosa*." And more on gesneriads. "I thank you for the old letter of mine you sent back. I have all yours-- from the beginning and they are to me most valuable as a reference." [If these letters came to Mills Memorial Library with the Nehrling purchases they have not yet appeared during this search Jan 1985]

"I received a package of seeds of *Bromelia pinguin* from the Porto Rico Section. Could you not grow orchids just as well in a greenhouse like Reasoner has built them--wider, higher, and very likely less airy? Of all the rare things I'll get I shall remember you when I have surplus. Don't sell the *amaryllis* too cheaply--354 wholesale is cheap enough and they are worth it. Elt--- Pomeroy, Delta Nurseries, Donna, Texas, sells his hybrids for 50¢ and \$1.00 each. He had many thousands of them. He visited me last year, and told me that my price of \$35.00 per 100 was too low. Consider the prices Burbank gets for his strain of *amaryllis*!"

no date--appears

to be pages 3 and 4 or a Dec or Jan letter in which HN wished TLM a happy New Year.

Writing about prices of something. Has thousands of palms--seedlings--mostly *Cocas*, "but I cannot dispose of them without expensive advertising and I have about 3,000 fine seedlings of *Cycad revoluta*. Talks about marketing cycads at 25¢ each, growing cycads and *asparagus plumosa* and making money. "My neighbor, F----- Barthels, the man who had charge of my place for many years, grows *asparagus plumosa* and reaps annually \$4,000.00. He could double this if he had help. He began without capital. It took him 5 or 6 years before he had an acre under shed. He has now 2 acres under lath cover. The people in Altamonte Springs were still more successful ..."

Nov. 4, 1919

Has about 20 species of *Rhipsalis* from the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Orders 150 more *amaryllis* from TLM. "I received a fine collection of bromeliads from Chantrier in France. All came through in good condition, but the Federal Plant Board informed me that I have to supply a bond to the amount of \$5,000 when again such a consignment is received. Such a procedure will almost prohibit any new introductions ... what can we do? ... cut off the appropriation for the Federal Plant Board by Congress, just as our legislature has done with the State Plant Board. I received a letter from Dr. Robertson-Proschowsky and seeds of *Pittosporum macrophyllum*. I expect 103 (?) mostly new plants from Prof. Sargent collected by Mr. Wilson in Formosa.

My wife came home from De Kalb, N.J. (N.Y.C.) late in September.  
She had made the trip in her auto... "

Nov. 16, 1919 TLM has lost all of his amaryllis and caladium seedlings. "I have not been able to raise new caladiums during the past few years, but I have several thousand seedling amaryllis of this year's planting." Sympathizes and says the freeze of Feb 1919 caused a loss of at least \$7,000. Lost all of his new caladiums. "I had a billbergia in bloom last week which has beautiful red bracts, but the petals were green tipped with blue. I am unable to identify it. It stands near *B. nutans*, but it is not so beautiful, tho the leaves were larger and the plant in itself more ornamental. I planted many thousand of tropical palm seeds but I have not been able to obtain a single seedling with the exception of four *Copernicia cerifera*. I shall move all my tropical plants to Naples during my Christmas vacation ... just now building a shed 160 x 140 feet down there. The land seems to me to be well adapted for caladiums, amaryllis and tropical plants." Ordered 15 tons of mixed horse and cow manure for the Gotha place. Mrs. Mead is sick. "... You should again hybridize [orchids] as you have all the facilities of doing so. And it takes a man like you to do this work. As far as I know there are very few hybridizers of orchids in the great country of ours. Another field for you is the growing of *Colocasia esculenta*." Orders 150 more caladium bulbs-amaryllis.

Dec 3, 1918 (OUT OF CHRON. ORDER) Orders 100 select amaryllis. Digging caladiums by himself because can't get help. "Received a fine collection of bromeliads from Buffalo Botanical Garden, among them *Ulex macrocarpa*, *musaica*, *Chevaliera crocophylla*, *Nidularium Binati*(?), *N. elegans*, *N. triste*, *N. Morrenianum*, *Ananassa macrodanta*, several *aechmeas*, *hechtias* and *billbergias*, *Dyckia sulphurea* [synom *D. brevifolia* Baker--L. H. Bailey, Manual of Cultivated Plants p. 192], four species of *Pitcairnea* and four of *Cryptanthus* and a few curious unnamed species. These plants are highly interesting and very ornamental. All my specimens of *Tillandsia lindenii* show flower buds. This is a most exquisite small species and gorgeous when in bloom. I have evidently three distinct varieties. *Billbergia nutans* has been naturalized at La Mortola, Italy by Dr. Alvin Berger. He has fine specimen plants of it on the stems of various palms. It can stand considerable frost and I think I shall try a few small plants in the "bootjack" of my Sabals. He also naturalized quite a number of various species of

Tillandsias from Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina in the same way with much success, and about twenty species of Rhipsalis. Do you know a good book on the flora of Costa Rica? Carlos Werckle (?) wrote me some time ago that he has discovered a number of new bromeliads rivalling in beauty(?) with Caraguata Zahnii, Massangea musaica and others and still very distinct. He intends to send me a fine collection of --- the Costa Rican species---about 300 distinct kinds. He says that the center of distribution of bromeliads in Costa Rica is found in the mountains around Cartago. " Says that his wife "is in many respects an ideal, but she is extremely nervous, and not at all healthy.

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- Dec. 5, 1919      Accepts offer of Aberia caffra trees [D. caffra Warb] Just received two specimens of Sargenta-toxum cirneatum (?) from Prof. Sargent. ... collected by Wilson in south western China. He is digging caladiums. Going to Naples after Christmas. "Shall need a whole carload of plants ..."
- Dec. 29, 1919      Thanks TLM for Christmas present of his hybrid caladium "Istachatta." A "Lance-shaped caladium" . These are new to the retail trade. More about other caladiums and amaryllis [just matched the loose page with this see middle of p. 9]
- Jan 22, 1920      Orders at least 100 blooming Amaryllis bulbs. "My Frau and I shall run over to you to get them. Let me know when you shall have them ready." Also wants strap-leaved caladiums.
- Jan 28, 1920      "Please dig for me 150 amaryllis, all flowering bulbs. More problems with having caladiums too cold and rotten. Says "they suffer as soon as the soil shows a temperature under 45° F. In dry sandy soil they do not suffer as long as the soil remains warm, say 55° F and above. I am much interested in your wonderful collection of Gladiolus. I never have seen such a glorious show of these plants as I have seen a year or two ago in your garden. The bluish ones especially took my fancy."
- Aug 21, 1921      Sends pollen of Gloriosa Rothschildiana. Caladium problems at Naples and plans to spread sever tons of fine natural phosphate hoping to correct a soil deficiency. Cannot sell anything but caladiums. Has about 60,000 amaryllis large bulbs at Naples, but unable to find a customer. Plans to grow for sale Pandanus, Gracenas, cannas, and Nephrolepsis and grow others "for my pleasure" and sell the surplus. Have planted about 20,000 Royal palm seeds -----and other palms seeds. Problems with mosquitos and horse flies. Raised about 1,000 crotons from cuttings.

One *Dracaena* (*Massangeana*) and one *D. fragrans* are over six feet tall. *Phormium tenax* are very fine. "I tried to buy -----*Cyrtopodrina*(?)-----.  
Have about 25 species of *Selenicereus*, *Hylosocereus*, --- and other climbing cacti.

- Sept. 5, 1921 Preparing a booklet on caladiums in English and asks TLM for a current portrait. Has "lots of fine new and rare plants at Naples, especially *Selenicereus* and *Hylocereus*, *Deamia*, and *Weberocereus*. I have all of Wintger's new cannas--65-----. I also can send you a number of Bromeliads not in your collection. .... I lost my *Tillandsia ionantha* which you so -----contributed to my collection."
- Sept. 12, 1921 Wants to trade his collection of strap leaved caladiums in -----I shall order (?) many new ones from Lietze's successor and the new Hoffmann -----from Kling in Germany." Had 5 or 6 *Encephalartos* species sent back by the "mails and even my friend Fairchild could not rescue them for me."  
"Have you seen my article 'My Garden in Florida' in no. 4, 1919 of the Journal of the International Garden Club you will get your share of praise there.
- Sept. 14, 1921 Has sent TLM flowers of *Gloriosa Rothschildiana*. [The main part of this short letter is about a genus that is illegible. His writing is getting to be very bad]
- Jan 5, 1922 From Naples. Thanks TLM for letters and tubers of "X. Maximiliana. "I shall send you a few flowers of *Billbergia zebrina* and within a few days those of *B. Saundersii*. I remember to have read several years ago in *Die Gartenwelt* that the late G. Bornemann hybridized *B. nutans* with a number of other species and had excellent success. Your new way of germinating orchid seeds is extremely interesting and I hope that you may have fine success....I also shall send you a few rat-tails of *Colocasia* -----*nigra* and perhaps some bromeliads, *selenicereus*, *deamia*, *hylocereus*, etc and I hope to obtain again from you a tiny bit of *Tillandsia ionantha*. I may be able to send you a plant of *Tillandsia aloifolia*--the cork-screw air plant. It grows only on one live oak in a ----- man's yard, and he may let me have-----tho he is extremely jealous of his treasure, and does not allow any one to take one away....."

