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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.

4013 Douglas Road
Coconut Grove, Fla.

Dear Helen;

As Mother may have told you, Lilo and I are leaving in February for a 6 months stay in Europe..our first return there in 25 years!

As we talk over plans, Spain looms larger and larger, and when we think of Spain, you two come to mind at once as a source..After all it was you who first guided our way to Mexico..Puebla I specially think of as yours, for some reason..

As things now stand, I think that we will go direct to Paris first, as it seems to me that to go there and pick up a car, that we plan to buy and bring home, would be the best way. Air France has good flights. Am I wrong in thinking that Seville or Madrid would be terribly cold in February? We thought of getting the car, heading south and returning to France through the Pyrenees (going into Spain from Italy or rather, sothern France and then up and back.) We want to be in Seville for Easter Week, for from what I have gleaned in my readings, this is THE place to be..or am I off?

As you see, I am still a bit vague, and wish that you two were here to talk to...Are you coming through any time before Feb 1st?

Lilå wants to spend most of the time in France, then Spain, into Italy, and I would like to go to Vienna, since Gloria Grosvenor's husband, Torfinn Oftedal, is to be Norwegian Ambassador there. An ambitious program, perhaps, since we also want some time in Switzerland, and yet dont want to "tour" all the time...so help help on the Spanish part.

Mother is still in Baddeck, and seems as happy as possible with her reduced activity. The big change seems to be her acceptance of the fact that she can do so little and not tire. Nancy Bell will go and close the house and take her to Ann Arbor for a while before she returns here, in December I should imagine. It is terribly heavy and much too hot for her here until late ~~November~~ November.

David is in Switzerland for the winter, Hugh is at Yosemite until December, at which time he will be back here, and stationed at Flemingo. Hélène is doing very well, and is due to "produce" in January..so all our chicks are stashed away for the time being, and Lilo and I are about to burst out again. Lilo needs a rest very much, so we are looking forward to our own "reduced activity," but in Europe.

We almost came to see you last September, but though best to save our pennies for this next big move. We have rented our house, and will stay here at the Kampong until we push off, and will return to the Kampong next Fall. Mother will only be "a lone" for a few short months in this way.

Ever so much love, and any suggestions that either of you have to offer, if you have the time to jot them down, would be a great help, and for which we would be everlastingly thankful.

Barbara

Oct. 18, 1959

Antigua, 23 October 1959

Dear Bobs:

Your letter of 18th de los corrientes came yesterday, and we are thrilled that you and Lilo are heading back toward Europe after an absence of 25 yrs. What a time you are going to have! You plan to fly Air France. It is good. We rather prefer KLM but dont care much for TWA and Pan Am. Swissair is good and they say the Scandinavian Airlines are excellent. Give us KLM every time.

And you are going to buy a car in France. I suppose it will be a Dauphine. Paul and Betty are over there now with a Dauphine. Of course Helen and I swear by our Volkswagen; we are now breaking in our second one. Or maybe ydu will go high-hat and have a Mercedds Benz. As Jim Kempton used to say, it doesnt matter what make of car you buy; you pay a dollar and you get a dollar's worth of car.

When we read your letter, Helen said we havent been very successful in giving people advice about travelling in Europe. I said No, we havent, but I am going to give Bobs and Lilo some suggestions, not advice; nobody can kick about that. And particularly as to where to stop. This is one of the problems, and I am going on the assumption that you two feel something like we do: you want a clean interesting place with local color, not expensive, and not the big hang-out for the American tourists - though they wont bother you much during the season you plan to be over there.

You know your France much better than we do, but if your favorite hotel of 25 yrs ago is no longer there, take a look at the Hotel de Calais, 5 rue des Capuchines, right on the corner of the Rue de la Pais and only a hundred yards from the Place Vendome where you can park your car overnight. Helen has been going to this little hotel off and on for 30 yrs; it hasnt changed, not even the carpets. Very inexpensive considering the location. Last time we were there it was about 1800 francs plus those innumerable surcharges which are characteristically French. The only thing you dont pay - and which we have to pay here - is wharfage.

I am going to talk about Spain of course, and principally, but when you go to Rome take a look at the Hotel Esperia, on the Via Nazionale - I think it is number 21. Very central, very good, and inexpensive.

