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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)

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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.

Longwood  
Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

R. J. Seibert, Director

April 2, 1962

Mr. Paul H. Allen  
United Fruit Company  
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul:

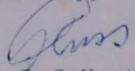
It was good to have your letter of March 26 and to know that the seed of Musa velutina arrived in good shape. I am delighted to know that you are finding such good vegetative characters in the cultivated banana clones which just goes to prove that anything that is genuinely different can be described if one looks long enough for the characters.

I am sure you must be getting a great feeling of satisfaction from this work. It would be very helpful, I know, to have it programmed on IBM cards. We are getting closer and closer to "IBM Botany" and certainly it should not be delayed any longer even though in cases, there may be considerably less than 25,000 cards.

You mention possibly sending us something from down there. At the moment, it occurs to me we do not have enough Costus represented in our collection for the purpose of evaluating these as potential ornamentals. Would you, at your convenience, send us seed, if possible, of the best Costus variety in the Tela locality?

Deni has been down with a cold - even lost her voice for about two days, but she's getting back to normal and joins me in the best to you both.

Sincerely,

  
R. J. Seibert  
Director

only species listed  
by Stanley is spicatus  
do you want it?  
RJS:P

Tela, Honduras  
January 29, 1962

Dr. R. J. Seibert, Director  
Longwood Gardens  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Dear Russ:

This at long last finds us moved into our new house here in Tela, after about the usual quota of delays and petty calamities, which have included a bang-up bout of Asian flu for me, and a howler of a cold for Dottie. We are slowly getting our things unpacked, while tracking down leaks in the roof, but are looking forward to having a much brighter, cooler, pleasanter place to live for our trouble.

We were much pleased to find our banana collections on Utila Island and on the mainland in excellent, lush condition, with much fruit and very few losses, so that work can begin immediately on the chore of unscrambling the fairly numerous cases of duplication. You will doubtless be as amused as I was to learn that your mysterious Musa which you have growing in your little conservatory at the Administration Building (your accession No. 601140) is one of my own early Philippine collections (my 7344), and is one of the common ABB-type cooking bananas that are known collectively as "Saba". We have this well established here, but would still welcome seed of your Musa velutina when it becomes available.

We are looking forward to seeing the Hodges and the Kecks on the 17th of February, and only wish that the Seiberts were going to be here too. We will never forget the wonderful snowy Christmas that we spent with you, so different from what we are used to.

Dorothy joins me in renewed thanks and in warmest regards,

Most sincerely,

*Paul*  
Paul H. Allen

Longwood  
Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

R. J. Seibert, Director

January 12, 1962

Mr. Paul Allen  
Lancatilla Experiment Station  
United Fruit Company  
Tela, Honduras

Dear Paul:

It was certainly a real treat to have you and Dot with us over Christmas and to catch up on events during the past too many years. We were glad to know that you had a good trip home and I expect that by this time, you have your two years' acquisitions well straightened out.

I hope the banana bit arrived O.K. with you. If not, let us know for we have a couple more here.

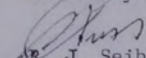
The Musa sp. which you saw growing here in the little conservatory at the Administration Building is still a mystery. I am sending you copy of a letter from Bill Ackerman to Wade Barker concerning this plant which is our number 601140. Since this goes back to the United Fruit Company and the University of the Philippines, it may well be that you already have the information concerning the plant which goes under P.I. number 260817. If you have had it identified, we would appreciate knowing what it is.

The small self-peeling banana, Musa velutina, from which you desired to have seed, has not yet matured; however, as soon as it is available, I shall see that it is sent to you.

Our weather here is persistently cold which makes us envious of your balmy Honduras climate.

All best wishes to you and Dot.

Sincerely yours,

  
R. J. Seibert  
Director

RJS:P

cc: Wade Barker

Enc.

LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE  
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.  
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

R. J. SEIBERT, DIRECTOR

November 26, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen  
Escuela Agricola Panamericana  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Central America

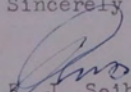
Dear Paul:

Thanks for your note of November 19th. Please do not feel sorry for we can certainly understand your position there.

