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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.

H. H. BARTLETT
B. M. DAVIS
E. B. MAINS
W. R. TAYLOR
D. V. BAXTER
F. G. GUSTAFSON
C. D. LA RUE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

L. E. WEHMEYER
C. A. ARNOLD
W. C. STEERE
F. K. SPARROW
K. L. JONES
E. U. CLOVER
J. T. BALDWIN

January 29, 1942

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Gorgas Hospital
Balboa, Canal Zone

Dear Paul:

I find it depressing even to read of the sad fate of the Orchid Garden. How much more so it must be to have helped build it up and carry it on--then to see it go to smash. Well, we have to recognize that the world breeds a certain number of Lindsays, problem children, who, according to our modern educators, should have been provided with "smash boxes" before adolescence, in order to satisfy their smashing propensities early in life! I sympathize with you.

I had not expected to have you give up the use of Carl Grassie's palm pictures for press. I have send them. I am very much obliged to you for them, however, and shall send you a set of prints. There is no reason at all why we should not both utilize them as may be desirable in publication. Thank you very much!

I also appreciate what you have written to Doctor Verdoorn for his Latin-American Publication. He was much pleased to hear from you.

My work goes very slowly. Interviews with students and others anxious about public service, the draft, etc., take lots of time, and ever since my return there has been the problem of catching up with things neglected during my absence. At their request I'm now at the disposal of the War Department as may be needed for lectures on American-Philippine relations, which will take time. So don't be too disgusted with my slow progress with Panama problems.

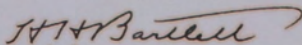
I have recommended you not only to the Department of Agriculture, but also to the Executive Offices of the President (Office of Emergency Management). I hear only today that there have been, as I have suspected, changes in leadership of the Wild Rubber Exploitation Project, but a group has apparently been chosen to go to

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Page 2
January 29, 1942

work about February 1 and funds are being sought for a
second. So don't be too sure you won't be in on it.

With best wishes and thanks to you and Mrs. Allen,
I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. H. Bartlett". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

H. H. Bartlett

HHB:DKM

SENT FOR INFORMATION OF

Mr. Paul Allen

January 5, 1942

Dr. Frans Verdoorn
Chronica Botanica
P.O. Box 151
Waltham, Massachusetts

Dear Verdoorn:

I have treated you very badly in not replying to recent letters asking if I could communicate data on the botanical situation in various tropical countries. I have not felt that I wished to be responsible for any publicity regarding my own work, since it was understood that whatever information was released for publication would originate with the Head of the Office of Rubber Investigations, Dr. E. W. Brandes, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D.C.

The person best qualified to give you information on the organization of botanical and agricultural work in Haiti is Mr. T. A. Fennell, c/o American Legation, Port au Prince, Haiti. If he doesn't have time to help you, try Mr. Russell Seibert, Jérémie, Haiti.

The best source of information for Panama will probably be Mr. James Zetek, Balboa, Canal Zone. Most Panamanian scientific projects and institutions of the past have existed only on paper. Mr. Zetek will inform you about the exact name and officers of a Natural History Society that has regular monthly meetings under the auspices of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory of Panama City. It has at least one active Panamanian member, Professor Mendez, who is Professor of Botany in the Instituto Nacional and also Director of the Museo Nacional. Aside from the little done by this society, the two institutions mentioned, and the Universidad Nacional, there is little or no plant-science activity in the Republic that I have heard of, except as sponsored by the Goodyear Rubber Company or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, although you may find a record of names of other organizations or schools that are botanically inactive or defunct. The "Universidad" has no faculty, I believe, except that of the "Instituto" and exists more in hope than in reality.

