July 22, 1931

Dear Dr. Thornber:

I was much pleased to receive an autographed copy of "The Sage of the Desert." It is not new to me - I picked it up while in Tucson and read it hurriedly. You see your sage of the desert quite set me off my feet. I had only made his acquaintance is a casual way; the occasional individuals of his kind that one sees in crossing the continent as pictured in the Geographic Magazine. It was quite another thing to see hundreds and thousand of them about me on the slopes and the buttes. They are the most savage and the most fascinating things in the plant world. Indeed, this whole cacti tribe, as you have it spread around Southern Arizona, is an almost startling exhibit. Your book, not only gives information that I am glad to have about the Saguaro and his friends and associates, but it carries out the impression that I received. I seldom looked at these curious flora without an impression at once repellant and alluring. Thank you very much for sending me this autographed copy.

And do go on with your work among the cacti.

With all good wishes

Very sincerely yours

Dr. John James Thornber
Dean, College of Agriculture
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

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