Incidentally, rumor has also reached us that you may proceed to the Instituto at Turrialba to carry on your work towards a Masters degree. You should certainly be admired for your excellent determination and we here all wish you the best of luck in the world.

Denny joins me in love to Dottie.

Sincerely yours,



R. J. Seibert,  
Director

RJS:P

# LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE  
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.  
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

R. J. SEIBERT, DIRECTOR

November 15, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

Mr. Paul Allen  
Escuela Agricola Panamericana  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Central America

Dear Paul:

I can well understand the position in which you find yourself at the moment and heartily agree that you have but one choice, everything else being equal, and that is to stay on there forgoing the Brazilian trip and by all means, not placing yourself in any jeopardy with the new director at the Escuela.

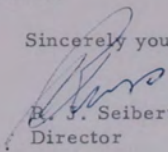
I talked to Hyland this morning by phone. He also agreed that under your present circumstances you could make no other choice. He also assured me that this in no way would jeopardize future consideration of having you going on one of the exploration trips provided of course, that the program will continue more or less steadily.

We have been enjoying the 120 or so new varieties of chrysanthemums which Johnny Creech brought back from Japan last winter. Also we have been enjoying a 'flush' of visitors from all parts of the country and world this past year. We are beginning to feel that we are really a tourist center of horticultural interest.

Denny joins me in best wishes to you and Dot. I have hopes of packing up the family for a two weeks visit to Florida around Christmas-time and it is possible that the Hodges will also go down at that time.

Keep in touch with us. Best of luck!

Sincerely yours,



R. J. Seibert,  
Director

RJS:P

November 10, 1957

Dr. R. J. Seibert, Director  
Longwood Gardens  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Dear Russ:

In this age of sputniks and other calamities inappropriately known as Acts of God nothing seems to be certain outside the realm of death, taxes and change, with the latter usually for the worse, or so it often seems, as I peer intently into my clouded crystal ball.

To come to the point, I think it only fair to warn you that things are becoming increasingly complicated here regarding the Brazilian venture. Part of this is my own fault, in a way, since Hyland's initial refusal set me off on a definite plan to return to the U. S. next year to try for a degree, but part of it, and of more immediate concern involves the unexpected number of staff resignations since Dr. Popenoe's retirement.

Three of the teaching staff, and our senior accountant have left since August, which is a pretty heavy loss from a faculty as small as ours and another, constituting the proverbial last straw has been assigned to special duties of an emergency nature within the last few days that will keep him off the campus for at least the next three or four months.

Since his courses in English and Horticulture are largely preliminary phases of my own, Dr. Paddock called me in this morning and asked if I would be willing to call off the collecting venture, since he hasn't anyone else on our reduced staff qualified to pinch hit in this man's place. My only alternative, under the circumstances would have been to resign, which we can hardly afford to do, if we are to enter the University of Florida for a pull of uncertain duration, so I agreed to hang on until someone else can be recruited, and if necessary until the beginning of the next school year in June.

I realize fully that this puts you in the embarrassing position of having gone to bat for nothing, but I simply can't walk out now without creating a lot of hard feeling. As it stands, I am one of four full professors here, and while I don't know whether we will return after our Florida venture, I would like to have that as a possibility, since we may want to patch up our broken finances a bit when its all over.

Hyland may zero in a bombshell tomorrow saying that the whole thing has fallen flat on their end anyway, but I am writing him tonight in any case explaining the situation here.

I'm extremely sorry that things have turned out this way, since I would have given anything to have seen Ric and the rest of southeastern Brazil, but maybe if I can wangle some sort of degree we can try it again some time. In the interval, you may be sure that your kind thought and active intervention in favor of an old friend have been appreciated more than you can know.

Dottie, at the moment, is up to her eyes in Christmas cards, some of which go half way 'round the world, but joins me in warmest regards to you and yours, and to the Hodges.

As ever,



# LONGWOOD GARDENS

OF THE  
LONGWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.  
KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

R. J. SEIBERT, DIRECTOR

October 21, 1957

TELEPHONE 230

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

Dear Paul:

Quien sabe? Howevermente, I have the following letter from Erlanson from which is included, "I hope we have found a loop hole in civil service regulations to make it possible to employ Paul Allen. If we request his employment as agriculturist rather than in the specialized fields of botany or horticulture there is a clause which allows experience in place of formal education as a qualification. We will attempt this procedure and let you know what success we have.

