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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.

October 10, 1956

Dear Julian:

Your kind comments regarding the *Costarican Rain Forest* opus are much appreciated, all the more because you have done such extensive tropical work yourself and thus have an almost unique appreciation of the problems involved. As is probably inevitable, in anything of this scope, a half dozen or so errors have crept in which I shall probably never live down, but I at least hope it may serve a useful purpose to someone working in the field. I think we all, within our abilities, have an obligation to humanity to produce something useful if we can, and this is my first small payment on account.

As you know, we don't see reviews, or similar things with any regularity here, so that I would consider it a very great personal favor if you might send us a copy of anything you publish on our little brain child. Just now I am working on another project of a somewhat more popular nature, but haven't any idea when or where it will be printed. Dorothy joins me in renewed thanks and regards to you and yours,

As ever,

## CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FORMERLY FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

October 5, 1956

Dear Paul:

It was wonderful to receive your new book. Congratulations heaped up to the millions! You've really given the rain forests a new look in literature, and high time somebody got together the available loose ends and brought them together. You were the logical one to do this, with your years of practical knowledge of the forests. It takes someone like you who has lived consecutively for years in the region.

I keep thinking of our first times together when we became inoculated with the love of the tropical vegetation, and how it became apparent to me from the very beginning of your intense interest and fascination with the greenery around you.

I plan to review your book for our Chicago Natural History Museum Bulletin and would like to review it elsewhere in other botanical journals. It is surely a knockout and deserves high praise. Your photos are excellent and everything is well done.

Continued success to you,

Best wishes

*Julian*

Julian A. Steyermark  
Curator of the Phanerogamic Herbarium

December 6, 1955

Dear Julian:

It has been my experience that it is difficult or impossible to drum up much interest in anything of a sensible nature in botany, but that these "believe-it-or-not" Ripley specials never die. This must be at the least the twentieth inquiry I have had regarding the square trees from El Valle, which are, so far as I know, Quararibea platyphylla Pittier & D. Sm. - Actually about thirty percent of the local population exhibit this peculiarity, and I can say from personal observation that they couldn't be much squarer if they had been run through a planer. The rest are merely angular, a character typical of many of the species in the genus.

Things run along quietly, but very pleasantly here. We are enjoying some of those beautiful early dry season days you will remember from the Guatemalan highlands, with morning and evening temperatures just low enough to make a fire in the fireplace feel good. Dorothy continues to nibble away at illustrations of local orchids, as they become available, which are welcome additions to our fairly extensive set from lower Central America. Teaching doesn't leave me much time for field work, but I find it unexpectedly stimulating, though it has been spitefully said that its just because I am thus guaranteed a daily audience! We have plenty of room, and would love to see you both if your travels should bring you our way. Dorothy joins me in very best wishes to you both.

As ever, *Paul*



CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
FORMERLY FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

December 1, 1955

Dear Paul:

What a beautiful Xmas card you send each year!  
Thanks for remembering us. Ours will reach you sometime.

Harry Fuller wrote me as follows: "One of my students in elementary Botany this semester, who has recently returned from military service in Panama, has brought me a clipping concerning the "Square" trees which grow in the vicinity of El Valle, Panama. He would like to know the scientific name of these trees and the name of the family to which they belong. This is something entirely new to me; although I have been to El Valle, I certainly did not see any square trees. The newspaper article from a publication in the Canal Zone actually has a photograph of one of these trees with a square trunk."

So far as I am aware, there is no such animal, and I can find no reference to such a name anywhere. The only square tree I have ever seen is that type one commonly sees in the villages where a rectangular or quadrangular enclosure or cage is placed around a trunk to keep off grazing animals.

I would appreciate it if you have any information on the subject and would be very surprised if there were actually such a tree, but I suppose anything is possible.

Hope you are enjoying the Escuela atmosphere.

With best wishes

*Julian*

Camboa, C.Z.  
October 22, 1946

Dear Julian:

Your recent sending of the second volume of the Flora of Guatemala has now been with me for several days, and I am much impressed with the fine job you are doing on it. The only thing lacking are illustrations, and you will soon have them. I will certainly be looking forward to seeing the next parts, as they are completed. Many thanks.

