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5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
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Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
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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.

★ Rest in the Desert . . . design contributed by Louis Toffoli of France to benefit UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. ★ Halte dans le désert . . . composition offerte au Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance par l'artiste français Louis Toffoli. ★ Descanso en el desierto . . . obra de Louis Toffoli de Francia. Contribución al UNICEF, el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. ★ Отдых в пустыне. Рисунок Луи Тоффоли, Франция, преподнесенный в дар Детскому фонду Организации Объединенных Наций (ЮНИСЕФ). ★ 沙漠中的休息 . . . 法蘭西路易托福利製贈聯合國兒童基金會。



PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Having completed our first 3  
ullbrights, we find offers of others very  
say to come by, but feel that we owe  
to our new school to settle for a while.  
We've finally bought our first house  
and are looking forward to moving into  
just after the new year — that's  
impressed we conservative Russells  
with southern California. We've  
and back routes to and from work so as  
to avoid using these terrifying freeways  
except for our periodic forays into Mexico  
for food and Spanish practice.  
We find the difference between the  
western and mid-western attitudes  
toward life wonderfully different, and feel  
very fortunate to have been able to move  
to your old stamping grounds.

禧 Season's Greetings

賀 С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ

新 Meilleurs Voeux

禧 Feliz Año Nuevo

Please accept our best wishes for  
a perfect New Year.

Mary e' Mercedes

C O P Y

September 3, 1957

Mr. Mercer P. Russell,  
Pan American School of Agriculture,  
Apartado 93,  
Tegucigalpa, D. C.  
Honduras, C. A.

Dear Mr. Russell:

Your letter of August 20, regarding graduate work toward a Doctor's degree in entomology at Cornell has been received.

It would be difficult to say whether or not you can be admitted as a graduate student in this department until we have seen transcripts of your undergraduate work and letters of recommendation. We shall be very glad to give these full consideration as soon as you can send them to us. It would be difficult to admit you for the fall semester in 1957 since we already have about twenty-three new students coming in and our facilities are crowded. At the moment, it appears that the fall term of 1958 would be the earliest date that we could admit additional graduate students. Cornell does sometimes allow graduate credit for work done in other institutions. It is possible that the time you spend at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad could be admitted as graduate credit here; this would depend of course on our study of your transcripts from the Imperial College. Our students receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree since Cornell does not confer the Doctor of Science degree.

Very sincerely yours.

H. H. Schwardt, Head  
Department of Entomology

hhs: vm.

26 Sept  
CMS

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

The three of us ( Paul, Don Juan, and myself) recognised the typing or the envelope or something about your letters, that all arrived in the same post, sufficiently well so as to put us all in good spirits for the day, even before opening them. I have just stumbled over Amado, reading his copy; so we have another member in the club.

Since Dr. Paddock is coming to Antigua very shortly on a visit, there isn't much point in giving school events much space here. Our personal problems always take on a hell of a lot larger proportions anyhow. Our biggest worry at the moment is whether I'll pick up liver or lung fluke from the mountain of Jutes that Branday and I stewed up about a week ago. Julio Alvarez finally took me to the spot that Hugh collected from, and we brought back enough for a hungry army. After long consultations with Paula, as to the recipe used by you all, we decided to try to copy Marias' method by a sort of hunt and peck addition of tomatos, onions, and hot peppers. I naturally insisted on a garlic butter dip as an extra. My interference was probably the major cause for Brandays' refusal to touch the final product, but I spent a wonderful half hour basking in the smells and tastes of your kitchen in Antigua.

We've been having a run of visitors lately, not the least of which was my mother, who was in bad need of a quiet place to rest up after having been caught in the Hilton in Mexico City during their earthquake. A few people are beginning to come out from town to see us on the week-ends, and it helps in part to make up for the big gap that was left, in Brandays' life especially, when Mrs. Popenoe left. As you remember, we moved to Memo's house, next to the Fonseca's, and have ~~xx~~ decided to stay there even though Dr. Paddock has offered us the Chavez house after they leave. We feel that the less comment ~~xx~~ made about our living habits, the better, and the farther from the social competition, the better; especially now that the ladies club has become such a high pressure outfit in the search for recruits. We'd much rather just wander back and forth between the Allens, Herreras, the Fonseca's, and the Chavez, as we please.