I agree with you heartily that Paul Allen should be ideally suited but employment practices in the Federal Government allow few exceptions to certain fixed requirements."

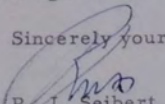
There does seem here to be more than a vague hope and I know that Carl will do all he can about it. I gather that Hyland has been in the hospital under surgical work but should be available shortly to push this thing through so I hope all might work well for you to go on down .

I had had hopes of spending a month or so in Brazil this winter but with all that is going on here and especially in the line of new construction, I just can't see my way clear to do it.

Here's hoping they settle down and give you a date as soon as possible and that all works well. As you perhaps know, Walt Hodge is on the dangling string regarding the trip to India. He was to have left about the First of October but since that time, he has heard nary a word. As the Hawaiian boys say, "How ~~do~~ you figure"?

Denny and I would part with our slightly used eye teeth to have a chance to visit with you and Dottie again. All our best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



R. J. Seibert,  
Director

RJS:P

October 19, 1957

Dr. Howard L. Hyland, In Charge  
Plant Introduction Section  
New Crops Research Branch  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Beltsville, Maryland

Dear Dr. Hyland:

By now I have had an opportunity of going over your letter September 30th as well as other correspondence enclosed. Needless to say, we are quite disappointed to find that Civil Service apparently poses such stringent educational requirements for the services of temporary explorers for our particular rather specialized cooperative program in ornamental exploration.

It had more or less been our understanding that since these exploration trips were for a short duration, explorers could be hired on a temporary basis with more consideration given to the man's experience in the particular field rather than to his educational qualifications. Let us take Pal Allen as an example. I have known Paul for many years personally and have done a great deal of plant collecting with him. As far as we are concerned from his past field experience, his past government service, in his long first hand association with tropical ornamentals, that there is probably not a better man available to undertake the exploration in Brazil and would therefore be extremely disappointed if he could not be temporarily hired due to the formal educational block, especially since he has indicated that he would be interested and available for the few months involved in the program.

As a last resort, I am sure that we could make some special arrangement to pay Mr. Allen's or any other person's salary but to do so would necessitate my going through the Longwood Foundation Board of Trustees which of course would make it necessary for me to attempt to explain to them why it is not possible to hire a desirable and competent person through usual government channels.

I sincerely hope that this matter may be cleared up shortly.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. Seibert,  
Director

RJS:P

cc: Mr. Erlanson ✓  
Dr. Hodge

Dr. Howard L. Hyland

Page 2

P.S. -Most certainly Allen's experience, his bona fide accomplishments in the field of botanical research and his many fine authoritative, scientific publications plus the fact that he has published at least one book would seem to me to more than compensate for any lack of formal university training of an academic nature.

R.J.S.

October 16, 1957

Dr. R. J. Seibert, Director  
Longwood Gardens  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Dear Russ:

After re-reading your exposition of the facts of life to our mutual & esteemed friend in Beltsville, I am tempted to look hastily about me and mumble "Quien, Yo?" in relation to your many charitable comments on my behalf. As one of my foremen says on frequent occasions, "Yo soy muy franco; eso es mi caracter", I was at first incredulous and then fairly hot under the collar after receiving Hyland's condescending reply, but suppose I should be used to that sort of thing by now. My initial reaction was to chuck everything and use our small savings to join the union, if we could find any reputable university willing to take a chance on me at my age, and we still have this under fairly serious consideration for September of 1958, but with the specific locality as yet to be determined.

To come to the point, I am both touched and gratified that you have been willing to go so strongly on record in favor of an old friend, and only hope that your confidence will be justified in the event that the thing squeeks through government red tape. I must hasten to add however that I will still have to get the leave of absence cleared on this end, since we have had two resignations in recent time from our teaching staff and Dr. Paddock, while favorably inclined toward the idea, would need a definite departure and return date to arrive at a decision.

