



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

*Usage guidelines*

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

*About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE  
ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

July 6, 1959

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

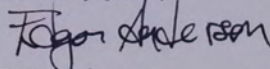
Dear Paul:

When I got back from a recent trip to Colombia I found your card with its change of address slip. I hope you're getting the kind of a job you deserve and that your living and working conditions there will be pleasant. How are you coming along with your efforts to get the degree you so richly deserve? If there's anything we can do to help, let us know. Our own graduate school at the present time is so tied up in red tape that I don't think we could do very much here, but certainly something can be worked out somewhere.

How are your publishing plans coming along? If I could write an impressive letter on impressive stationery to some editor-in-chief or anything of that sort, you can count on me to do it. My best to your wife.

I've just been in bed for two weeks as a result of having picked up the Cocksackie virus in B ogotá during the wet season. It's a mean little number and it doesn't respond to any of the known drugs, so you just have to be a good boy and stay in bed as it gradually fades away. Fortunately, I've not been in very much pain and everyone has been very nice.

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Anderson  
Curator of Useful Plants  
Missouri Botanical Garden

September 22, 1957

Dr. Edgar Anderson  
Por donde se halla  
South America

Dear Dr. Anderson:

It has come to our attention, through the medium of the indefatigable press that you have been the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant, and are off to that nebulous realm known to the man on the street as South America. Since this covers a fair bit of territory, we are somewhat uncertain as to whether this may find you dining on farifia and pirarucu in the upper Amazon or wiping llama spittle out of your eye in the high Andes, but hasten to extend our congratulations on the realization of a dream that must have been very near to your heart.

Joking aside, we suppose you are in Peru and having a whee of a time, judging by descriptions we have heard from Hodge, Cutler & Co. Since you have seen a good deal of Mexico and Guatemala you will be in a position to evaluate the conflicting ~~and~~ claims of that part of the world and Peru for the possession of the greatest diversity of corn types, which may, or may not shed additional light on the origin of the generic type. Anyway we hope you're having fun, and as busy as the proverbial cat, or paperhanger, depending on which seems to be the more applicable at the moment.

To come to the point, I would again like to ask your advice as to the best means of trying for a Guggenheim grant, to finish up my long delayed survey of the timber resources of Panama. I would like to pattern this closely on the work already completed for the Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce, since this has been rather gratifyingly received by tropical foresters and others who are faced with the problem of identifying sterile material in the field.

What I would like to ask is 1) - When are applications passed on, 2) Where, and to whom should they be sent, 3) How much can I ask for and for how long (to do the job properly would take about 3-4 years full time, and even longer if done on leaves of absence of alternate semesters) 4) Can I offer this as thesis material as a candidate for a degree?

I am of course aware that my publications to date on semi-serious subjects sans degree has had about the effect, in total

moral indignation, on the more sheltered elements of the Academic community as the raising of a healthy family without benefit of clergy, but I nevertheless hope to present some of my little bastard brain children for credit at the University of Florida or elsewhere.

In any event, I would appreciate your comments and suggestions. I have already talked this over with Dr. Wayne Reitz of the University of Florida, who assures me of a place of publication and willingness to administer funds, and with our new Director, Dr. William Paddock, who feels, as I do, that I should maintain my connection with the School, since it will facilitate my movements to a certain degree and redound somewhat to the prestige of the institution.

Dottie has just finished up drawings of both Luehea candida & Luehea speciosa, which, with Seemannii completes the lot for Central America. She joins me, as usual, in sincere regards & warmest best wishes.

February 10, 1957

Dr. Edgar Anderson  
Room 213 - Fine Hall  
Princeton University

Dear Dr. Anderson:

After reading your very fine treatment of pollination in Angraecum sesquipedale in the December issue of the Am. Orch. Soc. Bull. which has just come to hand, I have decided to succumb to the temptation, which I have had, for some time past, to send you the enclosed chapter from the opus I have in preparation for the University of Florida Press.

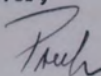
This subject seems to have endless ramifications, and has become something of an obsession, I'm afraid, rather like that of the character in Dickens who couldn't put pen to paper without mentioning King Charles' head. Since I no longer have any sense of perspective about it, I would welcome informed outside opinion.

Rather like Darwin's account, this tends to run along at a "slow, even drone", but embodies the only eye witness accounts of nearly all of the species considered. I am convinced that the whole matter has tremendous evolutionary implications, but I can't be at all sure that I am interpreting the evidence correctly.

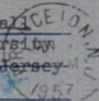
Many thanks for the comments on Oncidium splendidum. We have just gotten in another, about equally variable batch, this time of Oncid. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ascendens, which is very common in our valley, but I haven't gotten arround/ to photographing them as yet.

We hope that this finds you well, and enjoying life far from the maddening throng.

As ever,



Edgar Anderson  
Room 213-Fine Hall  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey  
USA



AIR LETTER  
AÉROGRAMME

VIA AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

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

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED  
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Room 213-Fine Hall  
Princeton University,  
Princeton, N. J.  
January 30th, 1957.

Mr. Paul Allen,  
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras,  
Centro Americano.

Dear Paul:

I am very interested in your pictures of Oncidium splendidum. We found much the same variation\* in the twenty some plants which the garden has from various sources in Guatemala. My methods are now so powerful I would not need large numbers. I was able to predict the other species of Oncidium splendidum which was causing this variation, down to the last dirty technical detail.\* As soon as I have the data written up I will send them on to you. I hope your plants blossom well next year here with us. They made wonderful demonstration material for my class. When I was out in Pomona to give the French Lecture, I had a chance to see the species we had predicted and we hit it right on the button.

