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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.

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

POSTAL CODE 27706  
TELEPHONE 919-684-3438

August 28, 1969

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa del Oidor  
Calle de la Nobleza  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to give me the benefit of your advice and assistance in a project that my wife and I are seriously contemplating.

We have an opportunity to purchase the Casa de los Leones and would like, over a period of time, to accomplish at least a partial restoration. Knowing of the accomplishments of yourself and your late wife, having just finished reading, with great enjoyment, the book of Mr. Louis Adamic, I felt that it would be of the greatest possible help if we could enlist your aid as regards advice and guidance.

I am sure that the house, in its present condition, is well known to you. A brief tour of inspection early in August suggested to me that the condition of the house is by no means as bad as its external appearance and the number of accounts would suggest. Certainly the back part is in ruins with several standing walls, but the front portion of the house appears to have sound walls, free of debris, and now used as shops and living quarters.

One of the most difficult problems we shall have to face is choice of a period for the restoration. Here, I am sure that there will be a number of financial constraints that will limit our ambitions.

From what I can determine there appears to be rather little known concerning the history of the house except possibly the name of two or three of the former owners. Any special information that you could provide would be of invaluable help to us.

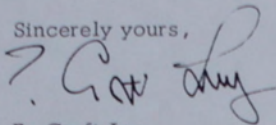
Dr. Wilson Popenoe

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August 28, 1969

There is a possibility that I shall be visiting Guatemala in September or over Christmas and I should consider it a great privilege if it is possible to visit your home and possibly to meet with you if this would not be troublesome to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Croft Long". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

E. Croft Long  
Associate Dean

ECL:na

Antigua, Guatemala 4 Sept 1969

Dr E. Croft Long  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Doctor Long:

Your letter of 28 August has just come. I first knew the Casa de los Leones when I came to Guatemala in 1916, and have been interested in it ever since; but I am afraid I do not know anything about its history than you have learned already. It has always been mentioned here as having belonged, in Colonial times, to the Alvarez de Asturias family (I have a portrait of one member of the family in our collection here, but it was not done much before 1800). Verle Annis, in his monumental work "The Architecture of Antigua Guatemala, 1543-1773", says "Many names and legends are connected with this residence, but even without these it would be apparent that it was a house of importance and built by a person of wealth."

You would do well to consult this invaluable work, for it contains much information regarding the architecture and present condition of the house. Perhaps you have seen the book already, but from what you have written me, I doubt it. Annis says, regarding the doorway which has made the house famous, "it seems probable that the lions, as well as the twisted columns, were salvaged from some ruined building after one of the great earthquakes, and placed here without much taste or consideration for design."

And again, "The House of the Lions ..... is another example of a pre-1717 residence where the corner walls were destroyed by earthquake and rebuilt with half-timber construction..... The most distinguished contribution of this house to our study of domestic architecture in



Antigua is found in the many doors and shutters which were preserved.... The corner window is exceptionally large and the interior effect has been altered by the reconstruction which requires moving it back into line with the inner walls."

There are numerous houses in Antigua where the walls were damaged, presumably, by one of the great earthquakes and where reconstruction consisted in leaving only a few feet of the original, flush with the street, rebuilding the upper part with wood and brick, not half the thickness of the original wall. If I were doing a restoration of a house like the Casa de los Leones, I would rebuild the outer walls to their original thickness, using the original type of construction, as in our house - broken stone in mortar, levelled off frequently with a layer or two of brick. I would not rebuild this, or any other house, without making this correction.

I don't know exactly what I would do about the famous doorway, but after talking with a couple of friends here who are interested in old houses, we are inclined to feel that we would leave it just as it is, with minor repairs, and put in new doors of cedar, since the old doors are too far gone to be restored, I believe. Many of the rosettes (bronze studs) from the old doors have disappeared in time. There is a man here who makes these studs and does it well. I would rebuild the old doors just as we rebuilt the large doors on our house. I think it would be worth your while to copy some of the details from ours.

I will be delighted to have a visit from you and Mrs Long when next you come to Antigua, and to be of help in any way I can.

Cordially yours,

Wilson Pevence

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

POSTAL CODE 27710  
TELEPHONE 252-861-2200

September 9, 1969

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa del Oidor  
Calle de la Nobleza  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Guatemala, Central America

AIR MAIL

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your kind and informative letter of September 4. Subsequently, I have seen a copy of Verle Annis' book and have studied the description of the house that he gives.

I shall be visiting Guatemala quite briefly at the end of this month and plan to spend the night of Friday, September 26, in Antigua.

Would it be possible for me to meet you on the morning of Saturday, September 27? There are so many things that I should like to ask you and seek your advice about.

If it would be more convenient to you I probably could visit you on the afternoon of Friday, September 26.

As I shall be going to Mexico for about a week before Guatemala, you may wish to get in touch with me at the home of my close friend, Dr. Alberto Viau, 4a. Ave. 15-32, Zona 10, Guatemala City, telephone 680-602.

I greatly appreciate your interest and look forward eagerly to an opportunity of meeting with you. Unfortunately, my wife will not be with me on this occasion, but there is a possibility that we shall be returning to Guatemala for Christmas.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,



E. Croft Long

Associate Director, Medical Education

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

POSTAL CODE 27706  
TELEPHONE 919-684-3438

September 19, 1969

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa del Oidor  
Calle de la Nobleza  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Guatemala, Central America

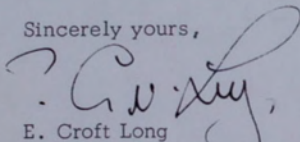
AIR MAIL

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 14. I will visit you on the afternoon of Friday, September 26, so that this will not interfere with your appointments on Saturday morning.

I am looking forward very much to meeting you.

Sincerely yours,



E. Croft Long  
Associate Director, Undergraduate  
Medical Education

ECL:na





AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNITED STATES A. I. D. MISSION TO GUATEMALA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, C. A.

March 29, 1973

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Calle del Oidor  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

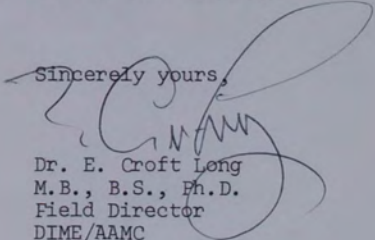
I am planning a small, informal cocktail party on Sunday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. at my home, Casa Santa Clara, 7a. Calle Oriente #12, Antigua. This is in honor of several representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation who are visiting Central America with interests in exploring program development in Agriculture, Health and Population.

The group consists of Dr. Allen Barnes, Vice-President for Biomedical Sciences; Dr. Joseph Black, Director of Social Sciences; Dr. Louis M. Roberts, Associate Director for Agricultural Sciences and Dr. Robert Waugh, Agricultural Adviser in Guatemala.

The group have expressed much interest in renewing their acquaintance with you. I hope very much that it will be possible for you and your wife to join us for the cocktail party and subsequently for dinner at the Hotel Antigua. The group will be returning to Guatemala about 10 p.m. that evening.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. E. Croft Long  
M.B., B.S., Ph.D.  
Field Director  
DIME/AAMC

c.c.: Dr. Robert Waugh