For the moment I would simply like to renew my thanks for everything that you have done, and stress that we would appreciate as much advance notice as possible, in case the plan goes through. Dottie joins me in warmest regards,

As ever,

Paul H. Allen

September 21, 1957

Dr. R. J. Seibert, Director  
Longwood Gardens  
Kennett Square  
Pennsylvania

Dear Russ:

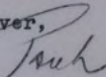
As you are probably aware, I have had an inquiry from the Plant Introduction Section of the U.S.D.A. in Beltsville, regarding the possibility of joining you during the months of January through April of next year, on your projected collecting trip to Brazil.

While definite confirmation will depend on developments here within the next six months, I feel the possibility good enough to have completed the enclosed Form 57's, and am returning them to Dr. Hyland. One practical difficulty would be that our school year does not end until about March 1, so that I would have to ask for a leave of absence, but since my duties for the coming semester center principally on the editing of Ceiba and other publications, I should think that this might be worked out, particularly if we had a fairly adequate pre-avisé of your final plans.

For the moment, I would like to ask, first, whether you could delay your departure until about February first, in the event of insurmountable difficulties on this end (though this may not be necessary) and second that you give us as much notice as possible if the appointment is confirmed.

I've always wanted to see the Rio Botanic Garden, and I can't think of any better company than with an ex tropical tramp like yourself. Dottie joins me in warmest regards to you & yours, and to the Hodges.

As ever,



# LONGWOOD FOUNDATION

HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

August 3, 1955

Mr. Paul H. Allen  
Escuela Agricola Panamericana  
Honduras  
Centro America

Dear Paul:

As usual your delightful letter made a lot of good common sense. Especially was I happy to know that your experiences at Zamaron are interesting and pleasant to you and Dottie.

Denny and I frequently reminisce over our wonderful time with you folks last summer and of course, are always looking forward to the time when we can again see you. Unfortunately, this trip from Los Angeles, to the East coast could not permit at this time, a round about way by Honduras. We were able, however, to spend a week and a half in St. Louis, together after which I proceeded to Longwood via Washington. Denny and the kids are still in St. Louis, and I expect them here about the 10th, of August.

I note the fact that you are well set up with guest rooms in Honduras and may I say that the same is true here where the latch string will be off for the Allen's at any time they come back to the States for a visit. Incidentally, when do you get your first leave?

It was enlightening to me to have your various opinions about the subjects discussed and particularly, to have your analysis of the various tropical and subtropical gardens.

After getting my sense of balance here at Longwood, I expect in the next week or two, to be able to sit down with the Trustees of Longwood and formulate the beginnings of the long range overall program for Longwood Gardens. As you know, up to the present time, Longwood has featured a superb display of ornamentals both in conservatories and out of doors. Such will continue, of course, to be one of the prime purposes of the Gardens for the pleasure and edification of the general public. However, added to that prime program, education and practical horticultural research particularly, on ornamentals of the new and different nature, will make for a well-rounded institution dealing in the field of ornamental Horticulture.

I find here a most pleasant atmosphere and spirit of full-hearted co-operation. Working conditions for everyone seem to be exceptionally pleasant. Salaries through the entire organization, I would say, are considerably above the average of those of similar institutions. The conditions here I believe, make for a feeling of satisfaction and especially a feeling of security and permanency. Especially, I have found, on the part of nearly everyone with whom I've come in contact, a feeling of pride in their work, and interest in what they are doing.

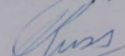
It is easy to understand, then, why this Garden has become one of the top Horticultural displays in the world.

While in Washington, Walt Hodge told me that Loomis had recently had a heart attack. However, I understood that he is recovering and will probably be back to work shortly.

McClure whom, I believe you may know, is on a temporary six months assignment with Plant Introduction Section to work up his key of the genus *Phyllostachys*. He is hoping and I heard that Walt is trying to get him set up on permanent status on the Bamboo assignment with the Plant introduction Section.

Let us hear from you as the occasion arises, and I'll be writing to you from time to time, as the picture unfolds here. I know that Denny would want to join me in best wishes to you and Dottie.