June 16, 1922

Naples. "Under separate cover I send you a flower-treasure of *Billbergia Liboniana*. The scape is upright as in *B. pyramidalis* and your *B. thyrsoidea* (*Aechmea Mariae-Reginae*). The latter you can also use in your cross-breeding. I wish I could obtain the real *B. Mariae-Reginae* which is in gull beauty for about 6 weeks to 2 months. The flower scape of it grows from 2 to 3 feet tall and is a most magnificent sight. You should take the whole genus *Aechmea* with its sub-genera in your hands and hybridize. Unfortunately I have no literature on the subject with me here. There are many beautiful things, such as *Vriesia tessellata*, *V. fenestralis*, *V. hieroglyphica*, *V. splendens*, *Tillandsia Lindenii*, *Guzmania musaica* and thousand others. Carlos Wershli(?) discovered a lot of new and most magnificent species in the mountains of Costa Rica, which were described by Mez in some of the botanical periodicals. He sent me a lot last spring--40 specimens in 25 different species--but they were all -----to death (by those parasitical lot of cranks in the ----of horticulture in Washington) that not one arrived alive. As soon as I can afford it I shall build a special shade house for Bromeliads..... ." More complaining about the Federal Plant Board and its restrictions on importing plants. Asks for a source of celluloid sheets (ivory-white) for cutting up into labels. "Received a dozen *Watsonia* roses and *W. L. Ardernei* (*O'Brieni*) from Mr. Fletcher at Orlando, and so far nine have pushed up good vigorous growth. ....My cannas are still a glorious sight. Almost all of the 75 different -----sorts are continually in bloom. The brown leaved one you gave me is *C. King Humbert* (raised, I think, like many others, by Carl Poenger of Naples, Italy. I have about 1000 fine seeds of *Ravenala madagascariensis* and about as many of *Dictosperma rubra*. Several thousand seedlings of *Oreodoxa regina* (?) (Florida variety), hundreds of *Cocus plumosa* & *C. flexuosa*, quite a number of *Martinegia cargotefolii*(?), six little fellows of *Acrocomia media*, two of ----- . I also have many seedlings of *Poinciana regia*, -----, *Phyllanthus* -----, *Schinus*(?) *terebinthifolia*(?), and seven nice plants of *Hydnocarpus Kurzii*(?) and two of ----- . Raised 500 fine plants of crotons and lots of hibiscus, aralia, etc. ... ." I liebe die Einsamkeit." ....Bamboos do not do half as well as in Orange Co. ....I hope that you may be very successful in your hybridizing work. Do you have in your collection *Billbergia zebrina* and *B. Liboniana*? Perhaps I can send you a few plants--one of each. ...."

May 15, 1922(out of order) Living in Naples in the Bamboo Cottage belonging to a "Canadian friend of mine, a winter-sojourner ... Yes, you may send me the seed of your hybrid *Billbergia*, but please give me directions how to plant them.

I have had no Hippeastrum-----in bloom so far or I would have sent you the pollen.....Amaryllis do not do very well here... [he is using a pale blue ink making the writing even more illegible] "I wonder if you ever read my scribbling?"

Oct. 11, 1922

"My Billbergia -----specimens also bloomed beautifully but I have no other one in flower just now... Much about his ficus. Dracaenas are a sight, even those standing in water, and Ixoras just now make a fine show. My species of Pandanus... are doing especially well.... -----Collier, Gifford Pinchot and 8 other millionaires bought 175,000 acres including the "Big Cypress." Naples also will grow, from now on, in a most -----way. A Mr. Jones, a rail-road magnate and a coal mine owner bought all the land. Great improvements are continuously made."

Dec. 17, 1922

"Yesterday I mailed you two sorts of pollen, one of Billbergia Saundersii, the other from a species of which I lost the label." Much trouble with flooding from the rainy season with caladiums in ½ to 2 feet of water. "Shall send you -----of seeds of Aechmea fulgens--beautiful red berries, now dried up."  
"I like this locality every day better, all the plants are doing fine. My Pandanus veitchii, P. sanderi, p. baptistii, P. javanicus(?) variegatus, P. tectorius, P. ----- are all doing well, and Dracaenas are a glorious sight. I have about 100 fine seedlings of Couroupita (?) gr--avensis, about as many of Revanala madagascariensis, many Pterocarpus (?) indicus, Phyllanthus distichus, Tamadindus indica, Poinciana regia, Cassia grandis, C. fistula, Parmentiera aerifera (?), Spartiodna (?) nilotica Queensland nut [Macaranga ternifolia] Terminolia catoppa (?) Alenistes moluccana (?) Caragana odorata

*appears to be a letter, but*

*Pages  
so numbered  
are not dated.*

Nyctanthes arbor-tristis  
Schottia (?) sp.  
Grevillea robusta  
Maba natalensis (?)--HN's question mark.  
Livistona altissima  
L chinensis  
L. alviformis (?)  
Latania laddigiesii  
Cocas flexuosa  
O---doxa regia  
O. Borinquena



Dec 17, 1922 (continued) dictyosphma (?) rubra  
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens  
Ptychosperma ~~eunninghamiana~~ elegans  
A-----phoenix cunnighamii, and many others.

He continues with, "How much could you have accomplished here (and I too) if you had had a chance to start in here 30 years ago! As it is now, it is extremely difficult to build up a tropical collection on account of the Federal Horticultural Board and the State Plant Board. Even seeds of palms and ornamentals cannot be imported without their consent and this bureaucracy **must prove** extremely detrimental to -----." and more. Problems with the restriction on importing crotons, ixoras, dracaenas. "I begged [the Bureau of Plant Industry] years ago to obtain for me seeds of the Indian Sirer (?) Tree (Ptereosph-----ace-----)(?) ....I finally just last week obtained a package of seed from the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta at my own request, also seeds of Tectonia grandis and Mim-----Elengii . . ."

Next letter in this file is Sept. 9, 1923. It consists of 6 pages.

"The two Hippenstrum solandiflum conspicuum (?) will go tomorrow, also the pollen of Tillandsia lindeni." Then names plants set out. "I made deep holes (3 ft. deep, 4 & 5 ft. wide) and filled them with old grass -----, -----, compost and put over this a layer of top soil which I mixed with tankage. I planted out at least 400 of these plants the latter part of the week."

He then names:

50 royal palms  
28 Porto Rico royal palms  
8 coconut palms,  
3 Terminalia -----  
12 Flacaurtia Ramontchi  
12 Gardenia Thunbergia  
12 Antiderma nitiva (?)  
30 Premna adorata (?)  
2 Pithecolobium [Pithecellobium] dulce  
3 Lagerstroemia Flos-Reginae  
12 Paritium elatum  
8 Antidesma Buniua (?)  
12 Couroupita guianensis  
3 Marantea guianensis (?)  
8 Cordia Sebestena  
1 Bischofia javanica  
12 Coeur flexuosa (?)  
3 Elaeis guineensis  
1 Attalea Columbe (?)  
3 Pittosporum floribundum  
12 Spathodea nilotina  
and many more.

Has problems with having zinc labels corrode. Names many more plants--this letter appears to be an inventory, or might serve as an inventory of the Naples plantings. "In spite of the mosquitoes I love this place. I love it tho the soil is most but sea sand. You have to make your soil here--every inch of it. And as long as I can get lots of mulch it is not difficult to add humus to the soil; and I have all the -----I need close at hand." Talks about mosquitoes and sand flies, and the red bugs.

