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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.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

September 20, 1962

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Department of Research
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul:

A brief thank you note for your August 31st letter with its detailed map on specification areas in Panama which require further botanical collecting. We appreciate the time spent in getting this material together. Rest assured that at the first opportunity I will see that this is brought to the attention of Frits Went.

We also enjoyed the duplicate kodachrome, though I can't say that all the creatures shown were svelte! We sure wish we were with you to enjoy the Mangostems and durians.

Very best wishes to you and Dorothy.

Yours sincerely,



W.H. Hodge
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

Tela, Honduras
August 31, 1962

Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Director
Systematic Biology Program
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Walt:

You will find enclosed a map of Panama showing the relative coverage of the various areas, insofar as botanical collecting is concerned. You will note that this presents a somewhat brighter picture than a mere plotting of the actual collecting localities would indicate, since many of the places that have been fairly adequately worked are representative of considerably wider extents of territory.

The most critical portions by far are those nearest Colombia and/or above 2000 ft., in areas of high and uniformly distributed rainfall, and are with about three exceptions exceedingly difficult of access and are going to be expensive, time-consuming jobs for young and physically fit individuals.

I am still personally convinced that the only practical way to get a quick survey completed, within the limits of available time and funds would be to work up keys to known material that would be based insofar as possible on vegetative characters, so that sterile collections could be made and identified with reasonable certainty.

We were faced with much this same problem in our banana collections in the Far East, where we resorted to a system of regional sampling from widely separated but representative areas. This could be very effectively applied to Panama, since there are five critical areas that would pretty well give such coverage, which are listed in continuation in their order of accessibility:

Highland rainforest area north of El Valle de Anton, across the continental divide, on the Atlantic slope, between about 2000 and 3600 ft. in elevation. Partially worked by me, but still very rich and representative of a vast area that is completely inaccessible. Easily reached by foot trails from El Valle de Anton.

Highland rainforest area north of the Continental Divide in Bocas del Toro Province, particularly between 3000 and 9000 ft. I have sampled this slightly and found it extremely rich and almost completely untouched. Can be reached quite easily by foot trails from Boquete, in Chiriqui Province, but a camp site on or across the divide would be indicated.

Highland rainforest above 2-3000 ft. on the Colombian border. Some of this has been sampled by Stern and others. Cana is the logical working base for this, and can be reached from Boca de Cupe on the upper Tuira.

Highland rainforest above 2000 ft. in the SW corner of the Amaro Peninsula, west of Tonosi. This is a completely isolated mountain area that goes to about 5000 ft., but is uninhabited and extremely difficult of access, due to lack of beaches on its southern and western perimeter. An approach might be made by way of Tonosi, using foot trails as far as Cortez, if that locality actually exists, or a party could simply select one of the long forested ridges and pick out a trail to the desired elevation. This would be a pack trip, and would be difficult, but by no means impossible. I have seen this range from the sea many times, and would expect it to have a flora allied to that of the Golfo Dulce area in Costa Rica.

Rocky, forested mountains back of Chiman, on the Darien coast, and roughly paralleling the headwaters of the Chucumaque and Bayano on the Pacific side. This range is completely detached from the adjacent montane areas, and is very broken and rocky on the top. I have flown over this, and would guess its maximum elevation to be about 2500-3000 ft. Access would logically be by one of the forested ridges near Chiman. I would think that a preliminary run with a light plane to select a good route might save days of useless chopping. This is a bit too low, and with too hard a dry season for maximum interest, but might yield some interesting things due to its isolation.

I had promised to send a copy of this to Fritz Went, but have already spent more time on it than I can well spare. You might show it to him sometime when he is in Washington.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. W. G. C. Forayth

Tela, Honduras
April 2, 1962

Dear Walt:

We havn't had any trouble on book post since our return, so that your welcome find of Govarrubias' "Bali" can simply be sent along by regular mail. Some things seem to get rougher handling than others, so it wouldn't be a bad idea to wrap it in several thicknesses of newspaper, to be on the safe side. We saw a copy of this while we were in Bali, and felt that it was a must for our reference shelves. Many thanks for going to the trouble to find it. I will send you my check as soon as you let me know how much I owe you.

An invitation to attend the meetings in Trinidad was received from Purseglove a few days ago (I think I detect your fine Italian hand in this), and it has been passed on to the Powers in Boston for a decision, since they'll have to ante up the wherewithal. It would make me very happy to see Lancetilla put to some more useful purpose than it has occupied in recent years, since it is so nearly unique in this part of the world.

Banana sorting goes on apace, with our total of some 720 accessions broken down into 19 wild species and about 35 more or less natural groups of cultivars. I have just completed a form for the recording of standardized information, and am almost floored by the wealth of good characters that we have to work with.

Dottie joins me in all the best, and the hope that we'll see you here again in the near future.

Tela, Honduras
January 26, 1962

Dr. W. H. Hodge
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Walt:

We are delighted to learn that you will be able to pay us a visit, and that both Bobbie and Marjorie Keck will be in on the fun. We have just moved to a new house a bit further down the beach, but should be pretty well unscrambled by the time you get here. I will meet the Sahsa 202 flight on the 17th unless we hear from you to the contrary. Dottie suggests that you bring swimming suits, if you have the room, since our private ocean is very pleasant in the late afternoon.

With all best regards,

Paul H. Allen

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

January 10, 1962

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Paul Allen
c/o Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras
Central America

Dear Paul:

From our recent telephone conversation you will have anticipated this letter.

As you are probably aware, the National Science Foundation is a Federal granting agency concerned primarily with the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences. Through its Division of Biological and Medical Sciences, the National Science Foundation has been taking an increasing interest in the tremendous field for basic research existent in the general area of tropical biology. In order to survey this potential, staff members of the Foundation are conducting several trips to Tropical America for the purpose of visiting research centers, to inspect facilities, to hear firsthand about long term planning, to learn about needs, and to determine possibilities for cooperation.

During February of this year, Dr. David Keck, Program Director for Systematic Biology in this Division, and myself will be travelling in Central America on behalf of this program. We hope to visit several locations in Honduras, including, if possible, the Lancetilla Research Station of the United Fruit Company.

Present plans call for our arrival in Tela on Saturday afternoon, February 17th, via Sahsa flight #202, arriving at 3:30 p.m. We hope to be able to spend the balance of that day and all of Sunday with you at Lancetilla, returning to Tegucigalpa by the early morning flight of February 19th.

We would appreciate hearing from you as to whether this proposed plan fits conveniently into your schedule. I presume that United

Mr. Paul Allen

-2-

January 10, 1962

Fruit will have some overnight facilities at their main headquarters in Tela in the event that you do not have such at Lancetilla. Needless to say, we are looking forward to seeing you at your home base.

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Hodge
Special Consultant for Tropical Biology
Biological and Medical Sciences

P.S. / Maxine Kech & Bobbie Hodge hope to accompany their respective husbands for a part of this trip including the visit to Lancetilla! They will separate from us when we leave you - or more specifically, at San Pedro Sula - to go on to see Copan - then proceed home via Tegucigalpa, Guatemala City, & New Orleans. Don't go south to San Jose. Hope VF can handle it!

W.H.H.



Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

October 23, 1961

Department of Education

Dear Friend:

This will inform you that on November 1, 1961, after six very pleasant years of association with Longwood Gardens, I am leaving to assume new duties as consultant in tropical biology with the Division of Biology and Medicine of the National Science Foundation in Washington, D. C.

The primary purpose of this move is to permit me to undertake work which will better utilize my scientific background and at a higher level than has been possible in my present position.

Our future home address will be:-

5413 Center Street
Chevy Chase 15, Maryland

Yours sincerely,

Walter H. Hodge

Hi Kids:

11/22

Will surprises never cease, eh? We are all
nicely ~~settled~~ ^{settled} now, kids in excellent schools, and
WHH:kf among many old friends. And Wail
is already off into Caribbean peripheral countries
on a muntz's jinxed!

Where are you? Russ + Devi asked me

if we knew when we were back up there last
weekend for a school play. Bring us up to
date please! If you are in Honduras wood
might see you in the spring as he may go
that way.

Affectionately,

Bobbie

— Just found out you are to be in
Washington next week so please call
me so we can see you! Can hardly
wait. Petra didn't know whether Dottie
is with you or not but hope so.

Longwood
Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Department of Education

January 22, 1960

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Lancetilla Experiment Station
Research Department
United Fruit Company
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul:

This may have to wait your return from the Philippines where I understand you're doing work on United Fruit banana collecting. Certainly glad to hear of this for I'm sure you will enjoy the work.

In building up our fern collection, we have been anxious to obtain living material of the Marattiaceae, either in the genus Marattia or Danaea. Recent requests for material of the same for greenhouse work from the University of Texas have instigated this action. According to Standley in "The Flora of Lancetilla Valley" Danaea nodosa occurs and is common in the wet forests round about your station. I assume you know this plant and wonder whether it might not be possible to obtain several plants during our warm season for forwarding to us here. If you find this feasible, would you let me know so I can send on proper USDA quarantine tags and permits. We would, of course, be able to handle all shipping costs and actually, these could be taken care of collect through the USDA and one of the airlines.

Would appreciate comment on the above request when you can make it, and in the meantime, if you see some fresh spores of this plant we could see if we could germinate same here, but would much prefer root stocks.

Best regards to the family.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education
and Research

WHH:jb

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

December 17, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

The picture of the Pejibaye fruits are just what the doctor ordered and many thanks for your promptness in sending this. I am happy to have it for future use and record.

We will be interested to hear what develops in relation to that higher education, and I hope for your sake that Florida comes through for I feel it would be the better of the two moves.

We are now getting packed to leave Friday the 20th for Coconut Grove. As indicated in an earlier letter, we shall be at the FTG in your old house over Christmas so you can be thinking of us as the young ones patter through the rooms and enjoy (we hope) some warm Florida sunshine rather than the close to freezing temperature that they have been experiencing of late.

All join in being remembered at this Christmas season.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

WHH:k

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

December 2, 1957

TELEPHONE 330

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I know you have lots of things more important than this on your mind these days, but next April 17 there will be the next biennial meeting of the Palm Society, to be held at the Fairchild Tropical Garden. Since I will doubtless be called upon to give some sort of an illustrated talk, I have been trying to do a little advanced planning on what the subject might be. Right now I think I may talk around the subject of palm trees as seen through a botanist's eye, and give a little of the morphological details of palms plus economic applications of each part.

In working over economic fruits of palms, I thought that I would certainly want to talk about the peach palm and have a Kodachrome illustration. I have plenty of good illustrations of the tree as it grows, but I do not have any good closeups of the fruit. I am writing to see whether by chance in your file you may not have a good Kodachrome of such which you could loan me. What I would like to have is a real closeup of ripe fruit, either in cluster form or just a couple of specimens on a good background. Perhaps you even have peach palm growing at the School and could do this sometime. Another subject which would be worth having is a close-up of the prop roots of one of the stilt palms or any genus or species which shows prop roots in the palm family. I have these only in black and white photographs, I regret to say.

If you have either of the above subjects already, and would be willing to loan them, I would be happy to have Kodachromes duplicated so that you could have the originals right back, or if you think you could get a Kodachrome or two without any trouble, that also would be appreciated, and I would be happy to send you a new roll of Kodachrome in exchange! If you can't do anything, don't worry about it.

I have seen your recent letters to Russ and hope that whatever you want to do opens up for you.

Mr. Paul Allen
December 2, 1957

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The Hodge family goes to Miami for the Christmas holidays, starting December 20, and we expect to hole up in the Davis House at the FTG. Wish you were there to join us.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

P. S. The Indian trip is off--that is why I am not writing from New Delhi! The Indian government procrastinated so long in processing this thing that I just didn't have any time to work the trip in. Too bad!

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WHH:k

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 28, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

It is encouraging to learn from you that both Turrialba and the University of Florida may be willing to accept you in their graduate school. You certainly do want to be absolutely certain that you join the "right union".

Although the location and work prospects at Turrialba should certainly appeal to you much more than Gainesville, I am quite certain that the choice of the University of Florida would be by far the better one. All that concerns you is the degree and the standing that it will give you. The University of Florida is a recognized institution of higher education which is undoubtedly accepted as a bonafide member of the Association of Colleges and Universities in the United States. I do not know but I would be willing to bet a lot of money that Turrialba has no standing of this type, and because of its very limited facilities would not be able to receive such until it expanded tremendously. In other words, a degree, presumably a masters, from Florida should make a good stepping stone if it was ever required for a Ph. D. degree elsewhere. Of course, universities such as Harvard might be a little snooty in accepting such, but only in the case, I would feel, of an unknown candidate. In your own case I would guess that you would have no problem at going on further although my own feeling is that a person like you, all things being equal, should try for the final degree (if necessary) at the institution where it could most easily be obtained and that would not be Harvard University. As far as Civil Service screening is concerned, there is little consideration of the place where a degree is taken, although that does enter into the picture to some extent. Certainly, from my own experience as a Civil Service examiner, the University of Florida would stand up equally with most other institutions, particularly in regard to scientific training.

I should point out that although the USDA is the one which deflates your ego in regard to background, it is really not they who should be blamed. Actually it is the Civil Service Commission which hamstringing all government departments with rigid restrictions pertaining

Mr. Paul Allen
October 28, 1957

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to the hiring of people in specific categories. It just so happens that a person who applies for plant exploration work is pigeonholed as a botanist and to be a botanist one has to have the prerequisites of college degrees. Erlanson's office would just love to find a way of getting around these rigid restrictions, but rules are rules and they have no alternative but request from the Civil Service a list of the top three men in botany and those are the only ones in general who can be selected, assuming they have the proper botanical training. That, in other words, is how it works. There are a few devious ways of getting around the situation with respect to Erlanson's office since examiners for botany are usually botanists attached to his office.

In brief, then, I think you should try by all means to work at the University of Florida if the choice is between that school and the Institute in Costa Rica. Here's hoping!

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education & Research

WHH:k

October 21, 1957

Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education and Research
Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Dear Walt:

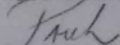
Recent correspondence with Turrialba and the University of Florida indicates that they might be willing to accept me in their graduate schools, on certain not impossible conditions, but since this flight of fancy is primarily a bid for orthodox standing, I want to be dead certain that I join the right union. In other words, I want to be sure that my Masters Certificate is good for sail or steam, and will let me navigate the scientific seas as my fancy dictates, without being cited for malpractice, or impersonating an officer.

Turrialba offers a course in Dasonomy, which struck me as having a slightly immoral sound, until I found that they simply mean Forestry, with emphasis on forest ecology. Since I am in the somewhat unusual position of having written the only manual on the subject presently available for the country, I should hope to qualify as a member in good standing with a minimum of difficulty.

What I mostly want to know is whether Turrialba's degree of Magister Agriculturae has any standing in the U.S., and particularly whether it would get me by the High Priests of Beltsville, or assure me entrance to a respectable institution in the north in case that I should decide to try for the \$64,000 question at a later time.

I should be inclined to think that your long & varied experience at Harvard, Amherst and Beltsville should put you in nearly a unique position to offer an educated guess on the above question without my having to brave the various registrars or Erlanson himself. Needless to say, anything you can suggest will be greatly appreciated.

Most sincerely,


Paul H. Allen

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 18, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I know just how you feel with regard to the problem which keeps cropping up, and it hurts me, too, no end.

