



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

MRS. ALFRED G. KAY
HIDDEN RIVER FARM
CHESTER, NEW JERSEY

November 14,
1939.

Dear Doctor Popenoe,

It has been our bad luck to miss you each time that you have been with the Fairchilds at the Kampong, but both David and Marian have spoken of you so often that we feel we know you quite well. We hope that you also have heard of us (we are the friends who made David write "The World Was My Garden") for we want to ask a favor of you.

Are you going to occupy the house at Antigua during February, or have you already promised it to anyone else? We hope to go down to Guatemala and feel that it would not be Guatemala to us unless we had at least a few days in the house.

I wrote Tom Barbour for your address and he sent me two, so I am sending duplicate letters to both. I hope that you will not be annoyed with both, but I certainly hope that you do receive one of them. I also hope that our paths cross some time. We missed you by only an hour once---I think it was last winter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kay

copy to
Jarkovic

CASA ANANDA
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

December 15,
1939.

Dear Doctor Popenoe,

Thank you for your letter of December fifth with its welcome news that we may join the blessed company of those who have enjoyed the hospitality of your house in Antigua.

Our plans are pretty well set---or were until yesterday when the Grace Line announced that they were changing all schedules in a few days. If our boat from Panama in March is much changed, we may have to leave Guatemala earlier. Hence, I suggest that you allow us to visit The House soon after our arrival in Guatemala if it is possible. That would be the week of February 26th. (We should reach Guatemala City the 25th.)

With me will be Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Fife. Professor Fife is having a Sabbatical from Columbia. Mrs. Fife is a sister of Mrs. English whom you allowed to visit The House last year. Mrs. English and her companions have deep gratitude for you in their hearts and such an abiding love of The House that I would feel our trip a failure if we could not experience a few days of its hospitality, even if I had not heard Nancy Bell and others tell its delights.

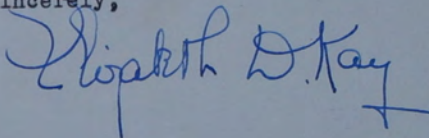
I suppose that you are receiving as ecstatic letters from David and Marian as we. Never did anyone attain greater happiness in an unhappy world than they in their Philippine bamboo house in the jungle this fall. Tom Barbour reports that David thinks the Junk's bunks a bit narrow but otherwise all is right with the craft. I do think that a Chinese junk with a captain named Kilkenny should be capable of anything at any time.

Would you mind letting me know what days you prefer us to be at The House as I must arrange for accommodations at hotels for the balance of our stay. I understand Guatemala will be pretty full of visitors this winter and accommodations at a premium.

It is disappointing to realize that once again we shall arrive in a place after you have left. Some day I shall insist on David's arranging a meeting. He loves you dearly and speaks of you as of a son. He has become one of our family too, so we are really connections of a kind---a nice kind!

Again thank you for your letter and for being so kind to your fellow-man (and woman).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth D. Kay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 January 1940

Dear Mrs. Kay:

I have just come up from the coast and find your letter of December 15th. Mrs. Popenoe and I will almost certainly be leaving here before the end of January, hence I am leaving word with Mr Molanphy, who has charge of the place in our absence, that you will be using it during the week of Feb. 26th. You might do well to call on Mr Molanphy when you reach Guatemala City.

Maria will do her best to take care of you. She is trustworthy, and you need not hesitate to give her any sums she requests to shop for you in the market. She will have your washing done here at the house, by Rufina who does it as well as anyone in this neighborhood. If you care to tell Maria what sort of things you wish to eat it will help; lacking any instructions she will do her best.

I am sorry we shall not be here when you come, but we are planning to fly down to Costa Rica in a week or so and will not be back for some time. We hope you enjoy your stay in Antigua. You can get a hot shower in the casita, the little frame building at one side of the patio, provided you take it during the middle of the day (there is a solar heater) and let the cold water run out first.

Please do not say anything to fellow-passengers on the way down, about having this house for the week. It leads to complications. We do not like to refuse anyone the hospitality of the place, but at this season there are a good many people

visiting Guatemala.

I haven't heard from the Fairchilds since they left the States. I hope they are having a grand time. After you have been to Guatemala, if you have found this country as attractive as I believe you will find it, I hope you will help me work on them to come here next winter. I have been trying to get them down here for several years now, and I believe Daisy Bell was of a mind to come, several years ago; but so far other things have come up to prevent their making the trip.

I know you will not fail to see Lake Atitlan. That is the high spot, scenically. If you spend some time in Antigua, and see the Lake, and visit Chichicastenango on Sunday when the market takes place - and do not fail to go into the church about noon - you will have met all the requirements. Though come to think about it, I believe Thursday is the better day at Chichicastenango; Clark's Tours can tell you. I haven't been there for a year or more and have forgotten. But don't let them keep you too long at Chichi; the hotel there - Mayan Inn - is the best in Guatemala but there is little to see except the remarkable market and the overwhelming sight in the church when the Indians are all at work getting right with 57 gods.

Always sincerely yours,

Mr Molanphy:

These people have done a great deal for my old boss at Washington, Dr Fairchild, and on his account I am anxious to take good care of them here. We have written them that we shall probably be gone before they get here, in which case they will call upon you. If there is no one else lined up for the house, we would like them to use it as long as they care to do so. I would suggest you tell them to establish themselves and you will let them know in case someone else comes along to whom we must offer the place. I dont imagine they will want to remain in Antigua more than a week or so in any case.

J. P. Rouse



CHESTER



CHESTER 27



GLADSTONE

AND EXPRESS

HIDDEN RIVER FARM
 CHESTER, NEW JERSEY
 Septmeber 30, 1963

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
 Antigua
 Guatemala

Dear DR. Popenoe:

It is many years since you, with dear David and Marian, were with us in Panajachel and our launch took us to San Pedro to salute to ~~salute~~ one of the first avocado trees from which you collected fruit to introduce into the United States! I have delightful kodachromes as well as memories of that day!

Now I am writing to ask you to write a letter about Nell Jennings. I have been anxious for her to receive recognition from the Garden Club of America for her furtherance of knowledge of tropical horticulture and development of the Fairchild Tropical Garden. This year the Garden Club of Palm Beach is proposing Nell for the Garden Club of America Medal of Honor, an award given for "service to horticulture". I am sure that, knowing Nell you must love her, and will be glad to help us secure for her this honor.

Dr. Robbins is seconding the proposal but we need letters from other recognized authorities like yourself who can speak with sure knowledge of Nell's contribution to tropical horticulture in the development of the Garden; in her establishment of the Robert Montgomery Foundation; and in her tireless efforts to make and keep the Garden the living institution it is. I am certain that without Nell it would not be the force it now is, increasing its scope annually.

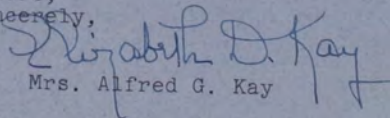
If you will write, please send the letter to me as I am collecting both the letters and photographs of the Garden in a file to present to the Committee with some numbers of the F.T.G. Bulletin. However your actual letter should be addressed to:

Mrs. Wm. W. Howells, Chairman
 Medal Awards Committee
 Garden Club of America
 598 Madison Avenue, New York 22

We are all of us delighted that John Popenoe decided to come as our new Director. It seems so completely right and would make David so happy!

Alfred joins in sending greetings and a hope that our paths may cross in the near future,

Sincerely,


 Mrs. Alfred G. Kay

After November 1st
 Box 2002, Palm Beach