The shooting has been superb for quail and white wings. Even with the pitiful supply of shells that I can manage to squeeze out of my various "touches" in town, we manage to keep the freezer pretty well stocked. The colonel has been after me to go on a deer shoot with him almost every Sunday, but I just can't work myself into the mood to kill one of those things. Mario seems quite keen on an all night tepescuintle chase, but he is the slow starter in that case. I think that I may be getting a .410 pistol, if you can imagine such a thing, along with some of the embassy people. They are bringing them down by pouch; so even if they aren't much good, we don't stand to lose a great deal. Mr. Linton contends that it will be ideal to take along in the car for drives, instead of a great long shotgun, to use on quail that cross the road or on the odd rabbit.

A complete change of subject.....

We've talked to Dr. Paddock about heading on back to the US sometime next summer to start in on a doctorate in entomology at Cornell. He took it so well that it almost makes us feel that he's anxious to get us out of his hair; but not quite. He feels that my stint at the ICTA may get me out of a years required residence on the campus, if the college will back me strongly enough; so I've written Dr. Hercklots asking for a personal letter of recommendation, and description of that odd grading system that is used down there to be sent along with whatever type of transcript they can scrape together. If you would, I'd really appreciate your sending a letter of recommendation to the head of the Dep't of Entomology ( Dr. H.H. Schwardt ) there in Ithaca, to help my case along. I've enclosed his letter, sent in reply to my note asking whether they would give me credit for my DICTA. I had been given to understand that I wanted to make sure.

ac I would like to ask for a Rockefeller scholarship, if I can work out a good project and if I'm given as much credit for the DICTA as I'm sure it's worth. I feel that I can take on the job of farm manager that Dr. Paddock has offered me, and have it running sufficiently well by next July or August so that I can turn the thing over to anyone that he picks as a successor.

Your invitation to come to Antigua for the Christmas holidays has us planning already, but Branday is holding out on any side trips ( that is trips in any direction other than toward Trinidad ) until we can send enough money saved from my salary to the States, to cover our passage home next year. What we would really like to do is to come on over ( after the passage money is safely stashed away, naturally ) and, so as not intrude, stay in that pension that Manuel Rubio uses. That way, we might make a cavalcade with the Allens, and of course, Paula. We'll try, anyway.

I hope that the fellow from New Guinea, Saville made it out to talk with you, since I feel that with the right start, Those Aussies could start a darned good school going over there.

Armando has just told me that they are trying to put up a huge Pepsi-cola sign right in front of the main gate: so I'm off to try to beat them out of it.

All the best of wishes and health from Branday and me to you both.

Sincerely,

*W. J. G. J. J.*

Antigua Guatemala, 5 Oct 1957

Dear Mercer:

It was extremely good to have your letter of the 26th, which arrived just a day or two ahead of Bill Paddock, who spent two days with us during which you can imagine we sat up late talking about EAP. Main purpose of the present, despues de saludarles afectuosamente, is to say that we are thrilled at the idea of you and the Allen's coming over here at Christmas time. We can - and most certainly will - find room for all of you here in the house; you know this is a pretty roomy establishment - and after sitting around the fireplace in the library Christmas eve will take Mary to the Misael Gallo at the Cathedral at 12 midnight so she can hear the cock crow. I don't know just how they work that - maybe they are already training the cock for the purpose.

Your mother was in town last week; we got a letter from her on Saturday, asking us to drop in at her hotel the first time we were in town, and got in there Tuesday morning early only to find that she had left on Monday. We are very sorry to have missed her. They should have told her at UNCO, where she went to get our address, that the thing to do was to grab a taxi and come right over here. But I don't suppose she saw anyone who was very familiar with matters.

