



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Todos Santos Cuchumatán,
June 25, 1938.

Dear Doc:

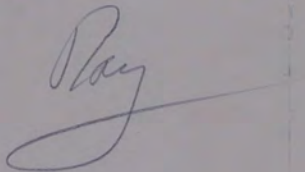
Have just returned from my trip through the department where I visited 22 pueblos and collected corn data and sample ears. Now I shall be busy as hell getting all this material worked up into some kind of shape for publication, and am hurried by the notice from Kempton that there is a slight possibility of getting funds from the New York Exposition to collect corn ears in Peru, and if it goes through, it will have to be begun soon. I want to get this work out of the way pronto.

I have your letters of May 27, June 8 and June 11, and while I did not think it worth while to write Barbour, as my swallow hunt had negative results, nevertheless, I shall write him today, for I am also writing the School of Pharmacy to see if they will sell or exchange one of the birds. They have only two, and in poor condition. Of course I do not intend to charge Barbour for not getting the birds!

Regarding the young man Craig, he wrote me some time ago, at Mann's instigation, and I answered, inviting him to stay with me here, but at the same time giving him pointers about the kind of animal life to be found here, and recommending the coast as being more productive for collecting. I also told him of the recent Presidential acuerdo which prohibits night hunting with lights, and destruction of large game, etc. I have yet to hear again from him.

Try to keep in touch with me, for upon completing the report, I should like to have you see it before I send it up to Kempton.

Cordially,



Todos Santos Cuchumatán,
October 20, 1938.

Dear doc:

Have yours of the 11th from Antigua and am glad to note that you were not seriously expecting me to come down. I would have enjoyed doing so, but you know how things are. Hope the corn report reached you in time so you had opportunity to read it. If not, you can always see Kempton's copy, which is far more legible than the one I sent you. Since Kempton's last letter announcing the receipt of the report I have heard nothing further from him and I imagine he is busily engaged in picking it to pieces!

Rest assured that at the very first opportunity I shall get the Paulin to the City or to Antigua, but I really have no immediate prospect of getting down, especially since you will not be there. I understand that Kidder plans to return to Guatemala via Mexico, and while it may not be possible for him to come through Mentón, why not convince him that he should, in view of the great archeological interest of that region? In that way I could meet him and turn the altimeter over to him! Perhaps in case some really reliable person came up here on a visit, some paisano, the apparatus could be returned in that way. I am thinking of a Canadian, Miss M. J. Raskin, of Guatemala, who is showing much interest in a supposed mercury mine here in Todos Santos, and who may come up for the fiesta or afterwards.

In having mentioned the UFCo as a possibility in getting a bread and butter job until something else turned up I had in mind more some sort of work usually of a temporary nature, such as irrigation or new land work, and not timekeeper or overseer. Of course, I know nothing about banana culture, but you know I could pick up the essentials in a very short while. As you say, special projects are my dish - they usually pay well, are not permanent, and are always interesting. And I think I can handle almost any kind that might turn up, given time enough to work into the thing and familiarize myself with it. Hope you snoot up something up in the States - meanwhile I am still capable of getting along for quite a few months yet.

Your slanderous remarks about my dental activities show that you have little knowledge of my abilities along those lines. The dentist in Huehuetenango gave me some pointers, and loaned me a syringe - a doctor in the hospital loaned me the forceps. The other day I had my first case of a wisdom tooth, the last molar in the gal's head, and badly decayed and extremely painful. I would have preferred working first on an Indian, but here she came, a ladino girl of whom I am fond in an altruistic sort of way. She was afraid of the impending operation, as it was her first extraction. I calmed her (I hope) by assuring her it was also my first, and gave her a novocaine injection and removed the tooth with great skill and little effort. You never pull teeth, doc, you twist them out. I was quite proud of that case, and am burning with the desire to ~~me~~ remove more. I think Kempton said you suffered from focal infection in your teeth, so I will make a special effort to get down to Antigua when you arrive there again! At the first opportunity I shall send you the photo you desire, showing extractions a la Stedelman.

Regards to our friends in the States when you see them.

Ray

Todos Santos Cuchumatán,
February 7, 1939.

Dear Doc:

Your wire just arrived concerning the collection of quetzales in Honduras, and I answered it as follows: OFERTA INTERESARAME SEGUN REMUNERACION, ESCRIBOLE. Naturally, the pay is of prime consideration, when you think of my present financial condition. A trip to Honduras would be impossible for me now with the money I have on hand, and under any circumstances would strain the budget to the limit. The check for \$225 which I am awaiting from the Government has not yet come, and my total funds are some \$50 in cash on hand, plus about \$25 or so more which Bennett owes me, and which he wired me he has already sent in the form of a check. This has not yet arrived. So you see that I am hibernating up here until the big check comes through.