-----"I am doing a little literary work for the Estero "American Eagle." Its editor, Mr. Andrews, is a very cultured man standing far above all the newspaper men I know in Florida. I have a long article on Ficus in the paper, and there is an article of mine in almost every number. Your name is frequently mentioned."

Talks about caladiums, no success this year in hybridizing. Grew thousands of seedlings last year. More about the Federal Horticultural Board. "I received seeds last spring from Entebbe (Uganda) British East Africa; from Kirstenbosch, Capetown Bot. Garden; from ----- Java; from Sydney, Australia, from Castleleon Gardens, Jamaica and from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad." Good friend in Hawaii who sends fine seeds. About cycads. The Haldemans who look after him. Mrs. Nehrling still at her summer home in the Adirondacks. "Should you be able to send me a few Billbergia hybrids and a little plant of Simpson's . . . how about Tillandsia ionantha? Do you have it still? I think it would grow well on some of my trees . . .I collected almost all the species I could find around here."

Sept. 22, 1923

"You have sent me a wonderful collection of plants. The two Ficus elastica variegata alone are of much greater value than what I have sent you and these lovely little ferns, the beautiful flowering orchids, the six unique hybrids of Billbergia, the Fascryn (?) Lindenii . . . and then your label material ! And the stylus which you filed out of a spike nail! . . . My Tillandsia Lindenii has not opened a flower since about 2 weeks, but I know that there are some living yet, and as soon as I have a chance you shall obtain a flower. No other Bromeliads except Billbergia thyrsoidea [pyramidalis]. I planted all my Bromeliads--the more rampant and vigorous growers--in boxes 4 ft. long and 2½ ft. wide. They seem to do well so far." More about palms including Distyasper---(?) rubra and Oreodoxa regia [~~names not found in Bailey or Exotica~~], pandanus, ficus--"The ficus you sent are grand specimens. I never saw this variety so finely colored." "Have I ever sent you a copy of my article on Ficus that appeared--a very long article--in the Estero "American Eagle? My supply is exhausted. It seems to have been read with a great deal of interest, as I have to answer more than 40 letters, and letters are still coming."

Baryxylum Inbium (?) is in flower

Spat----- nilatica(?) in bloom since June

Brunfelsia americana flower trumpets very strong and lovely odor

Talks about preparing the land again (see above). Not the place for oranges because "water level is too close to the surface. Land Co. have sold the land for \$50.00 an acre; clearing has cost \$100.00 more, and buying and setting out the trees another \$125.00, and people have nothing." Caladiums not doing well because of poor drainage.

Dec. 24, 1923

"Today I sent you pollen of a *Billbergia* sp. with brownish-purple leaves; pollen of *B. splendens* and of *B. zebrina*... no rain since the beginning of September. I have *spathodea nilotica*, *Datura suaveolens*, *Ixora coccinea* and several other *Ixoras*, *Gloriosa Rothschildiana*, one of your *Cattleya* hybrids, *Dombeya Wallichii*, all the cannas, and a new veronica (?) from Entebbe in flower. I have also enclosed in the box -----(berries) of *Aechmea fulgens* and one -----of *A. Thibantiana*(?). I do not know whether or not you have *Aechmea fulgens*. It is one of the finest amongst all the Bromeliads I have. I have now over 2500 different plants (trees, shrubs, palms, cycads, pandanus, crinums, aroids, orchids, cacti, marantas, etc) planted out. My fern-collection is still very small, only consisting of about 30 species. Many of my finest Bromeliads I lost two years ago after having watered them. The next ----they were brown. I could not at first guess the cause. When I again went to the ditch to get water I accidentally discovered that it was brackish--salty. I also lost lots of ferns and aroids, and a fine collection of *Phyllocactus* that time. It was new to me that the tide-water sometimes comes up so far. " *Ficus* growing well. "Mrs. McAdams says that within 10-15 years they--the 36 species I have--will cover all my land and then some. So you see, I need more land and hope to obtain my neighbor's 15 acres to add to my collection." Has some rarities:

*Couroupita guianensis*  
about 50 of *Spathodea nilotica*  
3 *Narantea guianensi* (?)  
1 *Goethea stricta*  
1 *Driarteia* (?) *exorrhiza*  
12 *Ptychosperma elegans*  
50 *Latania Loddigesii*  
30 *L. casumersanii*(?)  
50 *Attalea cohune*(?)  
1 *Livistona rotundifolia*  
2 *Calophyllum inophyllum*  
100 *Gardina Thunbergii*  
100 *Antidesma nitida*  
50 *Flacourtia Ramontchi*  
50 *Ravenala madagascariensis* ...

I

Page 4 of  
Dec 24, 1923

I sent you several times a few copies of the "American Eagle," containing some of my articles. They were full of printers mistakes. I would like to have your criticism. You are a kindred spirit. You know my enthusiasm and my passionate love for plants, and you are much better able to judge whether or not these articles are "printable" than anybody else. Are they too long or too short? Did I forget to touch on some important points etc. etc. Please let me hear from you."  
[This letter appears to have page 1 with page 4 on verso]

page 2 of  
Dec 24, 1923

New caladium hybrids. Plans to send a large collection to TM "in order to set you to corss-breeding of the caladiums again." "Reasoner has sent out letters to the effect that they can supply the whole-sale trade with the finest hybrids in existence and that they have a source regarded as the best caladium grower and breeder in Florida. I have seen this letter. As I know that it is not Mr. Mead to whom they refer--I am at sea to whom their remark as the "best grower and breeder" applies. " Has permit to inport entire collection of 12 as named sorts. " I shall also obtain a large number of fern rhyzomes from Trinidad--all epiphytes. I also get often spores, but I have no facilities to grow them. Would you like to have them? And more about ferns.

Jan 7, 1924

"I hope to be able to send you during the next few years not only lots of pollen but also lots of plants of the Bromeliads. I have transplanted my specimens from pots into boxes and they thrive splendidly in them. So I made 15 boxes ready for them, 4 ft. long, 2½ ft. wide and 8 in. deep. They were filled up with common soil. I intended to have a separate box for each species, but this would require too much lumber. Such species as *Nidularium spectabile*, *N. Innocentii*, *N. amazonicum*, *N. purpureum*, *N. carolinae*, *N. fulgens*, etc., etc. will soon fill such a box with beautiful rosettes. I have had them all but lost most of them by not being able to attend to them in a practical way. All the trouble will be reduced to a minimum after they have been put in these boxes. I have driven stakes (2 x 4) by 4 ft. long in the soil and the boxes rest on these supports, all the boxes are placed underneath my lath roof or under the shade of trees. I intend to put all my epiphytal ferns also in such boxes. I am trying to obtain a list (lot?) of Bromeliads from our Botanical Gardens, but the directors are all difficult to approach on account of the State Plant Board. This man O'Hara, or it is O'Byrne, has made the remark that the Botanical Gardens are the breeding places of -----injurious insects. This idiot has done more to hold up the progress of ornamental horticulture than any one else. My friend Broadney(?) of the Trinidad Boanical Gardens intended to send me a lot of fern rhyzomes which he wanted to collect

in the forests. The Federal Horticulture Board wrote me, however, that the correct scientific name of each species must be given before a special permit can be obtained. This is going too far in a free country by a set of parasites...

Do you remember the fine Bromeliads (----- calls it *Hohenbergia paniculata* (?)) on a tree in Simpson's book? I have just as large a specimen here on a red maple. As a rule the Bromeliads do not do very well on cabbabe palmetto trunks. They dry out too quickly. I think it is too snug(?) for them. They all seem to require half sunny

shade. You are a great hybridizer and I hope to see many a fine new creation come from you. Let me know what you have in the line of Bromeliads and I shall send you somethat you may not have. A number of my most hardy and robust species such as *Bromelia* and *Pitcairnea*, are provided with very bad recurved spines. **The most beautiful species of the family I had were:**

*Guzmania* (*caraguata*) *musaica*

*Caraguata sanguinea*

*Aechmea Mariae-Reginae*,

*Vrisia fenestralis*,

*V. Saundersii*,

*V. hieroglyphica*

*V. splendens*,

*V. tessellata* and a few others I am trying to add them to my collection again. There are a few large private collections in Germany that could be obtained for a song, but the Federal Hort. Board will not give a permit. I could get possession of such a collection consisting of over 500 species and 150 hybrids for \$200.00. I have been turned down. They also turned me down when I tried to buy the whole Klissig collection of caladiums--consisting of all the best *Bleu*, *Boure*, *Hoffmann* and *Lietze*-hybrids."