Bill spoke with me about your desire to go north and get a doctorate. It is quite obvious that Bill would like to see you stay at Zamorano, as would I, were it not for the fact that both of us realize that you will have a much better future with a Ph.D. Frankly, I would strongly advise you to go ahead with the program, if you can get decent credit for your previous training as I fully believe you can. I shall be glad to do all within my power to help, beginning with a letter to Dr. Schwardt as suggested by you. I will get this off within a few days and send you a copy of it. Of course I am interested to know that you are thinking of entomology. This is a good field, especially the control of insects here in the tropics (we have just given our citrus trees their second spraying, the first with Malathion and the second with Volck, and if that doesn't clean up the accumulated scales of ten years I will be surprised).

I am very sorry we can't bring Branday around to a reasonable point of view regarding the culinary possibilities of the humble jute. Economically they are a great proposition, the I can't say I like them as well as the prawns which we could (but don't) buy in Guatemala City at \$2.50 a pound. Sea food is scarce and very expensive here, the the Cascos de Burro are within our economic reach just as they are in Salvador. But Helen has the same attitude toward Cascos de Burro which Branday has toward jutes. As for the quail and alablancas, that is a different matter, and I wish we could join you in a good mess of either one. Incidentally, as an addition drawing card, when you come over at Christmas I will give you a box of shotgun shells; I will never get an opportunity to do any hunting here, and even if I did, I wouldn't get any birds as you know from your experience with me.

The man from New Guinea, Saville, didn't show up over here. I am sorry. We have had quite a few visits from other sabios and hope it will continue.

Helen joins me in affectionate regards to you both.

Ever yrs

Antigua Guatemala, 25 Nov 1957

Dear Mercer:

Our brief stop in San Salvador was most satisfactory. I was able to get an interview with don Federico Garcia Prieto, Minister of Agricultura y Ganaderia, and the first thing I brought up was the matter of a Director for the agricultural school - which was the first thing on his mind also. They are going to make a change, and they are definitely interested in talking with you. And I found that the contract I had heard about with the Point Four people, is not just what I had thought - and which I have known about in other countries. It is the usual thing; the Point Four boys are advisors, as they should be, but they do not control the situation. The national government does.

I gave Garcia Prieto your address and he said he would write you. If he has not got around to it (and you remember that las cosas de Palacio andan despacio) I think it would be entirely proper for you to drop him a line, saying you will be in San Salvador on tal o cual fecha, and you would appreciate an opportunity to see the school and talk to him. If you need someone to line things up for you, call, by all means, on Chico de Sola. He is the best fixer in the country. And Mario Lewy van Severen, head of the Centro Nacional de Agronomia. Or call on me at long range; I will always be glad to help.

We had a splendid trip back; not the slightest trouble at the borders, not even with the two bottles of Spanish champagne I got for you and Mary in San Salvador. I told our friend Maldonado at the frontier, Honduran side, that you would be coming thru, and I am sure he will take care of you; probably take you to the other side of the bridge and get the Salvador boys to line you up promptly. They have started a little park on the Honduran side at the border; rather a verlorene hoop as the Dutch would say, but you might take a few plants for it, or maybe a cheese would grow better.

We are getting lined up for your arrival. I have encargared some fireworks, but am not quite sure whether the cohetes are going to fire two shots and then discharge colored lights, or vice versa. I will settle for either. Before you start this way, talk to the folks in the Embassy of El Salvador; I believe they can give you a visa that will avoid all need of going to Migracion in San Salvador (I dont think you have to anyway, if you dont stay more than 48 hrs) and get tourist cards for Guatemala. Our friend Cipriano at the Embassy of Guatemala in Tegucigalpa will fix you up right. The road from Tegucigalpa here is in fine shape - relatively speaking, wh means no bridges out.

Helen joins in affectionate regards to both of you.



