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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.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THIRTY-THIRD AND SPRUCE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA 4

CABLE ADDRESS "ANTIQUE"
TELEPHONE: EVERGREEN 6-1241

Harvard, Massachusetts

August 3, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

I had looked forward to the visit of you and Mrs. Popenoe to Tikal last spring. We had a very profitable and exciting field season with important discoveries of carved monuments, tombs, and architecture. Tikal certainly fulfills Morley's dream, and he would have gotten so much pleasure out of knowing the work at that site goes forward so well.

Since our last pleasant meeting at your home last January, I've thought a great deal about the discussion we had over the possibilities of a Mathilda Gray Foundation for anthropological research in Guatemala and related areas. Have you been able to suggest to Mrs. Gray the lasting worth of such a foundation? To make it a research center for students, particularly young Guatemalans and other qualified people, her quarters in Antigua would be ideal. It would require a first-rate library, broad enough to encompass the archaeology, ethnology, linguistics, and history of Guatemala and the Maya. It would be best to set it up as an American institution with a board of managers carefully selected to administer the over-all policy and continuity of the foundation. The functioning director of the foundation should be a person of broad training and experience, with the authority to direct the continuing research and the selection of the qualified personnel to obtain the maximum results from the foundation funds. Please let me know if you have a chance to suggest to Mrs. Gray the lasting benefit she could give Guatemala and the betterment of relations between Latin America and the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin M. Shook

Edwin M. Shook

EMS:hmn

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 October 1960

Mr Edwin M. Shook
University Museum
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Ed:

This is in reply to yours of 3 August, sent from Harvard, Mass., which is a new postoffice so far as I am concerned though I know a little bit about 10 Frisbie Place. And since I want to be sure you receive this letter, I am sending a copy to Philadelphia and another to 10 Frisbie Place - maybe that Postoffice at Harvard, Mass., is a new one and will have been abolished as part of the Economy Program by the time this letter gets there.

I have given a good deal of thought to the possibility of a Matilda Gray Foundation. Our case has been strengthened by the new sites in Petén - you probably know a lot more about them than the man who wrote the enclosed account which appeared in EL Imparcial last night; but it sounds to me as though important work is just simply piling up in Petén to an amazing and magnificent extent, and there will be work down here for a lot of good archeologists, their children and their grandchildren.

But to come back to the Matilda Gray Foundation. Matilda was down here a few weeks ago, for a few days. While here she had a slight heart attack and did not look at all well when she left. I think she is pushing 72 if not that age already. The last time the matter was mentioned in our presence she was 71.

Helen and I know Matilda pretty well. Probably as well as any other people in Guatemala know her, and better than most. We are very fond of her. But it has been my experience - and I have had quite a bit of experience - that people who have lots of money get tired of

being approached. They get gun-shy. I suppose Matilda has been been through the mill. She has talked to us very freely about her financial situation, from time to time. She has been listed as one of the ten wealthiest women in the United States. She has, besides, the property here in Antigua, two houses in New Orleans, one in New York and one in Paris. We understand that she paid \$90,000 for the Orive property here in Antigua - a whole manzana as you know, in fact probably the finest property in Antigua. She has probably spent enough on it since then to bring her investment up to a figure between \$150 and 175,000. She has told me that most of this came out of her income tax.

She has told us that she intends to leave the Antigua place to her niece Matilda. We doubt very much that the niece really wants it or will use it very much much. The ideal thing, if we can only get her to see it, would be for her to set up a foundation along the lines you suggest; will the property to the Foundation and endow it with about a million dollars. It would make the finest base for archeological and anthropological work in all the Americas, in a region where more and more work shows up every year.

Money means very little to Matilda. It is a question of arousing her interest. She still has vast untapped oil reserves in Louisiana, entirely under her own control. Apparently her father was wise enough - when oil was found on his land, - not to sell the land or the rights; he leased the rights for 30 years and those 30 years have expired, and a great friend of hers who came down here with her a year or so ago says it will be a long, long time before her reserves are exhausted.

