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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.

San José
April 14, 1971



La Sandunga
(Jotuno)

OAXACA, OAX., MEXICO.

Dear Dr. Pogonol and doña
Alice

I've just gotten acquainted
with another new fruit -
the naranjillo, I looked it
up in your book - and
couldn't find it! It's
the first thing I haven't
found, though, and I've
used it a lot. I got
the Annones straightened
out and learned more
about the Caimito,

and last week I bought
some Pejaboyes on the street. I didn't like them
too well.

Now it occurs to me that I never ack-
nowledged your kind gesture. The book came
incredibly soon after you left Costa Rica
and I should have written promptly to let
you know it had arrived and started
functioning immediately. I also appreciated
the note on the frontispiece.

At that time I was spending my
spare time sightseeing with my friend
and took a 3-day trip to Guanaacaste

short trips
and others, near San José. (So all my corres-
pondence was postponed!) Willem wrote that
she saw you in Guatemala. I'm glad she
could see your house. There's a microbiology
congress in Guatemala in July. I hope I
can go there then.

During the Easter vacation I went to
Monteverde, the Quaker colony in the mountains
over-looking Puntarenas, where they make
their renowned cheese. They are kindly
people, hard workers, and ingenious. They
have a fairly self-sufficient community
in a location that must be beautiful
some times of the year, but it's hewed
out of a cloud forest and there's a lot
of moisture. That week-end was wet and
windy, albeit the sun and moon were
clearly visible. April should be the best
month but there was a freak storm
from the Atlantic. Limón was prac-
tically inundated again but the railroad
was O.K. and motorists had to ship their
cars back to San José. So Monteverde
wasn't so bad, and the forest was fascinating.
I enjoyed these folk-dances in Oaxaca
last Christmas and saw some weddings
in Juchitán and a fiesta in Tehuantepec
where these colorful dresses were worn.

[Margaret Nickle ?]

San José, March 20 [1972]
Apartado 10155

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Popenoe,

When I heard that Don Bill was recuperating from a Christmas operation, I considered sending a get-well message, but before the thought was converted into action I heard he had recovered without my encouragement.

Then I heard he was celebrating an important milestone which I'd like to recognize with congratulations and that's what I'm doing ~~now~~^{for}, albeit he is well past the milestone by now! In the meantime, I understand there's another milestone coming up in the family next week, so with one act I can offer two sets of congratulations! I hope you both will have many more years to enjoy with as much vigor as you have for this one.

I guess Sally has written about our latest escapade. It was a happy event in all respects. She and Dorothy enjoyed getting acquainted with each other and I was glad to get to know Dorothy a little better. The activities, both scheduled (the visit to the Skutch's) and unscheduled (the side trip to the Pacific coast) were delightful. And I brought home a few more orchids for my growing collection.

I was glad that Sally accepted the invitation. I had been worried that it might be too much activity for her but she went right along with all of it (except tree-climbing) and seemed to be no more tired than the rest of us. In fact, I thought she was fine--much better than when I first met her a year ago.

Alicia, I wrote the Moreira sisters to invite them to come here for a visit. (Once I thought they would like to come because of some comments they made). They replied that they would rather wait until next year in the hope that I would take them to Antigua for Holy Week! Sally tells me you will probably be in Honduras, so I thought you'd like to know what they said.

I hope this note reaches Antigua before you leave so you will have my wish for a buen viaje.

Con mucho cariño,

Margaret



LITOGRAFIA LEHMANN

GUARIA TURRIALBA

COSTA RICA

July 18 [1970]

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Ever since I learned you came to San José while I was in the States, I've been wanting to write you but I'm a past master at procrastination. However, a chance to have a letter delivered personally is too good to pass up, so here it is.

My friend, Alicia Cabezas, who stayed at the Casa del Oidor with me, and was in complete accord with me that that visit with you was the high point of our Guatemalan adventure, has sent her friends, Mrs. and Mr. (how did that come out backwards?) Birenbaum to me for detailed instructions on how, what and who to see in Costa Rica and Guatemala. They have met various members of

her family and some of her friends and this is an introduction to you. I found them very "sim-páticos" so I hope you don't mind.

I know you have many really good pictures of your house but I thought you'd like to see how these came out. I've had the copies for ages!

