



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

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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.

Mexico D.F. 17 November 1969

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Popenoe:

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd. By now you are back from Florida and getting ready for the graduation at El Zamorano.

Our schedule has us leaving Tegucigalpa on the 27th and arriving in Guatemala City that same day. From there things are unsettled since reservations are not complete and are difficult to get. We so wanted to spend New Years Eve in Chichicastango but no room at the Inn.

We will be in Antigua either the 28th or 29th for the day. We do appreciate your kind offer for us to over-night with you but we are trying to crowd so many things in this short trip that I suppose I will be ready for another vacation when I return.

As soon as I arrive in Antigua, why dont I call your home and see when you are able to visit with us. If you are not there please leave the message with Maria. Hope Hugh makes it for Christmas and I would truly love to see Sally and Marion again.

Hope to see Al and wife in Guatemala City for a few minutes also. Don Fiester sure looked good when he was here and I am really proud of him for doing so well.

Looking forward to seeing the both of you.

Warmest Regards always

Apartado Postal 88 Simon Amodeo
U.S. Embassy (LA)

4/1/72

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Popenoe:

Thank you for being so nice to my friends who stopped by to see your home. They fell in love with Antigua as so many of us have.

God willing I will be in Guatemala city about the 22nd. of July. A friend of mine who is presently the Ambassadors secretary in Guatemala city is going to be on home leave and has suggested I spend my week or ten days in her house. Another friend from Mexico city will join me on my last leg of my journey and we plan to meet about the 22nd. If this falls through I will go to the Pan American Hotel.

Now then, after I arrive there I will either bus out to Antigua and say hello or call you. It would be nice if some of the children would be there about that time.

Hope to get over to Archie's place in Costa Rica and so wish they would be there. Chuck just passed through here and stayed a few days with me while he was attending a Wild Life Conference...Chuck said he thought he would be there in Costa Rica about that time.

I am really looking forward to the trip and hope it won't be a busy one as I am a bit tired and would love to rest....

Looking forward to seeing the both of you again.

much love

Ann Arnold

Antigua, 6 May 1972

Dear Ann:

Alice and I have just come back from a month at Zamorano where we went for a rest, which I got but Alice didn't, as she had to play hostess to all important guests who came during April and there were plenty of them. But as usual, we enjoyed Zamorano tremendously; Alice just couldn't resist the temptation to sit on the front veranda every afternoon, about 5, and look across the valley toward Montserrat.

This to tell you that we expect to be here through all of July and hope you can spend several days with us. My daughter Nancy may be here with her daughter Katy, tho I am not sure they will be able to stay that long; Nancy has only 30 days vacation from her job in the art museum at Stanford and plans to come down about the middle of June. In any case, you know we always have plenty of room - seven beds between the old house and the "guest house" where Alice and I now sleep and she spends much of her time, to stay away from the tourists of whom we had 70 go thru the house yesterday. But as you know, we limit them to certain hours, 10 to 11 and 4 to 5; at those hours we stay down at the little house where we sleep.

We will count on your coming to us for as much time as you can. Send us word in advance; we might be able to pick you up in the City. If you have a friend with you, so much the better; we can take care of two as easily as one.

Alice joins in much love and looking forward to seeing you.

May 12, 1972
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear Alice and Dr. P:

So delighted I may have the chance of seeing the both of you again this July....I had thought for certain you would have had the opportunity to come here and stay at the famous CAT HOUSE in Mexico aka Casa Arnold....The old tenants moved out some six years ago and with little effort of conning the owner into making new changes the ole house is getting to look like something new. It has a lot of charm but lacks a patio or nice garden but right in this large city one can't expect everything.

How very nice of you to offer me your hospitality and I really feel I should stay in a hotel near by since Alice has really had more then her share of being a hostess while in El Zamorano. All I really want to do is sit down and have a good chat...Suppose one reason why I am traveling by myself up and down the line this time. It was nice to have a traveling friend but one has to make so many concessions that one doesn't always do what one wants to do. My if that sounds mixed up I guess it is. I also plan to spend a week in Panama City this time as I want to fly out or over to San Blas Islands as I hear those Indians really make some beautiful mules or mulas(sp)

As soon as I know of my actual plans I will post a letter somewhere along the line...Plan to get a hotel in Guatemala City since my friend is not able to meet me there...If you have a phone I will call you otherwise we will get in touch somehow....