Dr. Frans Verdoorn
Page 2
January 5, 1942

It is being nurtured under the wing of the "Instituto," and the two are practically coextensive. Most botanical activity in the Canal Zone centers in the Barro Colorado Laboratory and in Mr. Zetek. Paul H. Allen of Balboa, Canal Zone, is the most active resident student of the Panamanian flora, although Professor Mendez also collects a few plants. Allen could give you (if Mr. Zetek does not) the names of every person in the Zone and Republic who knows anything whatever about plants in a scientific way. Doctor Bangham of the Goodyear Rubber Company divides his time between Panama and Costa Rica, and is, of course, exceedingly active wherever he happens to be. The Summit (Canal Zone) Experiment Station is becoming more and more a mere nursery for ornamental trees and shrubs and the Tropical Station of the Missouri Botanical Garden has been abandoned, at the request or demand of the War Department. My own work in Panama was under the auspices of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory (Medical) since I was concerned with habitats of anopheline mosquitoes. Mr. Graham Fairchild and Mr. Daniel Jobbins of the Gorgas Laboratory are also actively interested in the Panama flora.

I should not like to be quoted, but would warn you against including any supposed Panamanian Institution or society in your account unless it was certified as genuine by Zetek or Allen.

With best wishes for the New Year, and best regards,
I am

Sincerely yours,

H. H. Bartlett

HHB:DKM
cc to Mr. James Zetek
Mr. Paul H. Allen
Mr. T. A. Fennell
Mr. Russell Seibert

P.S. The "Orchid Garden" is the ^{now} defunct
Tropical Station of the Missouri
Botanical Garden.

1414B.

H. H. BARTLETT
B. M. DAVIS
E. B. MAINS
W. R. TAYLOR
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J. T. BALDWIN

December 13, 1941

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Gorgas Memorial Hospital
Ancon
Canal Zone

Dear Paul:

In connection with the acute need for locating and exploiting wild sources of rubber, I have recommended to the Office of Rubber Investigations that they or the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs get in contact with you with the object of putting you in charge of one of several districts in which it is hoped to direct the collection by natives of jungle rubber (or neglected plantation rubber of ordinarily noncommercial species) wherever it may be found. I anticipate that you will soon hear about the matter from Washington. It is my understanding that the employment would be only temporary, for a year or eighteen months. The proposed salaries were very satisfactory. They need several botanists with tropical experience and I named you as one of the most eligible three among those whom I knew.

While in Washington Carl Grassl gave me prints of some Canal Zone palm pictures of which you have the negatives. I could use some of them in my popular palm article for the Smithsonian if I had more ample data for them and if it wouldn't interfere with your plans for utilization. I don't see why a few shouldn't be used twice. Do you have all of the data from the Summit files on their cultivated palms? You will remember that we hunted up the origin of one in which Doctor Bailey was interested, and another that I collected and photographed.

Your last letter will soon get a more careful answer. This is not to chat about palms but to warn you that Uncle Sam may need you very soon to hunt for botanical raw products. Incidentally, you might see other things botanical.

Sincerely yours,

H. H. Bartlett
H. H. Bartlett

HHB:DKM

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J. T. BALDWIN

September 5, 1941

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Orchid Garden
Balboa
Canal Zone

Dear Paul:

Yesterday the package arrived with your letter of August 20. Needless to say I was glad to hear from you and to receive the material. It was very kind of you to take care of the supplementary collection of the *Cryosophila*, after having been bothered with the package of *Salvinia*. Likewise, you may be sure we appreciate the good material of the new *Ardisia*. Thanks for everything! I shall proceed at once to publish the new *Cryosophila* as *C. Fairchildiorum* after checking with the description of the only described species which I am not sure about. My next new Panamanian palms, if there are other new ones in the collection, must be named for you and Jobbins! I should add that I called Dr. Bailey's attention to the fact that there was at least one new *Desmoncus* in the Canal Zone, which he assented to my naming for him, and probably a second. Dan Jobbins was going to try to supplement my material in this genus. I seem never to be quite satisfied!

As you request, I am sending the papers on Central American palms. Burret has "jumped" my *Sabal Morrisiana* of British Honduras because I had only fruiting material (although excellent) and didn't get out a formal diagnosis, hoping flowering material would come. He calls it *Sabal nematoclada* and cites *S. Morrisiana* as "undoubtedly" a nomen nudum of the same. If he could be so sure, it would have been more polite to let my name stand until validated by Latin diagnosis! I should not have waited, however, to publish in full, and have only myself to blame. I have not yet had time to see if we have a duplicate of Schipp's collection which served Burret as a type, and so it is still possible, even though unlikely, that I may find that the things are different.

