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US Navy Galapagos Expedition 1941: Miscellaneous notes (1 of 3)

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CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE BAYVIEW 5100
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October 25, 1935

Dear Mr. Schmitt:

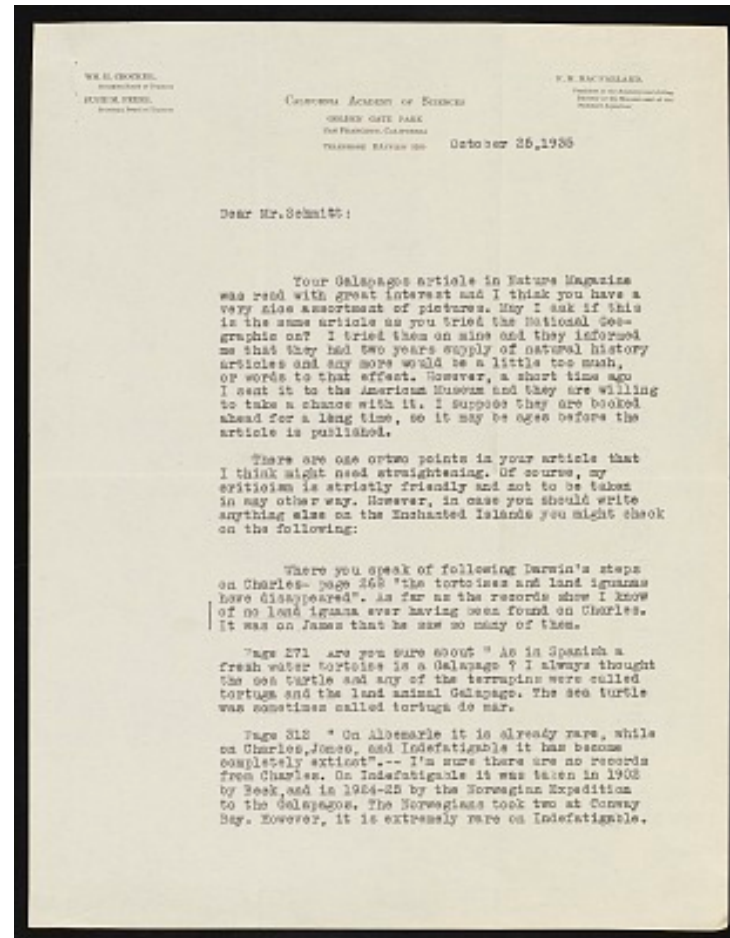
Your Galapagos article in Nature Magazine was read with great interest and I think you have a very nice assortment of pictures. May I ask if this is the same article as you tried the National Geographic on? I tried them on mine and they informed me they had a two years supply of natural history articles and any more would be a little too much, or words to that effect. However, a short time ago I sent it to the American Museum and they are willing to take a chance with it. I suppose they are booked ahead for a long time, so it may be ages before the article is published.

There are one or two points in your article that I think might need straightening. Of course, my criticism is strictly friendly and not to be taken in any other way. However, in case you should write anything else on the Enchanted Islands you might check on the following:

Where you speak of the following Darwin's steps on Charles- page 268 "the tortoises and land iguanas have disappeared". As far as the records show I know of no land iguana ever having been found on Charles. It was on James that he saw so many of them.

Page 271 Are you sure about "As in Spanish a fresh water tortoise is a Galapago? I always thought the sea turtle and any of the terrapins were called tortuga and the land animal Galapago. The sea turtle was sometimes called tortuga de mar.

Page 312 "On Albemarle it is already rare, while on Charles, James and Indefatigable it has become completely extinct". -- I'm sure there are no records from Charles. On Indefatigable it was taken in 1902 by Beck, and in 1924-25 by the Norwegian Expedition to the Galapagos. The Norwegians took two at Conway Bay. However, it is extremely rare on Indefatigable.



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