I gather you are going into Spain from southern France. We do not advise going thru Andorra; we dont think much of that so-called Republic. It is just a place where the Frenchmen go for vacations because costs are on a Spanish basis - very very different from the French. I assume you will enter via Perpignan. (If you have never been to Carcassonne dont miss it) Once in Spain, with ultimate destination Madrid, best bet is to go down the coast through Barcelona and Tarragona and then to Valencia, and dont fail, to stop at the town of Sagunto to see the Roman ruins. They are fine. From Valencia there is a good road, direct, to Madrid - an easy day. Now in Madrid, we strongly recommend the Hotel Lope de Vega, Avenida José Antonio (commonly called the Gran Via) numero 59. We have stayed there more than half a dozen times; we love it. Very dignified, very friendly, small (it is on the 9th, 10th and 11th floors of a tall building; many buildings in Madrid have a humer of hotels, each with a few floors. The people there know us well; tell them we sent you. This little hotel is very reasonable in price - last time our room

cost us the equivalent of \$3.50 a day but dont think it is a cheap joint - I mean bas bourgeois; the waiters wear tails and white ties when they serve your morning coffee. But dont eat there regularly; try the Siete Picos and the Or Kompong and the Valencia.

While in Madrid you must go to Segovia and Avila. It will be pretty cold up North in March but if you dont mind that, by all means go up thru Valladolid Santillana del Mar (those wonderful Altamira caves) and stop at the Parador de Gil Blas. These paradores are small hotels run by the Spanish government for turista and they are uniformly good, sometimes wonderful. And inexpensive. Wherever you go, if there is a parador, you can trust it. The one at Oropesa on the way southward toward Extremadura is in an old castle; we go out of our way to spend a night there and we get the corner room, No 9, whence we can see the Lisboa express down on the plain, all lighted up, go chugging by in the middle of the night. And if possible, dont mist Santiago de Compostela. One of the great sights but quite a distance f om most other places you will visit. But it is worth it. We always stop at the Hotel España; old Washbnd (which we like) and the food good. They have recently converted the magnificent old hospital into a government hotel which is beautiful and right across from the cathedral. It is about twice the price of the España, which still doesnt mean it is expensive for people used to the Honey Plaza.

When you hwad south from Madrid we would suggest you come through Toledo, a bit out of the way, but one of the great sights; then come d wn and sleep in the Parador at Oropesa; then drive on down thru Merira (good Parador) where there are some very interesting Roman ruins; then dn to Sevilla.

You ask about Semana Santa in Sevilla. True, it is famous, but to us an awful bore. Night after night you sit on a hard chair out in the street watching the processions go by. "Floats" all alike, penitentes all alike, and just simply too many of them. If you could spend one evening on the job it would be ample. But you will have a very hard time getting hotel reservations in Sevilla unless you make them well in advance and I dont suppose there is much chance they would give you a room for one or two days only. The place is jammed all week. We can strongly recommend the Hotel Simon; we have stayed there several times; on our last visit it was about 125 pesetas per diem with excellent food. Very central. In Sevilla the great things to see are the Cathedral and the Archivo de Indias; dont miss the latter. If you want to spend some time in Sevilla, we would recommend the Feria which comes shortly after Semana Santa rather than the latter. We love Sevilla (and incidentally, while you are in that region - or really Madrid is better - look up the shows and pick out those which have folk dancing - the jota aragonesa, the zapateado of Andalucia, and others. Check on the Circo Price in Madrid in this connection).

From Sevilla you can drive to Granada through Cordoba, and you must see the old mosque there. It is or was an arab city and the streets are narrow and picturesque - there wont be the geraniums in March which we have seen several times. If you want to stay in Cordoba, try the Hotel Regina and stay away from the Cordoba Palace - too modern and much too expensive. Might as well go to the Honey Plaza,

Now for Granada, our favorite spot. If the Pension America is open, by all means stay there. It is right alongsidede the Alhambra - you can throw a stone from the balcony into the Patio de los Leones but dont do it. The people who own this place are friends of Helen's since 35 years back - the Garzón family -and when you tell them that you are a cousin of mine they will sure treat you handsomely/ The good is wonderful, and last yr the rate was 125 pesetas a day.

The Pension América closes during the winter; if not open when you get there go down town to the Hotel Victoria, excellent and not expensive; stay away from the Nevada Palace (those so-called Palace hotels, with exception of the Palace Hotel in Madrid which is very good but rather expensive, are chain propositions and you pay too much for the Simmons beds. The Alhambra and the Capilla Real in Granada are the two great sights, but there are a lot of remnants of the arab days and we never tire of wandering around town. If you stay at the Victoria you have to eat out; we use the Alcaicería and the Sevilla, both darn good and not expensive. And incidentally, up at the Alhambra you will find Helen's old friend Maria Luisa Garzón, who is one of the licensed guides there. She goes there every day though I suppose may miss some in the dead season. Let her show you around the Alhambra because she is one of the few guides who does not draw a long bow.