Just before I left on my trip I called Sally to let her know why she wouldn't hear from me. I had borrowed a book from her but had no chance to return it. She said there was no hurry and wished me a good trip. I had noticed a change in her recently but I wasn't prepared for the news when I returned that she was in "Guatemala" as the sister said. Alice Louise Dunn then told me about your visit. I talked to her again yesterday and she said that the doctor had OK'd some visitors so I'll call him for permission as soon as I can. I've enjoyed our various excursions together and I hope she'll soon be herself again. If there is anything that you'd like me to do or not do for her, please feel free to tell me frankly. I'm very fond of both of you and, being a bit of a fatalist, I feel there must be some role for me, since I was led to know Sally from several diverse directions.

On my way back I stopped in Tegucigalpa for two days. I saw Doña Alicia's friends Julita and Coya and we spoke of her. I'm glad the house is rented but I was sorry not to have been able to repeat the coincidence of a visit with her as we had the year before. Please give her my warm regards but keep a few for yourself.

On my list of things I mustn't fail to do is to take up your offer of paella with real Spanish saffron. I hope there's some left by the time I get there!

Con carino,

Margaret Tickle

Seasons Greetings



Costa Rica

March 3, 1973

Aéreo

Dear Dr. Pop,

Your January letter is long overdue (I mean it's answer is) but I know you have been kept informed about Sally and that was the news of the moment. Now that she is at last where she can be cared for--at least better if not entirely properly--we are all breathing with more relief. My information is all second or third-hand from Madre Asunción and I have not wanted to bother her with frequent inquiries. She called me yesterday to say that Sally had finally been moved to Chapui and asked if I could suggest what to do with her things. Alice Louise had told me she had a recent letter from you saying that you might come down later in the month. I suggested to Madre that if she could store them until then, you might take care of them. My apartment is fairly full but I could stow away some boxes, if you wish. Madre Asunción was very sympathetic but also very worried, poor soul, because the other pensionados were complaining about Sally's night-time songs with guitar. She has been talking for some time about a place in Venezuela run by her order that seems to be exactly right for someone like Sally--optimal care with minimal hospital atmosphere. You are right, Chapui is no place to spend a lifetime, but I'm convinced that with some treatment, Sally will improve again. Whatever triggered her recent withdrawal, was exaggerated by her refusal to take medication.

Madre Asunción said that a young doctor (plus enfermero and enfermera) who came for Sally, name of Jiménez, was muy simpático. I think she thought Alfaro took too long deciding what to do. It was too bad Rucavado had to pull out since he knew the case so well. Anyway, I'm sure things can only improve from now on.

From your letter I believe you thought Sally's relapse was similar to the previous one. I believe it was the reverse. Instead of socializing too much with the wrong people, she became completely antisocial. I don't know about her artist friends but I think she had very little opportunity to indulge in any activities besides painting. Certainly she has never confided in me.

Alice Louise told me she was writing to congratulate you on your wedding anniversary. Is it too late to put in my good wishes, too? I remember exactly when it happened. Julio (Alice's gardener and my janitor) was grief-stricken, that "some doctor from Guatemala" was taking away his beloved patrona! I never suspected that I would have the privilege of knowing them both in the near future, but I'm glad it

Sorry about the typing errors - poor coordination between mind & fingers!

enjoy several more years - you don't have to →

Seasons of Change



Costa Rica

March 2, 1973

Dear Dr. Jay,

Your January letter is long overdue (I mean in answer to) but I know you have been kept informed about Sally and that was of the moment. Now that she is at last where she can be cared for - at least better - it was entirely proper - as you all preaching with more relief. My information is all second or third-hand from Madra Augusta and I have not wanted to bother her with frequent inquiries. She called me yesterday to say that Sally had finally been moved to Chapin and asked if I could suggest what to do with her things. Alice Louisa had told me she had a recent letter from you saying that you might come down later in the month. I suggested Madra that if she could store the stuff then, you might take care of them. My apartment is fairly full but I could stow away some boxes, if you wish. Madra Augusta was very sympathetic but also very worried, poor soul, because the other pensioners were complaining about Sally's night-time songs with guitar. She has been talking for some time about a place in Venezuela run by her order that seems to be exactly right for someone like Sally - optimal care with animal hospital atmosphere. You are right, Chapin is no place to spend a lifetime, but I'm convinced that some treatment, Sally will improve again. Whatever happened her recent withdrawal, exaggerated by her refusal to take medication.

Madra Augusta said that a young doctor (spin salesman and entrepreneur) who came for Sally, case of Madra, was very sympathetic. I think she thought Alice took too long deciding what to do. It was too bad because she had to pull out since he knew the case so well. Anyway, I'm sure things can only improve from now on.

run a race every day?

I hope you'll feel like coming - perhaps not till after there's time to see how Sally progresses - and that we can have a chat.

I am not anonymous - you called me "so" signed "think". But if there are best regards to you & Alice from Margaret.