Yours very truly,

*Edgar Anderson*

Edgar Anderson

EA:EMS

‡ only more so — but in the same direction  
\* and I saw the plant in California.

December 14, 1956

Dear Dr. Andersen:

Congratulations on your well-merited nonbramiente to the Math Dept. at Princeton, which should be a stimulating and rewarding experience, as well as a thoroughly earned respite from the multiple headaches of St. Louis. You are far too productive and valuable a person to allow yourself to be drowned in the oceans of trivia that make up an administrative job. The plan to have Cutler pinch hit in your absence sounds good, and will probably be good training for him as well.

We are sorry that you won't be down as soon as expected, but you can remember that the latch string is always out. Just now we are expecting Dr. Pepees return from a short junket to Guatemala, where he had gone to rib you, among others, in the projected Carn conference, and to meet his brother Paul, who has never been in our part of the world before. He is a confirmed vegetarian, and teetotaler, while his wife is allergic to everything that he can, or will eat, which should provide as sound a basis as one could ask for for a career in Domestic Relations.

Yesterday, at long last, we got off a box to you containing 30 plants of Oncidium splendidum. You will find that we had to reduce some to two bulb leads to be within the limits of our only available container, but this should not affect next year's flowering. The tab to date is \$19.00 U.S., including fifteen for the plants, and four air express to Miami. I have asked the Plant Quarantine people to forward the lot, after inspection to St. Louis, via express, collect, which I suppose will be done. I would rather have payment made to my account in the Kirkwood Bank, if it no difference to you, since there will be less chance of loss. <sup>marks</sup>

Dettie is concecting Christmas fruit cake for gifts, but joins me in our best to you & yours,

As ever,  
Mark



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

November 20, 1956

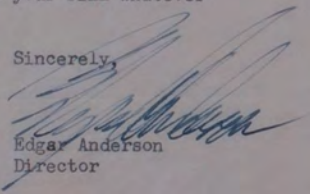
Mr. Paul Allen  
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana  
Apartado 93  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul:

Re your letter of November 16. This is an immediate order to be shipped at whatever time you suggest as best for 30 good Oncidium splendidum at \$15 F.O.B. Tegucigalpa. A copy of this is going to Mr. Pring and Mr. Gillespie so they will understand about it. Let me know how and when you want the money and I am forwarding herewith some shipping tags.

If, at the same time, you could send us some propagating material of all the aroids which grow at the foot-path crossing of the Yeguaré a mile or so south of the school, we would be glad to have them. Add to your bill whatever is necessary for them.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:mh  
Enclosure

cc. Mr. George Pring  
Mr. Robert Gillespie

Dear Mr. Allen:

At the present time we are out of shipping tags. I am ordering some and as soon as they arrive, I will send you some. However, our number is 37-2645 which, I believe, is sufficient.

*Marianne Hach*

Marianne Hach  
Secretary

# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

November 20, 1956

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

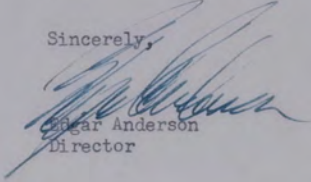
Dear Paul:

This is the second part of an answer to your letter of November 16. You probably have not heard that I have a special fellowship from the Guggenheim which will allow me to take half-time leaves of absence for the next two or three years to carry on scholarly work.

Cutler is rapidly taking over the executive responsibilities and is doing fabulously with them (from my point of view). I will continue to live here to take charge for him when he is away and to fit into any of the jobs that are most needed. This will begin in January when I am going as a guest of the Mathematics Department at Princeton. My methods of studying evolution are beginning to be widely used in fields as remote as economics and psychology, and they raise some pretty fundamental issues in the fields of applied mathematics. They are actually paying me money to come and I shall be there for about 2½ months. As you probably know, it is a very good math department and I am looking forward to the opportunity.

My schedule for this year is pretty well worked out, but next year is still open. I think I would like to come down for 4 to 6 weeks if I can work out the details. My wife's heart is much improved but I expect she won't be able to fly. I don't even know if such people can travel by boat. We are bringing all our weights down slowly and she is able to do more this year than since she had her first attack several years ago.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

BA:mh

November 18, 1956

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

This is more or less in the nature of a post-script to the letter sent a few days ago, which seemed long enough without embarking on the matter of your very kind offer of assistance in securing a grant for the completion of some of my pet projects.

As you know, I am at present trying to edit some twenty years accumulation of notes on orchids, to accompany a batch of illustrations from varied sources. This I find rather hard to keep within bounds, since it offers tempting excuses for excursions into such things as the structure of tropical forests and the general distributional pattern of the floras. What with classes, outside work, visitors et al, this will keep me tied down until next spring, at the very least.

Next choice would be an evaluation of the various introduction collections that I have assembled myself, or know, since this should provide the logical basis for all future work in horticulture and reforestation in our part of the American tropics. This seems to me to be so obvious that I can't for the life of me understand why a dozen organizations aren't fighting for the chance to do it. Last week I had the opportunity to spend two days at Lancetilla, in company with the principal Horticulturist for the Government of Israel, now on duty in Guatemala with the United Nations, and was interested to hear him voice the same idea. Nearly a thousand species are on trial there, to which could be added about as many again from Zamorano and vicinity, Costa Rica and Panama, embracing the widest range imaginable of material, and including virtually everything of economic importance. Successes have not been by any means uniform, but it seems to me that a very definite pattern is emerging, which is there for any informed individual to see. It will be tragic if this opportunity is lost, since it would be impossible under present conditions to assemble such collections again.