With respect to the immediate problem of exploration in Brazil, we are taking up the matter with vigor with Erlanson and Hyland. You see, one of the reasons for our giving financial support to explorations for ornamentals by the USDA was to have a little more control and say on who should be employed to handle each of the individual exploration segments. Up to now our understanding has been that Civil Service regulations would have no effect on who was to be employed, but rather the best man, experience-wise rather than education-wise, would be selected. Russ wrote the USDA a few days ago indicating that we want the best qualified man for this Brazil work and that the best qualified man as far as we are concerned is Paul Allen. We are hoping that a way around this hurdle can be found by the USDA, but if not, then there may be a possibility of our handling the salary at this end. We shall see.

As for your other thoughts regarding entering the University, this is something only you can decide. All I can say is that it is a sad commentary on contemporary life when a man, who has already trained himself so ably in his chosen field and has proven his capabilities so fully, has to go through the motions in order to advance over the road-blocks of regimentation.

To obtain degrees which would do any good I would think that you would have to complete not only requirements for an A.B. but also a Ph.D. degree. Normally this requires eight years though I imagine this could be easily reduced to six years, which still amounts to a lot of time wasted in repeating education already received through self-training.

What the University of Chicago does in relation to undergraduate students today I do not know, but in various times in the past I have also gotten the impression that it advances students as rapidly as they can prove themselves qualified by examination. That, at least, was in the days of President Hutchins and whether it is true today I do not know. The surest way to find out would be to write and ask the Dean of Admissions, laying your cards on the table. In the case of postgraduate work in most places, you would probably only need to complete residence requirements (about two years) and could then do your thesis work on the

Mr. Paul Allen
October 18, 1957

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side, if necessary.

Most college tuitions have been going up regularly. Harvard's undergraduate tuition is now \$1000 a year; most other places are at least \$500 or \$600. Tuition-free scholarships are, of course, common in teaching assistantships (perhaps averaging \$1500 a year); though normally reserved for graduate students one could doubtless be wangled in your case. The latter would add to your years of residence since you would be working half-time. With your interest in what would be offered at Harvard (I am thinking of archeology as well as botany) and with (I suppose!) friends there in botany, it might be worthwhile inquiring of someone like Dick Howard, Reed Rollins, or Paul Mangelsdorf of the possibilities.

hope you
can
figure
this out!

Of course, the easiest solution to your problem would be the way Wilson Popenoe did it. I'm going to work on that angle, too.

Yours sincerely,

Walt

W. H. Hodge, Head
Dept. of Education & Research

P.S. / A letter from USDA just arrived saying: "I hope we have found a loophole in Civil Service regulations to make it possible to employ P.A. ... as Agricultural rather than in specialized fields ... which allows experience in place of formal education as a qualification. We will attempt this procedure and let you know what success we have."

Here's hoping!

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 9, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

This will acknowledge your good epistle of October 3, This arrived the same day that Russ reported back fine and fit from his excursion to Hawaii. I presume he will be writing shortly to you, though in brief conversation he indicated that it now looks as though he might not be able to accompany whoever makes the Brazilian junket. I know this would be a great disappointment to him because this is one area which he has been very much interested in working over. He will say more when he writes.

Actually, the whole job of firming up this exploration is in the hands of the Plant Introduction Unit of the USDA who normally take men on in a temporary capacity. They are very much interested, I know, in getting everything cleared up because of their knowledge of the red tape involved in getting people hired. You can count on fast action from them whenever possible. In this particular case, there may be a few extra matters which have to be cleared up, at least so the Beltsville people have intimated, but here's hoping everything goes through insofar as you are concerned.

I would sure like to join you on this junket, but I know that that would be impossible during that season which is our busiest one here. Further, I will probably just have complete two months away in the nether parts of India. I had thought that I would be gone before now, but still have received no final word.

With best to you both from all here.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education & Research

WHH:k

October 5, 1957

Dear Walt:

Todays mail has brought a reply from Dr. Hyland of the New Creps Research Branch at Beltsville, pertinent portions of which are quoted below:

"After reviewing the facts which you have submitted, we will have to discuss certain points with our classification officers to determine whether your education and experience would qualify you for the appointment we have in mind. Based upon our previous experience we rather doubt at this point whether we could get an effective appointment. The Civil Service Commission regulations are rather strict on such matters and we have to abide by their standards."

This pretty well confirms an opinion we had recently arrived at, that if we can't lick 'em we might as well try to join 'em. I have already written to Dr. J. Wayne Reitz of the University of Florida whom we know and like, asking him to give us his calculated opinion as to the best way to return for some sort of degree. While I spent four years at the Missouri Botanical Garden and have had more than twenty years of subsequent experience in the American tropics in the fields of exploration, research, teaching and administration, with a fair number of publications on things that have interested me, I have no degree, and not even any transferable credits as a starter.

We have saved our pennies, and have, as of this writing about a thousand dollars a year coming in from investments, but we don't have much idea what costs would run, on a student basis, where we had better go, or whether we could expect some partial support through a grant or fellowship. No matter what or how, it would seem that we are going to have to do it. I have rather the impression that the University of Chicago, and possibly other places that we don't know of have a somewhat more liberal adult education policy, but we would greatly appreciate any comments or suggestions that you might have to offer.

We're not very happy tonight, but Dettie joins me in best wishes,

As ever,

Paul

October 3, 1957

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for your epistle telling of Russ's whereabouts & further details re the projected junket to Brazil. If I had given the matter any thought at all I would have recognized your fine Italian hand in it all, especially in view of our conversations in Mexico.

We are still far from positive whether we will be able to get away or not, but are holding our fingers crossed. The coastal ranges of Brazil have been a happy hunting ground for collectors of tropical ornamentals for a good many years, yet as one looks over the illustrations of many of them in the Botanical Magazine, Bot. Reg., Paxton's Flower Garden, Hoehne's Orchids etc. one cannot help but be forcibly impressed by the vast wealth of things not presently available, at least in the U.S.

Since departure in January would mean leaving before the end of the school year, we would like to have as much advance notice as possible, in the event that the appointment is confirmed. Thus far this would not appear to be an insurmountable obstacle, since I am to share my teaching load with another staff member, and might be able to get him to agree to let me take the entire thing up to the first of the year on the understanding that he would wind the thing up.

We wish of course that Bobbie and Yourself would join the party, but I suppose it is difficult for you and Russ to be away at the same time. Dottie sez that we'd be very happy to carry your bags on the trip to India, especially if you would let us sneak over to see the Peradenya Gardens in Ceylon. In any event, we greatly appreciate your kind thought for those of us on the tortilla & black bean circuit, and will await your orders, despues de saludarle muy atentamente en union con su distinguida esposa, a pious thought in which Dottie joins me,

As ever,

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 27, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

Your letter of September 21 has arrived in Russ's absence. I am sure that he can give you the necessary information when he returns from the Orchid Congress in Hawaii on or about October 6.

Actually, he has not been aware of recent developments since he left before your name was sent in as a possibility for this exploration. He, however, had asked that I take up this matter with Hyland at the Plant Introduction office so that things would be progressing at this end. As you realize, good old government red tape takes considerable time to process.

I personally sure hope that you can go through with this, for I can't think of anyone better qualified to look for new and better ornamentals in Latin America.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

WHH:k

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 11, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I am certainly glad that we both belong to the same mutual admiration society! Anyway, I appreciate very much your very kind remarks about the Carib paper. Although as you say, my file is full of information, it appears that the days are getting shorter and shorter in which time can be found to get this information together for publishing. You know what I mean, I am sure.

Now as to the Rockefeller Foundation, I am afraid that I know nothing about them, never having broached them for any funds at all. Unfortunately, too, there is no one right close by with whom I could talk about possible quirks in filing for financial support. In view of their growing interest in agriculture in Latin America, it sounds as though your suggested timber survey might be appealing, particularly if many of the species concerned might also be important in nearby Colombia (the Chocó) where, of course, they have research commitments. I think that what I would do would be to write directly to the Foundation as you have done, with the hope that they would indicate how your project should be submitted. Failing a good reply, I would be inclined to pattern it on what the National Science Foundation requires. You certainly wouldn't be far off in following their pattern.

Russ and Denny left yesterday for about a month's trip to Hawaii to attend the Orchid Congress. As of today I can say that it looks as though yours truly will be spending about 2½ months in India beginning about October 1, acting as consultant to the government of India on plant introductions problems. Unfortunately, the rest of the family can't go.

All join in sending our best.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

WHH:k

June 24, 1957

Dear Walt:

Your very prompt reply to my addled epistle of the 16th should establish a new record for round-trip correspondence between Honduras and the U.S. After congratulating you on the very fine article, let me hasten to assure you that I DO have all of the negatives here, safe & sound.

My filing system usually makes sense to ME, if I can just remember all of the cross-reference parts that must be checked. What I did not find, on the former occasion, are the negatives of a nearly identical shop given to the Chicago Natural History Museum several years ago, and of which I have a full set of enlargements in a separate folder. Your welcome check is, in consequence, accepted with my most profound thanks etc.

Sorry to hear that Bobbie has been under the weather, but hope that this finds her in her usual chipper spirits. I don't envy you a move, even such a comparatively easy one as to another house on your own grounds. I never can find anything for months after a move, and some things seem to disappear forever. Hope you like the new place well enough better to have made it worth while.

Just now the Allens are chewing their little finger nails down to the third knuckle (see what I mean?) trying to decide whether we should stay on here & weather the prospective blow occasioned by Dr. Popenoe's retirement, or accept a very interesting offer in the U.S. which materialized a month or so ago out of thin air. I would have welcomed such a connection with more than enthusiasm in about another four or five years, when our finances were in a little better shape, but by that time the job will be gone. I like the idea of an association with a reputable scientific institution, but would like to be able financially to out & run for it winters for a couple of months or so. Then there is the above-mentioned move. Worry worry!

IF we do decide to try this thing, I may be much more nearly in a position to take you up on the idea of a two or three month collecting trip to Costa Rica or Panama. Anyway, we'll keep you informed. Dottie joins me in the hope that Bobbie has fully recovered.

As ever,

Paul

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 20, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

The photographs referred to on Bixa are certainly ones that were obtained from you and for proof I enclose a copy of the article in which they were used. You stated that these particular shots showed the use of lipstick in place of Bixa on the one hand, and of Arrabidaea on the other hand. The captions do not specify, you will note, but merely illustrations of body paint as used by lowland American Indians.

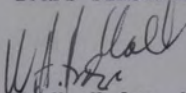
As for the negatives, all I can say is that I am certain that all were returned at once. Just to double-check I have gone to my own negative file and without any luck, although I have photographic prints of your material. This makes me a little dismayed and I will keep this in mind just in case they never were filed, though the fact that I have the prints and no negatives seems to indicate to me that they were sent off to you all right.

In the event that these do not turn up it would be possible to have duplicate negatives made from the prints which I have, though they may lose a little in detail in so doing. Just let me know if this is the case and I will see what I can do.

Bobbie has been laid up for three weeks with infectious hepatitis which was a sudden thing that came on. She apparently has had a mild case and is doing well though she has been completely limited to bed and the house. Shortly she should be able to go out. It came just at a time when all of us were concerned with moving from our old temporary place to our new house. Consequently, all moving activity has had to stop. Such is life!

Best regards from all and keep me advised on the status of the negatives.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

WHH:k

June 16, 1957

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for the copy of your fine review of Federal Plant Introduction, which has just been received, together with your check for ten bucks under separate cover. I am far from sure that you owe me this last, though I do find a note in the files that six 35 mm Vaupes negatives and one 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 from Darien were sent you in January of 1956. Strangely enough I seem to have the Darien negative here, but can't locate the Vaupes set. Do you by any chance still have them? I have a hazy recollection that they were returned and that you wrote saying that some stuffy editor had objected to the lack of clothing.

If the photos are of BIXA you definitely did not get them from me, since I have never had a respectable shot of either flowers or fruit in color or black & white.

Pending hearing from you further I am going to hold your check and may probably have to return it. Thanks anyway for the kind thought & regards to Bobby and the kids.

As ever,

Paul

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 12, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Dear Paul,

The enclosure (\$10.00) is to cover use of two photographs kindly loaned me by you some time ago and which I have been able to have published as illustrations in my article ARTIFICIAL COLOR HAS BEEN ADDED (about achote) in the June 1957 issue of NATURAL HISTORY MAGAZINE.

The magazine has been paying \$7.50 per foto and I have deducted \$2.50 per foto for costs in making up prints. I trust this is satisfactory.

You know I appreciate your making these shots available,

Sincerely,

W. A. S.

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 13, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I am sorry that I wasn't able to say goodbye before leaving for the States. We had a very nice trip to Merida and out to the ruins at Uxmal. They are all that you said they were, and the hotel was an excellent place to hole up for a night. The weather was much better than what we had had up in the highlands.

We also managed to get a car in Havana and to go out to Pinar del Rio and to see the fabulous valley of Viñales. You should have been along. Better luck next time.

We forgot to get together in regard to that manuscript on Central American orchids that you had available. If you still feel that it would be worth my looking over, particularly if it has at least some horticultural slant, or if you feel that horticultural aspects could be worked in, why I would like to see it and talk over the problem with the Editorial Committee of the American Horticultural Society. I am certain that they would prefer a piece in which ornamental orchids were discussed, and also some of their problems relative to growth. Our next meeting is held on the 20th of this month and so I am writing at this time with the idea that we might be able to get the manuscript in hand by then. If not, it could wait until the June meeting.

Say hello to Dottie from us both.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge, Head
Department of Education

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

September 10, 1956

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TELEPHONE 230

Dear Paul,

Enclosed five slides (Bucare, flamboyant, 2 mango, & jacaranda) that you were good enough to forward sometime ago for possible sale. Just had them returned, unfortunately with no takes at this time. Better luck next time.

Glad to hear that the glassine envelopes got to you safely. Let me know anytime I can be of similar help in the future.

Last week in August attended the AIBS meetings at Storrs, Conn. and saw quite a few of ^{my} mutual friends. After a summer full of breaks, short trips here and there, I am getting back to business here.

Was down to 46 last night so I guess Fall is on its way. If this persists I am going to begin thinking of warm zephyrs farther south. Am still hoping, more or less with assurance, this time, to getting to the Mexico City meetings with Bobbie. Of course I still think it would have been better this past Spring in Guatemala. In any event I hope to push on to Honduras after the meetings, if approval here is forthcoming.

Our very best to you and Dottie...

Walt

June 23, 1956

Dear Walt:

S.O.S. - Can you get me 200 negative file envelopes like the enclosed, or better still, with a flap to close the end? Rumor hath it that they contain some rare strategic material & can't legally be sent out of the U.S. If you find same, send in small lots by air mail, say 50 at a whack & let me know what the total cost amounts to.

Wish we could share our mangos & *Lycaste aromatics* with you, but I'm afraid you'll have to come down to get them. Dottie is working on *Epidendrum xiphoides*, not showy, but common no end hereabouts. She joins me in best wishes to you & yours, and to the Seiberts.

As ever

Paul

Returned
3 - *Erythrina alata*
2 - *Jacaranda*
3 - *Mango*

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

June 6, 1956

TELEPHONE 230

REPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STILL HAS!
1 - *Erythrina poeppigiana*
1 - *Jacaranda*
1 - *Rosita dominicana*
2 - *Mango*

All Returned

Dr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

Many thanks for your prompt reply in reply to the Kodachromes. Seventeen were received. I have taken out five of the trees including two Mangoes, one Jacaranda, one Poinciana, and one *Erythrina poeppigiana*. Four of the Antigua procession have been held and I am returning eight herewith. The five trees may be held for a few weeks until I know what luck you have.