Dr. Bailey has not yet left for Mexico, or hadn't up to three or four days ago, when he acknowledged my picture of the type tree of his new *Acrocopia* from British Honduras.

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Page 2
September 5, 1941

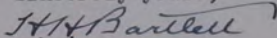
I also sent him a couple of Brazilian *Acrocopia* pictures that I begged from the enormous old S. P. I. file in Washington, one at least corresponding to an S. P. I. number. There are others, not yet released, that I believe would help him, and these I have asked for. Dr. Bailey is hoping to publish promptly now on *Acrocopia*, and we have both tried to help him along so much that the results will be of considerably enhanced interest to us on that account.

Now for another matter. The most active moss student in the United States at the moment is Dr. W. C. Steere of our staff. He has undertaken to do the remaining unassigned moss families for the North American Flora, and finds that the two regions most poorly represented in our chief herbaria are Haiti-Dominican Republic (*Hispaniola*) and Panama. The latter deficiency seems curious in view of the great attention that has been given the Canal Zone, especially, but the extent to which the moss flora of Panama is unknown was demonstrated recently by a young lady who picked up several new species among thirty-odd numbers from Barro Colorado! The point is that Steere would like to have representative locality collections whenever you find a mossy spot. Put everything that looks different, whether fertile or not, into a bag and rough dry it. He will sort and label if you write the data clearly on the bag. Of course I suggest the easiest way to collect. If you prefer to follow the more conventional procedure of numbering relatively unmixed collections in your regular series, placing them in sheets, as usual, he can assign a, b, c numbers to the important admixtures. He can save out a full series for you or for any institutions you designate, if the quantities are sufficient.

Now one especially good thing about Steere is that he really does report promptly to his correspondents upon well-known mosses, and publishes on the others, which will delight your heart. A representative bag of mosses from a single mountain or other mossy place may have phytogeographic importance even if nothing new turns up, so even a single collection, however small, from whatever place, may contribute data that will please him immensely. You like to have your collections used and not just stuck away somewhere, and from this standpoint Steere is "tops." When I was in Panama I didn't realize that there was such a deficiency of moss collections, but I did relatively better in the little time I had for collecting in Haiti.

With many thanks for your kindness, I am,

Sincerely yours,



H. H. Bartlett

538 Church St.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

31 July 1941

Dear Paul;

I'm actually writing from Washington but my address is shortly to be at home, as above.

Evening before last I spent a very pleasant 4 or 5 hours with Dr. Bailey, and he told me that you had found an indigenous Sabal at some Panamanian locality - the Perlas Ids. he seemed to remember. You will remember that I turned up one which I considered to be endemic and new at La Tagua. I got nice photographs and sterile herbarium material. If I had been able to revisit Panama before coming home, as I hoped to do, I would have gone on the 4th of July hunt with Dr. Clark and devoted the day to further search for flowers or fruit or both. Dr. Clark could give you the name of the man who was

(2)

with me when I found my Sabal.

Dr. Bailey thinks that if there is an endemic Sabal in Panama (as there certainly is) it ought to be or may be S. mauritiaeformis. He hopes that you will collect the Perlas Islands type, and I, quite naturally, hope you may be able to make observations and collections (fertile material!) of the La Jagua tree so that we may surely know whether there are two things or only one. I put up what I remember to have been an A#1 series of leaf parts from a grown tree (the man who was with me can point out the exact individual) and if you could supplement it with an inflorescence from the same individual if possible there would be a fine type, in event the species proved not to be S. mauritiaeformis.

Dr. Bailey is still holding his *Acrocomia* paper and wants some of my photographs of the British Honduras tree (which I have promised) before 15 Aug., soon after which date he will leave to collect palms all the way from the Tampico region over to Acapulco. He is a most wonderful and amazing old gentleman!

Best regards to both of you.