Besides

~~the manuscript~~ the manuscript in hand, other difficulties exist, however. I feel, for example, that my very definite obligation to Dr. Popenoe would not make it possible for us to leave here before the time of his retirement, which may however be next year. We do not know, nor does he, apparently. We would like to ask for a year's leave of absence at that time, but that will largely depend on the new Director, as yet to be selected, so far as we can tell. I can't very well afford

to simply cut loose here, since jobs aren't that easy to find in the tropics, and we've learned the hard way that you can't eat prestige.

As soon as the picture becomes a little clearer here, perhaps by the time we come up again on leave, we might discuss this further, or better still, if you can come down before graduation.

On re-reading the above, it strikes me as a rather windy torturing of the obvious, but maybe you can extract a pearl of wisdom from it somewhere. Dettie joins me in the hope that you will come down.

As ever,

November 16, 1956

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

This is largely in reply to your questions regarding *Oncidium splendidum*. While we don't know where they grow, they are very easy to get through flower sellers in the Tegucigalpa market. I have often asked them to bring in up to a hundred or more plants, and had them delivered within two days at the most, since they apparently grow somewhere nearby, probably in one of the innumerable rocky canyons that are found on the road to Talanga. I have a few in cultivation, with several showing strong spikes at the present time. Judging by past years, the best flowering season would be in January and February, when hundreds are offered for sale on the streets in town. As in many other species of the genus, there is a considerable amount of variation, both in size and color pattern in the individual plants. If you came down during either of the months indicated, we should be able to bribe someone to take us to the site, or failing that, have just about as many as you would like brought in flower.

Unless you decide to wait and take the plants back with you, we will need a permit tag to cover your shipment, or at least your permit number. Thirty good *splendidums*, probably bigger than any you have seen in the U.S. will cost you \$15.00, F.O.B. Tegucigalpa. Just incidentally, I explored the presumed relationship with *O. tigrinum* when last in Cambridge, and am personally convinced that it must be very tenuous indeed. Vegetatively they are about as alike as rabbits and duck-billed platypus, though the flowers are superficially similar.

We have plenty of room here, and I can't think of anyone we would rather see. I have always felt that executives owe themselves and their projects at least four changes of scene a year, to give the simmering opposition a chance to cool down, and the harried Chief an opportunity to get his sense of perspective back. How about it?

Dottie doubles in brass as artist, audience, girl friday etc. & is at present slaving over the annual Christmas Card chore, but joins me in hoping that we may expect to see you here in the near future.

As ever,

Kuh

# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

November 12, 1956

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

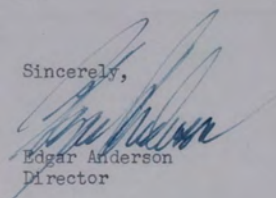
Dear Paul:

This is in answer to your letter of October 11. I think your projects from 1-2-3-4-5 are all excellent. I think the changes are good; if you ask the G~~u~~senheim for a year or for nine months one time and six months another so that you could go somewhere that you would like to go as an honored guest while you wrote the stuff up free from day-to-day duties, that you would be way out in front of most of the field. Don't put it off! You are better than you realize and you are going to have an increasing number of commitments, I am pretty sure.

I was interested in your orchid list. Will you immediately get me 20 to 30 splendidums and send me a bill? Send the bill right off, since it will take a little while for the red tape to grind. We have some collections of this form farther south. I have one of Lee Lenz's students from Pomona here with me for six months. We are using my methods on Oncidium, and boy what a wealth of integrated detail they bring up out of that material. I, therefore, would very much to have 20 or 30 from one place. When do they flower around your part of the world and how many plants could one see in flower and conveniently get pieces out to study in one day?

I might take some money and fly down.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:mh

October 11, 1956

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

As you may remember, our school year does not coincide with yours, so that we are now in the throes of mid-term examinations, which will explain the delay in answering your recent epistle. Fortunately, my session was first on the docket, and has been typed, mimeographed, given, graded and recorded, as of today, so that I can again think about something else.

While I fully agree that the orchids and other plants of our windswept mesas and rocky canyons should be tailor made for your apartment conditions, not many, in our area at least, would be showy enough to arouse much enthusiasm. Probably the best single bet would be *Oncidium splendidum*, an exceedingly handsome thing which we could get for you in fair quantity through local collectors, at about fifty cents U.S. per good plant, F.O.B. Tegucigalpa. There are no aroids, except in the bottoms of wet gorges, or in the cloud forest, neither of which would do you much good.

Your suggestion that I ask for a grant to finish up some of my pet projects sounds very tempting, but I'm afraid it will have to wait at least until next year. One of our younger staff members is in Florida on leave, and I have, for the interval, both his outdoor departmental work as well as my own. We have recently gotten a young gringo who is acting as my assistant, but he couldn't take over yet, and it would be just about impossible to get away. Also, I am putting in every spare moment on a new opus for the University of Florida Press, the outgrowth of their agreement, in an unwary moment, to look at a batch of orchid photographs and drawings which I had with me last spring. This is intended mostly as a picture book, for the many, of our time, who can't read, but I am, as usual, making it serve as an excuse for airing my pet notions about plant distribution in Central America (in a chapter, to be entitled *The pattern of the environment*) *Evolution in the Orchidaceae, pollination mechanisms and variation, and their bearing on taxonomy*. If Dr. Haines, Director of the Press, has as good judgement as I credit him with, he will clip my wings a bit on this, since it tends to run on, after twenty years of writing notes to myself and filing them for future reference.