I heartily agree with you regarding your comment on Mexico versus Guatemala.

We are at present putting through the press two of the booklet types of things which are similar to the work proposed on orchids. As soon as this material is in hand, I will see that you get a copy. I am sure that there is no rush regarding this.

We will follow up your suggestions regarding *Anguloa* and *Coryanthes*.

Glad to hear that you confirm that the Guetar piece is a good one.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Hodge
Head of Department

June 1, 1956

Dear Walt:

Well here we are, back at the old stand, with only our pleasant memories plus new clothes & phonograph records to remind us of our recent junket. After seeing all your lujo I wished especially that Dottie had come along, but maybe we can visit you again next year.

You will find enclosed all that I have on the various subjects mentioned, which are of varying quality, as you will see. In addition you will find a few duplicates, which you can keep if you care to, of the big holy week processions which we saw on the Guatemalan junket. Mexico next year should be interesting, but even the best there wouldn't rate as much better than third quality Guatemala.

If you will send me a sample of the sort of thing you have in mind, I will be glad to consider the orchid project. Just now I have two other commitments involving orchids, but since they overlap to a certain extent, maybe one more can be squeezed in.

Harry Dunn and don Mariano Pacheco are the only sources that I know of for things like *Anguloas* and *Coryanthes*. The former genus is common in Panama & Costa Rica in the highlands, but doesn't occur here, or at least not in our area. *Coryanthes* can be had in Honduras, but only on the north coast, which might as well be in Fiji, at least during our teaching year.

Dottie is hard at it trying to get the house to look civilized again after our long absence, but joins me in our very best to you & yours, and to the Seiberts.

As ever,

Paul

P.S. - Saw Bobbie's new Guetar gold piece, and its a beaut.!!

- 3 - ERYTHRINA ALBOCA
 1 - ERYTHRINA JOSEPHINIANA - var. *rosea*
 3 - JACARANDA (Guatemala)
 1 - Delonix regia - C. L.
 5 - MIMIFERA indica - C. L. to Panama

- Sent June 1, 1956

Walter Henricks Hodge

LONGWOOD GARDENS ★ KENNETT SQUARE ★ PENNSYLVANIA

May 28, 1956

Dear Paul,

Needless to say I was very sorry to have missed you on your recent visit here but understand you had a good get-together with what Longwood representatives were present. Best of all it pleased me to hear how much you and Dottie are liking Tegucigalpa. I myself always thought it would have been a wonderful place to locate.. if we had been without the kids.

Have had a request for 35mm color shots (sharp & good color) of whole trees in flower of mango, jacaranda, flamboyant, avocado, bucare, & Panama Tree. If you have any acceptable I can get \$20. per shot.

I note that ASHS meets next year in Mexico City. This time I expect to get there tho what a come down from Guatemala!

Russ says maybe we can interest you in preparing one of our bulletins on orchids. Incidentally we would like to get a start of Anguloa; also of one of those nice species which gets the bees drunk.. forget the genus. Do you know any sources? Pring did'nt.

Best to you both,

Walt

"plant"

* "Longwood Favorite"

1 - slide
Vaupes near Benin
Papa

April 15, 1956

Dr. Walter H. Hodge
Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square
Pennsylvania

Dear Walt:

Enclosed you will find my one & only kodachrome of a Vaupes family group, decorating Papa prior to a ceremonial dance. I am just about as interested in the safety of the slide as I am in the money, yet I would be very happy to see it used, if the original is to be returned.

Have you found any use for the batch of negatives sent in January? If not, they could be sent, together with the present slide to 323 West Madison, Kirkwood, Missouri, if you could be sure of postal delivery before about May 20, since we are headed that way day after tomorrow, via Miami.

Sorry that you couldn't have attended the AAHS meetings in Antigua which were held in the Popenoe house, & attracted delegates from just about everywhere, to a total of about 75. Junkets were taken to a number of out of the way rural areas to see things like Tea, Quinine, Rubber, Coffee (sun grown) Sugar cane, temperate zone fruits, Indian markets, etc. We have been in the country at least five times before, but enjoyed every minute of it.

We expect to be in the U.S. about six weeks, mostly divided between Miami & St. Louis, but with a possible quickie to Boston for about a week, if things work out. Dottie is out giving a neighbor gal a home permanent, but joins me in our best to all of you.

As ever,
Puh

P.S. On second thought, I think I'll mail this in Miami, since it will be both quicker & safer.

Walter Henricks Hodge

LONGWOOD GARDENS * KENNETT SQUARE * PENNSYLVANIA

March 31, 1956

Dear Paul,

Have had a request for a 35mm kodachrome of a family or other group of lowland Indians of South America, not posed but rather doing a typical activity such as working at home, hunting, fishing, or the like. They must have "fig leaves" in appropriate places.

If you have something pertinent and sharp I could dispose of it (use only) at \$25., providing it is acceptable.

Yours,

Walt

Happy Easter!

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

February 3, 1956

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamerica
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I don't know whether I have acknowledged the receipt of your negatives or no. They arrived safely. As soon as I have had a chance to make prints, they will be returned with thanks!

I sure hate to have to turn down your kind offer to drive back from the Antigua meetings of ASHS with you and Dottie. It looks as though we would have to forego this trip this year. Another year Russ thinks I ought to attend, but it will probably then be held in a much less interesting location! When and if I can make it I will plan to bring Bobbie along.

Yours sincerely,

Walt

W. H. Hodge
Head of Department

6-35 mm. Negatives
(Vaupes)
1-2 1/4 x 3 1/4 - DARIEN

January 20, 1956

Dear Walt:

Here are the negatives of the Vaupes & Darien pictures, for whatever use you can make of them. I would like to have them back when they are no longer needed.

I tried the National Geographic once, some ten years or more ago, but I might try again. After twenty years down in these parts most published travel squibs sound unbelievably naive to me, but my efforts obviously sound too much like a trip to the A & P. to the editors. Maybe I should start reading Adventure or True Science Fiction to get into the proper mood.

Just received a nice note from Russ & Denny, headed (regretfully) northward, after their Jamaican interlude. Please give them our best when they have had a chance to thaw out.

As ever,

Walter Henricks Hodge

FOOT MT. PISGAH ROAD * SILVER SPRING * MARYLAND
RD. 2 KENNETT Sp. 1/16/56
PA

Dear Paul,

A quick response to yours of Jan. 9. I would like to see the black & whites of the Vauquez Indians being painted red plus the gal in Darien. If the negs are leased to send material returns promptly.

I know how stuffy "Americas" is - for I've received similar responses! No matter - they pay very poorly. If you have at least 8 good color shots (sharp) you might enquire of Nat'l Geographic re the Xurupari though, as you know, they too can be stuffy, but like the unusual. A short highly personal article is what they adore. I know of no one else - other than Natural History (black & white only), who might be interested.

I judge we won't see you fellows during your next States leave. You know we'd be tickled to have you! I'd kinda like to make the early April ASHS meetings at Antigua but have no idea whether that would be possible. If it were I'd try to make Zamorano too.

Regards to Dotes
Walt

January 9, 1956

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for the check, which is pure gravy, since I had completely forgotten that I even had such a negative as that showing the termite nest.

I do have several good enlargements (black & white) plus Kodachrome transparencies of Vaupes Indians being painted red, but the sad truth of the matter is that the origin of the dye is Arrabidaea chica (powdered extract of leaves) rather than Bixa. Then too, I have a good shot of a gal in Darien Province, Panama, wearing red face paint, which traditionally is supposed to be Bixa, but which in modern times has been largely replaced by lipstick, boughten from some Chinaman in Yaviza.

Let me know what you decide, and you're of course welcome to any or all of the above. Just while we're on the subject of Injuns, you don't by any chance have any ideas as to where I could sell a squid on Vaupes fraternal secret society dances (the famous Yurupari) plus, if I do say so, some good, and so far as I know unique) photos in color, and/or black & white. I tried Americas (Pan American Union) & had it returned with a very stuffy letter to the effect that Latin American Ambassadors in Washington were sensitive to any undue playing up of backward elements in their populations, which I have no doubt may be true.

Wish we could all of us be with the Seiberts in Jamaica. We are about due for States leave, which will probably be from late February to late March (Brrrr!). We will fly both ways, via Miami, and have to see families in St. Louis, so it won't be much of a pleasure jaunt. If I had my choice I would go to Costa Rica & Panama, but things don't seem to work out that way.

We are enjoying a big batch of Oncidium splendidum right now, which are as large, and brightly colored as O. varicosum var. Rodgersii, which is saying a good deal. Dottie has done a good drawing of a typical plant, and two well marked variant forms, and I may send it to the Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. Dottie joins me in best wishes for the New Year.

As ever,

Walter Henricks Hodge

~~02010101. PERRAR ROAD. XXXXX. HOLYCR. SPRING. XXXX. MARYLAND. XXX~~

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Sq., Pa.

January 3, 1956

Dear Paul:

The enclosed check for \$ 8.00 indicates that the print I made up from your neg of ^APanama termite nest was acceptable. I have taken the liberty of taking \$2.00 for making up the necessary print (material and time !). Trust that this is acceptable.

Russ and Denny are off to Jamaica today for a couple of weeks. The Hodge's are still unpacking. Everyone had a pleasant holiday. Trust all is well with you both.

Kindest regards,

W.H.H.

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January 3, 1956

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I meant to ask in my recent letter whether you have a black and white picture or negative of Kubeo Indians of Columbia being daubed with Bixa orellana paint. Seems to me I recall such a subject in color in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1948. If you have this only in color, could it be loaned so that a black and white can be made?

Yours sincerely,

Walt

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TELEPHONE 230

December 6 1955

Dear Paul:

Yours of Nov. 15th has been here for some time and I want to thank you for your kindness in forwarding the enclosure. I have made up an 8 x 10 to send off and if it is accepted I will let you know. In the meantime back comes your negative

From the above you can see that I have already reported for duty here at Longwood. The future should prove most interesting and we sure hope to have a reunion with the Allens sometime when they are up this way. Will also put in a plug to visit Zamorano but fear it is not for the immediate future.

The family still lives in Silver Spring... until the house is sold. We hope that will be soon. In the meantime I commute weekends and live in bachelor quarters here.

We were pleased to get the usual original Xmas greetings. Best from us all.

Walt

November 6, 1955

Dear Walt:

Our recent October rains must have washed out our usually efficient Tropical Grape Vine, or we have a bum tube in our amplifier, since your good letter was our first word of the impending hegira to Kennett Square. All of your previous experience should fit in wonderfully on such a project, and we can't imagine nicer people to work with. Who will take over when you leave Beltsville?

My opus on the ^Poisonous & Injurious Plants of Panama was published as a supplement to the American Journal of Tropical Medicine in January of 1943. Unfortunately, I burned the last reprints in 1948 before leaving Panama and at present have only one copy in my files. You might try contacting the publishers, the Williams & Wilkins Company, in Baltimore on the chance that they might still have a copy or two.

You will find the thing pretty strictly a compilation from various sources, and that it lacks an index due to a last minute mixup, so that I doubt if it would provide you with much that you don't know already.

We're enjoying some beautiful early dry season weather, which should last at least through December. Why don't you & Russ decide on some sort of official junket that will include Zamorano. We can promise some spectacular Bromeliads for about that season, and maybe an Orchid or two. Dottie is up to her eyes in Christmas cards, but joins me in our very best to all the Hodges.

As ever,
Paul

Valencia
C-25 - Negative
Sept Nov, 15

Walter Henricks Hodge

9701 MT. PISGAH ROAD * SILVER SPRING * MARYLAND

11/3/55

Dear Paul,

I have a request for a negative ($2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$)
or larger
showing earth nests of termites, rather close.

Client will pay \$10.00 for good sharp neg —
in case you are interested. You might supply
a close up of whole nest on post or tree, and
one in sections (or partly sectioned, close to) if
you want to do something about. They might
take 2.

Regards to Dotter,
Walt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Plant Introduction Section
October 26, 1955

AIR MAIL

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

My attention has just been called to the publication of yours on the poisonous plants, etc. of Panama which came out in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine, I believe, in 1943. I was completely unaware of this excellent work and I am writing with the hope that you might have still a spare reprint that you might care to part with. At least it is worth asking for!

This gives me the opportunity to pass on to you the news that the Hodges will be moving to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, in the near future with yours truly working with Russ Seibert at Longwood Gardens. You may have had an inkling of this through your own talks with Russ but, in any case, it is now an accomplished fact. I have now turned in my resignation effective as of December 1, 1955, and so pending sale of our present home we shall be up with the Seiberts in the fairly near future. The work will have to do with the new education and research program to be developed at Longwood. I dislike having to leave the work here since much of it is very interesting, particularly those phases dealing with economic plants. Nevertheless, it looks as though there was much to offer at Kennett Square and for that reason we have decided to make this big move. Perhaps we can now schedule a trip sometime in the future to Zembrano and take up the Allen's continuing offer to hole-in with them for a short visit.

Best regards from all here.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge
Assistant Head of Section

WHH:fml

July 7, 1955

Dear Wait:

Many thanks for the first fascicle of your "flora of Dominica, which came several days ago. I have had time to examine it in some detail, and am impressed by the tremendous amount of work that it represents in the way of collections, observations of range, for your fine section on the plant communities, as well as the excellent keys and illustrations. I was particularly glad to see your inclusion of the ferns, which are usually ignored, though they often represent such a conspicuous element in a flora. This is a monumental work, and I can't understand why you haven't been able to get funds before for its publication.

Things rock along quietly here. We have found that Dr. Popenoe isn't nearly the man-eater he has been represented to be, and about my only comment would be that he is rather weak on organization, but with a heart of gold. We have a very comfortable house, somewhat larger in useable space than the one we had in Florida. After the usual long & hard dry season our rains have gotten well under way, rice is a palm high, and we are enjoying some wonderful mangos. Just now we have nearly a dozen open flowers of *Laelia* (*Brassavola*) *Digbyana*, which differ in quite a number of significant details from published plates and descriptions, and Dottie is hard at it trying to get it down on paper.

To my surprise, I find that I like teaching very much, and I enjoy the contact with the boys. This year I have English II (which, by the way, is a good introduction to the complex Spanish verb forms) and Tropical Crops, the last in Spanish & without a text. Class material is dredged up from memory, files, USDA & Stica bulletins and conversations with recent visitors. It's really kind of fun, and I feel that I'm learning a lot. We're even saving money again, which is a welcome novelty after Florida.

We have always gotten along alright in the tropics, and I think now I was a fool to have ever gone back to the U.S. The PED degree has become a union card, and I'm licked hands down. At least I don't think I'll make that particular mistake again very soon. The burned child, etc.

We have never forgotten the wonderful times we have had with the Hodges, and wonder if you can't wangle some sort of excuse to get down our way. We have two extra bedrooms, and it would be fun to talk over all the recent changes. Have you heard about Bob Woodson giving up the M.B.G. Herbarium? And about Russ Seibert's recent appointment as the new Director of the fancy DuPont estate at Longwood? I think he is a good man for the job, and expect them to like him.

Dottie joins me in renewed thanks & best wishes to all of the Hodges and to the gang at the office.