Sincerely,,

  
R. J. Seibert,  
Director

RJS:P

## QUESTIONS

- 1 - U.S. INCOME TAX?
- 2 - RETIREMENT?
- 3 - RETURN TO U.S.? HOW OFTEN?
- 4 - SALARY
- 5 - HOUSING?
- 6 - EXPENSES IN FIELD?
- 7 - CONTRACT - 3 YEARS -

### Primary Interests:

plantings common use of woody (known for  
for oil, cork, fiber, sugar, wax, etc.)  
- EXT. Fibers, resins, etc. Am. plants.  
- FOOD & DRUGS

WOODY PLANTS - FLOWERS & TIMBER - FOOD & DRUGS

ORNAMENTALS (pollination mechanisms - manual or C.A.M.O.)

TROPICAL FRUITS -

Ecology -

FINISH FR. PLAN. - NAT. SCIO FOUND.

BUNNENHUIS PLANET



July 6, 1955

Dear Russ:

We have indeed heard (recently) through Bob Woodson of your new venture, and hope sincerely that this time it proves to be all that the advertisement says; no eccentric staff, no scrambling for money. After your long and stony road in California you definitely deserve something better.

Besides your most recent bed of roses, your acquaintance with places like the M.B.G., the F.T.G. and various stations of the U.S.D.A. should help to keep you out of trouble. If for nothing else, they may serve as horrible examples of what NOT to do.

You will be in a position to do a tremendous amount of good, in a field that has become almost hopeless. You ask for suggestions along certain lines, so here goes.

The principal thing, perhaps that occurs to me is that every town-site and Introduction Garden in the tropics is filled with species, about 80% of which are Asiatic in origin. This by no means proves that they are any better, or for that matter as good as Palms, ornamentals, or economic plants from our own back yard, but simply that someone was sufficiently interested to do something about them.

How many times in the course of routine collecting have we both thought "now THAT obviously ought to be in cultivation", yet a listing of even the genera would be almost completely different from those in existing horticultural publications. In flowering trees alone, where are you to find genera such as *Bernoullia*, *Erblichia*, *Macrocnemum*, *Vochysia*, *Couratari* or *Dussia*, to mention but a very, very few, yet all of these have genera spectacular enough to be conspicuous for miles in the native forests.

*Species*  
The same could be said for palms, with whole groups of genera that are scarcely represented by a solitary specimen of a single species in the few collections in our hemisphere. I think immediately of the shade-loving things such as *Asterogyne*, *Geonoma*, *Reinhartia* etc., and even more so perhaps the massive genera such as *Raphia*, *Mauretia*, *Asterocaryum* etc. which are so hopeless as herbarium specimens.

It would be interesting to know how many native American palms, (other than the few now in use) that could be exploited commercially for edible oils, stock feed, canned palm cabbage, fiber or sugar. I am certain, for example, that either *Royale* or *Fejibayes* could be grown (at the rate of about 5000 plants per acre) in closely spaced, machine cultivated rows as a source of palm cabbage, which could be marketed in the U.S. as a delicacy comparable to heart of artichoke. I am equally

sure that the great wild stands of *Corozo oleifera* will someday be exploited for their edible oil, or as a stock feed. Why aren't the American *Raphias* suitable for fiber? There are thousands of acres of them in the wild stands, occupying land which is otherwise worthless.

Just while I'm wound up, how many timbers of proven worth will grow rapidly and satisfactorily under the shade of other species, permitting inexpensive upgrading of poor or culled stands? We again simply don't know, yet a few hundred test seedlings, observed for as little as four or five years would pretty well tell the story.

How many tropical fruits of known quality could be quick frozen, or canned in the form of concentrate, for American markets. Mangoes and Mangosteens alone should provide the basis for a nice industry.

What I am trying to say, in my usual long-winded manner, is that it would only take a little faith, and a relatively small investment to bring our tropical American species into their proper perspective in world horticulture and agriculture.

Now, to be a bit more specific, in the way of a program. First, I should think that you would need a tropical working base, particularly since palms can't be satisfactorily studied on the basis of herbarium material alone. Such a station would not necessarily have to be your own, or even if you decided that you wanted such a place, it probably would not have to be started from scratch. Just for the record, I am going to list the various places with which I am familiar, and the advantages and drawbacks of each.