While we are on the subject, the projects that I would like to believe I may have a go at some day, might be listed as follows, more or less in the order of their importance:



- 1) - A critical and detailed evaluation of the plant introduction programs with which I have been directly and indirectly associated, with the view of making specific recommendations regarding tropical fruits, ornamentals and timber woods suited to the varying soil conditions and major climatic and elevational zones. I don't know why someone hasn't done this long since, particularly since it could prevent further unnecessary duplication of effort and expense along the same lines. This is just a sample of the kind of basic problems that can be had for the asking down here.
- 2) - A manual for the identification of the trees of all of Central America, based, as in the last work, on their conspicuous field characters and ecological distribution. If this proves to be unwieldy, and it might, then I would split it into two separate projects, doing one on Honduras, which is sufficiently representative of the northern associations, and another on Panama, which would pretty well cover the other half.
- 3) - A detailed ecological study of the Plants of Panama, or at least the region of El Valle de Anton, for which I already have endless notes and a preliminary map.
- 4) - An illustrated manual, with keys, for the orchids of all of Central America. This I'm saving for my declining years, if someone doesn't beat me to it, which I doubt, since I have almost a corner on the illustrative material.
- 5) - My Vaupes diary. Ditto.

The first four aren't as visionary as they may sound, since, in the words of St. Paul the Apostle, "All of this I saw, and part of this I was". At least my files are crammed full of index cards, photographs, drawings and notes, which need only time to bring back to life.

This is all very well, but as you know, I have never been able to find an organization willing to back any long term studies in these ~~xxx~~ countries, yet after twenty years of it I am more persuaded than ever that these lands, which served as sources of inspiration to men like Darwin, Bates, Wallace, Spruce and Belt still provide an almost unique opportunity for observations of a fabulous biota, which develops at a sufficiently accelerated rate to permit a single individual to see broad trends and significant deviations within the span of one lifetime. Rather than to have any temptation to come back, I can't for the life of me understand why there is so little interest and support.

Just now I haven't anything ready for publication excepting a squid on the recent revival of the name *Deckeri*, as applied to the lowland autumn-flowering *Cattleyas* of Panama, northern South America and Trinidad. This may be quibbling of the worst sort, but I believe that I may be the only one who has seen all the pertinent living material, from Florida to Guatemala and Panama, as well as the herbarium material and literature in Cambridge, and would like to get it into the records somewhere since the plants have some horticultural importance.

If you want it, I can give you about three or four pages of double spaced manuscript, plus two or three photographs.

If this next Florida opus actually materializes, and if anyone will still speak to me thereafter, we might try and see how far some broadminded foundation would be willing to go. The lament, in another year or two may, on the other hand, go something like this:

Oh we never mention Paul Allen  
His picture is turned to the wall  
Since his projects turned into scallions  
Woodson says he is dead to us all

On this cheerful note I will close. Dottie joins me in best wishes to you & yours,

As ever,

Central American orchids which are frequently found on rocky out-  
crops or similar situations at medium or low elevations, and subjected  
to a hard dry season, accompanied by intense radiation.

*Bletia purpurea*

*Bletia reflexa*

*Brassavola cucullata*

*Brassavola nodosa*

*Cyrtopodium punctatum*

*Catasetum integerrimum*

*Catasetum Russellianum* (rare, unfortunately)

*Cattleya Skinneri*, particularly the autumn-flowering variant

*Epidendrum alatum*

*Epidendrum atropurpureum*

*Epidendrum ciliare*

*Epidendrum ionophlebium*

*Epidendrum nocturnum*

*Epidendrum nocturnum* var. *latifolium*

*Epidendrum selligerum*

*Epidendrum Stamfordianum*

*Epidendrum verrucosum*

*Epidendrum xipheres*

*Govenia utriculata*

*Lacaena bicolor*

*Laelia Digbyana* (our form has minutely fimbriate petals, but the lip  
does not open fully)

*Laelia glauca*

*Laelia rubescens* - this will stand anything, and is common.

*Laelia Wendlandii* - This has a delightful perfume, but not much else.

*Lycaste aromatica* - A gem, in my opinion.

*Maxillaria cucullata*

*Maxillaria tenuifolia*

*Oncidium ensatum*

*Oncidium guttatum*

*Oncidium longifolium*

*Oncidium splendidum* - probably the best Central American species

*Oncidium stipitatum* - not here, but common in Panama

*Sobralia macrantha* - a beaut, but the dickens to ship

*Spiranthes aurantiaca*

Many of the above are definitely not showy, but nearly all will stand drought or abuse. This list could be considerably extended if other countries were taken into account.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

September 5, 1956

Mr. Paul Allen  
Apartado 93  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Centro America

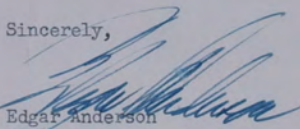
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your magnificent letter of the 1st of September. If you rattle off stuff like this on some of the world's major problems you ought to be doing it more frequently. I think that as soon as school can spare you for a year, you ought to apply for a Guttenheim Fellowship and go and write up some of these ideas. If you will chart the way, ambitious youngsters will bring in the data.

I have two requests. After looking pretty closely at the problem for three years, I have come to the conclusion that our best house plants come from regions something like Zamorano where they have long periods of drought and then torrential rain. We would like a complete set of orchids which are ~~new~~ at all showy and of aroids// which might be useful in the greenhouse or the living room. Could you get us some? Not from the Cloud Forest, please! It isn't fair to submit them to our hot dry summers. Secondly, do you have something of general interest that you are bursting to write which would be appropriate for the Bulletin? We can't pay you a cent, but we can send you extra copies. Don't think you are under any indebtedness; it is by now the other way around. Don't do it just because I suggested it.