Morrison wrote me some time ago that he had a job right up my alley, but that it had to be considered by a number of committees, etc., and would be late in coming thru. Since then I have heard no more from him.

The quetzal job would interest me greatly, even though there were no great amount of gain attached, but at the same time I should hesitate before undertaking it without some sort of guarantee that the trip would only mean an elevation of my present state, financial and otherwise. Hence it is necessary to know just what sort of offer the zoo makes - so much per quetzal arriving alive at a certain point, or if they will pay a small salary and expenses for the work, regardless of the number of specimens. I presume the former is the only sort of arrangement they would consider. I don't know how much von Hagen got for his specimens, but he seemed pleased with the pay, and the nine birds he got up alive undoubtedly paid all his expenses.

Perhaps the zoo does not know that the birds in that region of Honduras begin to lay around the month of June, and von Hagen got his young ones in August and September. He did not succeed in getting adults, and it is doubtful that they would have lived even so.

There will be a number of things to settle before undertaking such a job, such as permission to remove the birds from Honduras, etc, as well as a revolver permit, among other things. I do not know what sort of arrangement von Hagen found necessary in order to get the birds out - he asked me about it and I advised him to get permission, for it would have been impossible to keep the collection and exportation of the birds a secret. In later letters he said nothing at all about any difficulties, so I presume all went off smoothly. Please write me and let me know the details of the thing. I can't come down just now because frankly I can't afford to.

Enrique was up here during the November fiesta and took your altimeter down when he returned. I suppose you got it at the office in the City.

Meanwhile, there has been no news here save that I unfortunately got into a drunken brawl in Huehuetenango the other day with the Administrador de Rentas of the Department, who is an out and out sonofabitch. He slapped my face for some fairly innocent remarks of mine, whereupon I proceeded to take him apart, in the Hotel Galvez, of all places. When the President came through on his annual tour, the fellow's face was still black and blue, and the upshot of it all was that he was canned then and there. I am sorry to feel that I had some part in that, although the entire Department is congratulating me on the beating and the removal. Strange as it may seem, he has not a single friend in the Department.

Thanks no end for the hint about the quetzal work, and please let me know more. How long will you be in the country, and where do you go from here?

Cordially,

Shelbyman

Todos Santos
Febr. 16, 1939.

Dear doc:

Just a quick note about two things I forgot to write you about in my last letter regarding the quetzals.

First: What price would a good saddle horse bring with the Fruit Company? I have mine which no longer is of use to me, and would like to liquidate him and settle it with the Carnegie, for he eats too much for the little work he does. Data: Age, about 10 years, color, more, large for a native bred animal, gaits, walk (andar) and trot, very gentle: is extremely tame, never kicks, suitable for old women or children, but possesses plenty of spirit and endurance. I have gone to Huehuetenango from here in five hours and fifteen minutes, and its ten hard leagues. The animal cost me \$35, and I ask \$30 for him. Naturally, if I had to send him to Tiquisate or some other place, I would ask enough more to cover that expense. I have the carta de venta which goes with him. I might also add that it is the only horse in the Cuchumatanes which has the fame of being a reincarnation of a former Todos Santos brujo.

Second: How much longer will you be in Antigua or the country? I have invented a new instrument which I want you to criticize, and if you think it is worth the trouble, perhaps get it patented for me in Washington. At any rate, I would like to have you get the opinion of a number of your technical friends on it. I have no working model, but am finishing up working plans. As the apparatus is not so very complicated, its working can be easily understood from the drawings. It is an instrument which might be called a hybrid between a theodolite and a sextant, in that it is a hand instrument for measuring angles, as is the sextant, but possesses the accuracy of a theodolite of the same radius of arc. It possesses the following novel advantages:

1. Being a hand instrument, like the sextant, no tripod is needed and it may be used aboard ship.
2. It is about the size of a sextant, but of course heavier.
3. It is as accurate as a theodolite of the same radius of arc, and thus at least twice as accurately read as a sextant of the same radius, since the sextant has a scale of 140° compressed into an arc of 70° .
4. It measures angles up to approximately 250° , thus being free of the limitation of the sextant, which, reading only to 140° , more or less, will not measure the angle of a celestial body more than 70° above the horizon when an artificial horizon is used. My device will measure the angle of any celestial body up to the zenith, even in conjunction with an artificial horizon, and in terrestrial measurement of horizontal angles will measure any up to 250° and therefore allow the supplement of the angle to be read also, as a check.
5. It may be used as a hand level as well.