As ever,

Paul

Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
December 14, 1954

Dear Walt:

I very much appreciate your kind thoughts in my behalf, both in regard to the photographs and the prospective opening at Soledad. My negatives and photographic enlargements are in the crates with our other things which are to be flown here by the TAN airlines, from Miami. The request for their transfer should go through in the days ahead, and if we have any luck at all we should be in the unpacking phase within ten days or so. Is that too late for your purpose? Another possibility might be to use Dottie's drawing of pollination in Gongora maculata. The copper plate for this is in Gordon Dillon's hands in Cambridge, and you are welcome to borrow it if it will be of any use to you.

Since we have just arrived here (yesterday) via Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador & Pacific coast Honduras, and we have been five weeks on the way, I hesitate to upset the apple cart on any other job. I have been through the postgraduate course in being Director of a bankrupt concern without any definite policy, and I would think twice before trying such another again. My impression is that Soledad is pretty much another F.T.G. It is too soon to know how things may develop here, but I like the place, and I like Dr. Popenoe, and the outfit is completely solvent, all of which are in its favor. I hope now that we will be here for a long time, perhaps permanently.

We have had a wonderful trip down, with very little trouble of any kind. Mexico is very spectacular, particularly near the big snow peaks, and we like the people very much, but our choice would still be Panama or Guatemala for a place to retire, if we could afford it, that is. Our house here has two guest rooms, one of which is already dusted out & ready for the Hodges. When can we expect you. This is just about the world's finest climate, and an improvement on that of Washington at almost any time of year. Dottie joins me in our best to you & yours.

As ever,

Paul

September 1, 1954

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for the suggestions in your recent good and informative letters. We had already renewed our application with FOA in Washington, but have not heard anything direct from them, though we have indications that inquiries such as the one you received have gone out to other quarters.

In the interval there has been a completely unexpected development in an offer to go to Zamorano from Dr. Popenoe who spent several days here en route to Gainesville. Curiously enough I had not contacted him at all, supposing that his staff was full, and knowing that his school year had barely begun. His offer is subject to approval by the Boston office, so that we won't know anything definite much before the middle of the month.

We both like Honduras, and the school, and the only question is whether I can teach or not. My previous experience in the field is zero, but I would like to try it. Much will depend on the subjects, I should think. I would take a try at teaching botany, geography, economic botany, forestry, English or horticulture but would hesitate to try anything else.

This entire move has been an expensive, and disillusioning experience, and I hope we can make a go of whatever we try next, since we can't afford many more like this one.

I think Dottie wants to go to the village shopping, so I'll sign off. We'll keep you informed as to developments.

As ever,

Section of Plant Introduction
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

August 24, 1954

Dear Paul,

With my secretary on leave I am writing longhand and hope that you can decipher my script!

Unfortunately the same government redtape involved in hiring our regular staff members also covers our explorers as well even though the latter are hired only on a temporary basis, usually for periods of a year or less. Men considered for exploration must be taken from the Civil Service Register. When we need a man we request Civil Service for the top applicants available. By law they can only give us the names & background of the top three men in the ^{Botanist} grade registered (GS-11 or about \$6040. base pay). If none of these men have the proper background we can request the next 3 names below - and so on until we get an acceptable applicant. A prerequisite of this grade in the position of Botanist is a Ph.D. so you see that whatever we might wish to do is impossible since Civil Service examiners grading applicants would not admit any not having this prerequisite. The same would apply at this grade (and also at the ^{next} lower grade of GS-9 (15040.) for applicants as horticulturists, and the like.

The only place where we are aware that restrictions are less severe is in FOT or other agencies hiring men who are to be based in the foreign field. Our explorers are not in this category for they have headquarters base at Beltsville. In other words I can see a chance for you only in some opening that may become available under Heimbaugh or Green in FOT - and of course I actually know nothing

about their needs or requirements.

We actually do not have any explorer gearings available. normally we have one or two men in the foreign field in any year under our regular program. Our Dr. Jentery & Dr. Earl Smith are on our roles now which means that they will be unreplaced until July 1, 1955 — hence I don't know where Russ got the idea of an opening. If it makes you feel any better too I should state that none of our explorers can undertake work with us unless they travel alone. That is we do not permit wives and I know you would hardly care to leave Dottie alone.

Have you contacted Popenoe regarding return to the Ecuador — that is one of the few possibilities that I can think of offhand. Also would there be any value in contacting Dr. Ralph H. Allen, Director of the Institute at Turrubalva? Had you considered the possibility of working in some private job as with a nursery etc. Claude Hope at San José is "jeterma king" / understands. Does he even look at gringos for assisting in his business. For a time I heard that the Imperial College at Port of Spain was looking for a botanist to finish up the flora of Trinidad & mostly the monochets. That might be worth looking into. I have lost contact with the Facultad de Agronomía at Medellín but they were always looking for gringos to help reform their curriculum. You might consider applying there in botany or in horticulture and I would be happy to back any applications that they might request. What about the Canal Zone — Summit Station — is'nt the man in charge there near retirement age — and could'nt you get some political help in the zone to back you for that — if there is to be a vacancy in the future.

It sure hurts me not to be able to pull a rabbit out of the hat but perhaps something I have said may be a lead. Meanwhile I'll keep my ears open locally. Best to you both.

August 14, 1954

Dear Walt:

When the Seiberts were here he seemed to be under the impression that you would soon have an opening in your organization as plant explorer. If such is the case, would my seventeen years experience in the field, mostly on botanical exploration in any way offset my lack of a degree?

Under ordinary circumstances I wouldn't want to take a full time traveling job, but we frankly need the money, since this move has cost us just about \$6500.00.

I talked with the FOA people when we were in Washington in May, and they were very optimistic about openings, and urged me to submit a form 57. I held off until June 5, and finally sent copies in to Himebough's office, asking for a job in Horticulture, Forestry or Botany. I heard nothing from them for about two months, and decided to make this second hejira to the capital to find 1) that they had lost my form 57, 2) hired a regional forester for Panama and Central America, whose previous experience had been in JAPAN and 3) become much less optimistic about the whole situation.

Other similar organizations exist, as you know, notably the FAO, who recruit personnel for the United Nations. I have now sent in applications to them, to be cleared through Rome, and again to both Himebough and Dr. Lorenz Green.

I have also written to Russ, but haven't had a reply. This is serious enough that I told him that I would consider ANYTHING that would keep us in rice & beans for a year, if he could get the Curatorship approved for the next budget. For reasons that remain a bit obscure to me we seem to be in the position of having had more tropical experience than any other gringo of our acquaintance, have no children to make life outside the country complicated, speak fluent Spanish, have a highly specialized library on tropical Botany, Horticulture & Forestry, actually prefer to live outside the country & NO JOB.

As I type up my application forms I note, as the reason for leaving various former positions the phrase "Lack of funds" being repeated with monotonous regularity. We seem to have had a fatal affinity for lost causes, and I now believe it a sine qua non for any future projects that the employer be 1) solvent, and 2) honestly interested in some phase of tropical horticulture, forestry or botany.

Even if it means starting at a much lower salary than we have been used to, if it would assure reasonable stability I believe it would be worth it. For example, I'm not familiar with your pay grades. What does a GS 4 or 5 pay, and how much chance would there be for advancement thereafter?

I think I will write to Dr. Green about the coffee job, but in the meantime I would appreciate hearing from you in regard to the exploration angle.

As ever,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Horticulture
- DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

8/13/54

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Dear Paul,

Bill Conzill, whom you may know (he was formerly Regional Consultant in Horticulture with FAS in Central America), was just in and since he was transferred recently to FOA I rounded him out on job possibilities.

He informs me that there are over 400 jobs to be filled in FOA with few applicants available, and especially few with tropical experience. He cites an immediate need for a horticulturist to work on coffee in Panama (I believe); also 5 openings in Guatemala.

The persons to be contacted (send them a Form 57 direct) are either Keith Heimbaugh or Dr. Laurence Greene, FOA, Washington, D.C. I don't know what qualifications you would give but I would emphasize horticultural rather than botany as an option under the Agricultural Research Scientist examination. If you have not contacted either of these men before I would do so and I would be happy to support you with a recommendation if you so desire.

Best of luck,

Walt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION
Section

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
August 12, 1954

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Mr. Paul Allen
P. O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Paul:

This will acknowledge your two recent letters which arrived during our vacation period. I am certainly sorry that we were not on hand to see you when you visited town and we are even sorrier to hear the bad news in regard to the Fairchild Tropical Garden.

Offhand, I can think of no suggestions to make in regard to possible opportunities with the Department. This is not to say that they may not exist for there are several openings that have to be filled. One of them being the job of horticulturist at the Coconut Grove Introduction Station. Your problem is, of course, the fact that despite your excellent background you have to compete with men who can support advanced college credentials which are the only basis for picking up men from the Civil Service Register. I sure wish we could get around this "red tape", but it is frankly impossible to do so. This means that your name would not be up where we could do anything about it. This is assuming, of course, that you would not consider relatively low grades, in other words, those of approximately GS-5 and lower. My own opinion is that you would be foolish to even apply for such.

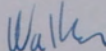
You must have had some talk with Russ Seibert during his recent visit. In recent talks with him, I judged that he was looking for a botanist at his location who would be willing to work entirely on the study of the exotic plants of Southern California. It would seem to me that this might be something that should be looked into since I am sure that you could warp your interests to encompass this field. Our own experience has been that it is very hard to get Taxonomists who would be interested to change their interests to economic plants. This is exactly what Russ is interested in and since he is not dependent on Civil Service for his positions, you would probably have a good chance with him if funds are available.

I had also thought that you might automatically go back to the Escuela at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in the event of a break-down at Coconut Grove. I assume that you have looked into this.

I really regret that I am in a position where not much can be done, but I am going to keep my ears open and will inquire around with the hope that some other leads may be forthcoming. If so, rest assured that I will keep you posted. You realize that the AIBS Meetings are being held at Gainesville September 6 - 9, and it might be very worthwhile to be at those meetings just in the case that something might come up through contacts there.

The family joins in sending their very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge
Assistant Head of Section

WHH:SSP

August 5, 1954

Dear Walt:

As you have probably heard, I have just spent two days in Washington; but of course found all of you gone your separate ways. We hope the weather gave you a change from the 100 degree & over temperatures most of the country has been experiencing this summer.

We have just received word that Dr. Fairchild suffered a serious cerebral hemorrhage last night, and that Sandy and Barbara are arriving today, since they apparently do not expect him to live.

A recent critical examination of our budget has also made it all too apparent that the Garden is no longer in a position to finance a Director, and we have been told that they cannot pay our salary beyond October first.

We have, of course been rather expecting this for some time, but it is still something of a shock in view of the considerable cost of the move. To come to the point, I am urgently in need of a job.

The trip to Washington was made in an attempt to find out what had happened to a form 57 submitted to FOA in early June. This I found had been lost, and that all confirmed positions in Horticulture, Agronomy and Forestry in the Caribbean area filled. The regional Forester with headquarters in Panama City was recruited from Japan, for example!

Do you now have, or expect to have any openings in your organization, either in your field stations or in foreign exploration? I would very greatly appreciate any suggestions that you might have.

Most sincerely yours,

July 22, 1954

Dear Walt:

Sorry to be so long about it, but here are the last of 'em, for such use as they may be to you.

We have had a wonderfully pleasant five days with the Seiberts, who left this morning for St. Petersburg, St. Louis & points west. We've all agreed that it is a shame that we have to be so far from each other, yet we couldn't be more neatly spaced unless you decided to return to Amherst. Dottie is slaving away on the last drawing for our opus, but joins me in our best.

As ever,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION
Section

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
July 7, 1954

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Mr. Paul Allen
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P. O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Paul:

It appears that I have not acknowledged the receipt of the prints that you sent under date of June 14th. These arrived safely and I am at present making a decision as to which may be used in the Carib paper.

Denny and Russ Seibert arrive in town today so we expect to get all the dirt from their part of the world within the next day or so. I anticipate that he may be heading toward your "neck of the woods" sometime next week, but perhaps he has written to you in this regard.

We all join in sending our best and again thanks for the prints.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge
Assistant Head of Section

WHH:SSP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ~~ADMINISTRATION~~ SERVICE
~~BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS AND~~
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

~~XXXXXXXX~~
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION
Section

June 21, 1954

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Mr. Paul Allen
P. O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Paul:

Just a note to thank you for yours of June 14th with the prints enclosed. I am very glad to have these and as soon as I can get to it I shall try and make a selection for the ethnobotanical paper.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

W.H.
W. H. Hodge
Assistant Head of Section

WHH:SSP

Enallagma latifolia ✓

Hibiscus tiliaceus ✓

Ochroma lagopus (2) ✓

Disopyrus ebenaster (3) ✓

Cordia alliodora ✓

trunk ✓
fruits ✓
leafy branch ✓

Spondias purpurea + mountain - 0045E

Symphonia globulifera (2) ✓

Tabebeia pentaphylla 35 mm ✓

Androma cacao ✓

Pterocarpus officinalis ✓

Sapindus saponaria ✓

Cyrtandra carapellia ✓

Cela pentandra (buttercups trunk) ✓

Acacia forbesiana ✓

Anacardium occidentale 35 mm ✓

for W.A.H. 5/54

June 14, 1954

Dear Walt:

You will find enclosed most of the photographs on your list, but with Anacardium occidentale, Spondias purpurea and Spondias mombin still missing. These are supposed to have been sent to Gainesville, but I should have them within a few more days.

Erlanson is supposed to be in town, but I haven't seen him. It is raining puppy dogs this morning, but I'll try to get down to the Field later when it clears up. Dottie joins me in our best to you & yours.

As ever,

Paul

June 7, 1954

Dear Walt:

In checking through my negative file I find that most of those requested for your Dominica Carib opus are already on loan to J.J. Ochse, who is doing an extensive tome on Tropical Economic Botany. I haven't been able to reach him at the University thus far today, but should have something within a day or two.

Meanwhile, I wondered if the enclosed illustrations might be of any interest. They were among a miscellaneous lot received from England a year or two ago, and since I regard it highly unlikely that I will ever see the Cape Flora *in situ*, I think they are much better in your hands.

Spent most of yesterday typing up one (1) original & nineteen (19) copies of a research proposal to the National Science Foundation, pretty much patterned on the ones you so kindly supplied me. I note that their deadline is Sept. 15, which I suppose means that all such are considered some time thereafter. Perhaps I have not told you that the M.B.G. will accept the thing for publication in the ANNALS if outside funds can be provided. Estimated cost is about \$2500.00, including zincs for the 25 line drawings and about 40 half tones, which can be one, two or four to a page.

We as usual had a delightful and stimulating time at the Hodge pogery. We think your kiddies are cute as buttons, we found Mamita charming and we enjoyed your showing of the wonderful slides of south African plants more than we can tell. I had no idea that the area had such a fancy flora, and I envy you the time spent there. Dorothy joins me in our renewed thanks for everything.

As ever,

Paul

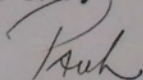
May 8, 1954

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for the set of reprints of your fine Orchids of Dominica, which will occupy a treasured place in my literature on the Orchidaceae. Your photographs are wonderful, as always, and the keys models of clarity. This is a job you can always be proud of. Tell Bobby to make you take a deep bow.