My best to you both.

Sincerely,

  
Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:mh

275

September 1, 1956

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Many thanks for the wonderful morale booster, which was much appreciated. I have a strong feeling that all of us owe something to humanity, and that obligation becomes greater if we have had opportunities for observation not likely to be duplicated in the near future. I only hope that our little opus may encourage someone to continue the job on a somewhat more comprehensive scale. I would like to do it myself, and may, if I can ever afford to, since I am increasingly convinced that what we need in this part of the world is a series of illustrated manuals emphasizing recognition of the living plant. With this first step the interested individual would gain the key to the available literature, which thus far has been pretty well closed excepting to the specialist. Actually, the present work was a natural outgrowth of the earlier, and much more extensive ecological study, which was to have covered all of Panama, but which never got beyond the card file and preliminary map stage.

Rain forests are complex, but not as impossible as most people think, particularly if you have the good fortune to live in the area. The last word in plant community mixtures, at least in our hemisphere, is found in parts of northern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua, where the great, unrelated floras meet. Island-like colonies of pine-oak woodlands, which are of course North American in their affinities occur cheek by jowl with broad-leaved stands whose families, and even genera are of Amazonian origin. This gargantuan projection of the situation found also in the Florida Everglades must be seen to be believed, and will provide a wonderful project for some Ecologist.

I don't know very much about the effect of the Pleistocene sea level changes on tropical American vegetation, but am rather inclined to doubt if it has been a major factor in plant distribution. As I understand it, the maximum range of fluctuation has been about 50 ft., which would not have flooded any of the isthmian areas, on the one hand, or bridged any of the straits, even between Yucatan and Cuba, or Cuba and Florida. The general lack of large mammals in the Antilles, and particularly Cuba, pretty well establishes this.

Widespread inundations, involving at least much of present day Panama, are presumed to have occurred from upper Eocene until middle Miocene time, but even this has not resulted in the specific differentiation that one would expect. Lower Central America, including Panama, Costa Rica, and those parts of Nicaragua south of the Honduras-like Matagalpa highlands, has a pretty thoroughly South American flora, and

Isolation +  
Climate change  
is part  
nature.

generic ranges, with monotonous regularity are from as far north as Yucatan and Vera Cruz to Brazil and Peru, with, of course, some of the more specialized elements dropping out at intervals along the way. *Cavanillesia* barely crosses the Panama Canal, *Welfia* reaches the Rio Punta Gorda, in eastern Nicaragua etc. but the broad pattern of generic distribution was obviously established before the isthmian submergence. Orchid populations such as *Cattleya Skinneri* and *Cattleya Dowiana*, which had northern and southern contingents, presumably separated from one another for millions of years, developed well marked, but relatively minor varietal differences, and things like *Oncidium Kramerianum* and *Warsceviczia coccinea* maintained sufficiently stable populations to render the placement of specimens collected from Colombia or Costa Rica, without data, a very dubious proposition. I am losing my faith in isolation alone, as a major factor in morphological change.

We are nearing the end of our second full year at Zamorano, and although I sometimes have nostalgic thoughts of the considerably richer biota of Costa Rica and Panama, really feel that this has been, and continues to be, a very rewarding experience. We have never lived in the arid highlands of northern Central America before, though I had collected fairly extensively in the Lake Yojoa area, and in eastern Nicaragua. We are learning a lot here about distributional patterns that I didn't know before, and I find that I like teaching much better than I had expected. Both Horticulture and Agriculture, under these conditions, present new facets which I had not seen before. The climate is too dry for many of our old pets, but it is a continual source of amazement at what will survive, and even prosper under such radically different conditions. Afternoons we often go out on short junkets into the nearby hills, which have a stark beauty surprisingly like classic Japanese paintings, and have found a fair number of new records of Orchids, many of which, as well as commoner things which did not occur further south, have been added to Dorothy's growing collection of drawings. We find the place no more confining than Mitu, or Gamboa, or Palmar, and almost a metropolis compared with Esquinas, and I certainly don't regret having made the move. The Popenoss have been very good to us, and contrary to report, I find him very easy to work for. I believe many have left because they expected the place to be perfect. In twenty years of junketing about we have found that there are advantages and drawbacks to all places, and this is better than most. Heavens knows, I wouldn't trade for Florida.

We were particularly pleased to have the items of Garden news, which we almost never get, especially that things are starting to shape up a little better, and that Mrs. Anderson is definitely on the mend. We were sorry to have missed seeing you the last time, but maybe your schedule won't be so full next year. Dottie joins me in renewed thanks for your kind comments on our little brain child, and sincere regards to you & yours.

As ever,

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

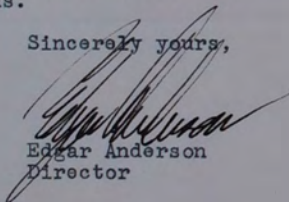
November 16, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Allen:

As of December 1st we are appointing you research associate to the Missouri Botanical Garden without stipend in recognition of your collaboration on the FLORA OF PANAMA. Between now and the end of 1955 we will make \$300.00 available in the Garden budget for such incidental expenses as postage and illustrations.

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:ep



November 8, 1954

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director,  
Missouri Botanical Garden,  
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,  
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Dr. Anderson:

This will confirm details of our recent conversations regarding my collaboration with Dr. Woodson on the FLORA OF PANAMA. It is my belief that some official association with the Garden, preferably as research associate without stipend, would facilitate requests for loans of specimens and applications for grants as the work progresses.