I think you will admit that it sounds good, and fills a need in surveying and navigation. I will send the plans to Antigua as soon as I get them inked in.

Stadler

Antigua, 19 Feb 1939

Dear Ray,

The enclosed copy of letter to Mr Bradley is self-explanatory and covers the subject fully. He talked with me about offering you \$50 per month salary, plus \$30 per month for living expenses; and a bonus for every live bird. We didnt mention it, but I suppose he would pay your fare over to Honduras also. These are not terribly liberal terms, but I think you should take your share of the gamble; he loses if you dont catch anything, and if you deliver the birds, he should give you a good bonus. Dont you think that is about as it should be? Anyway, I leave the matter in your hands. He wanted to know if I would personal vouch for you, and I told him I would; so the responsibility lies with me.

Yes, I found the Paulin at Guatemala City, but it seems to be about 400 ft in error, and I cant get it set to eliminate all of the error. If you come down here before going to Honduras, see if you can do anything for it.

The corn report is here; if you come by and want it, you will find it in the armario on the corredor near the door to the library.

I had a fine visit North; good talk with Kempton, who expressed himself as very well pleased with your report. I didnt see Dr Kidder/ Incidentally, I brought myself back a wife,- a young woman (35) who came here last summer. She has been lecturing at the Chicago Institute of Art for the past 12 yrs; previous to which she went to school at the Univ of Madrid for two yrs, and speaks good Spanish in consequence. She is of French descent, slim, a decided brunette, and seems to be having no difficulty in adapting herself to her new job. I am taking her with me to Colombia, when I leave in a couple of weeks.

Sorry you got yourself messed up in another of those drunken brawls. Dont do it while you are on the quetzal job, or the government may upset things by throwing you out of the country, or into jail, just at the moment when you ought to be on the job.

Best of Luck to you. I hope you take the quetzal job; it will at least keep you going for a time, and I'm beginning to get worried as to what is going to happen when those last few dollars you now have, are gone.

Best regards always

Antigua, 2 May, 1937.

Dear Roe,

Have just come over to leave with María the things which I borrowed from you. Everything is here and in good condition save the 100 ft. steel tape which I have decided to take to the States with me for repair. This tape was unfortunately stepped on by an Indian while I was mapping the village, and it later broke at this kink. I mended it, but not satisfactorily. Similar tapes are to be had at Bienen's for \$9.00. I think you have some money of mine enough to cover this amount, so you can either keep the money or get the new tape in the city. I, in turn, will keep your old one, if this is satisfactory to you. I'm awfully sorry this happened, but am glad it was not one of the more expensive instruments!

These are the things I am leaving with María:

Books: Ramsey's Marxist Grammar.
Military Topography.
Handbook of Travel
Hugh's Practice of Medicine.

Objects: Compass
Thermometers (Max & Min.; + the one in niched case)
Abney level.

Map of Pico Santos, 1:5,000.

I am taking with me the waige report.

Have not had a chance to write you about the new work, etc. am leaving for Honduras within 6-8 days, probably on my motorcycle. If I get the justizales, shall take them personally to Chicago. Hope I get to see you in Honduras. When you come to La Lima, please wire me via Yarito - I'll be reached at Portillo Grande, where I expect to camp - If at all possible, I'll then come down to see you.

The new invention of mine Sobell talk over with you at our next meeting. The patent fees have scared me. A simple patent costs about \$115 when handled through a patent lawyer & I see no way of getting around this. Mine may cost more because of being rather complicated. Have several such ideas which I want to talk over with you next time.

So most of the little news there is will have to wait.

Regards to Mrs. Popenoe - am looking forward to meeting her, and with great interest -

Cordially, & with 1000 thanks.

Raymond Hedden

1207 South Clay Street,
Hopkinsville, Ky.
April 6, 1940.

Dear Doc:

I have been treating you shamefully in not writing you from time to time during the quetzal interlude, but I had numberless reasons for my negligence - no typewriter, no energy, but a large amount of discouragement concerning the damned birds. As you will remember, they wanted ten. I obtained twenty in all, but all but two died. Not such a good batting average. This is the first job on which I have really failed to come through, according to my standards, but the zoo people were surprised and delighted to get even the pair, and from the things they said and the extra bonus they tossed in, I feel that they, at least, think that the trip came out all right. I was smart enough to start from the first getting everything I could in the way of other birds and snakes, so that I had a shipment of 60 birds and more than 100 snakes. Practically all of this material was new to them, in fact, had not been exhibited anywhere before.