"I had the impression that you were very successful with your vegetable garden lately and that you had been for years. Mr. J. E. Hendy Jr. shipt over 15 car loads of cucumbers up to now and netted \$4.50 and \$5.00 per cucumber in New York and Philadelphia He has 34 acres in cucumbers. Whatever this man takes into his hands turns into gold. He made \$17,000 (net) in 3 months with his nursery and the sales consisted almost entirely of royal palms, coconut palms and *Bougainvillea* "Crimson Lake."

I think *Achimenes* and other tuberous-rooted *Gesneriads* also would do well in my plant boxes. These boxes hold the moisture better and their drainage is also good. All the superfluous water runs off. A fine collection of these plants could be had from H-----Schmidt. Do you know of any specialist here in our land? We have so many rich people. Why does not Peter McDuff, Roger Smith and Raymond Lovelinen (?) take up palms, while

(for cucumbers?)

Marion Miller and others cultivate ferns, P--MacDonald and others Bromeliads Aroids, etc. They would have their pleasure and the world would gain in knoweldge etc. Such specialists are everywhere in England and in Europe.

Jan 10, 1924

"Just packed a few Bromeliads for you--one *Aechmea mexicana*, one, doubtfulla, *A. crocophylla*, and two species of *Billbergia*. Can send you many more as time goes by. **Your beautiful** 6 *Billbergia* hybrids have given me again a terrible Bromeliad fever. It is so intense, so deeply agitating my mind that I have written lots of letters for new material--to Trinidad, Costa Rica, British Honduras, to specialists in Germany--there were at least 50 in bygone years among them excellent hybridizers--and Holland etc. There will be some results if the Federal Horticulture Board will let me have special permits. Those I planted in boxes--boxes 4 x 2½ and 8 inches deep and from 2½ to 4 feet above the ground on posts--are doing wonderfully well. **They looked** badly in pots and they have recuperated very quickly. Some of the species are filling special boxes by themselves--*Aechmea fulgens* var. *discolor*, *Nidularium spectabile*, *N. Innocentii*(?) [his question mark] etc. Can send you **more pollen soon of various distinct species.** *Hohenbergia* "Soarii" and *Hohenbergia* "Simpsonii"--really *Aechmeas* from Soar and Simpson, both distinct--are growing in large clumps on some of my cabbage palmettos and red maples. I think that you are in possession of these large growing species. If not Simpson will undoubtedly help you out. People who ---- my boxes are wild with enthusiasm. They constantly rave over them. In bygone days I have gathered so many notes on Bromeliads from my horticultural papers / *The Garden*, *The Gardener's Chronicle*, *Die Gartenwelt*, *Die Gartenflora*--in this last they are treated elaborately by the editor, Dr. Wittmark, a real Bromeliad specialist) but I have hundreds of them written down. At Gotha I saved them all during cold spells by covering them with cedar branches and dry pine needles. At one time I had at least 50 species, among them *Aechmea Barleii* and *A. Mariae-Reginae* and *Aech. Lalindea* (?). Many come from a friend of mine who collected and resided at San Pedro Sula, Honduras--among them wonderful sorts. *A. mexicana* is one of them, tho I have received this also from the late Mr. Pringle. Yes, I have a serious attack of the Bromeliad fever, not acute but really -----.

I wish and I hope that this disease is contagious. You know that Ed. Andre collected 149 species in the Andes, about 75 being new and Werckle collected several hundred species in Costa Rica, especially in the mountains and over one third were described by Mez as new--according to most the best authority on Bromeliads now living. Mrs. Zelerand sent me two years ago a box full of new species from Costa Rica. They came as far as Jacksonville and were ordered by the Plant Board to be returned without giving me any notice except after they had gone. Terrible conditions for ornamental horticulture! These parasites on the body of horticulture are a damnable nuisance. But I am going too far.

[P.S.] This Bromeliad fever keeps you and me going!  
Can you send me a few small plants of Pellionia?

Jan 16, 1924

Am suffering with a more intense chronic attack of the Bromeliad fever. Tried all the remedies I knew against it. Palm oil soap, Ficus extract, Caladium juice, Pandanus pills, Strychnos spinosa seeds and custard(?)--just ripe now--but nothing of avail. I am suffering so much that within a short time I shall have to unpack big boxes of Bromeliads. As you are entirely out of Tillandsia ionantha I hope to receive it from Dr. Brittan or from Howard Bot. Gardens. There will be consignments going from here to Mr. Mead later on. The beautiful blue flowers of Tillandsia Lindenii, T. Lindenii vera and T. Lindenii Regelianum are of a deliciously strong fragrance. No book ever remarked about this characteristic and I think not even the great collector and discoverer of this plant, Gustav Wallis (?), noticed it. I wrote to Europe to find out the addresses of all the important Bromeliad hybridizers. Witte of the Leyden Bot. Gardens is dead, Quintus (?) of Holland, and Kramer of Hamburg and a few others, I think, are all dead."

Witte, Hemphrid,  
1877- ?

Feb 9, 1924

Your very good and interesting letter of the 6th inst. was just received. No wonder that my article on epiphytes in the Estero 'American Eagle' puzzles you! It was written 4 years ago at Gotha. I had no time to re-write it and-as ~~f-~~ add and strike out certain statements. Since that time I have changed some of my descriptive notes entirely. I thank you for your corrections, especially regarding Magnolia grandiflora. At my Gotha place it is remarkably free from epiphytes--not even the Spanish moss settles on it. Here at Naples I found many Epidendrum Tampensi on cabbage palmettos and even a few Deadrotylax (?) Lindenii. As a rule not many -----epiphytes ever here select it as a host plant. I studied again lately Schimper's 'Die Epiphytische vegetation Amerikas'

Schimper's [Andreas Franz Wilhelm]

Schimper's [Andreas Franz Wilhelm] Die Epiphytische vegetation Amerikas, a most important, but a very scholarly and scientific book, and several chapters difficult for me to follow--as they treat on microscopic investigations. He also states that magnolia grandiflora is chosen quite often as a host plant. I shall mail you this coming week the second installment of my article. When I wrote the manuscript I had not seen Tillandsia alvifolia (Baker calls it T. flexuosa, a more appropriate name). I have it now here--several specimens. It is a rather small plant, somewhat corkscrew-like, and whitish----- but marked here and there with very indistinct dark-brown blotches. I find it only in one spot on small live oaks but not very abundently. How I ----- it would be not so very difficult to enlarge my collection of exotic Bromeliads considerably.

Fla. 92 11479 6883 Mead.

Feb 9, 1924

CONTINUED PAGES 2 and 3:

There are quite a number of Bromeliad fanciers in Germany, Holland, and even in Sweden, from whom I could get material. There are, or there were many private collections in France and Switzerland. My old friend Bornemann, the amaryllis hybridizer, has obtained many fine Tillandsias and especially Billbergia hybrids by cross-fertilizing. Dr. Wittmack--he is still living--took special pains as editor of the 'Gartenflora' to refer to his hobby--the Bromeliads and Mez is at present the acknowledged authority on these plants. Ed. andre was a great lover of these plants--and you ought to see my collection in boxes full of beauty and vigor. I had not treated them rightly when I came here. At Gotha they were find. Here the collection rapidly deteriorated, until I planted them in boxes filled with good light compost. Today I have put agin six boxes in position under the more or less dense shade of the trees in my hammock. These boxes are placed on pedestals about 2½ ft. above the ground."

Has found an epidendrum that is different in pseudo-bulbs, much elongated, much more slender, in its very long leaves and in its flowers. "I do not possess Small's last edition of his Handbook, but Dr. (Mr.) Oakes Ames writes me that he will publish a list of all the ordhids he found in Florida in a publication which will be issued by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Last week a new Bromeliad flowered on one of my cabbage palmettos. I have named it Aechmea Suarii Hort.--as it had no name. Mr. S. found it in the Isle of Pines. The (from page 3) flowers were bright yellow and appeared on a cylindrical spike about 18 in. long. The bracts were brownish-orange. It makes a fine clump and is very conspicuous as a specimen plant.

[page 4] "Betheurer (?) is regarded as a first class gardener. With him now is Richard F. Deckert, formerly with Chas. Deeing (?). Mr. D. is really an herpetologist, but he is a very enthusiastis plantsman--a highly educated young German." He then lists the nationalities of the husbands and wives of his children.