Antigua, Guatemala, 16 Dec. 1957

Professor H.H. Schwardt, Head,  
Department of Entomology,  
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Dear Professor Schwardt:

My good friend Mercer P. Russell has sent me a copy of your letter to him dated 3 September last, regarding the possibility of his doing post-graduate work at Cornell under your direction.

I wish to say that I can recommend Mr. Russell very highly, as a man of rather unusual ability and maturity of purpose. My opinion is based on the excellent work he did under my direction at Escuela Agricola Panamericana. If given the opportunity, I am confident he will make an excellent record at Cornell, and I may add (as a personal comment) I greatly hope he will eventually return to tropical America where we are so much in need of well-trained men devoted to the interests of this part of the world.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe  
Director Emeritus

1 Dec 58

Russell

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Many thanks for your last letter, and for the two letters of introduction. I have only used the one to Director Volk. We had a talk about the company, but a graduate student being what he is, I don't think things will progress any farther. I hope to be able to wangle some ~~xi~~ slides from him for a seminar that I have been elected to give on bugs in Honduras.

We're pretty well settled in here, in our tiny, but very adequate apartment. What with my assistantship and Brand's job in the lab of the Vet. Science Dep't., any thing any larger would be just too much to take care of. We're both swamped as it is at the moment, but it's so definitely what I want to be doing that I don't mind the long drag, and Brands has been wonderful enough to go along with me on the hard work. I am most probably going to do my work on the pests of stored corn, and as of this week, I'll have minors in pathology and agronomy.

The cold weather has caught properly. You can imagine how well prepared we were for the 10 degree howler that arrived two days ago. But after one afternoon in Sears, all that can be seen of either of us, is a red skinning nose, and two equally red eyes. I must say that I didn't remember the winter as being quite as tough in the East. We only wish that we could go through it in front of one of those great big fires in the den in Antigua.

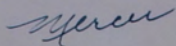
I need another recommendation. This time it's for one of these National Science Foundation Fellowships, that the head of my department thinks that I can qualify for. They have sent me the forms, and if you would be willing to vouch for, I would like to send one of them right off to you.

I will have to take this Graduate Record exam all over again, in order to become a candidate, but money is one thing that we are certainly hurting for right at the moment. The form is a rather long one, but I would appreciate it very much if you would go to bat for me again, by making one out on me.

We're both anxious to hear how the trip through Europe went for you, and what is on the fire in Central America. Let us hear some news from where we'd like to be, but ain't.

Please give all our best to Mrs. Popenoe, and tell her that Brands will be writing her very shortly. I hope that you are in the same good health and spirits as when you last wrote.

Sincerely,



6-7 Ross Ade Dr.  
West Lafayette, Ind

Antigua, 12 March 1959

Dear Mercer:

Last night we had a mess of crabs which made us think of you and Mary (because you fixed up some crabs when you were here and we have never been able to do it as well) though it doesn't take crabs to make us think of you and Mary. We wish you could be here with us for Semana Santa. The procesiones have already started, and the University students in Tegucigalpa are staging the annual Huelga de Dolores, which appears to be similar to the Día del Estudiante in Tegucigalpa, when they publicise comments on the maternal ancestry of any public official they don't like and comment on certain items in the daily diet of the Minister of Education.

Before we left for California, you asked if I would fill out a formulario in connection with a beca of some sort in which you are interested. I wrote you that I would be glad to do so; but I have heard nothing further, which may mean (1) that you have dropped the idea or (2) that you did not get my letter. I mention the matter in case (2) is correct. It will always give me pleasure to help you in any way I can.