The whole story will have to wait until we gather together over long tall ones some day, but I might say that I left Portillo Grande on March 1 and arrived at Chicago on the 16th. By taking special precautions I managed to mitigate the effects of the cold weather, and in fact lost no birds after once getting aboard the boat. Several things died on the four day trip to La Lima, though, as that was the toughest part of the whole journey. When the zoo finally paid off, I had just 74 cents in total capital. They reimbursed me for my purchases and labor cost, my traveling expenses (even back to Honduras), and threw in an unexpected bonus of \$250, so that I left there with \$643.74. The entire collection must have cost them about \$2000, but I feel that they are satisfied. You might inquire of them - perhaps you could get a really frank statement of how they feel about it, and pass it on to me!

From Chicago I went to New York, and looked up all my old friends, and made some new ones. Some anthropologists threw a party for me there and a very fine time was had by all.

I met Frans Blom in Chicago, by the way, and something may some day come from that.

In Washington I saw Kempton, Morrison, Mrs. Harrison, etc., as well as Wetmore. I asked him for a job as interpreter during the Pan American Congress in May, to be held in Washington, and I may get something to do there. It will only cover expenses, but give me a chance to see the thing and maintain contacts. Morrison thought there was a bare possibility of some more collecting work in South America, but it will depend upon the fate of the appropriations, of course. Meanwhile, here I am trying to get caught up on a good many things which I should have attended to long ago, including the writing of letters.

I was at the Kemptons' the night after your wife was there, and was tremendously disappointed at not having gotten there sooner. From all that I have heard of her, she must be a swell person, and you have done well by yourself. Since I think you are to be in Antigua very soon, this letter is going to you there.

Con mis más cordiales saludos y esperando verles luego, quedo

Su afmo. amigo,

Stadlerman

1819 G St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
[June 1940]

Dear Pop —

Glad to have yours of May 18 and its enclosed good news from Bradley. Checking as it does with what he told me, I am now convinced that my work was all right. I had serious misgivings during the 9 months isolation period up there, though, for it was the first time I failed to come through according to expectations.

Kempton told me of your work with Merck. Hope things are breaking fine for you — they usually do, don't they?

Have not seen Kidder yet. The maize publication is coming out soon, I hear.

The wheel goes round and comes full circle at the end. I refer to Barbour's worries about my hitting the bottle too hard in Todos Santos. I saw T.B. during the Scientific Congress, and his 3 days beard, dirty shirt & tie askew made me think we had been hitting it too hard in Cuba. Although all his friends are intensely loyal to him, I gathered that I was not the only one who suspected the bottle. Maybe I am just hurt because he didn't recognize me!

It seems that I may be one to go to Latin America this July on a rubber survey for U.S.D.A. It depends only on whether or not they get the money; I think they will. Meanwhile, I am staying on at the above address until things break.

Regards to Mrs. P. & the children, etc.
Stad —

1819 G Street NW,
Washington, D. C.,
July 5, 1940.

Dear Doc:

Since last writing you, when I mentioned that there seemed to be a possibility of my getting a job on the proposed rubber survey to be made by the U.S.D.A., confirmation of the appointments has finally come through, and I am still in need of a job! The whole damned thing was somewhat of a mess from the beginning. First, the long discussions in Congress over the million dollar appropriation, which was finally settled at half that, and so passed. This cut down to half the number of parties that are to be sent, and this morning I learned that the number of parties was again halved, so that there are only three going, now. And they have too many good men with experience in rubber who are going, so that I did not get even a tumble.

The damned unfortunate thing about it all is that I had reason to believe that some decision as to personnel would be made long before the end of June, so I have hung on here trying to be patient with the endless delays. Now I really have to scratch around for something in a hurry, and my reason for writing you at this time is to ask you if you know of anything at the moment. Unhappily, I have not tried to get anything other than the rubber survey job, so that I shall have to lose still more time sending in applications where I think they will do the most good. Although I may not be at the present address when you write, yet any mail will be forwarded to me, and I am hoping to hear from you. Anything in Latin America suits me, you know.

Are you still with Merck or have you returned to your duties with the United Fruit? And when do you expect to get up this way again? Give my regards to Mrs. Popenoe and the children.

