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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.

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
February 24, 1955

Dr. Tobias Lasser, Director
Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad Universitaria
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Lasser:

Your good letter has been belatedly forwarded to me from Miami, where considerable quantities of mail still tend to accumulate. We have been in Honduras for over two months, having driven down through Mexico, Guatemala, Slavador and pacific coast Honduras.

My present work consists of pinch hitting at teaching Tropical Crops, Horticulture, Botany and English, as occasion requires, and sitting in on general classes to acquire additional Spanish vocabulary. I will probably be assigned one or two of these courses for the next teaching year, but just which will depend on changes in the present staff.

I have no way of knowing what the present policy may be at the Fairchild Garden regarding the distribution of seeds and plants. Since their finances are in such a serious state they may feel that they should be reimbursed for packing charges and postage. I would suggest that you contact Mr. H. F. Loomis, one of the members of the Executive Committee and Director of the U.S.D.A. Introduction Garden at Chapman Field, who handles technical matters on a volunteer basis.

There is some prospect that I may have work from time to time at the Lancetilla Station on our north coast. As you know, they have one of the finest collections of tropical plants in the entire Caribbean area, and it might be possible that we could plan for some future time when I could bring you an extensive selection of their tropical fruits, timbers, ornamentals and economic species in exchange for my transportation and expenses, if the Miami contact fails to materialize.

I very much regret that conditions during our stay in Florida did not allow us to see your Institution. You at least have the expectation of some continuity on your project and it is to be hoped that you can make reality of some of the tremendous possibilities which have failed elsewhere for lack of support.

Most sincerely yours,

Paul H. Allen

Caracas, 18 de octubre de 1954.

Dr. Paul Allen
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P.O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida
U.S.A.-

Apreciado Dr. Allen :

He sentido mucho las dificultades económicas por la cual pasa el Fairchild Botanical Garden, el cual ya goza de un prestigio bien ganado entre las organizaciones de su clase.

Ya que es imposible para Ud. visitar Venezuela y el Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad Universitaria, yo le agradecería sobremanera que me enviase el mayor número de semillas de la lista que yo le envié.

Si el material vivo se puede enviar por avión envíeme la lista de las plantas para mandarle el certificado de Sanidad Vegetal de manera que puedan entrar en Venezuela. De la misma manera le sabré agradecer me diga los gastos para en envío por avión de las plantas vivas.

Hoy mismo le participo al Presidente del Instituto de la Ciudad Universitaria la imposibilidad suya de visitar el Jardín Botánico de manera que recojan los pasajes de avión.

De Inglaterra le escribí una carta donde le contaba mi asistencia al Congreso de Botánica y al de Protección de la Naturaleza, los cuales fueron muy provechosos para mí, pues en este viaje tuve la oportunidad de visitar muchos institutos y jardines botánicos.

Con mis mejores deseos por que tanto Ud. como Dorothy se adapten a su nueva posición en Honduras, me suscribo de Ud.

Atentamente,

Tobías Lasser

Tobías Lasser, Director
del Instituto
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Envieme su dirección
definitiva en Honduras.

July 23, 1954

Dr. Tobias Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Lasser:

Your good letter has been with me for a disgraceful length of time, but it happened to arrive on the day we were to leave on vacation, and pressure of subsequent events has prevented an earlier reply.

I will first try to answer your question regarding the round trip tickets which were sent c/o one of the local airline offices in Miami. So far as I know your deduction is correct, and they are good for transportation to & from Miami-Malquetia.

Things have not improved since your visit in regard to our critical financial problem, and in fact I am to leave the Garden in the near future (sometime between now and October) since they are no longer in the position to pay my salary. Two of the members of the Board of Managers plan to pinch hit for urgent business affairs, but we have released all clerical help and even discontinued telephones to save money.

In view of the above I regard it as very unlikely that we will be able to come to Caracas as planned. I have contacted the office of the FOA in Washington, and will try to locate something in tropical botany or forestry in Central or South America. If you are in a position to visit Miami personally between now and about September we would be glad to supply you with any or all of the plants listed in your request. I should think that since the tickets are still available by writing to the Miami airline office, that this might be reasonably practical. We would like to have had the opportunity to see your University and Botanic Garden, but under the circumstances we simply can't afford the trip.

Most sincere regards,

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA



MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRÍA

DIRECCION Instituto Botánico

No. _____

Caracas, 17 de mayo de 1954.

