

Came back from Washington Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

Ithaca Jan 12 1868

J<sup>r</sup> E Palmer

Dear Sir

Your welcome  
letter dated Dec 25 was received  
a week ago, and a few days after  
both boxes arrived in good con-  
dition. You have surprised  
me by the richness of your  
collection - pity that there are  
mostly only single specimens of  
the dried plants. Most of them  
are not new, having been  
described in Plante Thibetienne  
and in the Boundary Botany,  
but nevertheless very valuable.  
I was much pleased with my  
first and hasty look at them.

The Cacti, you will have  
noticed are mostly dead.  
Some of the living ones have been  
sprouting in the box (coming  
through the tropics, I suppose)  
which will also kill them; but  
some will survive, I hope.  
The Cactus seeds and some others



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are valuable and have  
pleased me much — they will  
be distributed here and in Europe.

The case of *C. giganteus* you  
mentions in your letter, I failed  
to get.

Please give me an idea of  
the geography or rather topography  
of the country, you made your  
collections in.

And when were they made?  
all in 1867? Or any also  
in 1866.

Where and what is Wallen  
often mentioned — where camp  
Grant — What are the principal  
localities you collected in, and  
what their geographical position

I was delighted to find print  
of that Yucca called Sete,  
which is often mentioned in the  
boundary report and figured repeatedly.  
Does the figure (e.g. on sketch  
N. 42 of W. Schott's 1st vol  
of Boundary Commission Report —  
or that in Capt Whipple's Pacif. Rail  
R. report vol III pag 121) correspond



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with what you have seen? Unfortunately  
the leaf and flower of which you speak  
in your note, attached to the fruit, is  
not in the collection. — Well, we will  
be able to cultivate your plant from  
your seed, though it will take 20  
years at least, to make any thing  
of it. <sup>how long the leaves? serrate, smooth edged, or</sup>  
<sub>fibrous on edge?</sub>

Do judge, from your letter, that  
many plants have been injured  
by moisture — pity! but  
send them on — after drying — never  
theless, there may be important  
things among them.

I am arranging and classifying  
your plants presently. I probably  
will take them and the old collection  
of 1865 with me to Cambridge  
where I expect to be in April  
and work them up — finally —  
with the aid of Prof Gray's <sup>advice</sup> herbarium  
and library.

Let me know at once, if  
there are more (the wet)  
specimens coming — for I  
want to have labels printed  
— so that I may the number of labels



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necessary.

You do not give me your direction  
I therefore send to Prof Board  
because I expect he will know  
your whereabouts.

Did you get my letter in  
Arizona last Spring and  
Summer?

What are you after now?  
I shall be much pleased  
to see you here, and question  
you a good deal about all  
these plants.

Very truly yours

J. Engelman

How is it that no Pines are  
in your collection? Do they not  
occur in Southern Arizona?



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St Louis Jan 8 1870

My dear Doctor Palmer

I had just returned from an 18-month tour in Europe, when I received from our friend Parry a fine fruit of a Cactus, sent by you, and was thus <sup>continued</sup> practically reminded of your <sup>continued</sup> zeal, activity and success in botanical and cactological investigations, though I had heard before already of your repeated expeditions into the fertile (fertile in botanical novelty) regions of the south west.