[page 2 is missing. The verso of page 1 is marked "3."

I have also big clumps of *Aechmea Simpsonii* ---- in some of my red maples and palmettos. Simpson found it in Cuba. It is depicted on one of his plates in his book. It may be *A. Wrightii*. [Charles Torrey Simpson?] [LB Smith lists *Ae. wrightii* as syn: *Hohenbergia penduliflora* (*A. Richard*) Mez.] As I shall get specimens of this species from Trinidad and Porto Rico I shall be able to determine my plants more easily. One of the most stately species is *A. paniculigera*. It comes from Jamaica. I had it but lost it. I am trying to get it again. I had also the true *A. Mariae-Reginae*, the still larger *A. lalnidae*(?), *A. Schiedeana* [syn. *Ae. bracteata* var. *bracteata*--LBS]*A. Barleei* [also syn. *Ae. bracteata*] (and a number of other *Aechmeas*), *Caraguata Zahnii*, *C. Musaica*, *Tillandsia Malzinei*, *T. ionantha* (the -----from Mr. Mead), *Vriesea hieroglyphica*, *V. fenestralis*, *V. tessellata*, *V. carinata*, *V. psitticina*, *V. heliconioides*, *V. Barilletii* and many others and about 25 *Vriesea* hybrids. All were lost in putting them out in the soil (in pots)--most of them by watering them ignorantly with brackish water. And I also had *V. splendens* and *Tillandsia Saundersii* and *Canistrum aurantiacum* and my *Billbergias* I hope to fill out all the gaps and to obtain in addition many I did not have formerly. I shall get all the ones Julius Roehr has, and I shall obtain a lot from our Botanical Gardens--if possible.

Yes, Bethen---, as you say is a good German name. He is undoubtedly of German origin, tho Mr. Hendy thinks that he is a Jew. You know that there are quite a number of German botanists and horticulturalists Jews. Max Hes <sup>dörfler</sup>, late editor of Die Gartenwelt was a Jew. [end of page 3, pages 2 and 4 are missing.]

[ULLS]



May 2, 1924

Returns TM's check: "Nothing in the world could induce me to take money from you." More on caladiums. He has planted his best caladiums, "but as soon as I find individual tubers among the mixes I shall send you a lot." "And I have quite a number of fine Bromeliads for you also. The *Aechmeas* I sent you under the name of *A. mexicana* is really *A. Pineliana*. I expect a fine lot from the New York Bot. Gardens soon. Lately I had some from the Brooklyn Bot. Gardens, among them *A. Barleei*. I had this years ago--had obtained it in a lot of orchids from my friend Erich Witt----- at San Pedro Sula, Honduras but lost it in a heavy freeze. From here I can send you *Tillandsia aloifolia*, *T. Balbisiana* and *T. circinata*. I thought I had *T. juncifolia* on my trees here, but Mr. Small says that it is *T. tenuifolia*. Do you have both species and is there much difference? The beautiful brilliant red flower----- of *T. fasciculata* lights up the woods wonderfully here at present. Had a very pleasant

from Dr. Small lately. In his company were Dr. Nuttall (lichen and moss specialist), Mr. Mosier, Mr. de ----- (Deling's cactus man) and Prof. W. M. Buswall. Buswall is a Dartmouth College man, a very good botanist and ornithologist, and a great friend of mine residing at Fort Myers. Holds a position in the Graystone Hotel.

How does your Caladium "Edith E. Mead" look? I never have seen it, but I find it mentioned in one of your former letters. When spending a few days at home during ----- April I found an *Elaeis guineensis* in fruit in Eola Park at Orlando. Werner had written me about it. He said that he planted it out about eleven years ago. I thought that he must be mistaken and told him so. But he insisted that he was right, and while up home he took me to the specimen and surely, it was *Elaeis guineensis*. It had still a number of red ripe fruits, and I brought a few home with me.

Have you ever seen *Renanthera cocinea* (?) in flower? I have a specimen about six feet tall embracing with its fleshy roots the rough trunk of a cabbage palmetto. It has one flat flower -----consisting of about 25 dazzling red flowers individually small, but seen in a bunch very showy and brilliant. It is in flower since 6 weeks. I have also in bloom a *Sparmannia africana*, quite a number of *Bougainvillea* 'Crimson Lake', and many of my hybrid *crinums*, also a number of your hybrids. Among the *C. giganteum* class the *C. Rothea*--- is by far the most exquisite. Have one clump with 10 flower -----a sheet of white and quite fragrant." More about *Ficus*: Werckle's *F. padifolia*. . . . is so elegant, so distinct in every respect that I think it one of the treasures of my collection." Has made cuttings of various *Dracaenas*. Planted 138 seedling *Cycad circinalis*. Two years " ago I ordered a lot of seeds from the Island of Guam and paid \$10.00 for them. My friend the collector Edwards sent them when----- but they never came. Finally they were unearthed somewhere in San Francisco where the FEderal Horticultural Board seized them, after they had been on their way for over 6 months. The Board wrote me that they were infected with fungus diseases and worms, but that they would be planted out in their greenhouses. I never heard from these seeds again until yesterday, when I received a large box full of fine strong seedlings. The seed consignment also had contained a lot of *Pandanus* seeds. From them they saved 8 plants which I shall get very soon. I am thankful to the Board for taking so much consideration of me. *Pandanus* also grows beautifully here [and he again names them as he has much earlier]. The seeds of *P. odura* (?) *odoratissima* (?) came from Brother Nelly at Hilo, Hawaii sprouted. They came through without being detected by the Federal Board men. ----- I also received undetected a fine lot of seeds of *Eugenia molascensis* (?) from -----, Java.

"I am very anxious to obtain about 100 (mostly new) Bromeliads from the mountain forests of Cartago, Porto Rico. Dona Arnfarro de Zeledun sent a collector out (Werchle I think) to collect them for me. I have sent her special plants. In return she got a fine set of amaryllis and quite a large collection of caladiums. Werchle discovered some new Bromeliads that are described by Mez as more beautiful than Caraguata musaica, C. sanguinea, and C. Zahni." Mrs. Mead has the measles.

Aug. 20, 1924

TM has sent a sample of chicken wire. He has a collection of seeds from \_\_\_\_\_. HN says that he has rarely had success with succulent plant seeds. Problems with drainage. HN without saying at what time he made the visit tells about seeing Cananga odorata in the Royal Palm Hotel grounds at Miami and Spandias (?) dulcis, Ficus pandurata (Hort.) and more about plantings in Miami. "Mr. D. (?) created here a most wonderful place, dense, "jungly," and the city has condemned a section for a road. Compares plants that grow better in Ft. Myers. Saw a fine orchid collection. Bethune (?) "has so many beautiful big-branched live-oaks in his 'botanical garden' that it is easy for him to form fine air gardens. He has fastened hundreds of specimens of Oncidium luridum to the trunks. Most all of the flowers of this orchid, which came under my observation, were predominately brown, but P? B? has a number which are almost entirely bright-yellow. He collected many hundreds of these plants in the Cape Sable region..

"I have sent you under separate cover 5 copies of the "American Eagle". This special number may be of some interest to you . . . It is a peculiar fact that the woman who runs the linotype machine of the "American Eagle," was, years ago, a pupil of my son Bruno in the state normal school at Normal, Ill. She does a really good work with my articles, as she has become perfectly familiar with my handwriting."

[The Special Collection American Eagle, vol. 19 is bound beginning with number 28, 27 Nov. 1924. There are three unbound pieces: 13 (14 Aug 1924 and 14 (21 Aug 1924, and 20 (Oct 2, 1924). Numbers 13 and 14 have "Orchid Notes" by H. Nehrling. "Questions answered concerning the behavior of orchids in South Florida. Do especially well when planted in pots." No. 13 may be the special number in HN's letter.