Dr. Paul Allen
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P.O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida
U.S.A.-

Apreciado Dr. Allen:

Siento mucho los inconvenientes que ha tenido para venir a esta en el próximo mes de junio, pero espero que pueda venir después de mi regreso de Europa el cual creo que será en el mes de septiembre. Tan pronto como yo regrese a esta, le escribiré para que Ud. venga, pues me gustaría atenderle personalmente.

Si al mismo tiempo puede enviarnos semillas, se lo agradeceré mucho.

De Ud. sinceramente,

Digame si recibes los pasajes con retorno de la firma de la Luisa Aeropostal de Miami; pues hubo el error de entenderlos Marquetia - Miami - Marquetia y en la firma en esta referir que alguien de Caracas lo solicitara.

Tobías Lasser

Tobías Lasser, Jefe del
Instituto
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

May 12, 1954

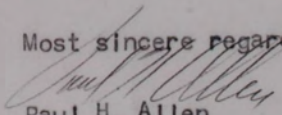
Dr. Tobias Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Lasser:

Unforeseen complications resulting from Garden affairs and my fathers death in the fall of last year make it impossible for us to plan to leave the country before August. I have tried to bypass some of this, but haven't had any luck to date.

The list sent to you for consideration was of plants rather than seeds, and all are things which are suited to the tropics. We can bring one or two specimens of all of these, bare root, and packed in sphagnum if you consider it practical to have us come at the later date.

Most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen

Caracas, 24 de abril de 1954.

Dr. Paul H. Allen, Director
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P.O.Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida
U.S.A.-

Apreciado Dr. Allen:

Muchas gracias por su carta del 15 de abril y por su magnífico trabajo sobre orquideas que tuvo la bondad de enviarme. En relación con su venida, yo creo que si puede estar los primeros de junio en Caracas, sería magnífico, pues así Ud. tendría tiempo de ver el Jardín Botánico y escribir un informe. Yo pienso salir para Europa en la segunda quincena de junio.

Le devuelvo la lista de semillas, pues si todas estas prosperan en el trópico, sería una magnífica adquisición para nuestro jardín. Yo vi en el Conservatorio una Crassulaceae colgando de un cesto, la cual me gustaría que trajera material vivo para nuestro jardín, así como de cualquier otra planta de Conservatorio que pudiera prosperar en Caracas.

Con la esperanza de oír de Ud. pronto, me suscribo de Ud.

Atentamente,

Tobías Lasser
Tobías Lasser

April 15, 1954

Inventory of available nursery stock

Actinophloeus Sanderianus
Adonidia Merrillii
Aloe striata
Aloe Thraski
Antidesma bunius
Aphelandra aurantiaca
Areca triandra
Arecastrum Romanzoffianum
Artabotrys odoratissimus
Artocarpus integra
Bauhinia purpurea
Butia Gaertneri
Caesalpinia sappan
Calliandra calothyrsus
Calliandra haematocephala
Canarium odoratum
Carissa edulis
Carludovica palmata
Caryota Cumingii
Caryota mitis
Cassia excelsa var. angustifolia
Cassia renigera
Chamaedorea elatior
Chamaedorea errumpens
Chamaedorea pacaya (small)
Chamaedorea tepejilote
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens
Chrysalidocarpus madagascariensis
Chrysalidocarpus sp. (Soledad)
Clerodendron Minahasae
Collinia elegans
Copernicia Torreyana
Corozo oleifera
Couroupita guianensis
Cycas revoluta
Cyclanthus bipartitus
Dictyospermum album
Dillenia philippinensis
Drymophloeus Begunii
Eleutheropetalum Ernesti-Augusti
Eleutheropetalum Sartorii
Erythrina crista-galli
Eugenia buxifolia
Eugenia Dombeyi
Eugenia luschnanthiana
Euterpe edulis (small)