All present indications are that we will probably stop over in Washington for two or three days on a rather roundabout trip to St. Louis, probably arriving about May 17. I still have bundles of unidentified material at the Smithsonian and I'm hoping to determine if there is any chance of getting our opus on the Rainforests of Golfo Dulce published by any of the various Government agencies. Probably not, but I suppose it won't do any harm to ask. Dottie joins me in our best to you & yours,

as ever,



December 15, 1953

Dr. Walter H. Hodge
Specialty Crop Introductions
Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland

Dear Walt:

Your fine first half of the Orchids of Dominica has just come to hand, with your truly superb photographs. Looks like the old maestro has gone & done it again. Are you going to issue reprints of the entire opus? Remember if you do that we're drooling to own a copy.

Our end of the tropical grape vine hath it that you & we hope yours are expected down this way real soon. Let us know when to expect you, and you can see what you think of the new mansion. Dottie joins me in our best,

as ever,

November 6, 1953

Dear Walt:

Sorry to be such a lousy correspondent, but I didn't have my records unpacked until about a week ago to see what we had in the way of orchid drawings out on loan to other places. As it turns out we don't seem to have any of the species you list. As you know, the break between the floras of Central America, particularly Panama and Costa Rica and the West Indies is profound, with, as I remember it, something like a dozen species in common out of some 480 plus. Considerably over half of those you list are illustrated in the Flora of Jamaica, but I have no record of their being shown elsewhere. Sorry.

At the present moment we are enjoying a slight lull (probable duration three to five hours) in the normal hulla-balloo. We are about 3/4 moved into the baronial mansion that is to be our humble abode. Dottie is enjoying the aftereffects of a painful eye operation, together with house guests and swarms of visitors. Someone rushes up every hour on the hour whenever things threaten to get dull with a new suggestion, threat or rumor, and in general things are very reminiscent of the old rubber days on the Vaupes.

We hope you are definitely planning to visit Florida this winter. The grounds are beautiful, and should be a paradise for any visiting botanist who isn't caught in the machinery. I'm told we have an outstanding collection, but I've never found time to see it. We hope that this finds all of you well.

As ever,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING
October 9, 1953

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Dear Paul,

In getting together illustrations for the first part of my Dominica flora, to appear in LLOYDIA early next year, I have been fortunate in getting the loan of some of the plates from Correll's Orchids of Guatemala, the second volume of which has just appeared. Where possible I hope to have an illustration for each orchid genus. I find that I still lack a few, hence this letter. Does Dorothy have any sketches of any of the following that I could beg, borrow, or steal?

Habenaria monorrhiza - Plate 1, Flora Jamaica
Triphora surinamensis
Erythroxes plantaginea or hirtella - Plate 3 - Fl. Jam.
Brassavola cucullata - PHOTO
Isochilus linearis - Pl. 13 - Fl. Jam.
Scaphyglottis modesta
Elleanthus longibracteatus - Pl. 20 - Fl. Jam.
Stelis perpusilliflora, ophioglossoides, scabrata, or toepfferiana Pl. 7 - Fl. Jam.
Lepanthes tridentata, pulchella, or fulva
Brechtionidium sherringii - Fl. Jam. Pl. 17
Xylobium pallidiflorum or palmifolium - Fl. Jam. Pl. 23
Maxillaria inflexa, coccinea, or croceorubens
Leochilus labiatus - Fl. Jam. Pl. 30
Dichaea picta, muricata or hystricina

With the weather turning cooler it won't be long before thoughts of Florida start creeping into mind. Sure hope I can convince my family that we ought to head thataway sometime this winter.

Hope all is well with you.

Regards from all,

Walt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

September 2, 1953

Mr. Paul Allen
Director
Fairchild Tropical Gardens
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Paul:

Just a note to thank you for the reprint of your fine revision of the Swan orchids. It looks like an excellent piece of work.

Sometime ago when I was told of the death of Colonel Montgomery I was quite concerned as to the status of the Fairchild Gardens. I would feel very bad if I found out that things were not as rosey as they originally appeared. Recently Dr. Popence was over to the house and he gave a little of the background of what was happening. He seems to feel that things will work out in the long run. In any event I was glad to hear his assurance that he will always keep open a spot for you at the School in the event that this was necessary.

I hope that I can get to see you folks sometime this winter, if by chance I happen to be down at our Station.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Hodge

W. H. Hodge
Assistant Head of Division

WHH:mme

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

March 24, 1953

AIR MAIL

Mr. Paul Allen
Esquinas Experiment Station
Cia Bananara de Costa Rica
Palmar, Costa Rica

Dear Paul:

In looking over your letter of February 24 it appears that I have not acknowledged a question in the next to the last paragraph regarding the importation of propagation material of Heliconia. Since this problem is one in which Harold Winters only is concerned, I have taken the liberty of copying your statement and forwarding it to him to handle. You will probably hear from him in the future, although there may be some delay for I understand that he is taking a trip soon to some of the Tropical Gardens in the West Indian area. I should think that if you plan to start a collection of Heliconias at Coconut Grove that propagation material would be available from there in the future.

I hope plans and negotiations are proceeding as you would like them.

Best wishes from us all.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge
Economic Botanist
Specialty Crop Introductions

WHH:mme

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
GOLFITO DIVISION

Palmar
February 24, 1953

Dear Walt:

Well here I am, back at the old stand, patiently(?) grinding out manuscript, (mostly field keys) at the rate of 8-10 pages a day. Thus far I haven't heard boo from anyone, and in fact yours is the first letter I have received regarding the FTG since leaving Miami.

My stay was extremely stimulating, and I tremendously enjoyed my contacts with the Montgomerys and other members of the board whom I met. The grounds are larger, and considerably more elaborate than I had anticipated, and I only hope that we country mice can measure up to such lujo. After all, we will be moving to that from Palmar, a sleepy little Banana town in Central America!

My guess is that there may be last minute complications about the house. I have the horrors about Uncle Sammy's slice of income tax, since we haven't paid any since leaving RDC, and I asked for a residence as a sure, tax free portion of the salary. I think they must have considered such a possibility beforehand, since there was no question about it, other than where to scrape up the money. Mrs. Montgomery contacted a friend, President of Aloca, (Davis) who has offices in Miami, and we went to see him, and our impression was that he would back the project.

If we come up, it will probably be about June or even July, since this job seems to be endless. In many ways I would prefer to get my feet on the ground during the slack season, before things start to pop too loudly during the tourist season. We would have been somewhat better prepared for this sort of thing when we were in the MEG Station in Balboa, or at Summit, but I hope it will work itself out. I actually enjoy meeting and talking with people if I don't have something like the present job on the fire. Each time I start one of these monumental projects I swear I'll never do it again, but we probably will. Dottie has some good drawings done, mostly of trees which have never before been illustrated, so far as I can determine. The field keys as non-technical, so that presumably any 14 year old youngster who reads English should be able to key out obscure things in the Humiriaceae & Lacistemeae.

I won't have much time for many more field trips, but I have more or less promised to try to get Heliconias for the FTG. They seem to be under the impression that they can import divisions as well as seeds. My experience with seeds in Panama some years past is that they take 12-18 months to germinate. Divisions are much easier to get, and I could collect a duplicate set for Winters if there are no import restrictions. Should I have a set of shipping tags?

Dottie sez that IF we get the job, and IF we have a house, that the Ambassadors Suite is to be permanently reserved for the distinguished representatives of the Division of Plant Exploration & Introduction.

As ever,

Paul

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

February 20, 1953

AIR MAIL

Mr. Paul Allen
Cia. Bananera de Costa Rica,
Esquinas Experiment Station
Palmar, Costa Rica

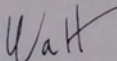
Dear Paul:

I certainly was disappointed not to have seen you during your recent visit to Coconut Grove but from all I heard at the Annual Meeting of the FTG you are the next Director. If true I certainly want to be one of the first to congratulate you. After having seen the Garden at this time of the year it looks to me as though I had missed a bit!

I am writing especially to pass on a request which Harold Winters, of the Mayaguez, Puerto Rico Station, gave me on my recent trip. He is very much interested in receiving seed of as many species of Heliconias as possible. They have *Heliconia latispatha* but no others insofar as I know. You probably have a few species growing around your neck-of-the-woods and if convenient, perhaps you would be willing to see that Winters receives some viable seed. If I can be of any help in getting this material to him, please let me know.

Best wishes to you and Dorothy from us both.

Yours sincerely,



W. H. Hodge
Economic Botanist
Specialty Crop Introductions

WHH:mme

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING
January 22, 1953

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Mr. Paul Allen
Cia Bananera de Costa Rica
Palmar, Costa Rica.

Dear Paul:

We certainly were pleased to hear that you are interested in the position at the Fairchild Garden and I presume that you have written Loomis to drop your hat in the ring.

I know you don't have to be told to present yourself with assurance plus, for that's what they want...someone who knows what he can do, and who can do it. And I would'nt be afraid of valuing your service high, and putting your conditions in at the start so there will be no misunderstandings. And get their agreements in writing! Its awfully hard sometimes to get people to later remember something they promised verbally!

Remember that Correll and I would be most happy to write in your behalf should you desire, though I judge you have others who can do so with more influence.

Loomis and I go to Puerto Rico (Mayaguez) Feb. 7th for a week so I will have a chance to hear how things are progressing then.

Best of luck! We have already accepted your invitation to visit you at the Garden some winter!!

Walt

* Put me on the list for any of your reprints. I hope also to see whether Dottie has any plates of Pan-Caribbean orchids, which I might be able to use when + if my Dominica Flora is published

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
GOLFIERO DIVISION

Palmar
January 16, 1953

Dear Walt:

Today's mail brought your intriguing letter, together with one from Don Correll, describing the possibility in Florida. Frankly it sounds wonderful, exactly the sort of thing I would like to do.

As you know, we are winding up our project here, and I am up to my eyes writing keys for my Rainforests of Golfo Dulce. We were to transfer to Honduras, but I would like to live somewhere that wasn't quite so isolated. After all, we've had nearly eighteen years in these countries now, and five of them here, with 165 inches of rain (270 inches at Esquinas) and we're beginning to feel like we've developed webbed feet.

The project sounds very much like what we had in Balboa years ago, and we both loved that. I have seen the Montgomery collection a number of years ago, and it was the finest in the U.S. at that time. My interests have always been in Palms and Orchids, and we have done a great deal of plant introduction work, which should be good experience. The next number of Ceiba has a squib, by coincidence, of two new species of Cycosophila, with a key to the Mexican & Central American species.

I will probably have to go up to Zamorana for a while to finish up some of the more difficult botanical keys, but we should be free by about April 1. I could sneak off for about a week however, if it were desirable, for an interview in Florida.

It would be wonderful to be close enough so that we could run up to see you oftener than we can from here, and you could plan to spend the worst parts of the winter with us. What fun, I'm afraid to even think about it for fear it won't pan out. All my life I've had only one ambition, to be Director of a Botanic Garden in the Tropics, where I could have a collection of Palms and Orchids. We have had just about that here, but nobody ever sees it. We have built this collection up from less than a hundred species to over seven hundred, with species brought in from Summit, Lancetilla, Soledad & the surrounding countryside. The Pan-American highway is supposed to go right through the place, but that is still in the far and indefinite future. Maybe all our efforts won't have been entirely in vain.

My only real worry is that we've been country mice so long that maybe we won't know how to act if we go to the big city. Anyway, we'll always appreciate your having put our name in the hat, even if we don't get it. We hope this finds all of you in your usual chipper spirits. Dottie is finishing up Chloronhora tinctoria, but joins me in our best.

As ever,

Paul

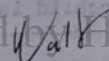
He is along in years, I think close to 80, but as sound as a dollar according to Loomis...and he seemed so to me. He has married a charming wife about half his years and she has a lively interest also in the Garden. With the setup I think that likely the Garden will continue on even after the old boy goes.

Had a chance to look over the place for a half day with Loomis and it really is one of the best kept tropical gardens I have seen. You probably know it yourself better than I.

I dunno what else I should or can say about all this. Anyway I'm serving merely as a sort of go-between since I suggested your name and since Loomis and Montgomery apparently have yet to have the pleasure of meeting you. They certainly KNOW of you and should you be interested I hope you can swing a good deal. Montgomery very possibly would like to talk with you in person in the event you are interested and in this regard it might not be hard to get him to fly you up for an interview at his expense.

Will be interested in hearing your opinion of this setup and in the event you are interested I suggest you first contact H.F. Loomis at Coconut Grove for his suggestions on proceeding further. But if not interested no matter just let me know and I'll so inform Loomis.

Hope this finds you both well. I judge you are cleaning up prior to moving over to Tela. All here join in sending our very best.

Digitized by the  Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

I myself have taken 35 rolls of Kodachrome already and is better as tho I could finish out the other rolls I have.

Yesterday got Trafton and Dunlap all pipped up about that Ha Barbara thing, which apparently is postponed till Spring and insisted they set a date so it coincide with my Spring holidays so I can go along! I promise you I'll be glad to do it. See whether you can help in this important scientific venture. To keep kicking the boys into following through!

These guys are quite the boys - we are all amazed at their capacity for highballs!
Well must run - all good wishes to Dottie and you. Next year keep a ^{new} open diary Palmar way. Dunlap, thanks I should see you often!
Saludos - Walt

VIA AIR MAIL

Great White Fleet La Lina,
UNITED FRUIT COMPANY

August 7th

Dear Paul,
Just a note to say "hello" and to state how sorry I was on hearing from Bob Armour and others of your recent visit and that it did not overlap our fine visit to Lanzetta. We have been treated royally (Duncan Clement is in jail, too) by all having been met at Cortes by Dunlapp, Trafton, and Lyndell and they have been escorting us all over place. Tomorrow we go to Lake Xhona, Wed to Embarano and on Sat. leave from Cortes. Tonight I hope to see some of Trafton's orchid Kodachromes of which he claims thousands.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CITA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
GOLFITO DIVISION

Palmar Sur
August 1, 1950

Dear Bobbie:

I have just returned from the office with your letter of July 28th.

and check for \$34.98. I've just written Walt a note today, explaining the

odd circumstances that got me to & from Honduras before his visit. It just

looks this time like nothing works out very well. First & foremost however,

many thanks for the check. I haven't been able to locate hide nor hair of

the film, either in any of our local postoffices or customs houses, nor in

San Jose, and your guess is as good as mine where it may have gotten to. In

spite of that though, I feel very bad about having put all of you to so much

trouble for nothing, at a time when you were up to your ears in getting Walt

off to Cuba. In the interval, I've worked out a round-about deal by which I

can more or less keep myself in film. I have to invent an excuse to go over

into Chiriqui Province in Panama, where the Fruit Company has another banana

Division. Very recently it has become possible to make the trip by rail, changing

cars at the mid-way point from our standard gauge to their narrow gauge track.

They don't have any film at Puerto Armuelles either, but they're willing to

radio their office in Panama City to send film up by the first available plane.

Customs inspection, which in nearly every Costa Rican port of entry, is rather

necessarily slack on the rail line, since whole trainloads of bananas roll by

nearly every day, and while they don't quite wave you by, the inspection is very

much of a once over lightly. I've managed to do it once, and when I run out I'm

gonna find it urgent to look at the Teak stands in the Armuelles Division again!

Early in July I received a more or less urgent message to report to La

Lima, Honduras, for conference with Dr. Dunlap, who is head of my department.

I already had my umpteen papers cleared for the junkie to Panama, which would have been out of date by the time I could return from Honduras, and since I was also sans film, I decided to go anyway. By the time I got back the local Manager of our own Division baled me in and asked me to set a definite date when I would leave for Honduras, just "any time soon, at your convenience, say, within two or three days!" He had the impression, partly rightly, that Dr. Dunlap was about to go on leave, and wanted to see me before he left. However, I found after getting to Honduras that I could, safely enough, have postponed my trip about a week and had a chance to at least say hello to Walt at Lencetilla. As it was, I spent three days at Lencetilla just one week before Walt was to arrive, and very regretfully took my leave for Costa Rica again. As I say, this just hasn't been our year.