Chapman Field -

Lou Loomis is tops, and would undoubtedly cooperate as long as he is there, if given funds. He is busy however, and if you planned anything very extensive you would have to provide your own personnel. Here, as anywhere in Florida however, you are up against unpredictable winters, poor soil, salt water mosquitos etc.

Montgomery Garden

Already have the best collection of palms, cycads and many other ornamentals in south Florida. Would probably cooperate on a limited scale, with or without funds. Things tend to drag during the summer when Mrs. Montgomery is away and proceed at a dizzy (I use the term advisedly) pace during the winter. Subject to the same climatic restrictions as the above.

Fairchild Garden

Not as good land or water as either of the above. Only one trained man on the staff. In spite of all the ballyhoo a rather mediocre collection, not equaling that of the Montgomery Estate, for example. They are torn by feuds, and have no policy, not to mention money. I believe either of the above would be a better bet in the U.S.

- Soledad* - Good, if somewhat repetitious palm collection. Strong also in Legumes, *Ficus*, *Euphorbiaceae*. Almost nil on tropical fruits, orchids or timber woods. Many very interesting native palms in wild stands accessible by car. Inclined to be too dry, probably too isolated, and with a dubious situation on financing and policy.
- Esquinas* - Small palm collection, but with many interesting native species in the forest preserve. Very isolated, with poor soil and almost no working facilities.
- Lancetilla* Small and poor palm collection. Best fruit and timber wood collection known to me. Good climate and soil. Not too many native palms or other species nearby of outstanding value. Probably too isolated.
- Zamorano* - No palm collection. Local countryside mostly in pine and oak, with outstanding horticultural plants mostly limited to a few orchids and some very fine bromeliads. Good herbarium & library, plus good working facilities. Climate probably too dry for a palm collection, and in general a little too isolated.
- Turrialba* - Fairly good location in regard to soil and climate, in an extremely interesting country. Otherwise a bureaucratic mess. No palm collection, and not much else. Good library, but no herbarium. Have a bad reputation for making agreements and then diverting personnel and funds to other uses.
- Summit* - Good palm, fruit and ornamental collection. In a good central location in a very interesting country, with good transportation, working and living facilities. Many native palms and outstanding ornamentals easily accessible by car. Small, but fairly good library. No herbarium. Good central point for concentrating South and Central American material, subject to a minimum of political difficulties. Badly, but not impossibly ~~run~~ down. Needs funds.

If you were to decide that you wanted to embark on a really comprehensive long range program of introduction and research I would at least consider trying to lease Summit on a long term basis. The Canal Administration is trying desperately to make ends meet, and considers the place a white elephant. My guess is that they would leap at the chance, particularly if a little political pressure could be brought to bear through Washington.

The Summit palm collection is not quite as large as that at Soledad, but is much more varied, and has extreme rareties such as *Pigafettia* (the one & only in this hemisphere) *Cyrtostachys*, *Coelococcus*, etc. etc. and it would be very easy to build up a really outstanding representation, since both the soil and rainfall seem to be about right for a wide range of species. Panama, and adjacent Costa Rica and Colombia are, as you know, loaded with fancy things, not only palms but orchids, bromeliads, gesneriaceae, acanthaceous shrubs (a very fertile, unexplored field) flowering trees, etc. Not all of these would be suited to the Longwood conservatories, but I should think that you could get several hundred showy things

brand new to U.S. horticulture.

Publishable projects are almost too numerous to list. To mention only the most obvious, a decent illustrated manual on the Central American palms, a good illustrated manual on the orchids of Central America & Mexico, a really good treatment of the handsome American flowering trees, or a good comprehensive opus on the Central American timbers. You could supply a dozen more in five minutes.

Dottie has just peeked in, and points out with her usual irrefutable logic that you have probably been asleep since page 2. Hence, I will turn from the sublime to the sublimely ridiculous, e.g. the Mo. Bot. Gard. I was considerably interested in your reaction to things there. I'm sure we can't both of us be entirely wrong. They have become Jacks of all trades and masters of none. Only a very drastic reduction in unproductive projects, with an accompanying pruning out of dead wood on the staff would do much good. I am sorry to find them embarked on the will o' the wisp hunt for Garden Club support, since I feel that they have better and considerably more practical solutions within their own hands.