Aug 14, 1924 THIS LETTER IS OUT OF ORDER This is the letter in which HN says that he would like to see a sample of the wire netting. "Your way of fixing epiphytes to trees is undoubtedly good and more to the nature of these plants. I spent a week with Mr. Bethune at Four Way Ledge Coconut Grove. I was overwhelmed by what I saw ... [describes]" "In Mr. Deckert, a naturalist and artist Mr. Bethune has found an excellent helper. D. was formerly with Char. Diez (?) Diego(?). I have not been able to visit either Dr. Simpson nor John Soer (?), and I could stay only 20 minutes at the place of my son-in-law, Louis Plipee (?) and had only an hour with my old friend, Dr. S. Graenicker, at Larkin. Mr. B. wants me to help him. He wants my collections. He intends to combine with his Bot. Gardens a tropical nursery, and for this reason he is trying to have my son Arno, at present professor of horticulture at Cornell, with him. His plans are stupendous, but he is indeed, the man who can carry them through. It looks to me as if he has Mr. -----Curtis James behind him, and that would mean unlimited means. I told him that I would join him if I could get 10-20 acres good hammock and glades land in Snapper Creek. I have lost here continuously in spite of the hard work I did and I am doing. And over at the Miami region I would have quite a number of kindred spirits to associate with. Here I have only real, undiluted crackers. My wife is fire and flame (Feuer und Flamme) for the project. She declines to come here. I have seen Miami first in April 1886. At that time it was a most ugly hovel. I saw it again in 1908. My impressions then were deep and pleasant. At present it is a city with wonderful suburbs as firm and sound as the rock on which they stand. A magic city in the true sense of the word. Compared with this region our west coast is a hundred years backward. Money did it, combined with enthusiasm and a go on spirit.

And more about Miami and Bethune. He has found a good collector in Mexico (State of Vera Cruz) . . . collector in Costa Rica is very slow.

Oct 19, 1924 The Meads are on a trip. Heavy rains. Caladiums "make a most wonderful show now." . . . "My son Arno, professor of floriculture at Cornell, has bought 10 acres in Gender (?) Hammock (near Snapper Creek) south of Coconut Grove, of which 5 acres are real prairie land. This is well drained and he is anxious to have me move my plants, especially the caladiums, over to the east coast, but I am in doubts whether or not I shall do so. I expect to stay here if the Land Co. will dig a good large drainage canal" . . . expects to be able to fill orders for 40,000 tubers. Has lost customers in the past and now has numerous competitors. He has been living in a small one-room shack. Arno wants him to move "likely have to go in the retail business, as my son intends to get the services of a good commercial gardener for me . . . the food I am getting (mostly grits and bacon) is the poorest and most insufficient I ever have had in my life

[He is 71 years old] "Dr. Fairchild urges me strongly to accept the proposition." "I think there will come a great change over Naples etc as soon as the railroad is completed and the Tamiami Trail is finished.

thyrsoidea

"There are no Billbergias or any other bromeliads in bloom just now. The B. thyrsoidea specimens were all in bloom about 4 weeks ago but no others are showing flower buds. I shall be able to send you quite a number of new Billbergias etc as soon as I can find several(?) offsets. I have:

B. Leopoldii

B. pallida

B irioides

B. Euphemiae

B. Bruantii

B. Crayiana

B. specio----- but all are quite small yet."

"Do you have any of the Pitcairneas in your collection? My specimens are very beautiful--in foliage--and I may be able to let you ~~have~~ have some. I think I have about 20 different species of Pitcairneas. **They came recently from the New York Botanical Gardens.** I received a large box full of the common bromeliads, but no nidulariums, aechmeas or vrieseas, and I am particularly anxious to add these to my collection. I could obtain quite a lot in Germany, where they are almost as popular as orchids, also from Holland, but the scientific establishments do not want to bother with sending them as the Federal Plant Board requires to have all the soil washed from their roots.

"Should you have more of your hybrid Billbergias than you care to have, I am always pleased to obtain a few from your surplus, particularly such ---- have blood of the B. zebrina in them. Almost all the bromeliads I obtained from the NY Bot Gardens showed that they were grown in osmunda fiber. I used too much muck and sand for mine, and they do not seem to do as well as these that grew in lighter material such as coconut fiber, osmunda roots and also leaves. **Only the Pitcairneas require heavier compost.**

Nov 16, 1924

A letter of recommendation for Mr. Harry Shadler.

Dec 31, 1924

More about Billbergia. "Four of your five hybrids also bloomed. They were very beautiful and distinct." Will send all caladium tubers "you need and want.

"This Mr. Betheuser is undoubtedly a man of the kind you describe. He is a great gardener, but unreliable, evasive, indefinite etc. I was interested in his contemplated botanical garden and so was my son of Cornell (Arno). As he had offered me 20 acres of his Snapper Creek hammock for my own use, if I would assist him, I went over to Coconut Grove in July and again in early November.

When I came there the first time he told me that he could not let me have the land on the lower Snapper Creek (near his Botanical Garden) but that he had finished another and still finer hammock on the upper Snapper Creek about 5 miles from Larkin. This he showed me and, indeed, it is a fine piece of land with a broad strip of black mucky soil all round. "Here you can have your pick" he said, and I selected a piece of 20 acres at \$150.00 per acre. He said that he had an option on 25 acres still better land in the same tract. But I could not get a definite idea about all this. In October he telegraphed me and Arno that he had purchased the other tract on which he had an option, and that we could have 10 acres for \$1500.00. Arno sent him the money at once trusting him completely. Arno wanted me to look this land over, and so I went again early in November, and what did he show me? A burnt out hammock and not at all what he had pointed out to me at first. "I can still let you have the hammock (10 acres) I showed you first, but it is not surveyed and I do not know where the lines run etc." and he continued: "What difference does it make? Send your bulbs and all plants you want to move. I shall plant them out where I find the best soil, and each one shall be labelled H.N. as we are going in business together there is no difference whether they are in my land or your land etc." My son-in-law Louis Flipie (?), an upright and honest man and an exceedingly good businessman, investigated matters strongly, and he also could not obtain a definite idea what B. wants to do and what he expects me to do, except that he wants my plants etc. He was so -----that Louis immediately saw that there would never be an honest deal with B. Arno still has no deed, nor did he get his money back. I was at the point to give up the lower east coast idea, but Louis said, "there are other fine hammocks--let's look around. And -----eighty five I have enough great glades land facing the ocean where we may find good soil. It is well drained." So we looked around, and found several fine pieces, but very expensive--\$500.00 per acre. L. said this should not discourage me, as he could easily finance me or that he would be willing to go in business with me. He has already-----two fine gardens--one of them being worked in the Berlin and Paris Botanical Harden. Mr. Dee----, from whom I thought I could obtain 20 acres, recommended some fine hammocks near Perrine, and my son-in-law is just looking them over ----- . So you have an idea how indefinits and untrust-worthy this Mr. B. really is. There is no doubt that he is -----solely for his own purposes and his own glory. He promised more wonderful things, but never keeps his promises, and he evidently never intends to keep them.

I am sorry that you sent him some of your fine orchids. Last summer he obtained lots of plants from the N. Y. Botanical Garden and the Brooklyn Bot. Garden through my recommendations, and he brought with him not only hundreds of bromeliads but also hundreds of orchids--small tho they are--but of many species. He told me that he had bought them but I have been informed since that he obtained them all from the NY Bot. Garden as a gift for his own contemplated Tropical Bot. Gardens. His conservatory at Four Way Ledge is really a most wonderful place, and extremely well planted and well stocked with beautiful rare plants, especially aroids, ferns, bromeliads, cycads etc." He is discouraged about Naples.

April 6, 1925

[HN has been using two letter heads for some time: H. Nehrling's Tropical Gardens and Arboretum, Tamiami Trail, Naples-on-the-Gulf, Florida, and Palm Cottage Gardens, Caladiums a Specialty, Mrs. H. Nehrling, Manager, Gotha, Florida]

More on Bethenser (?). . . . "is undoubtedly a crook." He sold the hammock for which Arno had sent him \$1500 for \$56,000, "35 or 50 acres I think." He asks Mead to write to Mrs. Curtis James [the owner of] Four Way Lodge, Coconut Grove, Fla. Now HN says that his son-in-law offered him a piece of land "of his own, but also all the financial aid to start near Cutler. I shall accept his offer." More about amaryllis, especially about red specimens

"I certainly shall be glad to obtain from your surplus some of your billbergia hybrids. I am going to send you some of the aechmeas. . . I also may have a few nidulariums for you. Should I be able to establish myself on the lower east coast I shall be able to import many rare --- from Jamaica, Trinidad, Mexico and Costa Rica. I learn with much regret from your letter that you are on the verge of neglecting your orchids . . .