Sincerely yours,
H. H. Bartlett

Balboa, C.Z.
June 16, 1941.

Dr. H. H. Bartlett, Director,
Michigan Botanic Garden,
§ American Legation,
Port au Prince, Haiti.

Dear Dr. Bartlett:

We have just taken leave of Don'l Jobbins of Georges Memorial, bound for your new project, and while he seemed to think you would be interested in getting your press boards, straps etc, he didn't seem to know what disposition you wanted made of your specimens, which we have all dried and ready for you. Naturally we're hoping that you'll return with him, and collect them yourself.

I have a very guilty feeling in having to let you down in regard to this offer of the job doing Agricultural Extension work, and in the general establishment of your new station. I fully realize that this is a chance that seldom comes, but I am at present in a rather peculiar position, which I feel will enable me to accomplish more, at least for a time, where I am than even with your organization.

I have been recently given several things in connection with the station which fortunately give me a great deal more freedom in the production of work which I have come to regard as important. For example, I am at present trying to complete a manual of the Poisons and Irritant plants of the region, for the use of the United States Army, and the civilian personnel.

Also, a very superficial skimming of the local palms, (in large part stimulated by your visit) has convinced me that many of the cultivated species are either misidentified, or are coverting about under names thrown into the synonymy these ten years past. The native species are quite as bad, with seemingly undescribed, or certainly rare and interesting species on literally every hand. I have what is certainly a new *Astrocaryum*, with I believe sufficient grounds for someone revising the genus, a fine *Batorpe*, (which G.F. Cook has called *Flaxis*) unrecorded from the Republic, a *Bactris* which can't lay out in L.R. Bailey's publications, a *Calyptrogonum*, of which there are no species listed for the country at all etc.etc.

While I have no doubt of your assurance that the financial returns of the position there would be far greater than anything I can expect here, I nevertheless feel that it would be passing up too great an opportunity now to do some real good here after so long a period of unproductiveness. It would seem that to leave now would mean throwing away all the observations of a nearly six years stay, and the beginning over again on strange ground.

With most sincere regrets, and kindest personal regards,

Cc. Chief Quartermaster.

Most sincerely yours

Paul H. Allen

% American Consulate
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

3 June 1941

Mr. Paul Allen
The Orchid Garden
Ancon, C. Z.

Dear Paul;

Are you so wedded to the
Zone that you wouldn't consider
a move to Haiti? There are to
be some positions here under the
Haitian - American Agricultural
Development Corporation (Haitian
Government organization operating
with U. S. Govt. funds) that
will require men with vision
and some missionary zeal. It is
an interesting country. Your boss
would be Mr. T. A. Fennell,

(2)

Agricultural Advisor to the
Haitian Government, a most friendly,
understanding and capable man;
an orchid fancier, by the
way, and at one time in charge
of the palm garden at Miami.
You would like him very much
and Mrs. A. would like Mrs. F.
very much, and criss cross.

I think you ought to be
interested, if you aren't getting
too much salary and if you
could put up with less palatial
living quarters. Your friend
Seibert is here ^{in Haiti}, and likes it
very much. I like it very much.
Maybe you would, and it is
going to provide several people
with very interesting jobs, one
of which might fall to you.

If in the least interested in a

(3)

move, send your life history to Mr. T. A. Fennell, % American Legation, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Let him know how much you are getting, including all that goes with the job in way of quarters, etc.

Here you would be concerned with practical horticultural operations with crops of major economic importance, such as rubber, bananas, cacao, etc., and would have considerable "extension" work to do. Your knowledge of the valuable plants at Summit that might provide a basis for local and "specialized" agricultural industries would be most important here. I can't think of a more useful person than you would be likely

(4)

to be over here. As I write I find myself growing more & more enthusiastic about you and the good you would do in Haiti. Please write to Mr. Fennell the minute you get this.

Did you dry my little mess of *Salvinia*? I hated to leave such a mess on your hands, but what could I have done on the boat with it, I ask you, without access to driers?

Best regards to both of you.

Sincerely yours,
H.H. Bartlett)