Someone told us recently that Matilda expects to be down here Christmas. She has been coming about twice a year but has not

stayed more than two weeks as a rule. I imagine her Christmas trip this year will depend upon her health, which as I have said at the start does not seem to be at all good.

The best approach I can suggest at present is this: if and when she comes down again, let me talk to her about the importance of archeological work in Guatemala (she was quite interested in Iximché when we visited it with her a year or more ago); let me say that a center is needed for the work (I think you know I offered our house here in Antigua to Ted Kidder right after Dorothy died, but he felt the base should be in Guatemala City - and I did not offer it on a permanent basis, either); let me see if I can get her to thinking about the tremendous possibilities here. I could wish that she were more deeply interested in archeology than she appears to be. It would be so easy for her to set up the Matilda Gray Foundation and endow it with a million dollars, which would be ample.

I assume you will be coming here shortly after New Year's. I do not plan to leave on a long trip until about Easter time next year. I suggest you come over to Antigua as soon as you reach Guatemala - send me a telegram a day in advance - and let's see where we stand. Our problem is simply this: to get Matilda interested to the extent that she wants to do something really worth while, and it is probably the last chance she will have.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THIRTY-THIRD AND SPRUCE STREETS

PHILADELPHIA 4

CABLE ADDRESS "ANTIQUE"
TELEPHONE: EVERGREEN 6-1241

Harvard, Massachusetts

November 4, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Many thanks for your welcome letter of October 24, and the newspaper articles on the archaeological discoveries in the Lake Petexbatun area of the Peten. Despite Maler's, Morley's, and the outstanding efforts of many others in exploring the Peten, there remain large tracts of unexplored Maya country. Systematic exploration virtually came to a standstill after Morley's great work between 1915 and 1935.

I do sincerely hope you can interest Matilda Gray in the foundation of a research institution. Of the many advantages of such an institution would be the facilities made available to young students of Guatemala and other countries for laboratory and field research. Guatemala offers almost unlimited research opportunities in the humanities: anthropology, archaeology, history, languages, indigenous societies, arts and crafts. One of the Carnegie's long-term objectives was to develop among Guatemalans the interest and responsibility in their rich heritage. It is a slow development that requires sustained effort which could be provided by the Matilda Gray Foundation. Mexico has reached that state of maturity; Guatemala and most of the other Central American republics are still far from that maturity.

I shall look forward to seeing you about the middle of January in Antigua.

With best regards,

Ed Shook

Edwin M. Shook

EMS:hmn

[May 25, 1963/64?]

Dear Pop -

We're home a few weeks I've been running around trying to pull everything back together again. Am missing Guatemala filing but así es la vida.

Any hopes of a house in Antigua have, at this point, gone down the drain. As of the 1st of July we are among 'the unemployed.' I went to Philadelphia right after we got home but did not take on running Tikel at the Univ.

Museum is not going to finish it off properly.

He is writing letters to the Board of Trustees informing them that he believes they have a moral obligation to finish repairing & consolidating

all buildings excavated. This won't help us any but at least it's proving that Ed has the courage of his convictions. He will probably send you a copy of our letter. Mary & Julia Mathew have a copy also & will probably be around with it soon as they get back.

Spring was beautiful this year. Every thing seemed to out do itself. To say this prettier than I've ever seen it. At present am pruning & watering four new rose bushes. One flourishing one possible & two I think that will turn up their toes. Planted five flats of snapdragons yesterday & dusted the lupin. Ache in every joint today. Am all for built up flower beds like the ones in your house but suppose they would work foolish here.

Really must be off. If you decide you need a
couple do let us know.

As always

Con mucho cariño

Genny

May 25th

THE TIKAL PROJECT

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



Proyecto Tikal
Tikal, El Peten
Guatemala, C. A.

CABLE ADDRESS:
"Pentik" via
Tropical Radio

June 18, 1963

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Casa Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Pop,

Yours of May 5th from Tegucigalpa just reached us with your warm and much appreciated comments on the Order of the Quetzal. I am delighted to join such a worthy company as you, Morley, Kidder, etc.