You will probably, and should, run down to Malaga from Granada; 3 or 4 hrs drive. The old arabic ruins are very much worth while. And the drive along the Mediterranean coast is simply gorgeous. When you pass through Almuñecar think of us; it was our base all last year, the little Rancho California which they will point out to you, about a mile outside of Almuñecar, as you enter from the Granada side. In Malaga we stay at the Casa Curro, right in town; clean and comfortable and the restaurant excellent.

This covers the main features and you can take it or leave it. If you have time when in Sevilla, we recommend the trip to Palos and La Rabida historically very much worth while; it can be done in a day from Sevilla. Incidentally, some of the gringos kick about the roads in Spain. They really are not bad though some of them in need of repair; They wont bother you any. And you will find the people a real delight; when they find you speak Spanish they want to talk with you and they give you the best you have and never snort in your face like the waiter did to me in Dijon when I asked for the 600 franc meal. And they never gip you; the govt has little cards in every hotel room stating the price of the room with and without meals and they stick to it. In spite of their reputation in tropical America they are almost invariably honest. I didnt feel popular in France; the first thing we saw when we entered from Spain was a big sign on a stone wall "Go home General Ridway" and many a time I got the feeling that they were anxious to have my money, all they could get of it, but beyond that - nights. The Germans treated us well; the Swiss wonderfully; the Italians doubled the prices of taxis and meals sometimes; but in Spain you just feel welcome and happy and want to know the people better. At least this has been our experience on four trips.

Glad to have news of your mother and the rest of the family. I wrote your mother a few days ago, figuring she would be back at the Kampong by this time. We had thought of going up to Gainesville to some meetings about the first of December but have given it up. Too much to do here; I am dimitted to write a "Manual de Fruticultura Tropical y Subtropical" for Salvat Editores of Barcelona and am running behind time.

Helen joins in love to all of you,

[1960]

4013 DOUGLAS ROAD
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

Dear Wilson

Your lovely long explicite letter of last October has been my constant companion ever since...and is all but worn out with re-reading...I think you are a very wonderful advice-giver, and we will, as we did before in Mexico, carry through many of your suggestions and ideas..I dont see why Hein thinks we wont!!!!

We sail on the "Cristoforo Colombo" of the Italian Line leaving N.Y. Feb 6th, and get off for a 12 day stop-over at Gibraltar, going on to Naples on the Constitution on Feb 26th. We have done it this way, as it is the same price as direct to Naples...It is not long to be in Spain, and we can always change our mind and stay longer if we want to..but this is a begining. We will go back into Spain from France later on, when it is warmer, and go North...after all, we are going to be in Europe for 7 months!!!

I have written to Srta Garzon, and we will go first to Malaga, and try to stay at your Casa Curro, and then on to Granada, and put ourselves into the hands of the senorita..which sound good, doesn't it. What from there, in our short time, I do not know..maybe back to Algeciras via Cordoba and Seville????I find it so difficult to judge time and distances..anyway, we dont have to plan now..

Mother is back, and seems really very well. We are having such fun living to-gether, and I hope that she will have many many friends around her while we are away..She is a very popular person, as you know.

Did Mother write that Hélène and Lester have a fine daughter, born New Years day...they have named her for Lesters mother, Katherine, but she is (and will be) known by Kit. A very healthy big baby, and we are all extremely pleased with her..

Hugh is now Park Naturalist-in-charge at Flamingo in the Everglades Nat. Park, and he and his Jeanne have a nice little house, right on the Bay, and are still in the honeymoon stage..long may it last.. How Daddy would have loved to know this...

David is still the unknown-quantity, but perhaps this year away, in Switzerland, will have matured him and cleared away the cob-webs...we shall see.

I do hope you two come this way again soon..If it were not for the pull of Europe, we would have gone your way ere this.

My partner-in-Chutney, Faith Jackson, may well knock on your doors some day. Her husband Mel, PhD. is in the History Dept., and is involved with a new boat line to bring freight direct from Guatamala and points south to Miami..an interesting venture that is just starting, but they might go down one day this summer..We like them very much.