Love to you both

Aunt A

5/29/72

Dear Dr. P and Alice:

Well I have a live one in tow (widower) but he is too far away to ask along on this journey, anyhow he is not ready to take on a tomatoe like me so time will only tell on that score.

I do appreciate your kindness and would love to stay in the Casa del Oider for a day or so also it would be great fun to see Atitlan again.

Seems as if my plans keep changing each day in regard to dates so my best bet is fly into Guatemala city- spend a day or so and send you a Urgente that the old Madame from the former Cat House on Varsovia No. 6 in Mexico city is about to take off for Antigua.

So very sorry I will not be able to see Nancy-However, if something happens I have to stop in Guatemala City on my way down and there is a probability that I might have to do some work there then I would skoot out to Antigua for an hour or so and see Nancy.

Until such time when things become more calm here and I know what plans can be laid out I await seeing the both of you.

Just lost 20 lbs so I am sending you a small photo in case you see me walk down the street you will know who that georgeous one is.

love to you both

Ann

Ann

4/1/73

Mexico city

Dear Alice & Dr. P.

So sorry for the delay in answering
your Feb. 20th letter -

I have been writing to Sally but have
received no word from her and I can certainly
see why now. She sure sounded good in her
last note to me and the prospect of returning
to Antigua for Easter week -

If she has gone into depression again, it
certainly can't be caused from lack of family
attention since she had such a great time in
Antigua & looking forward to another jaunt
over there - I wonder why she is so good for so
long and then bounced back into the same
old state again - I realize she can't help it, poor
girl & I could cry for her but crying won't
help - Haven't heard anything from the Burns so
I am wondering if Alice Louise still goes to see
Sally - I was so hopeful of her recovery until
I read your letter -

Was at a party the other night & the hostess
brought Hal Lyerson & I so met since he is always
interested in getting up a drama club. Well it turns
out he is a friend of yours - What a nice man.

We were going to get together - the next few
dinner - but he's wife has to go to Peru.
Strange that man works on the same floor & I have
greeted him dozens of times & never knew who
he was - Looking forward to seeing more
of him - Maybe we can put on a few plays
together -

Father Pascual was in town this week
& I had lunch with him once. He sure set
me up for a good week by telling me I only
needed 35 of course to need new glasses
but even if it was a fib it's nice to hear
once in awhile -

In 26 to Wash DC 4/10 & on to
Toronto Canada for a long week end and
back here on 4/30 - Why don't you
all come over (Armstrong also) in May?
It's beautiful now. I have 2 very comfortable
beds & 2 now not so comfortable ones but
you are welcome to what I have.

Want to sneak in a week & fly over to
Antigua but it lasts very bad for me until
Nov. Now as we have so many people going on
Home Leave - Anxious to see the back of
you again -

Love Ann A.

12/9 [1923]

Dear Wilson + Alice:

I am ashamed of myself
not answering your good letter
of 10/22 but since my return on 10/9 I
have had house guests every week
end.

Sally has written me several times
since her return from Antigua +
from her reports it seems to me
it was a "good shot in the arm"
for her to be with you. I am
sure she has improved very
much as she wrote me that her
time at Chapin must have
been the ~~the~~ right thing because
she feels so much better.

I pray for her every night

So she will continue to improve +
be able to have a nice full
life - She is so young.

I hope the daughter Ann
is able to go to Guatemala as
Sally is so looking forward
to seeing her.

Her letters are good +
I will continue to write even
if they are short notes - I
think she really looks forward
to picking up mail -

Take care of yourselves + I
really hope I can break over to
Antigua in 73 - If it looks
possible I will write and ask
how the guest situation is at
that time. Love you both
Ann Arnold Ann A