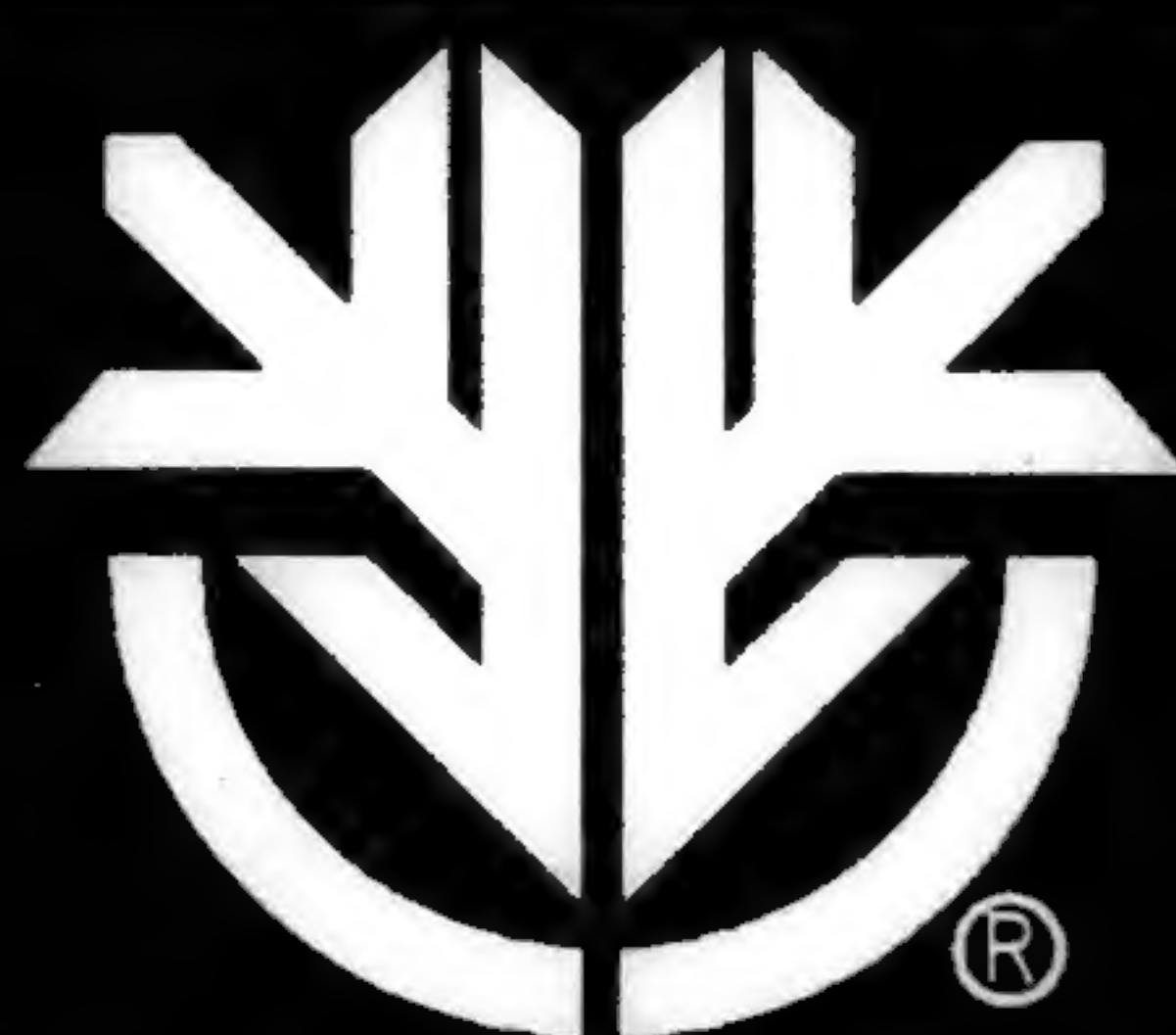
I had taken the seeds sent by you two years ago, with me to Europe and distributed them there, but unfortunately many or most of the most interesting ones were gathered before maturity and would not germinate; but they showed to the lovers of this

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN  
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS



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family of plants, what might be expected from that region. Some of the most common ones, that appear blossomed Opuntia growing near the forts, with spiny fruit, was much desired but all the seeds unripe, and so on. *Cereus giganteus* is still a great desideratum, and as to *C. Thurberii* and *Schottii*, they are not anywhere in cultivation.

The fruit sent to me by Dr Parry bears the number 70 but no notes or memoranda accompanied it.

I wish you would give me as full information about the plant as you can, for I mean to publish it under your name: *Cereus Palmeri*, as it is decidedly distinct from any thing we have heretofore had from that region.

The fruit is oval, over 2 inches long and beset with numerous areoles which bear no scales as far as I can find, but bunches of short stout spines sometimes 6-8 in number. The seed is larger than any of the known Arizona *Cerei*, and the embryo



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has strongly hooked cotyledons.

Fruit and seed justify me  
in considering the plant a distinct  
species.

Where does this *Cereus Palmeri* grow,  
how does it grow, what its dimensions,  
number of ribs, distance of  
branches of spines, number and size  
of spines — What the flower —  
the time of day when flower is open,  
colour, fragrance etc; shape and  
size of flower, stigma etc — Fruit  
edible? colour? etc etc —

I hope to hear from you  
direct or through Dr Parry  
to whom I send this letter  
as I do not have your direction.