Tomorrow is graduation day at EAP. I don't know who is to give the "discurso de fondo" - maybe Doris. They are making a lot of improvements in the physical plant - one of Bill's recent reports says the changes in the creamery in which you and I were interested are complete except that the milk homogenizer has not arrived. That was not in our program if I recall correctly. They now have ten tractors. They have changed over from Hampshire blood to Duroc Jerseys in the livestock dept, and have gone in for Sta Gertrudis cattle instead of the types we were using. Bill says in one of his reports that they spent \$500,000 last year, quite a jump from the \$315,000 you and I spent in 1956. Mario Jalil has come over here recently, as a member of the staff of FAO, working under Rome; he says they have built a swell primary school down by the old tennis court, also quarters for three teachers and servants for same; and they are going to build two new houses just like what they now call the "Lake House" for new professors, down below the lake, where we had an avocado grove as you will recall. Mario thinks the objective now is to put the school on a University basis and then give a degree which will be recognized by the Southern Association of Colleges in the USA as equivalent to a BSA. Maybe this is a good idea - it probably is and at least I think it will be very popular in Latin America. You doubtless know that they are now charging \$38 per semester each semester during the 3 yrs. And Mario says they have printed a new diploma for this graduation, which has space in the center below, for validation by the Minister of Education - the diploma gives the title of "Agrónomo" which I am glad to see because I believe the boys deserve it and it doesn't open us up to criticism from the schools which give the title of "Ingeniero Agrónomo".

Helen and I may fly down to Venezuela in April, for a couple of weeks, to help the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza organize a program of fruit improvement. Hugh writes that the Univ of Florida is undertaking a program of agril and hort development in Venezuela with a grant of \$30,000 from Creole, - something like the work the Univ did in Costa Rica I assume. The more they do, the better say I. Do let us hear from you. Helen joins in affectionate regards to you both.

19 Mar. 59

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

6-7 Ross Ave Dr  
Lafayette Ind

Your letter was really most welcome, and very effective at relieving some of the snow-bound blues that hits one in this Indiana tundra. I had just called my mother in our effort to find a car that will run for just a little bit less than our food costs us (which is just about the case with the majority of these things that are on the market here in the States), and while we were having 60 mile an hour winds with blowing snow, she was sitting on her screen porch having crab gumbo. Two very hard blows to us gluttons at the same time.

I did receive your letter about the beca recommendation, and am ashamed not to have written in thanks before this. Your letter arrived two days after my deadline for submittal of the application; so I asked the head of my department to fill out one in your stead. As it turned out, I didn't stand a chance from the beginning. The Nat'l. Sci. Found. evidently doesn't consider giving grants for projects that have economic applications, and my work on protection of sorghum from insects falls into this category. I have been asked to do some extra work on using insects to screen out these toxic fungi that appear on stored grains from time to time, and I believe that I may be put up for the same beca in October. May I call on you then?

The EAP news all sounds good, although a bit tough on the pocketbook. The titule idea was fine, but the sound of both the ten tractors and the tuition has a slightly off odor. I still like the old idea of bringing them in free, building them up by manual labor, and being able to weed the undesireables out without complications. I don't blame him for changing the pig breed; Comejo was certainly screwing up with the old breed, and I guess every man has the right to one good excuse. Wonder what the change and reason will be if he can't match our 8 per litter average ~~with~~ under Rudolfo.

I'm truly glad that the "lake house" design is to be followed. We certainly put enough love and affection into the plan to have it so. I'd appreciate it if you could find out the finished (and furnished) cost of one of the new ones for me, just for comparison with what it cost us to complete the original.

Things are running along well for us here, although I'm chafing at the bit to get back to work already.

They have given me credit for a Master's degree as a result of the degree from Trinidad, and knowing how sticky a Hoosier school can get, I'm quite well pleased, My straight A average wont last for too long, but it's getting me favors while it does. The plan now is to finish up in the summer of '61, with the winters devoted half to class work and half to my job in the departaent, and my summers devoted entirely to my extension job. The extension pa rt I think will serve me well when I get back to Latin America, even though the farmers that you serve there don't all drive pink Gaddllaes.

Before signing off, just aword of how much both of us miss being able to see and be with, you both. Brands no more than me, but she has asked me to send on her love, and her wishes for even a short needlepoint session with Mrs. P.

Our best to you both,

Sincerely,