Ficus Benjamina
Ficus Jacquinifolia
Ficus Palmeri
Forsteronia sp.
Fraxinus Uhdei
Garcinia dulcis
Gloriosa superba
Harpullia cupanoides
Hedychium carneum
Heteropteris Beechyana
Jacaranda mimosaeifolia
Jacquinia armillaris
Jacquinia pungens
Jubaea spectabilis
Lagerstroemia flos-regina
Latania Commersonii (small)
Licuala grandis (small)
Lonchocarpus punctatus
Myrciaria cauliflora
Nauclea reticulata
Neonicholsonia Watsonii (small)
Ochna sp.
Oenocarpus panamanus (small)
Oncoba laurina
Ormosia panamensis
Pandanus sp. (Fiji)
Paurotis Wrightii (small)
Peltophorum Vogelianum
Philodendron sp.
Phyllocarpus septentrionalis
Pinanga Kuhlii (small)
Pritchardia Thurstonii (small)
Pseudophoenix Sargentii (small)
Ptychosperma elegans
Ptychosperma sp. (Ceylon)
Renealmia aromatica
Ruprechtia coriacea
Sesbania grandiflora
Spathelia simplex
Synechanthus sp.
Tabebuia pallida
Taxodium mucronatum
Triplaris americana
Wallichia caryotioides
Washingtonia robusta (small)
Zamia sp.

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA

MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRIA

DIRECCION DE AGRICULTURA

DIVISION DE SANIDAD VEGETAL

IMPORTACION DE PLANTAS VIVAS Y PARTES VIVAS DE PLANTAS

PERMISO N° 174.-

CIUDADANO: Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad Universitaria a/c. Dr. Tobías Lasser.-

DIRECCION: Caracas.-

Vista su solicitud de fecha 26 de marzo de 1.9 54
esta División concede a Ud. permiso para importar por la vía aérea
(Maiquetía.) El siguiente material Vegetal Vivo:

CANTIDAD	ESPECIES Y VARIETADES	ORIGEN
100	Plantas ornamentales (especificadas en hoja anexa).	Florida, EE. UU. de N. A.-
	NOTA: Estas plantas deben venir sin muestras de tierra ni de arena y acompañadas de su correspondiente Certificado Fitosanitario del país de origen.-	

Remitente: Tropical Botanical Garden, Dirección: Florida, EE.UU. DE N.A.-

Destinatario: JARDIN BOTANICO CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA.-A/C.DR. TOBIAS LASSER.- Destino: Caracas.-

Caracas: 26 de marzo de 1.9 54

División de Sanidad Vegetal

- Acnistus arborescens* Schlect.
 — *Aegle Marmelos* Correa
 — *Aleurites moluccana* Willd.
 — *Aleurites montana* Lour.
 — *Aleurites trisperma* Blanco
 — *Allamanda violacea* Gard. & Field
 — *Alocasia macrorrhiza* Schott.
 — *Alocasia zebrina* C.Koch.& Veitch
Ardisia crispa A. DC.
Ardisia paniculata Roxb.
 ✓ *Artocarpus integrifolia* L.
Borassus flabellifer L.
Brosimum Alicastrum Sw.
Broussonetia papyrifera Vent.
Butia capitata Becc.
Cananga odorata Hook.f.& Thoms.
Canella Winterana Gaertn.
Carissa Carandas L.
Carissa grandiflora A.DC.
Carissa spinarum L.
Cavanillesia platanifolia HBK
Ceratozamia mexicana Brengn.
Clerodendrum fragrans Vent. var.
pleniflorum Minahassae Teljem.
Clerodendrum siphonanthus R.Br.
Colvillea racemosa Boj.
Corypha umbraculifera L.
Cycas circinalis L.
Cycas pectinata Griff.
Cycas Rumphii Mig.
Dioon edule Lindl.
Dombeya Cayeuxii (D.Mastersii
 X Wallichii)
Dombeya mollis Hook.
Dombeya Wallichii Benth & Hool.
Elaeagnus philippensis
Encephalartos gratus Prain
Encephalartos koseiensis Hutchinson
Firmiana Barteri K. Schum.
Guilielma Gasipaes HBK
Hovenia dulcis Thunb.
Macrozamia spiralis Miq.
 — *Monstera deliciosa* Liebm.
Montezuma speciosissima (Moc. & Sesse)
- Mussaenda frondosa* Linn.
Nopalea cochinellifera Salm-Dyck.
 — *Parmentiera cerifera* Seem.
Parmentiera edulis DC
 — *Phaeomeria speciosa* Koord.
Plumbago rosea Linn.
 — *Pongamia pinnata* Merrill
Sapium sebiferum Roxb.
Stephanotis floribunda Brongn.
 — *Strophanthus gratus* Baill.
 — *Strophanthus sarmentosus* DC.
Swietenia macrophylla King
Swietenia Mahagoni Jacq.
Swietenia mexicana Zucc.
Syzygium Cumini Skeels
Tabernaemontana coronaria Willd.
Tipuana Tipu Lille
Tristania conferta R.Br.