It was with a heavy heart that I attended Dr. A. V. Kidder's funeral on June 14th in Cambridge. He died suddenly on the afternoon of June 11th at his home there. We had thirty years of close association and I will always miss his enthusiastic interest and fatherly council. He had not been well for a number of years, but each time I saw him after returning from Guatemala in May, Kidder seemed much better and very cheerful. Any news of Guatemala cheered him up, as he loved that country.

Ginny and I kept browsing in Antigua, looking at houses until leaving April 30th. We both liked the house Mildred Palmer fixed up, sold to Dr. Stoddard, and where Dale Nicols now lives. Mildred should have included the lot in behind Stoddard's house as it was part of the original property, but she cut that off and then put an outrageous price of \$5,000 on it. This is away out of line but she holds the whip as the lot is really needed to make the Stoddard house desirable.

Sorry we cannot be on hand when Nixon Smiley and wife visit you and gather material for a really good book on Guatemala. We just received a cheerful letter from Gladys Montgomery, which recalled that grand evening in Antigua just before you departed for Honduras.

Ginny joins in sending muchos abrazos.

Sincerely,

Ed

Edwin M. Shook

EMS:mk

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 2 August 1963

Dear Ginny:

Mighty nice to hear from you, and your letter came just in time. Day before yesterday a gal came in from up street, as you say in Boston, and said she heard I wanted to buy a house for my son, and wouldn't I come to see theirs. I had Pres and Mrs Reitz of the Univ of Fla with me for a week, so didn't go at once; but they left this morning and I have just taken a look at the place and will give you a report, como sigue:

This house is No 5, Primera Avenida Norte; 200mft from our corner and a hundred or so from the Club Antigüeno where Ed can play pool of afternoons and you can both go to the big dances every Sat eve. Next door to No 5 is a recently rebuilt house of two stories, muy presentable, which I believe belongs to the Castillo family of the City; Ed might even get a free beer occasionally. I can't think a really excellent location, no bias on my part of course (being on our street wh we consider to be where the alta aristocracia always lived in the old days).

But here is the main thing: it is a small house, and if you are looking for a large one with good patio space, just include out No 5. If Helen and I had been thinking of a place to spend our winters and had of necessity thought twice about expense, I would probably have fallen for No 5.

It measures about 45 ft on the street front, and has thick masonry walls which apparently withstood the recent earthquake (1773) and two nice plain stone door frames, each about 4 ft wide. You would probably want to widen one of these and have a garage inside, using the other door as your main entrance. I assume you will need a garage; I wish we had one. There is no Zaquean at No 5.

The house does not have a tiled roof but azotea, and is 50 ft, plus minisque, de fondo. It is of course considerably messed up inside; they are using four rooms as bedrooms; I counted upwards of ten single beds. Maybe they are running a pension for discipulas of the School for Normal Girls, wh as you know is two doors from us on the street going down to the plaza de armas. Two of the rooms are very far; you would have to open windows in them, and one room is a soi-disant lean-to, built out into the already small patio, which I would promptly tear out to have a trifle larger patio, for the present one is too, too small. The kitchen aint much, of course; there is a small pila with a paja of agua, wh the owner proudly told me the authorities havent yet caught onto, so they have no medidor de agua like us ricos have.

By re-adjusting the kitchen arrangements (mit bathroom) and tearing out the shack bedroom, you would have a little patio about 20 x 30 feet, big enough to hold one Abyssinian banana and half a dozen stalks of Zea mays at the appropriate season. You could have two decent but not too large bedrooms, and/or a dining room and study for Comendador Shook.

Much of the overhead woodwork in the small corredor along the

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

patio, which personally I would use for a dining room, maybe glassing it in above 36 inches in height, if you are afraid of the cold. And of course I would have a fireplace somewhere, only the good Lord knows just where and he refuses to divulge the site to me, up to this writing. But I would have one just the same, unless you really want to go Spanish and use charcoal braziers as Helen and I did in Spain. Very picturesque.