All present indications are that \$300.00 would be all that would be needed from Garden funds for incidental expenses such as postage, illustrations, etc., through 1955.

If these suggestions meet with your approval, I would appreciate having a note from you to that effect.

Sincerely,

PHA:ep

Paul H. Allen

September 12, 1954

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

We are very much disappointed that you could not get down to Miami, since you could have renewed your acquaintance with the Garden and it would have given us a chance to talk things over.

Dr. Woodson came through several days ago and I tried to sound him out, but found him distinctly unenthusiastic about my trying for a degree or returning to St. Louis.

It is hard for me to decide what we ought to do at this time, since I am now 43 and getting a little old for any new ventures.

As I have written you before, I have a strong emotional attachment to Panama and I would like above all things to see the Flora completed. I have no way of knowing whether my lack of a degree has been the determining factor in the seeming lack of enthusiasm by the M.B.G. in my continuance on this project or not.

If this is the case, I would be strongly inclined to take my medicine, if I knew that we could thereafter expect to be able to begin working up families, particularly of woody plants, with Dorothy contributing the illustrations.

Just now we can't afford to gamble too much, since this extremely ill-advised move has exhausted all of our ready cash, and we are still faced with solving of my mother's perennial problems.

We are still waiting to hear whether Boston is willing to back Popenoe's offer. Whether this is confirmed or not we expect to return to St. Louis, probably within the next 30 days.

No matter what is decided regarding the Honduras venture, I would like to have a quite frank discussion with you regarding the future of the Flora of Panama, and the possibility of our participation in it.

Most sincerely yours,

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

September 1, 1954

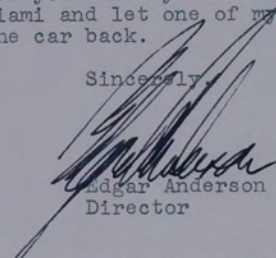
Mr. Paul Allen, Director,  
Fairchild Tropical Garden,  
P. O. Box 407,  
Coconut Grove, Florida.

Dear Paul:

I am glad you are going to Zamorano. I think you could do a lot of good there and I think they understand you and appreciate you, though I realize better than most people the difficulties of working there. I think the thing to do is for you to work there and use your vacations up here in getting a degree if you really want one that bad.

I will try to phone you next week when I have to be in Gainesville. If you are going to be home I will come down to see you briefly and then take the plane home from Miami and let one of my graduate students drive the car back.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:ep

P.S. My secretary reminds me of the amazing error in the first line of my letter to you. It's one of those slip-ups so gorgeous that we are all glad it happened. Have you been able to figure out what I said? I was talking about a degree and not about being greedy.

August 30, 1954

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Your generous offer arrived in this mornings mail, just about 48 hours too late for me to be able to give you a definite answer.

I have of course known that you are faced with serious financial problems which are very real to me in view of our critical situation here, and which have been the reason I had not contacted you before.

My letter to Dr. Woodson was written without any real expectation of a favorable reply, so that when Wilson Popenoe came through here day before yesterday and renewed his offer of a job at Zamorano I accepted, subject to approval by the Boston office, since I had no assurance of anything else at the time. Since he has already left for central Florida and Gainesville, I can now only wait and see what develops.

The ironic thing about all of this of course is that the only project I have ever had any real interest in has been the Flora of Panama. We have, at this writing also had more personal acquaintance with the plants and the country than anyone else. Dottie can do illustrations, and I would rather do keys and descriptions than anything I can think of, BUT, there has always been the insurmountable obstacle of my lack of a degree, and the lack of funds to finance the project.

If we go to Honduras they have pretty good facilities for such work there, and the vacation schedule is generous enough that we might be able to fall back on the original plan to come to St. Louis once a year with such drawings and partially completed manuscript as we had been able to do, and complete portions in your herbarium and library.

I frankly don't see that there is any other very good prospect that the thing will otherwise ever be done, and I would like to at least try it on that basis, if Dr. Woodson is agreeable. He could farm out families, particularly those dealing mostly with woody plants to us for work, and we could submit illustrations & mss. for approval.

I might have to ask for some small funds to cover expenses while in St. Louis, but it shouldn't be much.

We still have problems with my mother that will make it necessary to return to St. Louis before & if we leave the country again. I should judge this will likely be in late September or early October, and I would like to discuss all of this with you in some detail at that time.

Dorothy joins me in our most sincere regards,

as ever,

# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

August 27, 1954

Mr. Paul H. Allen, Director,  
Fairchild Tropical Garden,  
Box 407, Coconut Grove,  
Florida.

Dear Paul:

I have been trying to call you for the last hour,  
ever since Bob showed me your recent letter.

Personally I don't think you need to be greedy,  
but if you really want one we would be delighted  
to have you. We will find money somewhere and  
we will fight your battles with the deans, and  
there will be a good many, and we will let you  
work by yourself and have the minimum of galling  
red tape. In my opinion you really deserve an  
honorary degree, but graduate schools have gotten  
to be awfully stuffy places in the last twenty-  
five years.

I am sure there is only an awfully small chance  
that you may really want to do it, but I do want  
you to know how happy and proud we would be to  
have you.

Sincerely,

*Edgar Anderson*  
Edgar Anderson *ep*  
Director

EA:ep

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

August 11, 1954

Mr. Paul H. Allen, Director,  
Fairchild Tropical Garden,  
Box 407, Coconut Grove,  
Florida.