May 7, 1925

Refers to TLM letter of April 17. HN refers vaguely to some physical problem "tho I am improving daily." More about amaryllis and deep crimson, and the deep rose and lavender. "Mrs. Bonnie (Mrs. Haldeman's daughter) told me that she saw the finest amaryllis last year . . . at Brunswick, GA. They originated with a Mr. Tate, a banker there . . . I have some ripe berries of aechmea caerulea and I shall send them to you. At present my fine large *Aechmea barleei* is in full bloom." He says that his frau made him as comfortable as possible in his little shack in Naples, but has left. She almost stepped on a large rattler in the vegetable garden and it frightened her so that she screamed in her sleep.

- June 3, 1925 He has not answered TLM letters because of work.  
 "I had a fine specimen of *Billbergia euphemiae* in bloom last week--flowers beautifully blue ... There is no one named Dr. H. Nehrling. I wonder how this name happens to come to you from Reasoner." **Has not realised new caladiums since 1922.**
- "I enclose these dry berries of *Aechmea caerulea* I think that they contain good seeds. The beautiful blue *Tillandsia lindenii* is coming in bloom. The plant has two spikes already several inches long . . . ."
- June 22, 1925 Refers to TLM letter of June 19. ". . . unfortunately not one of my billbergias is in flower just now, tho I have quite a number of different species. However as soon as one shows buds I shall mail you the entire plant. I found that the three or four specimens of your hybrids that bloomed for me were exceedingly beautiful and very floriferous. One of these specimens, the finest and largest one I have has reddish-brown leaves. . . . " He writes about the condition of his ficus. He then lists "other tropical trees on the place . . ." "I intended to go to the east coast but I think I shall stay where I am." The Naples land boom is on.
- Aug. 13, 1925 About orchids that TLM has sent to him and their condition. About his ficus. "I have a large number of other plants, trees and shrubs that might interest you:  
*Phyllocarpus septentrionalis*,  
*Terminalis arjuna* *Trevesia palmata*  
*T. catappa* *Brownea grandiceps*  
*T. mynoboides* some tree-like cassias  
*Baryxylum inbium* *Peltophorum freirugineum*  
*Barringtoni speciosa* (transcribed as they appear  
*Carapa guinensis* with no attempt to correct)  
*Courouputa guianensis*  
*Pterocarpus indicus*
- . . . I am getting old . . . I am writing for the "American Eagle (Estero). The editor says that this is missionary work . . . ." He writes about land prices and says again that he will not move to the east coast. "I never could get along without your help, and I never ----it. I am a plant grower after a fashion but I know nothing of this real professional side of the business. . . Your old friend and admirer."
- Nov. 21, 1925 Has received several letters from TLM. HN busy getting his ms ready for the printer. Discusses Mead's hybrid caladiums and says that HN has not been successful with his hybridizing. "I am exceedingly interested in your bromeliad hybrids. I shall send you--as soon as I can get



check sp.

at it--some very fine species not yet in your collection. At present *Tillandsia lindenii* (various sorts) is most beautifully in bloom. Flower blue and intensely fragrant. I have a fine plant for you. Also of *Aechmea fulgens* and *A. Thibautiana*. It is very difficult to obtain any bromeliads in the trade but I received a number of fine species from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. There are a number of specialists in Germany--a(t) least there were large collections--but as I do not take any of the German horticultural papers at present, I know little about the matter. Dr. L. Wittmack, editor of "Die Gartenflor" (I think he is still living) was a passionate lover of these plants. Dr. Mez, professor of the University of Königsberg (Prussia) is at present the leading authority on bromeliads. This you all know, and I only mention it to, perhaps, induce you to get in correspondence with some of these men. Carlos Werckle, an old friend of mine and now dead, discovered some most beautiful new species in the mountains of Costa Rica. They all have been described by Dr. Mez. He sent me a consignment about 6 years ago--50 species, mostly new ----. They came as far as Jacksonville but were returned by the man who acted for the Federal Plant Board and Werckle never could be induced to send me another lot even after I had sent him special permits. This Federal Horticultural Board is a nuisance and abomination. They limit the progress of tropical ornamental horticulture in a way that sets our country a hundred years back and there appears to be no remedy though Mr. Harlan Pl Kelsey, President of the American Association of ourserymen, in an address before the Association of this organization, has called this beaucroatic board in a very decided and unmistakable language. I asked for special permits to obtain a small lot of bromeliads from Chancier Bros., Martefontaine, France, but my request was refused. I again asked for permits to get a lot from Mexico. This also was turned down. I am getting too old to keep up my struggle with these ignoramuses for special permits. . . Have you any of the fine *Pitcairneas*?

Dec. 3, 1925

Thanks TLM for hybrid billbergias and the ferns. Writes about various palm seeds received from Washington. Says that somebody wrote about an "Orchid Wizard" named Fennell in one of the Miami papers and reprinted in the American Eagle; Mead's name was also--mentioned. HN complains about ignorant newspaper writers.

Dec. 8, 1925

TLM is asking for flowering billbergias and HN will send "all I can." "I have now one of the first of your hybrids in bloom- 4 beautiful flower stalks. It is the finest of all my billbergias. . . I am just now writing of my bamboos. Have finished almost 90 pages. A tedious but a most interesting work. Mrs. Mead is ill.

Dec. 21, 1925

TLM has just sent a specimen of *Cephalostachyum pergracile* and two billbergia hybrids.

Dec. 21, 1925  
(continued)

"I looked over ---- -- pitcairneae and found that I can send you at least a dozen species. But the clumps must be divided and that is a "beastly" job, as most of them are provided with recurved and very sharp prickles. Many of them are so gorgeous when in flower that I am always carried away with their beauty and brilliancy, and all are very ornamental foliage plants--first class if they were not armed with such an array of sharp spines.

"All the bromeliads are immensely interesting, and quite absorbing over interest (?). I had *Dyckia sulphurea* [Koch=D. *brevifolia* Baker] in bloom--a tall spike (20 inches long) of bright yellow glowers. The plant looks like a very small thick-leaved, spine-terminated aloe. My clump has about four fine rosettes of leaves but it is difficult to divide. My *Aechmea weilbachii* also flowers. A small plant but extremely beautiful when in bloom, and one of my *Aechmea pineliana* also flowers--very peculiar. The stem is about a foot high, covered with fine and brilliant rosy-red bracts, and [this page ends with note: over p. 4. verso of first page is marked "2" and is signed H. Nehrling. The text is not continuous. Another page or pages missing]

See p. 51A



[p. 2] . . . when Dr. Norman Taylor sent you those from Brooklyn. There used to be a large collection in the N.Y. Bot. Gard. when the late (real specialist in bromeliads) Mr. Nash was the head gardener. Dr. Bailey tells me that perhaps the largest collection in this country is found in the Buffalo Botanical Garden, as Dr. Elbert, the director, had made them a hobby of his . . . ." He tells TLM about his article on orchids in the *American Eagle* . . . "gave you all possible credit."

April 3, 1926

This week HN received plants including bromeliads from the Missouri Botanical Garden, from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, from a friend, and from the Garfield Park Conservatories. A box from Mrs. A. Rickenbach of Punta Gorda, and parcel from TLM with new amaryllis and lots of seedling bromeliads. "You certainly deserve the highest credit for your great success as a hybridizer of bromeliads. I am glad to obtain these seedlings . . . I looked over my collection today and found *Billbergia euphemiae* in full bloom--a most exquisite purple deep-blue. I shall send you a plant, also of *B. Reichardtii*, *B. burchelli*, *B. bruantii* (a hybrid with very broad dazzling deep red bracts), *B. perringiana* and some others. Writes about various other plants including some begonias sent to TLM but lost, seeds of *Passiflora elegans*, specimens of *Hippeastrum*. Says that he received his bulbs from Carlos Wercle. Says that TLM's pure white crinum hybrid "Snow Queen" "is now in full bloom . . . is one of your hybrid Cattleyas . . . I am anxious to obtain other cattleyas [and more about orchids in general] He thanks TLM for his high opinion of "My bamboo essay in the 'American Eagle'."

Dec. 21, 1925 continued (pages 2 and 3) terminates into a perfect cylindrical spike, topped with a small yellow hair-like tuft.