Very truly yours

Engelmann

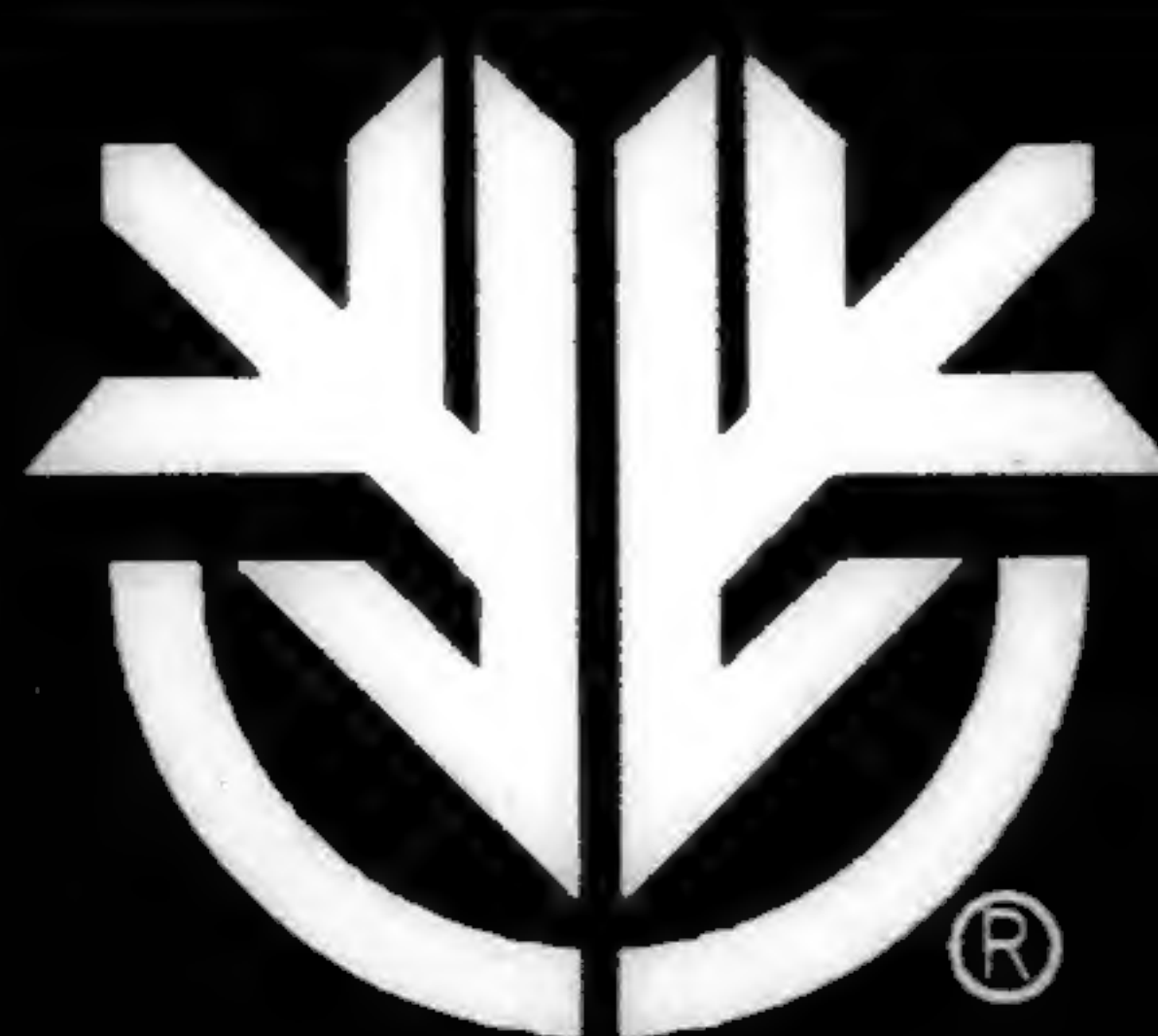
Letters directed to me at St Louis  
reach me safely.



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sent to the Party to  
forward it to the  
where you are

C. C. Barry



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