If the film ever shows up here, it will be very, very welcome, and I'll refund you the money. I have seen a few gold figures in San Jose within the past two or three months, but they have all been large, and to my taste at least, rather grotesque.

The only things I've bought have been a few jade beads, and one stone figure about a foot high of a masked dancer, wearing pampipes hung about his neck on a cord, and a very short, feather skirt and plumed headdress. This last is about as good as I have ever seen, but it isn't gold. The Banco Nacional in San Jose has started buying gold figures, and have reputedly spent about \$300,000.00 on it thus far. Unfortunately and to my complete surprise, they're paying very good prices, averaging about \$5.00 U.S. per gram. I'm afraid that in consequence most of the desirable things will go to them. If I get over into Panama again, there is more to be had, and I'll see what I can do.

Very in July I received a more or less urgent message to report to La

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ATKINS GARDEN AND RESEARCH LABORATORY

July

APARTADO 251 414
(SOLEDAD) CIENFUEGOS, CUBA

Dear Paul,

Bobbie writes that she is
taking care of that plan ⁱⁿ ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~is~~
Hope it is fixed up by now.

How are your plans coming -
I'm hoping to see you when
we pull in at ^{Sancti Spiritus} ~~Sancti Spiritus~~
somewhere around 30th or so.

We have been busy showing
the boys around and it is
more like one continuous
fieldtrip - excursion than anything
else - but I think the fellows
are getting something out of the
informality. Saturday, and
Sunday, I have been
photographing like mad with

the new camera - guess I never
told you I wasn't too pleased with
the Kine II I got and so turned it
in on a new Swiss job - the ALPA
reflex which is a genuine
mechanism if there ever was one.

Some of its features are not as good
as the Kine but its workmanship
is far superior - it oughta to be because
it costs 270 - but I felt I
couldn't take a chance so took the
Kine. You can do anything the

Kine does plus split-image focusing
as well. One reason why I do not
want the telepto. If you know
anyone who wants it drum up
trade for I'll have it with me!

Well, sure hope I'll be able
to get to see you and all.

Best to you both

Walt.

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

July 28th, 1950

Dear Paul:

The check for the lost film came through so I am enclosing herewith a check for the full amount of \$34.98 which I understand to be the cost of the film (\$31 plus) plus the postage. If this isn't the amount that Walt received from you, you can fight it out with him later. I can't find all of his correspondence on it. If the film ever turns up I shall consider you honest enough to either buy a huaco with it or send it back!!

Tomorrow Walt sails from Cuba for Honduras with a good month of work in Cuba in back of them all. I think from what he has written that he has enjoyed it no end and is of course looking forward to this part of it. As for me, I am not down to a nub yet but give me time! I don't especially like living this way, I might say, with three small hellions, 2 lambs that insist on getting away, and the big garden that insists on producing cannable stuff! The freezer is 2/3 full so I guess we'll eat come hell or high water - which does seem to be coming. Isn't it awful?

My best love to Dottie, and I wish I were lolling with her right now with a black nursemaid chasing the children and Susa preparing supper. Ho hum.

Affectionately,

Babbi

Enc.

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

June 28, 1950

Dear Dottie and Paul:

Yessiree, I am now Mr. and Mrs. Hodge, nursemaid, housekeeper, gardener, secretary, lamb husbandrywoman, food technologist, etc.etc., and believe it or not, after a week of it I think I prefer to be just plain Mrs. Hodge! However, be that as it may, I shall probably live, and shall probably do the same thing of other summers to come in the future, darn it! Yes, it was pretty exoruciating to see that old Lunk sail off into the briny deep with his eight handsome escorts, all señora-less! Terrible and cruel and brow-beating, I calls it! I drove him down in the new Plymouth suburban, (which he left me as a sort of consolation prize!), taking Chris, Bobby Comings, our neighbor-farm boy of 14, and two of my gal friends. They all had a whirl, and we took the kids to the zoo, Nat. Hist. Museum, subways, 5th Ave. busses, automat, Radio City roof, etc., and they had their mouths open the whole time! Chris wanted most of all to catch and bring home a piggon! Guess that proves he is to be an ornithologist, no? He spent all of his spare minutes waiting for busses trying to catch them, much to the amusement of the blagé New Yorkers!

Well, anyway, to film: fortunately we discovered that the "loss" is covered by our insurance, so you will be receiving a check for same in the amount of \$34.98, which is what we claimed for the film cost and the postage. Is this the amount you sent? If it should ever turn up just send back the money, and everyone will be more or less happy. It's a darn shame but just so is Life. I am afraid it was sent air mail unregistered and uninsured, so you can judge for yourself whether it will ever arrive. We are most sorry to have caused you all this worry and time a-hunting because of an oversight on someone's part.

Sure wish you guys could pop in on me and brighten my life, though I have plenty of company to keep me happy. I just suddenly realized that maybe you wouldn't read into all this the smile on my face, for I don't mean to sound that I am complaining!!! just bantering! However, needless to say I like you guys and could stand having Dottie as a pal any day of the year, darn it!

Most affectionately,

Babbie

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

June 19, 1950

Dear Paul,

Yesterday I was in Worcester and asked B's dad whether he had the slip of insurance or registry for your airmail package. What was our combined shock to learn that he had NOT remembered to register the film. I can well imagine that some slick Costa Riquenan has made a good haul. Needless to say we are heartstuck about this but shall send either another batch of film (this time properly insured) or return the amount of your check whichever you advise. Let Bobbie know for your request will not arrive before I leave on Friday.

As to the lens I shall see what I can do on a swap for a wideangle in New York. Glad to hear Lou Williams put in a word for you; I doubt if this has been overdone for you realize I have not said a word (much as I have wanted to) but have followed Mangelsdorf's advise to the letter. I still hope you can sort of wangle an invite (formal) from the Fruit Co. for the Cerro trip for if such a thing originated from THEM it would be hard for me to refuse!

Saludos,

W.H.

*P.S. / I am hoping (half hearted by) to perhaps
get reimbursement for their loss thru
my camera insurance aged if so / shall
claim film up to amount of it will
be a word some statement from you - 1/11/50*

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
PALMAR SUR, COSTA RICA

June 15, 1950

Dear Bobbie, Chris, Peter & Wendy:

We understand that you-all are holding the fort while Daddy plays nursemaid to the gang of young laddies on their first junket to the Tropics. We think Harvard has made an excellent choice of their guide, and we will be looking forward to hearing all about it, and seeing the results in pitchers. Both Soledad and Lancetilla should provide some wonderful material, and we only think it a shame that some way couldn't have been wangled so that all of you could have gone along. I understand its to be Mexico next year, which will be probably even more spectacular, what with the facilities of your new car. I wish WE could have a car again, and go to Mexico, but I suppose you can't have everything.

Re the long lost film. If it was sent via regular mail, unregistered, it will take anywhere from a month to two months to show up here, and in the interval there simply isn't anything to do but wait it out. Our mails are quite bad here, and parcel post shipments particularly so. It isn't so much that they just plain steal the stuff as it is that they havn't a snippet of responsibility about what they do with the packages. They will arrive in San Jose, and the Customs may, or may not notify you that any such shipment has arrived. Or they may suddenly decide to send it to Golfito, the Customs there being equally secretive about the arrival. Or they may send it to Piedras Blancas, and months later a servant or my motorboy will find it by pure chance when winnowing through the piles of unreceived mail. The only SURE way is by registefed mail, since they have to get a signature on that. From past experience I'm pretty sure we'll get

this stuff eventually. I don't think there is any point in sending any more film, and of course it isn't in any way your fault because no-one on earth who hadn't lived in Costa Rica could believe that a presumably modern postal service could be so poor. I still have some Kodachrome given me by a friend who had decided to resign & return to Canada, and if I run short I can get more in Panama when I go there in the near future. This first shipment will appear out of no-where here some day, and will be very welcome when we get it.

It has rained, and rained, and rained here lately, and we've just about developed webbed feet. Just one or two sunny days now would provide a very welcome break. Everything has that clammy, damp feel, even clothes and bedding. I think next time we're gonna pick a place on the desert coast of Peru, since we always seem to go from one extreme to another. As compensation however, we are having a beautiful show on our vine of Passiflora vitifolia which we brought in from the woods last year, with huge scarlet and snow white flowers every day or two. We have put up a new feeding tray for the birds, and quite a few already visit it from early morning til night for the bananas we put there. One Tanager is particularly handsome, being jet black excepting for an ivory white-bill and brilliant blood red back. We're hoping to get pictures of some of 'em when they get a little tamer.

Dottie is taking a siesta, but will want to join me in our best,

as ever,

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
PALMAR SUR, COSTA RICA

June 12, 1950

Dear Walt:

I have delayed writing in hopes that I would have some further word on either the Honduras junket or the film, but nothing has come through on either. I did have a note from Lou Williams saying he had put in his two cents worth (he didn't say with whom) for me to join you at Lancetilla. Maybe the trouble is that so many have been recommending just that, that the powers have become suspicious of the whole deal.

Re the film. Can you find out whether it was sent by regular, or air mail, and whether it was registered or not? I have haunted the local Posts and Customs, but they swear not to have seen it.

Although it is a great bargain, I just don't feel quite that flush these days to buy a telephoto lens, since I wouldn't use it that often. If however, you want to swap it in the States for a wideangle lens for my Exakta, I would take that at the regular going price (approx. \$80.00). If I manage to sell that gold collection (asking price \$1500.00) I will be flush, but right now I'm still broke from our last vacation.

As ever,

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
PALMAR SUR, COSTA RICA

May 30, 1950

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for your kind efforts on the film. My check is enclosed to cover. I haven't actually received the stuff yet, but the mails of our'n are notoriously slow. I'll let you know later about lenses.

Regards, as ever,

Walter Herricks Dodge

BEARN HALL MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

May 29, 1950

Dear Paul:

Your letter of the 23rd received and glad you finally caught up with my news. As you say, our plans may come out in the wash all ok. Since last writing you Hugh Raup (Harvard Forest Director) gave me a letter outlining the group's possible itinerary in Honduras; he doesn't really know except he judges it will be the same trip given him last winter. He believes we go from Barrios to Cortes; thence from track car to Lancetilla where Armour will probably take charge. Trips will probably be to San Alejo then after finishing at Lancetilla on to La Lima where he mentions that Dunlap, Trafton, Linderlie, and Spence will see us most. Then a trip from Lima to Portrerillos, to the Amapa tract, and to Lake Yojoa. Keep this all under your hat for I suppose we aren't supposed to know what's what yet, but it may help in making your plans and you can perhaps sometime make some offhand remark that a friend of yours will be in those parts with this Harvard group in August; that might open something up!

I don't expect to shoot 50 rolls of color (in fact it is down to 40 now) but I never want to get caught short. Besides I don't buy any film in-between foreign trips and I have used one roll of my own since last in the tropics... but I have been saving up shekles for this. I hope on our one (or two) free day(s) a week at Soledad to do as much photographing as possible; and if I can get just one full day of it at Lancetilla I should be satisfied. maybe.

Is'nt it worth while for me to bring you ^{film or camera} stuff anyway to Honduras? Can't I leave equipment in your name with trustworthy people until such a time as you can pick them up?? I've about decided that you can have my pre-war Kine telefoto if you want at \$60. (It cost me \$100. and you know its condition, like new). You see I'm down to the bottom trying to round up ^{cash} currency for film! I'm even going to sell my 4x5 Super D Graflex ^{cheaply} for the cash, for I don't use that job often enough.

Glad to hear you got a good set on Coryanthes (hope you have a dup or two!) and hope Dillon will do something, though he told me he would take nothing but 4x5" color (I sold him one of Cyrtopodium pubescens in that size). If the pictures are really as good as you claim and you have at least six in a series I can possibly get you (if they are accepted) around \$75. for their use, through my agent in England (the only place accepting 35mm these days). If you had only some good black & whites too in a series I might be able to market prints at \$5. each, if we could get a jazzed-up account to go with them. But then you have a million things you could take down there and I oughta be your agent! Any kodachromes you send around should be taken in duplicate just so's you can have a spare set in case of a loss, otherwise you are taking chances, like me.

by a cheap
\$25.!

he takes
50%
then
gets
\$150.
at
time!

as a matter of fact
I have 3 colorful Cyrtopodium acule
showing pollination which might
jack up the number so's to be
acceptable as a spread
somewhere.

Almost forgot, re the gold figure, thanks for again giving us first call but as you can see we would be in no position to invest for quite a few months; knowing you will find others when I'm more flush.

P.S. - I never paid out 2500. for any vacation junket - in fact I never saw that much money. Our station wagon only nets us back \$700. (plus our car) and it'll serve for a Mexican, unless they foul some down - so there.

Best as always,

Walt

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P.S. Hope that film has arrived by now.

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

May 25, 1950

Dear Paul,

Just a quickie to state your bill has
been reported to me as \$32.55 plus postage \$2.43,
making total of \$34.98. I hope the film has arrived
safely, if late.

Regards,

Walt

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION

CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA

GOLFITO DIVISION

Palmar Sur
May 23, 1950

Dear Walter:

Glad to have your good letter, even though our plans seem to have hit a snag. To tell you the truth, I suppose I'm going to Honduras in August, but thus far I haven't heard boo from anyone there. We talked the project over when I was last there, that is, Mark Trafton & I did, but since Dr. Dumlap was absent in Ecuador no actual date was set for my coming. As I understand it, Dr. Dumlap has returned, but now Trafton is away in the U.S. on vacation. I don't kind of like to write direct to Dr. Dumlap, since Trafton may, or may not have mentioned it to him before he left. Worry, worry. Anyway, I'll let you know about developments. We still have a couple of months, and lots can happen in that time.

I don't know whether you will be able to shoot 50 rolls of Kodachrome on the junket or not, but it's nice to even KNOW anyone who can afford to do it. The collection at Iancetilla is very rich in tropical fruits and economic plants in general, and August should be a good month. When're you going to find time to do all this with eight students hanging on your arm?

Just in passing, congratulations on the excellent writeup on the *Vicuña* which just came with today's mail in Natural History. Your photographs are excellent, as always, as is the account.

You won't need a Guatemalan ~~pk~~ visa, unless you decide to go up into the interior. Puerto Barrios is a hole, worse than Buenaventura by far, and a pretty rough introduction for tourists to a beautiful country. My guess is that the Company will send a launch to pick you up and take you over to either Cortes or Tela, or that they'll dock for a few hours in Barrios and then go over with the Talamanca to pick up fruit, as we did. I don't think they ever know more than a few hours in advance whether they are to go to Honduras from Barrios or not, since it depends on whether they have enough bananas there to make it worth while. With the present strike on in Guatemala, (which I hope will be all a thing of the past in August) they might even bypass Barrios and head direct for Puerto Cortes. If you go by launch, it is reported to be a rough trip, so take your seasick pills.

I haven't received the rolls of Kodachrome yet, but they'll be very welcome when received. Fortunately I did locate a roll here in the country, and have a wonderful series in color on the pollination of *Cowvanthes speciosa* by *Euglossa cordata*. I wrote up a squib, and sent it to the Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. the other day, and am wondering if they'll take it. The whole thing is a much more wonderful process than earlier reports would have lead one to believe, but unless you happen to be within inches of the flower, and have your eye right on it, you will miss the entire point of the contrivance. I'm hoping Dillon will consider using one of my 35mm. slides as a frontispiece in color, but I suppose that honor will, as usual, go to some Damned hybrid.