Dear Paul:

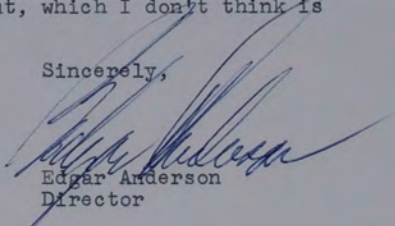
This is in answer to your letter of August 9th.

I think you have a very good case for a grant from the National Science Foundation and should hurry up and get one. You don't need to send them your opus ahead of time. Write them for application blanks. You can refer them to me, you can refer them to Dr. Woodson I am sure. It would be a good idea to have one each of as many different kinds of sponsors as possible, but be pretty sure what kind of a letter you can expect.

We shall be very happy to publish it for you if it would entail no extra expense on our part. This means we would take care of the overhead, we would take care of storing, we would do such editorial work as you did not do yourself, and there would be no charge, hidden or otherwise, for this. We would have to have extra funds for the plates and the printing and whatever kind of binding you wanted. We could bring it out as parts of the Annals or we could bring it out as one independent work.

As for the other request, you can count on me to tell you of anything I hear about, which I don't think is very likely.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:ep

P.S. I think you are unduly modest about your Costa Rican book and have an air of defending it when talking about it. This isn't at all necessary. It is first rate and unique. Don't let any of this attitude creep into your application.



August 9, 1954

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On a recent junket to Washington I decided to show my opus on the Costarican Rain Forests to a professional Forester to see what his reaction would be, and received a very nice letter from him, a copy of which is enclosed.

Do you think I would make any friends or influence any people at the National Science Foundation if I were to send them either a copy or the original? Since this just may be my swan song in this field, I am especially anxious to see it published.

As you have probably heard, we are job hunting. Do you have any suggestions that would provide a use for our herbarium, library and photographic files on Central American plants. We would much prefer Panama to all other locations of course, but that is probably too much to hope for.

Dorothy joins me in our best to yourself and all the rest.

As ever,

*Frank*

June 16, 1954

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

We are perfectly delighted at the prospect of your visit in October. Our Baronial Mansion includes, in its outer wings an official bedchamber & bath, intended for visiting V.I.P.s, but painted the most colicky off-orange you've ever seen outside of a grade school Halloween party. If you can stand it, its all yours, and we of course hope that you definitely plan to bring your charming wife with you.

In preparing the proposal for submission to the Foundation I was torn between the inclination to go into an all out spiel regarding the merits of, and crying need for such a manual for the benefit of the more stay-at-home members of the Committee, and the full realization that the average individual seldom has time to read more than a single double spaced page. From all present prospects this opus is very likely my swan song, and I regret that I didn't send the proposal to you for suggestions.

Just now we are more or less momentarily expecting 1) - The return of Woodson & Co., 2) - The Seiberts, 3) Ernest Imie (U.S.D.A. Rubber) from Costa Rica, 4) Jean Manis & family, ditto and 5) the young Fairchilds from Panama. Hope they don't all arrive on the same day, or at least on the same hour, though it won't be the first time THAT has happened if they do. Dottie joins me in our best to you & yours.

As ever,

Rah

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

June 8, 1954

Dr. Paul Allen  
Fairchild Tropical Garden  
Box #407  
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Paul:

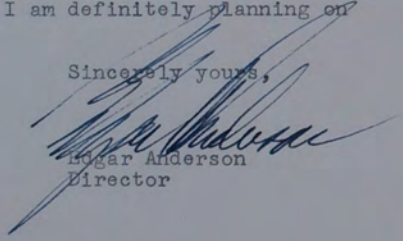
I liked your Proposal and was much interested in the details.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

The next time you submit one however, do let me see it ahead of time if you can. Just one or two changes in the foremat would have increased its chances of getting really a fair hearing.

It was nice seeing you and your wife. Is it going to be convenient to have me down there for about ten days in late October? I am definitely planning on it!

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Anderson  
Director

EA:au

June 6, 1954

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Anderson:

One original and nineteen copies of the enclosed proposal have just been sent off on their little way, and I thought you might be interested to know to what extent your name has been taken in vain, and how much you may be letting yourself in for. I certainly hope the darn thing comes through. In any event the die is cast, to coin a phrase, and we'll see what happens.

It has been raining buckets, old tires & pussycats ever since our return, and with a recorded total for May of over 16 inches. Wish we could share a little with you in Missouri and other dry spots in the U.S. Plantings here look wonderful as a result though, which bears out my contention that all Florida needs (besides fewer mosquitoes) is a little more aguita at the right times.

Bob Woodson & friend McPhillamy (whom we like very much) appeared, more or less on schedule, and spent a busy time being interrogated, inoculated, finger printed, and separated from varying quantities of cash in the Consulates of the countries they plan to visit. I think their schedule is too tight to accomplish much, but I wish to God we could tag along, nevertheless.

As usual, we had a fine and stimulating visit in St. Louis, and we only wish that it wasn't so darn far. Took us just three & a half days on the return, but we seldom drive much over 50. Dorothy joins me in our very best to you and yours.

As ever,

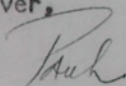
May 2, 1954

Dear Dr. Anderson:

This is just a note to let you know how very pleased we are to hear of your recent confirmation in the job for which you are so eminently qualified.