Fairchild Tropical Garden

April 15, 1954

Inventory of available nursery stock

Actinophloeus Sanderianus
Adonidia Merrillii
Aloe striata
Aloe Thraski
Antidesma bunius
Aphelandra aurantiaca
Areca triandra
Arecastrum Romanzoffianum
Artabotrys odoratissimus
Artocarpus integra
Bauhinia purpurea
Butia Gaertneri
Caesalpinia sappan
Calliandra calothyrsus
Calliandra haematocephala
Canangium odoratum
Carissa edulis
Carludovica palmata
Caryota Cumingii
Caryota mitis
Cassia excelsa var. angustifolia
Cassia renigera
Chamaedorea elatior
Chamaedorea errumpens
Chamaedorea pacaya (small)
Chamaedorea tepejilote
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens
Chrysalidocarpus madagascariensis
Chrysalidocarpus sp. (Soledad)
Clerodendron Minahasae
Collinia elegans
Copernicia Torreyana
Corozo oleifera
Couroupita guianensis
Cycas revoluta
Cyclanthus bipartitus
Dictyospermum album
Dillenia philippenensis
Drymophloeus Beguinii
Eleutheropetalum Ernesti-Augusti
Eleutheropetalum Sartorii
Erythrina crista-galli
Eugenia buxifolia
Eugenia Dombeyi
Eugenia luschnanthiana
Euterpe edulis (small)

Ficus Benjamina
Ficus Jacquinifolia
Ficus Palmeri
Forsteronia sp.
Fraxinus Uhdei
Garcinia dulcis
Gloriosa superba
Harpullia cupanoides
Hedychium carneum
Heteropteris Beechyana
Jacaranda mimosaeifolia
Jacquinia armillaris
Jacquinia pungens
Jubaea spectabilis
Lagerstroemia flos-regina
Latania Commersonii (small)
Licuala grandis (small)
Lonchocarpus punctatus
Myrciaria cauliflora
Nauclea reticulata
Neonicholsonia Watsonii (small)
Ochna sp.
Oenocarpus panamanus (small)
Oncoba laurina
Ormosia panamensis
Pandanus sp. (Fiji)
Paurotis Wrightii (small)
Peltophorum Vogelianum
Philodendron sp.
Phyllocarpus septentrionalis
Pinanga Kuhlii (small)
Pritchardia Thurstonii (small)
Pseudophoenix Sargentii (small)
Ptychosperma elegans
Ptychosperma sp. (Ceylon)
Renealmia aromatica
Ruprechtia coriacea
Sesbania grandiflora
Spathelia simplex
Synecanthus sp.
Tabebuia pallida
Taxodium mucronatum
Triplaris americana
Wallichia caryotioides
Washingtonia robusta (small)
Zamia sp.

April 15, 1954

Dr. Tobias Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Lasser:

We feel that we very definitely owe you an apology and explanation for the long delay in answering your kind invitation to visit Caracas during the latter part of the present month.

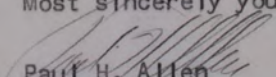
We have had the bad luck to quite unexpectedly lose one of the key members of our staff, and I do not feel that it would be at all wise to attempt to leave Miami until I am certain that our replacement understands all phases of the work.

It would seem very likely that we could get away in June, but as I understand it that would conflict with your own plans for Europe. Do you think it would be at all practical to have us come in late July or August?

Another slight, but probably not too serious complication involves selections made from our catalog. About half of the things which you list can be supplied from seed, or divisions or cuttings, but many others have not as yet reached fruiting size, and do not lend themselves to vegetative propagation. I am however enclosing a recent inventory of plants actually now available in our nursery, and I am hoping that you may find enough of interest to make up the difference. We can also, as you suggest, bring seeds of any palms which are in fruit at the time.

I hope that you will give me your frank reaction to all of the above, and that we may hear from you in the near future.

Most sincerely yours,


Paul H. Allen
Director

Caracas, 25 de marzo de 1954.

Dr. Paul H. Allen, Director
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P.O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida.-

Apreciado Dr. Allen:

Hoy tengo el placer de anunciarle que puede ocurrir a las oficinas de la Línea Aeropostal en Miami por el pasaje de ida y vuelta para Ud. y su señora. No le había escrito antes porque la X Conferencias que se reúne en Caracas tiene ocupado a todo el mundo.

Yo saldré por una semana del 14 al 21 de abril para Trinidad y Antigua. Le agradezco que venga después del 21.