I have recently spent three days in San Jose and while there picked up a quite nice gold figure that I thought you might possibly want

1930

for Bobby. It is small, but quite good, being a human figure with an elaborate headdress, and slender gold rods held in each hand. It measures 1 1/4" high by 3/4" wide, and is of good quality gold. I haven't had time to photograph it yet, but will do so in the near future and send you a colored slide. The only catch to the thing is that it was relatively expensive, but small figures suitable for use as jewelry always are. Anyway, I'll send you a picture of it, and you can see what you think. If you decide against it it's all right, since I have promised several others to get something of the sort.

As soon as you get the bill on the Kodachrome please let me know and I'll send you a check. Whether I get any extra lenses will depend on whether we can meet in Honduras or not, since that would be my only way of getting it in here without paying an astronomical duty. I'll let you know as soon as things clear up a bit. Meanwhile many thanks for your kind help on the film. I'm out, and the local dealers aren't importing any more due to the high taxes.

I note you say you're broke, or expect to be. I don't wonder, since our recent vacation junket set us back about \$2500.00, and we weren't buying any beach wagons! If you decide you want the Buaca I'll hold it for you, or send it to you and you can pay me when you have the money, just as you choose.

We've got 12 coming in for dinner tonight, and I've promised to be mommas little helper, so this'll be all.

As ever,

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You won't need a Guatemala map, unless you decide to go up into the interior. Part of the route is a hole, where the Guatemalans have had a pretty rough introduction for tourists to beautiful country. If you go up that the company will have to pick you up in a few hours in Guatemala and either Guatemal or Toluca, or that they'll pick you up in Guatemala and then go over with the Guatemalans to pick you up in Guatemala. I don't think they ever know more than a few hours in advance whether they are to go to Honduras for Guatemal or not, since it depends on whether they have enough business there to make it worth while. With the present state of in Guatemala (which I hope will be all a thing of the past in Guatemal) they might even be passing Guatemal and head direct for Puerto Guatemal. If you go to Guatemal, it is reported to be a young trap, so take your searchlight.

I haven't received the roll of Kodachrome yet, but they'll be very welcome when received. Fortunately I did locate a roll here in the country, and have written in color on the possibilities of Guatemal. I wrote up a paper, and am wondering if they'll take it. The Guatemal roll, the other day, and am wondering if they'll take it. The Guatemal roll is a much more wonderful process than earlier reports would have led one to believe, but unless you happen to be within inches of the flower, and have your eye right on it, you will miss the entire point of the Guatemal. I'm hoping Miller will consider making one of us Guatemal, since as a Guatemal in color, but I suppose that honor will go to some Guatemal.

I have recently spent time here in Guatemala and will there pick up a paper and give you some Guatemal. I thought you might possibly want

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

May 20, 1950

Dear Paul,

Have been waiting and waiting for the travel itinerary from Mangelsdorf and at long last was called down to Cambridge to meet the group of eight fellows and to get the latest instructions. As far as our fancy little plan is concerned they are bad, darn it.

Apparently United Fruit has a standard and well thought out trip planned for visiting firemen like ourselves and so once in Honduras ~~we~~ we are entirely in their hands to do what they will... in other words even yours truly is to follow like a little lamb. Mangelsdorf has been given the works, and thinks very highly of it and from what he says they really do things up brown so who am I to protest. The only thing I want to fit in, myself, is a couple days of photographing at the gardens and if I must forego a sidetrip for this I shall, letting the group go with the hosts. So there is that side of the matter.

(at Lancetilla)

I also broached the idea of Cerro Sta. Barbara and altho Mangelsdorf said he thought something might be arranged to permit me to stay on after the group left I could see that he doesn't exactly like the group being home alone. It seems there ought to be some supervision until they disband at New York City. His reasons for this are that we are guests of the fruit company and anything which might cause extra trouble for them...like planning special passages, should be frowned on. Rather than jeopardize myself I feel that I will better turn down this fascinating project to be with you and hope such may be worked out another year maybe. Gosh I hate to think of not doing this when so close and all, but I think you can see my position. Such is life, but I am thankful for this grand opportunity anyway.

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So the only hope is that you can perhaps arrange to be at Lancetilla during the tenday period when we are to be in and out of the place. See if you can't plan it and who knows maybe if you dropped some hints around maybe they would have you on hand as one of the numerous guides. Our itinerary is this: - July 28, leave Habana on SS Talamancas arriving Barrios (Guat) on July 30 (the Fruit Co. has not yet informed us how they will get us over to Honduras) and from then on to August 12th we shall be United Fruit guests in and about Lancetilla. We arrive back in NYC on August 16th.

I wonder if we need a Guatemalan visa?

Bobbie's Dad writes that he shipped off your film via airmail a couple days ago. He asked for tropical packing, darn him, which delayed the film since it had to be ordered from Eastman; have'nt gotten the bill yet so I don't know what it came to. If I can afford it I shall take along 50 rolls of kodachrome which I can get maybe at a slight discount so if I have any extra in Honduras and you make it right, you can maybe take off my hands any I don't need. Remember, too I shall be definitely interested in selling my cameras at sailing date

*in your hands
in Honduras*

so I would appreciate you whispering that around. Both jobs will be practically brand new. Incidentally the new Kine has given me excellent results with the two or three rolls I have put through it. Any other junk you want me to bring I shall attempt..how about Guatemala and Honduras customs on such things as films, etc.?

Let me know what you want before June 23rd on which date we sail from NYC. And if you want a lens or costly items I fear I'll have to ask you for a check my boy, for I fear what with arranging for passage, seeing that the home stays out of foreclosure and the like I will be about broke! And especially since we are turning in the Chevie for a new Plymouth Suburban (beach wagon-like) job shortly.

Well, gotta run. The best from us all despite this disappointing news! Say hello to that nice wife too.

Walt

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Handwritten note in the bottom right corner, possibly a date or reference.

WALTER HENRICKS HODGE

FLAT HILLS ROAD, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

April 28th

Dear Paul,

A note to state that yours of the 10th was received and I immediately sent in an order for some tropic-packed kodachrome to be sent you by air mail direct. You didn't specify so I ordered 36 exposure rolls so you'd really be in debt. No bill received yet.

Was glad to now hear you find your camera useful! Be it known that I went down to New York last week..the 19th and bought me a new Kine II just like yours so I hope it serves me as well. Russ Seibert overnighted with us enroute from Boston to Washington & then drove B. and I down to the big city for a visit and for me to get the camera. Mine seems to be OK though I am without kodachrome trial yet but have run a couple of rolls through it.

I hope your trouble with the lens will larn you to keep a record of your lens numbers so you won't get them swithted again in the future. Here with some prices on Kine lenses from the last issue of the NY TIMES. Will be glad to pick any said equipment up for you of course. The telefoto(6") like mine now sells for about \$70. tho I note a Wollensak job for \$49.50. Actually I would get the fastest telefoto you can afford for you should take most exposures at at least 1/100; if your lens is like mine, f.5.5, you can't always shoot except on tripod. An f.4 or f.4.5 would be better. A wideangle is \$80. for Kine. I don't have recent quotations on lenses for your

KINE EXAKTA LENSES

- 40mm f4.5 Hugo Meyer Helioplan Wide-Angle, full coverage, brilliant image. Brand-new \$79.50
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- 3 1/2" f1.5 Meyer Kine Flamat, used \$154.50
- 6" f4.5 Bell & Howell Eymax ctd new \$94.50
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On time, pay as little as 10% down!

Stirling-Howard

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II

Single Lens Reflex
35mm Camera

Here is a camera recognized as the very finest in the single lens reflex field. PRUELLER'S brings it to you at these remarkably low prices in time for saving and summer picture-taking.

With f3.5 "T" Coated Zeiss Tessar Lens

118.00

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169.50

Broad New 101mm f4.5 Coated Wollensak Telephoto for Kine Exakta, Reg. \$29.50

49.50

Stirling-Howard

Speed Grafic but in last year's catalog they run from \$75.- \$100.
(Optar or Ektar, f.4.5 or f.3.7 in syncro shutters). This is probably
about correct.

in San José
Incidentally you might let it be known around among your camera-
minded friends that I shall be available in Honduras (and maybe you
would carry them if necessary to C.R.) this summer with two practically
new cameras which I will consider disposing. If I can get what I paid
for them I will sell them and then not bother carrying them back, when
I can get me new ones, you see. They will be, and are, in Al shape and
will consist of a late model Automatic Rolleiflex with f.3.5 otd. Xenar
at \$235. and the Kine Exackta II at \$125. with case. Should anyone be
interested I would also bring along my Super D 4x6 Graflex with autom.
diaphragm at \$235. and an Ampro 35mm, 300W projector at \$50. All these
are in practically new condition, being less than a year old as you know.

Speaking of hammocks are those Army jungle hammocks big enuf for a
guy like me? Perhaps I could use one of these in Cuba instead of ask-
ing for one of yours. In case I need one of your big ones it would have
to be sent soon I suppose; ~~that~~ would be used under a roof.

Wrote Mangelsdorf for his view on my going off with you to the Cerro
and also asking whether he or I should write Dunlap re- your get-
together at Lancetilla; no word yet but I'm hopeful.

Thanks for the shot of the huacas; looks to me as though you picked
up another frog which appears like a worthwhile piece. Bobbie said she
saw a whizzero collection of frogs, etc. at the Am. Museum of Natural
History when she was in New York visiting her Ecuadorean rug lady who
is contacting people in the big city. What do you suppose she brought
me???.. a tsantsa, or Jivaro shrunken head!

Well man must run off now. Will write when I get more pertinent
news. Best from us all to you all.

Saludos..

Uset

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
GOLFITO DIVISION

Palmar Sur
April 10, 1950

Dear Walt:

Your good, long letter has just been received, and I'll try to answer questions while things are still fresh in my little mind. First off, I think my Exakta is wonderful, and I'm not in the slightest disappointed in it, as I apparently somehow gave you such an impression in my last letter. It is just that I do notice some little quirks about it that aren't exactly like my old Kodak 35, and proper allowance must be made for 'em. My closeups, taken with or without extension tubes and flood lights are exactly what I have been trying to do all these long years. How can anyone be so stupid, particularly since you showed me your rig about six years ago? I suppose better late than never, but I feel like I have to take everything I see now, since my former attempts at close shots were pretty miserable. It's all fun, but a little hard on the pocketbook.

Sorry to hear that you had bad luck with the pictures of the Huacas. My closeups were punk, but I did get one general shot in black & white showing the stuff bought in Lowell. A print is enclosed. The eagle and frogs in this you have already seen.

While we're on the subject of cameras, I would appreciate hearing prices on several items, which I might ask you to buy and bring with you to Honduras, if our little plan works out. They are, a wide angle lens for the Exakta, and a telephoto for the same, and a new lens for my $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ Speed Graphic. Some of this is just curiosity, but if prices aren't too far out of line I might buy one or more. If I decide to do anything, I'll send you a dollar check. In spite of what you say, I find many situations in the sort of pictures I TRY to take that would be considerably helped by a wide angle lens. Same goes for telephoto. I'm always wanting to take a boy gathering specimens for me in the top of some tree, like a lad festooned in a gorgeous golden yellow Bignoniaceous liana last week, or I get my little self all jammed into a corner where I can only get about a third of what I want to take. Then last, but not least, I've definitely decided that someone switched lenses on me last year in Panama on my Speed Graphic, and my present lens consistently takes pictures that look like they had been done through six feet of muddy water. I'm going to have one final try with a repair man in San Jose, but failing that, a new lens seems to be indicated.

My Coryanthes shots taken in the field at Amapa in Honduras are fair, but not good enough. I brought along a snippet of the plant, and it this very minute has four big fat buds on it, which, pray God, will open. I think they are absolutely without any doubt, the last gasp in the Orchidaceae. They are so far away from anything else in the general evolutionary scale that I haven't the remotest idea how they got that way. The mechanism is intricate in the extreme, and makes things like Catasetum look idiotically simple. This time, if the flowers open, and if the little green bees that live under our ironing board decide to cooperate, I'll try for more, and I sincerely hope, better pictures. As for $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ Kodachrome, my friend, remember where I am. NO HAY. What's more NO HAY 35 mm. either. I don't know what I'm gonna do when my present two rolls are gone. Or rather, WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND me 1 dozen $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ Kodachrome & 4 rolls of 35mm. TYPE A, by AIR MAIL, & let me know how much & I'll send you a check. If it comes air snail, it comes in without trouble, duty free, but anyother way I would probably never see it.

Lancetilla is GOOD, and August will assure your seeing things like the Mangos, Mangosteens, Durians, probably a few Rambutans, Nutmegs etc. etc. Their collection is about the most complete that I have ever seen, that is, for tropical fruits, and the adjacent forest and timberwood blocks are well worth while. Your students will have a chance to see lowland broadleaf forest of both evergreen and deciduous types, the pine & oak zone, and the cloud caps of Podocarpus, Persea, tree ferns etc. if they want too. (Not all from Lancetilla, but easily accessible in Honduras) If you write Dunlap, tell him exactly what you've told me, that you want to give 'em as complete a cross section of the tropics as possible, and that you think that the two of us could work well together. I won't guarantee to name any and everything for you on sight, 'cause Honduras is a little strange ground to me still, but I WILL bring along colored slides, if you say so, and we'll show 'em the things days, and pitchers of 'em nights, until they say Uncle! They do have electricity at Lancetilla, 60 cycle, 110 volt, and I have used floodlights there several times. That, by the way, is a very, very easy way to photograph things, and you can do 40-50 species in a day by setting up your rig and feeding collected specimens through it.

I have visited one of the Carib villages near Tela (there are two) and agree that a few hours spent there would be worth while. The place I went to is about an hours walk along the beach, and is set in a wonderful nature grove of coconuts, which, together with fishing seem to provide a living for most of the people. The people are black as a shoe button, but speak an outlandish gibberish known locally as OOGLY-BOO, live in rather small & simple, but quite distinctive thatch houses, cultivate bitter yuca, which they process with a regular south-american type grating board and woven expandible cylinder etc.

If you are game for Cerro Santa Barbara, I can supply jungle hammocks (3) rubber bags, plant presses, etc. We would need a couple of tent flies, but they can be had in Honduras. I also have about 4 other, larger hammocks, some with skeeter bars, but they have to be used in some sort of shelter.

After wading through all of the above misspelled words, overstrikes etc. you are probably ready to go back to one of my famous holograph communications. Hope all our brainstormers work out. Dottie joins me in our best to yourself, Bobbie & the small fry.

As ever,

Walter Henricks Hodge

CLARK HALL, MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

April 2, 1950

Dear Paul,

Many thanks for the letter, enclosures, etc. I was especially glad to get them for I must know decide quickly on getting a camera for the summer. Mangelsdorf just gave me the go-ahead signal which I had been waiting for so that means everything is now definite... except the dates. First regarding your camera:-

It seems to be OK from the results. It may well be that the angle is not as wide as your Kodak 35mm but it certainly is the standard for most 35mm cameras such as the Leica, Contax, etc. which is 50mm. A wideangle lens for the Exakta is 40mm but except for its use in architectural pictures I have not found it of wide enough use hence the reason I sold mine. Secondly I am surprised that you have gotten away with a 1/50 second exposure in stopping motion of the type you describe. An exposure of 1/100 s. is usually prescribed and most frequently used and I don't think you should take a chance on 1/50. Of course it makes a great deal of difference in whether your motion is proceeding towards the camera or at right angles to the camera axis. You will certainly find that you must be critical in focusing but the magnifier I find to be pretty good for this. Split-image focusing is more exact but when you consider the other features of the Exakta one cannot ask for everything. Incidentally this day's NY TIMES announces a new model V at approximately \$200. with built in flash for speed light. I'll have to get one of the Model IIs before they disappear off the market!