The finest and most beautiful bromeliad is undoubtedly *Tillandsia lindenii*, and I sent you my very best and most vigorous variety. It is still in bloom--beautiful blue and very fragrant. This variety cannot be had in this country. My plant came originally from the Frankfurt Palm Gardens. I follow since years Baker's "Bromeliaceae," and label my plants accordingly tho there are many -----names from various sources and I find it extremely difficult to straighten out the nomenclature. My *Tillandsia o--ifolia* is currently named, as Dr. Small himself determined my plant when he visited me last. There are hundreds of them in the scrub about 200 feet from my shack, and I am therefore send(ing) you more--also of *T. balbisiana*. The plant you mentioned under the name of *Bromelia lasiantha* is given by Baker as a synonym of *Puya lanata*, described as being 12 to 18 feet high. I regard the unnamed species I sent you as an Aechmea--one of the smaller species.

There is one *Pitcairnea* now in bloom with a recurved flower spike, hanging over the edge of the box in which it grows. The stem (everything) is brilliant red, about 2 feet long, cylindrical--a wonderful show specimen. But oh! the -----leaves!

I shall send you in the course of time of all my bromeliad offsets as soon as they are formed. *Aechmea fulgens* is the correct name of the plant I sent you, tho I received it as *A. miniata* var. *discolor*.

How are the little *Aechmea barleii* getting along? Should you have a surplus I would like to obtain a few. Have I ever sent you a specimen of *Aechmea hystrix*? Its pointed leaves are as sharp as agave leaves. I have also a fine *A. bromeliaefolia* and *A. glomerata* (*stellata*). You will enjoy *Nidularium amazonicum*, one of the most beautiful and dazzling, and one of the easiest grown of all my bromeliads. I had a most wonderful specimen of *Nidularium innocentii* but lost the one with beautiful striated (white) leaves and have now only a plant of the green form. *Nidularium fulgens*, with purple inner leaves, *N. princeps*, *N. purpureum* etc. were lost a few years ago when I still was "green" here. [this was when he used brackish water and killed them.] There is no specialist on bromeliads in this country and I think you received all you can obtain from any botanical garden

He then describes his tropical plant collection. [this letter has 8 pages and concludes "mislaid Passiflora seeds. Shall forward them later."]

"All the woodlands around here, but particularly the cypress swamps, are lighted up with the firey-red tresses of *Tillandsia fasciculata*--a really gorgeous species. It grows well with me in soil. I have lost my red-leaved *Caraguata zahnii*--one of the gems among bromeliads, and my *C. andreana*, also one of the most lovely species. They died during the rainy season and I suppose that the compost did not suit their wishes. Had I used osmunda fiber, peat, charcoal and sand I think I could have saved them." Writes about the boom "burst like a bubble." TLM has been growing narcissus

- April 6, 1926 He has found the *Passiflora elegans* seeds and will send some billbergias.
- April 10, 1926 He has sent to TLM: *Billbergia pallescens*, *B. iridifolia*, *B. reichardtii*, *B. burchelli*, *B. macrocalyx*, *B. euphemiae*, *B. bruantii*; also two cuttings of *Hylacereus guatemalensis*. [These items have been checked off in pencil]. Could not send an offshoot of *B. perringiani* as there were none. "It looks very much like a hybrid of *B. nutans* and is quite similar to your own hybrid . . . whether or not the above names are current I do not know. The names came with the plants from the N.Y. Botanical Garden. I expect some *Aechmeas* species (berries) from Mexico and Jamaica. I shall send it to you as soon as it arrives. But don't let the Federal Horticultural Board know. More about various other plants received and tried. He goes back over the Bethemer business about how he went to New York with HN's letter of introduction and got plants for his own collection. About various palms and other plants in his collection
- April 21, 1926 He has just visited Gotha but unable to visit TLM. A general discussion of plants and prices.
- April 29, 1926 TLM has sent two amaryllis and a letter. On the 28th children of a "shiftless cracker" set the woods on fire and it burned hundred of HN's palms, ficus, pandanus. "The fire went over the entire front of the place and could only be checked when it had made inroads of over 300 feet." Fire again on the 29th. He is worn out. Avocados all destroyed. "I have not even told my wife the whole story and my children are still ignorant of my misfortune. Best regards to Mrs. Mead."
- July 8, 1926 Dr. Paul C. Standley has sent seeds of two species of terrestrial bromeliads and HN sends them to TLM.

- Oct. 19, 1926      HN has been to Ithaca and around northern NY and NYC (the "new Jerusalem"). Visited Arno, Dr. Bailey and: Dr. Carl Mez, Dr. Alvin Berger, Mr. Pennock (classmate of TLM), Dr. A. A. Allen, Mr. Fuertes, Dr. Faust. On return to Gotha found water level very high and worries about survival of his plants. At NY Botanical Garden and Brooklyn, Dr. Britton and Dr. Small. The hurricane destroyed his house at Naples. "All my red maples in the hammock swamp are torn to pieces. **Big pines are** uprooted, but there is no water and most all my plants have not been harmed. The roofing of my house is gone and the house itself has been blown off its piers. The damage amounts at least to \$500.00 but the worst of it is that all my clothes, my bedding, my books, papers, manuscripts have badly suffered by the heavy down-pours . . . Many of the best book however, and my photographs have suffered very little. . . . I cannot get help except for \$4.00 a day . . . ." And then he talks about plants again.
- Dec. 16, 1926      "I have no billbergia in bloom except *B. sandersii* and a few of your hybrids. About a month ago I had a very large and distinct species--do not know its name--in flower. Calyx woolly white, fl. white and bluish. The plant looks very much like *B. zebrina*, but it is more slender and flowers, tho curious not as fine in light. Should anything new turn up I shall mail you the flowers. Last Sunday Dr. Small came for a visit. He brought me a box of orchids and bromeliads he had collected for me at Cape Sable. Among them are *Catopsis berteromina* and *Tillandsia valenzuelana* and a new native *Vanilla*." TLM has a partner who does not accept him as an authority on bulb growing. Somebody has offered HN \$30,000 to put in the business. He now has 3000 different tropical plants and most of them can be used commercially: cycads, dracaena, pandanus, crotons, caladiums.
- March 2, 1927 (postcard)      Sending TLM some bromeliad "I just got from Mexico, one *Aechmea* and one *Hechtia*."
- May 20, 1927      HN says "my finances were in a deplorable condition and I could find no one to help me along. **But at last** I have met a splendid man and his associate Mr. McIntosh, to combine with me. We are going to build up the Sebring ornamental business and shall very likely also keep the Naples place. He (HN) thinks that Sebring is a fine place. On April 17, Mr. and Mrs. Edison spent the entire day with HN, and Mr. E. was very interested in the ficus, the articles in the *American Eagle* and "spent several hours in my little shack leafing over my books, manuscripts,

photographs, etc. . . . Mr. Foster of Orlando also called on me several times and so did several northern florists during the winter." Dr. Fairchild sent seeds of *Hyphaena strebaica* gathered in tropical west Africa. . . my many ficus, however, are at present the most absorbingly interesting in my collection" and more about Mexican species that he has been trying for 35 years to obtain.

May 28, 1927 Mr. Pennock has sent canes of 25 varieties of his dracaenas so that he has 500 sprouting as well as about 1500 "more of my own." He is planning to move to Sebring.

June 21, 1927 TLM has written to him from Ithaca. The "drouth" has broken. Has sent thousands of plants--mostly small ones-- to Sebring. He has had three to six men working one unusually capable and interested in learning.

There are no letters until

Jan 25, 1929 TLM has been sending soup. HN says that he is overburdened with letter writing. "A few days ago I had two agents of the Federal Horticultural Board with me--real beaurocrats. They wanted to get full information about every plant and bulb that came to me during the past four years. They wanted to know where each one grew, how much propagating material each one supplied etcetcetc. I have felt quite "blue" for several days since they left. They are very different from the polite, gentlemanly Bureau of Plants people--very different, speaking always with much -----and force. They want me to grow all the plants at one place, and I come into a dilemma when they heard that some of the plants were at Sebring, others with my friend -----, and that I had given several away. I have to give a full account of every plant and bulb and of the caladiums that Arno bought in Germany. They were angry that my plants were so poorly labelled and they could not distinguish *Ceratozanina maxicana* from a bromelia and an orchid. They knew nothing about plants, but only showed their authority . . . . This is all I can write tonight. More later. Your old friend, H. Nehrling.

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With the letters are miscellaneous pages:  
A chapter outline, 17 headings, "Soil and climate of Fla.," etc.  
Four pages of indecipherable copy headed "Certain Cacti."  
Typescript copy "Orchids in South Florida," 1 page  
Copy of ms, 1 page, "Chapter I. The Climate and Soil of Florida."