Ever so much love to you both & MANY
Thanks for all Bob's -

4013 DOUGLAS ROAD
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

[March 1961]

Saturday Morning:

Dear Wilson:

Evalyne Smiley has just called me, and Lilo and I are so desperately sad..what a very terrible stroke of fate for you. Our love and sympathy speed on to you, though I know it will be of little help to fill your deep deep loneliness.

I has tried to reach you at the hotel several times, but somehow could not get through, so had counted on seeing you this morning at the Garden. Not only because I WANTED to see you very much, but also to tell you that at long last it seems that Lilo and I will be able to get down your way. Melville Grosvenor has invited Lilo to go on a trip, Guatamala, Costa Rica, Panama and home, and I am able to go along too, paying my way. We leave here April 1st via PanAm Flight 503 and will have all too short a stay, leaving ^{Guatemala} on the 6th.. Melville wanted especially to see you, and to go to Tecal to see the "new" digs there: What else, I do not know. I do hope that you will feel up to seeing us, but it is awful to think of going to Antigua and not finding you both there...why does one so often wait too long to do the things one really wants to do, and be with the people that really count? This should be a lesson to us..but I guess it wont ~~be~~

I have written to Sandy to tell Mother, and hope that you found her letter to you on your return. She wanted so very desperately to see you, but it meant that she would miss her Panama trip, as Sandy wanted her there.

there at a certain time, and no other. She had been so very miserable ever since her fall in February, that we all thought a change might be just what she needed. It is so sad to see Mother loosing interest in everything around her, and yet so natural, too, I guess. I cant seem to "spark" her interest at all, and felt that perhaps Sandy and Elva could.

I know that you will have neither the time nor the heart to write, so we will somehow get in touch with you from Guatemala when we get there..I dont even know what Hotel Melville plans to stay in, but 'tis bound to be "the Best"....

If there is anything I can do for you, anything that I can take to you, anything at all, please please let me know. I have always felt particularly close to you, Wilson, ever since I was a small girl, and you flitted in and out of In The Woods, a tall romantic wanderer with your wonderful tales and songs.

Ever so much love,

Beko - [Fairchild]

[@April 7/1967]

4013 DOUGLAS ROAD
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

Dear Wilson -

How wonderful it was to see you, and to have those all too short days with you - I so wish that I could have just stayed on - but perhaps 'tis better this way - you conceivably could get tired of having me hanging around, poking into corners and oh-ing and ah-ing all over the place!

Costa Rica was a bit drab after Guatamala, I must say, but we did have a lovely day with Sandy + Elva - This place is very attractive & they both seem busy & happy -

Jack O'Connell met us at the
San José airport, and wanted very
much to take us out to his finca
at San ^{Vital de} Jesus (I think that is right)
quite near the ~~front~~ Panama
border - He said Dorothy & Paul Allen
had been in his district, & Paul
had "done" the flora to within some
2,000 ft of his area - (I think, I mean)
A very interesting chap, growing coffee,
TEA and well as any other fruit
& vegetables & would be glad to get his
hands on - Perhaps "next time" we can
do that -

I told Mother to expect to see you
in late April - May - or whenever it
is that you come up - We really hope
you will do so - Mother is pretty well
right now, & it would mean as much
today as to the rest of us Mullers to
have you here -

So much love and thanks to all at
Casa Pofense for our wonderful stay, complete

Love Bob
with families!!

4013 DOUGLAS ROAD
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

[23 July 1962]

Dear Wilson:

Where are you, and above all HOW are you? Since I'm not good at writing, just to write, I never get much mail..not like you, for which the contrary is all too true.

Some time ago, and many times, you have told Lilo and I to let you know if ever we could get down to Antigua again, and you have also promised to tell us truthfully if the time is convenient to you. Now here we are. School lets out the 26th of July, and Lilo and I want very much to get away for a few weeks, say at least ~~two~~ ^{two}. It is hot, we are tired, and we want OWT. What is the situation on you Guest House? Is there any time after that that it would not be in use? Will you be truthful?

News from Baddeck is not too cheerful, and we do not know what and when ~~anything~~ will change up there, so that we do not want to be too much out of touch. We are thinking of Mexico, and also of Jamaica....and we may well end up by locking and barring the door right here on the Kampong, and staying put.

Lilo has been teaching all summer, we have had the arrival of two new granddaughter, to Hélène and to

Hugh and Jeanne, so with all that going on, we are really weary. The teaching has been at night, so that we have seen no one, and can give you no news of any of your friends (except Muller-Fairchilds..)

A postal card with "si" or "no" is all that is needed between the two of us, as well you know.

Both send much much love

Affectionately

Bobo