But now, mis queridos amigos, vamos al grano. I suggested to the lady that we dispense with the preliminaries, and talk about a price strictly al contado, not a plazos largos mit unpaid interest. She said they were asking Six Thousand Quetzales, and had been offered Five (quite possibly a distortion of the truth); they would sell for Five, she thought, tho she would have to consult Her Husband, at the moment absent in Guatemala City. I suppose you might get it for \$4500. I base this on my travails of last yr, when I toted Lewis Haines of the Florida University Press all over the City, looking at houses, and found that they ca be divided into two categories - and I speak of old, un-modernized houses of course: those of which the asking price was \$500, and the others of which the same was \$7500.

By putting in an additional ~~fronetto~~ five thousand, depending on how much you wanted to shange things, you would have a snug little love nest, with no frills to it, but I would think quite comfortable for a couple who do not feel impelled to have a place in the outskirts with space to raise chickens et id genus omne, - I mean a cow or two.

I told the dear lady that I would communicate with you, toute de suite, and that if you are interested, you would let me know before I have to leave here on or about 15 of the presentes. The lady said that in any case they would not be prepared to move over to the City, their ultimate objective, much before the end of the year. I assured her that there would not be any commitment, express or implied, until you had come down and seen the house. Of course all that will be changed if you come down here while I am away. I will simply have to deny the allegation and defy the allegator.

If you are interested, tip me off, and I will write her a letter and deliver it E.S.M. (En sus manos), so we will all keep out of the Juzgado de Primera Instancia. I feel sure if they think there is the slightest possibility of getting cringo cash they will be slow to sell elsewhere.

In any case I do not advise the Stoddard house, with the imminent peril of a Maginot line alonside you; though the latter might of course be useful in case of emergency. No 5 has the advantage that you can fix it up nearer to your heart's desire, perhaps. Helen and I would have placed considerable importance on that point.

Two weeks ago I took the Nixon Smileys of the Miami Herald up to Tikal. Dr Culbert was acting in charge and almost-Doctor Brecker, I believe it is, undertook to show the Smileys around, but did not seem to impress them very much. Several young ladies in Bermuda shorts down to meet the plane, and Pat Ctocker's nephew Ed, a likely lad of 16, extremely interesting and helpful. I missed greatly the professional ministrations of Comendador Shook.

Affectionate regards to you both,

[Sept 16, 1963]

Dear favorite "other" man (the first being the Comendador)!
My humble apologies for not having written but I have
been snowed under. Brought papa back home with
me & then became involved in cooking two dinners a
day to fatten him up. In between the usual chores of
bed making, washing, cleaning, cataloging books for
Grayto, with a hope of some gardening & furniture
refinishing. This plus guests! Love them but I
do take advance notice. If I could divide like an
earth worm it certainly would help.

You are a dear to offer us the guesthouse & I would
adore it but Dad is coming with us & there just
wouldn't be room. Also we do have hopes of per-
suading some Harvard-ites to come down. Being
very particular about whom we ask as we don't want
any of those "everything is better at home" people.

Also have hopes of getting my old cook back as last year she said she'd work for me this winter.

Wm's exchanged a couple of letters with Louise Willauer about her house but I'm not sure just what the score is. We haven't settled anything yet but hope to see her within the next day or two.

Re - the house near the Club Antigüenos. Problem is -- the cash & Ed's reluctance. I'm getting a small inheritance soon but I don't know how much it will be. Probably not enough to buy the place & if there were enough there'd be nothing left over to fix it up. However, if you'll please not fly the coop until we arrive maybe you can help the birdmaster see the joys of a place in Antigua & then maybe he'd sell a book.

We plan to leave around the 1st of November & just

LITTLE COMMON
HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS

how long will take I don't know. Do stay around
so we can pay "bien majo" to you when you leave
for Spain. Behe pep up the avocados quickly &
get back to Antigua before we depart in spring.

Ed is trying to get something arranged in the way of a grant
so that he can work up reports on field work
done years ago by Dr. Lidder & himself. Keep your
fingers crossed!

I must write to my youngest child, papa & a
thousand others so will conclude in saying "hasta la
vista y con mucho cariño"

Monday
Sept 16th

Jenny

P.S. shall certainly go look at no. 5.

P.P.S. - don't forget my farmer's hat from Spain!

P.P.P.S. - Please don't go away till we arrive!