Dorothy says to remind you that we have a spare bedroom reserved for VIPs that we'd be delighted to have you use whenever you can.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

April 13, 1954

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Allen  
Fairchild Tropical Garden  
Cocanut Grove, Florida

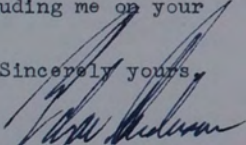
Dear Paul and Dorothy:

Your monograph on Panamian Orchids has come in and I do not know when I have been more pleased - their beautiful drawings, boiled down scientific information, and then those wonderful landscape photographs.

Up until this moment I have always been very cool about going to Panama for any purpose whatever; now, I am quite excited.

Thank you for including me on your mailing list.

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Anderson  
Assistant Director

EA:au

# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
2215 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

CABLE ADDRESS  
"MOBOTGARD"

ARBORETUM, GRAY SUMMIT, MO.  
REPRESENTATIVE IN TROPICS,  
BALBOA, C. Z.  
REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE,  
HOVE, SUSSEX, ENGLAND

March  
Eleventh  
19 42

ANSWERED

3/28/42

Dear Paul:

I have meant to write you ever since receiving your charming Christmas card. It seems only yesterday that you were here in the early spring and going about with us to Gray Summit. That place by the by is looking very well indeed and you will be surprised when you see how much we have been able to do in such a short time.

Since you were here, I have become increasingly interested in corn and its relatives. Woodson was supposed to get herbarium specimens for me when he was in Panama, and when he came back and I asked him about it he said, "But I didn't see any corn growing wild." \* What I particularly want is herbarium specimens of corn which has just tasseled out well, particularly if they can be accompanied by a sample of the grain from which the crop was planted or which was obtained from the crop.

In the mountains of Guatemala and the various places in Mexico there is a very primitive type of corn. I suspect it to be in Panama, though one would probably find it only here and there among people who have had relatively little contact with the outside. It is small eared and small cobbed. It has a tight husk and as a result the ear tapers almost as much to the base as it does to the top, and there are often grooves caused by compression running across the ends of the kernels. However, I have absolutely nothing from Panama and I will be very glad to have specimens of any of the corn being grown there no matter how common.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Anderson  
Geneticist to the Garden

Mr. Paul Allen  
Balboa Orchid Garden  
Box 1035,  
Balboa, Canal Zone

\* I could have wrong his neck!

Tropical Station  
September 16, 1937

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Blessed is he that hath friends, for they see not his shortcomings. Here I had been hating myself for two months for owing my 'dear teacher' a letter, and here comes one from you saying all is forgiven 'em everything. I think you take an awfully charitable view of my recent blasts in the Garden Bulletin. Others of my well wishers there have told me the stories smell to high heaven, and will be probably be barred from the mails.

We have greatly missed our summers visitors since they left us. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to become really acquainted with Dr. Woodson,, and in spite of some of the unfortunate ending, feel that we have greatly profited in the addition of a friend. Dr. Martin is charming in all ways, from his droll humor to his perfect calmness in the face of losing his summers work. Russ Seibert was with me several times on collecting trips alone, and I was greatly impressed with his initiative and resourcefulness. He makes a fine collector and travelling companion. We hope this will not be the last time they will be with us here.

The time of year has come when we have quite a decent showing of orchids, and as our water lilies are in good bloom now we invited the Governor and his wife, and many others interested to enjoy them with us today. Governor Ridley came twice during the day, and seems to be contemplating a pool of similar type for the official grounds. People seem so delighted if we invite them personally by phone, and it is an awfully easy way to make friends.

There is still some hitch in the house repairs, as the insurance company finally asked for a second bid, and promptly awarded the work to a Panama concern when they bid low. They have been here wanting to go to work, but I would rather have Dr. Moore's decision before letting them go ahead. We will have to move out for a couple of months, and store all our furniture and household goods. How good the old barn at Greys Summit would look to us now!

We are still looking forward to the time when you can tear yourself away from your many duties, and ramble the hills and rivers with us here. If you listen closely to the returned adventurers you should be all enthused, and come at once.

Give our best regards to Fhebe and Mrs. Anderson.

Most sincerely yours,



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

CABLE ADDRESS  
"MOBOTGARD"

ARBORETUM, GRAY SUMMIT, MO.  
TROPICAL STATION, BALBOA, C. Z.  
EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE,  
HOVE, SUSSEX, ENGLAND

September  
eighth  
1937

Dear Paul:

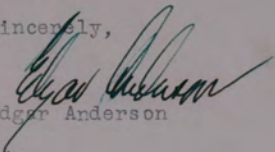
I came into town this morning from Gray Summit meaning to write you about a number of things. First of all about the letters which have been coming out in the Bulletin and which I think are most interesting. When I got here Dr. Moore greeted me with your letter giving a detailed account of the fire. Well that is that, but thank goodness you are all safe and sound which is the main thing.

We have thought of you both a great many times this summer, and have missed your running out in the evening as you did last year. I would like more than ever to sit down and talk to you now about the work that you are doing - running a botanical garden in the Tropics, learning the Tropical families, wild and cultivated, learning what to grow and what not to grow and how to grow it, learning how to build Tropical ornamentals into a picture that has repose as well as color - all of these things make a terrific program for one person, but man what won't you know at the end of it. As somebody said about life in general, "It is like learning to play on the violin and giving a sole performance in a crowded opera house before a critical audience all at the same time."

Six of your pictures, in case you haven't heard, are going to be used in the next Bulletin along with most of the accounts you sent Mr. Pring. The whole will make a very interesting set-up for the Bulletin I think. It certainly is vastly more exciting than anything else we have published recently.

Our best to you both.

Sincerely,

  
Edgar Anderson

Mr. Paul Allen  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
Tropical Station  
Balboa, Canal Zone