Before I shut up for keeps, you might be surprised how much grant money might be forthcoming for some of your projects. For example, we had word a few days ago that the National Science Foundation had approved our request for funds to publish the Costarican rainforest manual. I believe the Garden could get at least 50,000 to get the Flora on its feet, but nobody seems to have that much initiative.

Things rock along quietly here. We are in Bert Mullers old house, if you remember. Our rains have gotten well under way, rice is a palm high, and we are enjoying some really wonderful mangos. Just now we have nearly a dozen flowers of *Brassavola Digbyana* open, which differ in significant detail from published plates and descriptions and Dottie is hard at it trying to get it down on paper.

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

We have never forgotten what a wonderful time we had together on your last visit, and wonder if there would be any chance of your coming down before going on east. We have plenty of room here (two guest rooms) and we could see the countryside and get you some orchids & bromeliads to take back. Seems like so much has happened lately that needs talking over. What do you think of Woodson's dust-up with Andy?

Dottie joins me in congratulations and best wishes,

as ever,

*Confidential*



LOS ANGELES STATE and COUNTY ARBORETUM

Operated By  
California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.  
291 No. Old Ranch Road, Arcadia, California

Cable: LASCA, Arcadia, Calif.

Telephone: DOuglas 7-3444

June 28, 1955

Dear Paul:

By this time you may have heard that the Saberts are resigning from the above institution to become Director of Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa. Longwood was the private estate of Pierre S. duPont and is now heavily endowed (\$60,000,000.-) as a show garden and to be developed as a complete

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botanical garden with educational purposes, etc. etc. Among its various activities should be some plant exploration, either independent or worked in cooperation with the facilities of the Plant Introduction Section of the USDA. In other words some stress on ornamental plants for Longwood, both out of doors and in the 5 cases of Conservatories. Furthermore this may be the source of funds to really give the studies of Palms some prominence as I've felt was needed for a long time and as I'm sure you have been disgusted over for many years.

Now what I would like is a proposal from you regarding your feelings as to what might be an ideal program regarding:

- 1.- Palms, their study and ultimate picture in utilization & ornamental use. CAN ONLY BE DONE IN THE US.
- 2.- Plant Collecting for the benefit of ↓

Ornamental Horticulture

- Any program which I'd have to consider must show several things:
1. - a benefit to Longwood Gardens.
  2. - be of fresh significance to the general field of ornamental horticulture and thereby to Botany.
  3. - have good and favorable publicity value for those involved.

The new program for Longwood will not be limited to activities at Longwood alone, but can be done in cooperation with almost any <sup>appropriate</sup> institution in any part of the U.S.A. or for that matter the free world.

In other words, even the Finckel Tropical Garden might be revived in the right direction if some friendly ~~broader~~ could be replaced or gotten off the Post. I say this because in speaking with Mrs. H.F. duPont and feeling her out I found she thought it was a shame they let you go. Her exact expression was that she felt "Mr. Allen was too damn good for the Finckel Garden regime".

I don't know just how you are situated at Zamerano, or if you might <sup>ever</sup> consider a change and if so what you might like to do where you would have the feeling of being able to do your best in something you most like to do. <sup>Anyway</sup> I'd like to hear from you. (and where you would like to do it)

About 3 weeks ago I spent a day at M.B.G. and have never seen a place so lousy up as it

is now. - If you think it was bad before you ought  
to see it now. It seems not one has any authority any more  
or any feeling of initiative or self respect.

We are leaving here July 6<sup>th</sup> & be in  
St. Louis at 4467 Magnolia until July 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Then I'll be at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square  
Pa. after July 20<sup>th</sup>.

This position came as quite a surprise to me,  
and one which I didn't ask for. - Rather they sought  
me out, called us to Washington, showed us the works  
asked my ideas on an overall program, seemed to  
like it, made me the offer and being being just  
like that it was dumped in my lap with  
plenty of money to work with and a relatively  
free hand assumed. 500000 who am I  
to quibble. - Now we've quite a staff to build  
up over the next 3-5 years and I hope to get a  
small working staff and go ahead and really accomplish  
something that all concerned will be proud of, rather  
than fight and bicker over all the time.

Am love to Dot and you

Sincerely  
Percy.