Le incluyo la lista de semillas y plantas que deseo nos traiga, junto con el permiso para importar plantas vivas y si las trae consiga el certificado de sanidad vegetal allá y que lo vise el Consul de Venezuela.

Palmas nos interesan todas. Si me trae la especie que tiene semillas, le agradezco que traiga. Esta planta me interesó mucho.

Cuando salga avíseme el número del vuelo y día de llegada a Maiquetía.

Con mis recuerdos para los Fairchilds y para su señora, me repito como siempre,

su amigo,

Tobías Lasser
Tobías Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuel

Caracas, 19 de febrero de 1954.

Señor Doctor
Paul Allen
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Coconut Grove, Florida
U.S.A.-

Apreciado Dr. Allen:

Mucha alegría me causó recibir su carta y saber que Ud. está dispuesto a venir a Venezuela.

Yo le someteré al Presidente del Instituto de la Ciudad Universitaria, mi sugestión de invitarlo a venir en abril y tan pronto como él me dé su visto bueno, se lo participaré.

Con mis saludos para la Sra. Allen.

De Ud., atentamente,

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Tobias Lasser

Tobias Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

February 18, 1954

Dr. Tobias Lasser,
Apartado 2156,
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Doctor Lasser:

Many thanks for the copy of "Origin y
distribucion de las Haloragaceas en Venezuela,"
recently received.

This same problem of discontinuous plant
distribution between Africa and South America
is duplicated in quite a number of other families in
genera, notably in species like *Raphia taedigera*
and *Elaeis guineensis*, and in genera such as
Ravenala and *Podocarpus*.

Dr. H. E. Moore, of the Bailey Hortorium,
at Cornell, thinks that the explanation may lie
in the theory of Continental drift, but I suppose
an actual tabulation of Floras would bring to
light more insurmountable problems in explaining
just why so many other groups, such as the orchids,
should show such profound differences from any-
thing in our hemisphere.

It is in any event a fascinating field for
speculation and plant geographers everywhere should
thank you for your fine and thought provoking
contribution.

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Allen, Director

PHA:t

February 12, 1954

Dr. Tobias Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Lasser:

Thank you for your very kind efforts in our behalf which have resulted in the generous offer to have us visit Caracas and see your new Botanic Garden.

We will be glad to bring anything we have in the way of seeds, plants or cuttings to add to your collection. You will find a copy of our catalog enclosed, since I do not remember if you were given one when you were here. While some of the species are not as yet large enough to produce seeds, a fair number might be available from one source or another. It would also be of some help to know if you are particularly interested in palms, flowering trees, shade trees, shrubs, succulents or ?? It might also be of some help to us in making a selection to know what you can expect in average annual rainfall.

All present indications are that Early April would be the best time for us to be away from the Garden. Will that time be convenient for you?

In addition to the Botanic Garden, I would like very much to see any reforestation work you may be doing in the country. I will plan to bring my reports and growth records on the timber species, fruit trees and ornamentals we had at Esquinas, in Costa Rica. I can also bring a fairly extensive series of colored slides from various of the Botanic Gardens and Experiment Stations of the Caribbean area, so that members of your staff may have some sort of comparative idea of what may be expected from such a project.

I hope that you will convey my respects and real appreciation to the President of the Ciudad Universitaria.

Most sincerely yours,

Paul H. Allen
Director

Caracas, 2 de febrero de 1954.

Señor Doctor
Paul Allen
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Coconut Grove, Florida
U.S.A.-

Apreciado Paul:

El Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad Universitaria ha llegado a las últimas etapas de su organización para abrirlo al público y a este respecto sería muy conveniente que Ud. lo visitara y expresara su opinión al respecto.

Es decir someter sugerencias para sus mejoras así como, en el caso de que Ud. viniera nos trajera semillas de plantas ornamentales y plantas de sombra para enriquecer nuestras colecciones.

Relacionado con estos puntos le someteré un informe al Presidente del Instituto de la Ciudad Universitaria sugiriéndole que lo invite a Ud. y Sra. a venir a Venezuela por unas semanas pagándoles el pasaje de ida y vuelta por avión de Miami a Maiquetia. Hágame saber si le agrada esta proposición de manera que Ud. nos visite antes de junio pues yo estoy planeando salir para Europa a mediados de junio, y quisiera atenderle personalmente.

Con mis respetos para la Sra. Allen.

De Ud. atentamente,

Tobías Lasser

Tobías Lasser
Apartado 2156
Caracas, Venezuela.