Dear Pop

Your welcome letter of the 25th arrived & we were delighted to hear from you.

Holy Week is over -- hallobyah! Charlie departed Wednesday, Ed has an ulcer. High lights of the Shook ménage at the moment.

Patsy Aldana was here on nervous pants & just about killed me off. By the end of the day I had flat feet, numb knees & an aching back.

Pop left on Asiatica Wednesday for Miami, thence to Tampa, then to Media, Pa. & then home by April 10th.

We found out about Ed's ulcer on Wed. At present his is on a diet of half milk & half cream. Four ounces every half hour. Worse than a baby. It also burps like one. I was typing for him & suddenly heard a noise behind me -- sounded like a mountain lion so I jumped about ten feet. Ed thought it extremely funny! Ha!

How to get down to things. We'd planned to leave, ^{the end} paper
know, ~~at~~ of April. I'd now think we ^{might} leave
about the 27th, spend two days in Miami & then if
convenient to Gainesville to see Hugh. How does
that sound to Hugh?

Went to mass yesterday (Padre Carlos) to celebrate the
lifting of the estates de situ. Said a prayer that
your paper wouldn't land in the wrong hands.

Liked the seeds from Rollins very much. Did
my best to keep them together through the Popano
house. Only damage I know of is a broken tile
on the roof. Told Maria about it.

The "Pink Palace" has been sold! Fernando Rollins
bought it as I shake in my shots. Still no
house for me ☹️. One seems to be for sale on
the 5a Avenida. Price I know not. Julio
knows of a chimenea near him & is going to
try to find out about it. Has three or four
rooms besides the chimenea. Please keep

all fingers & toes crossed.

Doña María Hodgson has invited me for tea!

Wonder why?

Prof. said - we miss you a awfully.

Yrs devotedly y con mucho cariño

Benny & Ed

April 3d, 1964

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[June 1973]

EDWIN SHOOK

SHIRLEY COURTS

AVENIDA SULLIVAN, MEXICO D.F.

Anese

~~Por~~ MARIAVITA su casa lista para ellas póngame radiograma para encontrarles aeropuerto.

POPEO

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SELLO O NOMBRE DE LA OFICINA O ESTABLECIMIENTO QUE COBRA.

INGRESOS VARIOS

POR Q 132

SEÑOR *Wilson Papena*

ENTERO

LA CANTIDAD DE *cinco quintal Trinidad*POR *Notas de un Radio nocturno**a Mexico*

19 JUN 1973

Antigua, 19 DE *Junio* DE 1973*Stewart*
JEFE DE LA OFICINA O TESORERORECIBO.—PARA EL INTERESADO.
(LA CANTIDAD DEBE ESCRIBIRSE EN LETRAS.)

TIP. NACIONAL—GUATEMALA

Dearest Pop-

PL-8-2418 [April 13, 1947]

The official announcement once more takes pen in hand. We do want you to get this before we gallop off & you disappear in the wilds of Miami.

Present plans are to leave here the 27th via Aviator for Miami. There we will be for a couple of days with Hal Ball & area, 311 N.E. 103 Street, Miami Shores 38. Please, if you are around there then give us a ring. Plans of course, are "à la Diva" & if not I could not care less. Must have been an antiquino in a former reincarnation.

The care & feeding of fulcra goes apace. Progress has now been made. Guayito now has a soft boiled egg, cream of wheat, gelatin, mashed potatoes & baked custard plus milk & cream.

Do thank Hugh for his kind offer but since nothing has jelled as yet it seems best to head straight north. Chic, you know. But he can get in touch

with Edin Harvard.

Plants from the Univ. Museum. May be they're all
dead.

Have still been house-hunting but with great uncertainty
our constant companion at the moment, can't do a
thing. There's a nice old one down the street (I think
2 a block down from the Escuela de Cristo). Nothing
has been done to it & it has possibilities. Asking
price \$500. Haven't offered & don't dare until I
know a little more about the future. Arturo
Pellicer told me about it as the old gal is a
friend of his mother's & wants to move down
near her.

Hope to see you in Mainz.

sin istis particulis

Abrazos

Benny

April 17, 1964