C ordially,

Raymond Stadelman

1819 G Street NW,
Washington, D. C.,
July 15, 1940.

Dear Doc:

Glad to have yours of July 12, and sorry to note that there is not much in the way of work floating around just now. But then, on the other hand, I have good news in that it seems that I am going to get the rubber job after all. Frankly, I think the guys at the department are giving me the runaround. First, they told me that I had not been selected to go, but that there was one chance in 50 that somebody might turn down an offer and I might get it. Not wanting to wait on such a possibility, I wrote you immediately, as you are the furthest from here. Then it happened that one of the fellows did turn down the offer, so I was asked to come around and see Dr. Brandes (pathologist in sugar, and in charge of the rubber survey work). Nothing definite came of this interview until last Thursday, when he called me and made me an offer considerably lower than what I knew they were paying the "experts". I had to tell him I would accept it, for I am about out of money again, as usual. So then he said he would put the recommendation through, and asked me to come around to-day. To-day he professed ignorance as to whether my appointment had been approved by the higher ups, but anyhow they assigned me a desk in an office there, and I have been working most of the day. I am to go on party number 2, which covers the area from Chiapas into Nicaragua, so that we'll be meeting again soon. We leave here August 2. Meanwhile, my duties are to help select the equipment and supplies for the three expeditions that are going. There seems to be an attitude of trying to spend all the money that is available, and some of the ideas as to what should be taken along would make your eyebrows go up. And there seem to be some individuals who cannot sleep in hammocks, but must have camp beds. Dad drat their delicate backbones! I think the biggest job will be to suggest things in such a way that the boss man will think it was his idea in the first place.

As I couldn't classify as an expert botanist, pathologist, rubber technologist or soils doctor, I think I was included as a sort of general factotum who will have to arrange all transportation and red tape, and entertain "assisting" local Government experts so they won't get in the way of the guys who do the work. I also expect to handle most of the photographic work, and guess I will double as expedition medico and God knows what else. I will have a lot of things to talk to you about when we meet down there.

Tina Kempton told me Nancy was at their house now, but I have not yet seen her, although I shall, soon. I have seen a good deal of the Kemptons since I have been here in Washington, and certainly enjoy them all. They are such fine people.

Will you meet the expedition in Honduras or in Guatemala? I think we go to Honduras first, then Nicaragua, then Guatemala, finally getting to Mexico in time for the revolution!

Most cordially,

Stadelman

Antigua G, 24 July 1940

Dear Ray:

Yours of the 15th was here on my return from Chicacao last night. I am delighted that you have landed a job. It may not be as lucrative a job as a good Kentucky democrat expects, but any old port in a storm. I hasten to send you this note, to catch you before you leave. Not that I have much to say, but I just want you to keep in mind that I am in this neck of the woods and anxious to do anything I can to make the expedition a success. Frankly, I feel that the survey carried out back in 1924-5 or thereabouts should have met the survey requirements of this job. I would like to see the money spent on experimental plantings in several places down here which I feel we already know are of strategic interest or importance. But I am not running this project. And since I am not, my purpose is to cooperate in any way they give me a chance to cooperate, and try to help make the investment pay dividends.

I don't know where I shall be when you reach this neck of the woods. Most likely here or in Honduras. Just inquire at the nearest Comisariato de Policia and you can easily find out. But I ask you this, in all sincerity (as Andy Garsaud used to say, with tears in his eyes and alcohol in his breath): if and when you get down here, try to see that your outfit takes full advantage of our information. I have written Dr Brandes, offering him any data we have, and a free hand to study our material at Lancetilla (of course with approval of UFCO, which I take for granted).

Anyway, I'm mighty glad you have a job. Its rather good to be able to eat, at times.

Ever yours

JEFATURA POLITICA
y Comandancia de Armas
HUEHUETENANGO

Huehuetenango, 12 de Noviembre de 1940.-

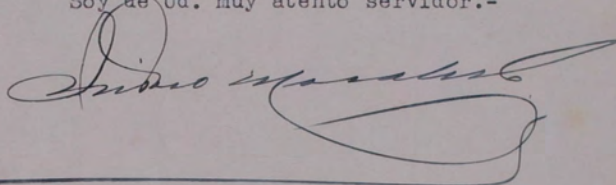
Número: 6565

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
United Fruit Co.
Guatemala.-

Muy señor mio:

Por encargo de don Raymundo Stadelmann, tengo el gusto de remitir a Ud. tres libras de semilla de teocinte, conocido con los nombres de "Milpa de Rayo" y "Salic", deseando que llegue en buenas condiciones.-

Soy de Ud. muy atento servidor.-



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Raymundo Stadelmann', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.