I assume you want your sample kodachromes back so here they are. I am interested in your shot of Coryanthes speciosa and would like to get one sometime for isn't this the fancy "bath" orchid which gives its insect visitors a bath? There appear to be some flies on your shot and I am wondering whether you have ever observed actual pollination in this species. You should take one of these closer and if you could get a good series showing several steps in the pollination I bet you could sell it for a good price...in fact if you get such a set on 2 1/2 x 3 1/4 (3-4 photos) kodachrome and I'll take it on as an agent! But I'd like a 35mm for class if I could. Some of those orchids at Gray Summit indicate that I ought to spend more time there.

Was interested to see that Walsy (Walsingham) is still at Soledad. Back in 1940 I spent a month there and had a great time with him. Your remarks on the garden and particularly Lancetilla were much appreciated. Am particularly glad to learn of the good collection of tropical fruits at the Honduraa station. Do you think there will be a goodly batch fruiting in August for photography? Also would they have a setup so that I would not have to depend on sun? I'd like to use photofloods or some similar setup to save time since it may be limited and who knows how the rains will be? Also do you know anything of so-called Carib villages near Lancetilla?

110 v. current?

If present they might be worth visiting to give the class a little work on ethnobotanical techniques, etc. I presume that Lancetilla offers excellent rainforest ~~island~~ unlike Soledad. I want to give the group as many different views of different types of tropical vegetation as possible. Incidentally if you have any bright ideas on what I could feed this group I would appreciate them. Don't take me literally as regards the "feeding". I am supposed to scouse them in the tropics and I am trying to think back over my past to remember what I would have liked to have been given on such a trip. You probably have some very ~~valuable~~ valuable ideas on this.

Your suggestion of meeting at Lancetilla sounds excellent and even better is the idea of a breather in the field on your Cerro Sta. Barbara. May I suggest that if possible hold off on any definite dates until I find out the actual period of this summer course from Mangelsdorf. I believe it will start no later than July 1 which would mean that we would be in Honduras in early August, probably the first weeks but even this is not set yet. As soon as I can find out I shall see what Mangelsdorf says about me abandoning the group at Lancetilla...after getting them aboard ship for home. I would have to depend upon you or the fruit company for collecting equipment but I suppose you have them. Do you suppose the company would also take care of my travel from Lancetilla to the Cerro and back?

As soon as I learn of the dates for the course I shall plan to write Dr. Dunlap in regard to "having you" as official botanist aide at Lancetilla...if you are willing. It would make it easier in handling the group especially since you are more familiar with the place there than I. I presume the most important thing there besides the garden will be to see the numerous economic workings, plantings, etc. of the Fruit Company, but as already stated above I should like the group to see all the types of vegetation possible and especially any not available in drier Cuba.

Thanks for the offer of a hammock; I will let you know later if I can take you up on this.

The reason why you have't heard in regard to my kodachromes of the gold huacas is because I had an awful run of bad luck on them. The 35mm are OK, thank goodness, but like a dope I took only one 4x5 and though perfectly exposed the camera was apparently vibrating at exposure and the thing is terribly blurred. In fact I had to throw it away. I took two also in 2 1/2x3 1/4 and sent one to my agents who never received it which left me with one, a poorer individual which I sent to Selecciones but it was returned. A better transparency might have met with better luck. Guess you'll have to repeat that shot for me! Shall be interested to see the pictures of the stuff you got in Lowell though ~~as~~ you say it is not perfect.

This week begins one of Easter vacation and I have an awful pile of stuff to accomplish what with back writing, course plans for the summer, etc... to say nothing of finishing painting the barn, Spring day dreaming, spanking babies, etc.

Keep me posted even if in that handwriting. The best from all to you both and here's hoping everything works out to our mutual benefit.

Best always, Walt

ESQUINAS EXPERIMENT STATION
CIA. BANANERA de COSTA RICA
GOLFITO DIVISION

March 25, 1950

Dear Walt:

You have probably been wondering why I've been so ungodly long in answering your good letter of about a month past, but I have been awaiting the arrival of my batch of Kodachromes taken with the new Exacta so as to give you some sort of report, plus samples. First & foremost, I took the camera to a repair man in St. Louis, who assured me that the lens & shutter were both all right, and that both were pre-war. I don't know if such is actually the case or not, but the important thing isn't so much the date of manufacture as the results obtained. Of the total lot of pictures taken, about 90% are good enough to be kept, but I have noticed certain peculiarities in the beastie. The field of vision is definately much narrower than in my Kodak 35, which means that a wide-angle lens would often be very handy. Then also, I find that focusing is apparently very critical, so that the magnifier must be used almost constantly on distances less than infinity. Then too, I found that for some reason or another, I can't seem to stop ordinary slow motion in people at 1/50 as I could with the Kodak 35, but must apparently speed up to 1/100. Samples of what I mean are enclased. However, in spite of all of the above, the thing for which I mostly wanted the Exacta, that is, the taking of closeups, has proven a 100% success. Particularly in the case of individual flowers, taken indoors with or without extension tubes, and with flood lights at long time exposures stopped down to f/22. All of these are absolutely clear and very nearly perfect color. I think I have noticed in outdoor shots of general scenery that in using a polaroid screen that I am slightly overexposing in taking my basic light reading at Weston 3. I think in the future rolls that I'll try these at Weston 4 and try to darken the sky and pep up the clouds a little.

So much for the camera. We are delighted to hear of your summer plans for Cuba and Honduras. As you know, we spent about a week at Soledad before going on to Lanсетilla, so we can give you some comparative impressions of both places. Soledad is an open, slightly undulating land, in a quite dry situation. They have about 200 acres in the plot, but only some 45 are in the older portion with mature specimens. In this portion they have the Palms and Bamboos, as well as many other miscellaneous things. The collection is very large, something over 2000 species, and is very rich in certain special groups. There are, for example, over 200 species of Palms, about 75 species of Bamboos, I would guess over 50 species of Ficus, and many, many Legumes and Rubiaceae. They are weak in timberwoods and tropical fruits, the latter, in fact, being almost entirely lacking. They have hundreds of wonderful ornamental things that you'll have a field day photographing. Lanсетilla, in contrast, is in a little wet, forested valley, with high hills on both sides and a nice little river running nearby. The collection is much smaller, (about 750 species) but with emphasis on tropical fruits (of which they have far & away the most complete representation I have ever seen) and timberwoods. They are weak in Palms, and ornamentals in general. If you see both places you will get a cross section of the best that is cultivated in the hot lowlands, both introduced and native. If you want to see a really superb collection of orchids you would have to visit C.H. Lankester's place near Cartago, in Costa Rica, but perhaps that can come another year.

Just in passing, I have a deal on with Mark Trafton, Asst. Director of the Fruit Co. Research Dept. in La Lima to come up in August and spend about a week collecting the summit of Cerro Santa Barbara, a 9000 ft. limestone mountain up near Lake Yojoa. I also hope at the same time to spend a few days at Lancetilla, photographing fruit specimens, and gathering seeds and plants. Maybe your idea of asking that I meet you in Lancetilla might give us a few days together. Would you be interested in this Santa Barbara junket? If you were to write Dr. Dunlap, Director of the Research asking that I meet you in Lancetilla, it should, I think, about clinch the whole deal, since I was more or less supposed to come up anyway.

As to your inquiry about long hammocks. None are made in Costa Rica, and I don't have any very good contacts to get any from Nicaragua. I do, however, have a couple of the long Brazilian ones that I used in Colombia and I would be glad to loan you one if you can figure some way for me to get it to you. How about my simply sending it to you in Amherst? Since it has been washed several times the duty shouldn't be much. Let me know what you think about it.

I took black & white pictures of the gold bought in Lowell, and have sent them off for a set of prints, which havn't to date been returned to me. When I get 'em, I'll send you a set, but I'll warn you that it isn't very interesting stuff, being mostly big flat plates and damaged cast figures.

This is a long, gabby letter, but I hope you can make something out of it. Anythings better than my so-called handwriting. I'm enclosing a few Kodachromes taken with the new Exakta, so you can form your own opinion.

Dottie joins me in our best to Bobbie, Chris, Peter, Wendy & yourself.

As ever,

Feb. 10, 1950

Dear Paul,

You can give me a well deserved "A" - having completed your letter! We appreciated it despite any trouble involved. Good it hardly seems possible that you can be headed back towards C.A. already.

Dr. Clement, at Sledad, possibly told you of the sudden development involving your study in which Harvard asked me to give a summer field course ^{in tropical areas} to a group of graduate students at Sledad and thereafter for 10 days at Llançote, Honduras, with the cooperation of Illustre Fruct. As it looks as though I would get down to C.A. altho probably impossible to work down to Palmar this time. I shall, if this works out, have better qualifications for requesting a "repeat performance" to your neck of the woods. I certainly will need it for I doubt if I can do all the photography - etc, I'd like on the present junket. Final arrangements actually have not yet been made but apparently everything is pretty well set and the course will involve a period of six weeks to 2 months, starting probably late in June. Everyone is happy but Bobbi who wants

P.S. How about my writing United Fruit asking for you as special guide at Lamerella - to give the slope on the collection??

would it that be a good thing for a week or two days?

to go. I told her only ♂'s were allowed at Hedad but in a pair she is going to soon report - what about Dottie?

Dottie has already given us a bit of an idea of the gold work you picked up in Lamerella but we still would like to see a picture of the loot. And keep your eyes open for any nice little piece that B. would wear. In your wanderings you got any extra long hammocks - like those Granada, Nicaragua types = net - I'd like to pick one up to use this summer on field trips out of Hedad.

Another thing I am very interested in is in results you get with your new Evakta - how it works at 'Sater's factory', etc. I've got to pick up one for the summer but it depends on your reports!! You are the only one I know with one of the new models.

Well the weather remains the same - such that we would look forward to an enjoyable boat trip plus swimming facilities. Did you pick up lots of identifications? As of these days I'm going to get some determinations of some Kothachones of Heliconias you gave me - slides bearing your collection numbers. You probably remember them.

Best from us all - and an invitation for another big get together on your next trip to these parts.
Walt

Gamboa, C.Z.
February 24, 1947

Dear Walt:

Many thanks for the swell batch of Kodachromes recently received. I always take too many duplicates, and seemingly so does everyone else, and this exchange idea spreads 'em out a bit.

You seem to have some mysterious power over dealers in photographic equipment, sooo, if you don't mind I'm gonna come begging for help. I am at present absolutely stymied for lack of the following gadgets, which I understand are no longer so rare in the U.S.

1 - Connecting Cord - For use with the 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 Speed Graphic flash gun, & focal-plane shutter. Illustrated in Fig. 7 of their descriptive folder.

(I lost mine while photographing those Nicaraguan volcanos from the air. The D--- thing must have slipped down behind the seat in the plane.)

1 - Kodak Portra Lens 3 - For very close work with the Kodak 35 camera.

1 - Series VI Kodak "G" filter
1 - Series VI Kodak "B" filter
1 - Series VI Kodak "C" filter

24 - G.E. No. 6 peanut flash bulbs, for use with the miniature speed graphic & focal plane shutter.

3 - 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 cut film holders, for use with the Speed Graphic.

Any of the above that you can get when ordering film or equipment for your self would certainly help me out of a hole. Here I can buy nothing, not even film most of the time. Let me know how much the above will come to, including postage, and I'll send you a check to cover by return.

Dorothy joins me in our regards to all of you.

As ever,

PhL

Gamboa, C.Z.
January 11, 1947

Dear Walter:

Yesterday I was showing a visiting fireman the town, and managed to sneak in ten minutes with Uncle Jimmy Zetek about B.C.I. rates & regulations. He sez the present daily rate is \$4.00, American plan, for duly accredited visitors doing collecting or other scientific work. Seemingly either you, or the students themselves would have to first write Dr. Alexander Wetmore at the National Museum outlining what they planned to do, and indicate what their connections are, and then contact Zetek, letting him know when they would plan to be down. First class passage by boat is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150.00 minimum round trip, from say, New Orleans, but if they're not unduly proud, I would suggest they buy a pair of 2.98 Sears hammocks, and make a lark of it and come down 3rd. class, or even deck. ⁴here is absolutely no reason why a couple of fellows couldn't have a good time doing it together, and it would mean extra money to use on this end.

⁴here is another possibility which I learned of when recently in Costa Rica. The new Instituto de Ciencias Agricolas at Turrialba have plenty of dormitory space, with swell beds & all accommodations, and they're anxious to have folks come there & work, B.C.I. fashion. While they're primarily interested in tropical agriculture, they are willing to take in any brand of naturalist, and will make it very cheap if the individual is willing to deposit a named set of specimens with them. For example, the standard rate, room & board for visiting firemen is 2.70 U.S. per day, and if there were two together, and would leave a set of their collections, they could probably get one of the small concrete guest cottages gratis, paying only for their food, which would be somewhere in the neighborhood of perhaps 1.50 U.S. per day. I know Mr. Ralph Allee, the Director made me that sort of offer, and intimated he had also made it to others. You might write him, c/o the American Embassy, San Jose, Costa Rica.

All the above is based on the supposition that money is of some concern. If, however, they're lined with the stuff, the sky's the limit, of course. If they come here, I'll be glad to have 'em go to the Valle, and elsewhere with me, and can be perhaps of some help in getting them arround, and suggesting places to go. Another bet here, would be to contact the Hydrographic office, of the Section of Surveys, and ask for the loan of one of their buildings on Madden Lake. That's what we did in 1934, our only expense being for food & the labor of one man, which byn the month would probably work out at roughly three dollars a day each, if they went together, including food. Extras in any case would depend on the individual, how much he wanted to see & do. Over bare living expenses, you could squeek by probably on a coupla dollars a day, unless of course, they take a lot of pictures, or something of that sort.

All the foregoing isn't, I realize, too specific, but the question "How much will a trip of that sort cost" is about like "How long is a piece of string" in some ways. Minimum expenses wouldn't have to exceed five dollars a day after they were here, and they might shade that some, especially if they went to Costa Rica. If I were doing it, I'd buy a hammock & come down deck. I did return once from Kingston, Jamaica that way, and believe it or not, like to froze myself to death.

If any of the above leads sound like what they want, I will be glad to supply any additional information on that particular possibility that I can. I think everyone should see the tropics at least once, preferably while they're still young. The only ketch is that I feel sorta morally responsible when they turn out to be confirmed jungle bunnies like myself.

Your Kodachromes came just before I took off for Costa Rica, Nicaragua & Honduras. They were swell, and I'm gonna send you some duplicates of this last junket when I get my head above water. I'm absolutely swamped since getting back.

Wish we could have joined the gang at the meetings. Mebbe we can another year. If the Seiberts are still with you, please give 'em our very best.

Dorothy joins me in our hope that you may wangle a junket down our way before we have to pull up stakes.

Most sincere regards,