Collecting here continues about as usual, with new things showing up still in well collected areas such as El Valle, and even as near the Zone as the slopes of Cerro Campana and Cerro Trinidad. Panama, as you will remember, has a very unevenly distributed rainfall, and most of our best things come from isolated hills, with elevations over 3000 ft., and rainfall in excess of 100 inches. For some curious reason, these hills, often separated only by a few miles, each have a few plants so far not found elsewhere. They almost give you the impression of an endemic development from a few original waifs that somehow got started there. If every such hill in Panama is the same, there are a raft of things still to be found. I was astonished on a recent trip to El Valle, for example, to find another, very striking Magnolia, making three for Panama. Another very curious recent find is a species of Epiphyllum growing at 3000 ft. in wet rain forest, as a gigantic liana, with long loops reaching from the tops of tall trees to the ground, and climbing up again by means of lateral roots, the whole mass several hundred feet long. The flowers are typical of the genus, but enormous, measuring fifteen inches in length, and opening in proportion. Who ever heard of lianas in the Cactaceae? Now I've seen everything.

I hope to get up at least as far as San Jose, in Costa Rica, and perhaps to Tegucigalpa sometime late this year, or early next, to check through their herbariums, and talk with Lou Williams on the last half of the Orchids for the Flora. It sounds like I might see Dr. Standley there, if I go, and I hope yourself as well. It would be wonderful to get out in the field with you again, and hear of your Guatemalan and South American experiences.

Most sincere regards,

## CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FORMERLY FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE

CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

September 23, 1946

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your kind letter recently sent. Always enjoy hearing from you and knowing about what you're up to next. We botanical explorers get around so much that it's hard for the other fellow sometime to follow us and our activities around.

I just sent you Part 5, a second volume and sequel to the first I sent originally, of our Flora of Guatemala, and hope it may prove useful. The other parts, probably six more at least, will be coming out gradually. Since the Museum has other publications from other departments also to take care of, there may be delay for another year before the next parts are published, which will be a long introduction telling about past explorers, topography, climate, plant associations and regions, etc., as well as many other things of general interest to the traveler, explorer, student, and general reader. Yes, Guatemala is plenty exciting, and I could have spent the rest of my life just digging up new things there. Standley seems to think we have got the cream from it, and that future explorers may turn up but very little. I, however, have my doubts about this, and really think others may find quite a lot of new things, especially from many parts of Petén and northern and western Huehuetenango and Quiché. I would liked to have seen all the Flora illustrated as in the Flora of Panama, but Standley wanted to start getting the thing printed and did not want to wait for this part to be illustrated. Having been gone during most of the war on field work for the Museum and government, I was not able to attend to the matter of supervising an artist.

However, I am supervising an artist now for the new flora we are starting on Middle Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua) and we have every genus illustrated thus far up to the Liliaceae, and plan to have every genus in the flora done as such. Standley will leave in November for the beginning trip to collect material for this new flora, and when he returns, then I start out and will be gone, principally in Nicaragua and Honduras where it is the wildest, for about a year. I imagine we will meet on one of these expeditions. We are surely due to meet. Skutch passed through here recently and we had an interesting and all too brief a visit from him.

Yes, it must be tough to run up against superficialities in the government personnel and methods, instead of the real



thing, but I hope you will keep trying and varying your methods until maybe you will strike oil and get them to have the local school teachers cooperate in sending you specimens.

Please let me hear from you more often. I surely eat up your news when you send it.

As ever yours,

September 23, 1948  
Julian

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your kind letter recently sent. I always enjoy hearing from you and knowing about what you're up to next. We botanical explorers get around a great deal but for the other fellow something to follow us and our

I just sent you Part B, a second volume and added to the first sent originally. It is our flora of Guatemala and some of the other parts. The other parts, probably six more at least will be coming out gradually. Since the Museum has other publications from other departments also to take care of there may be delay for another year before the next part are published, which will be a long interval. I had about 2000 specimens, mostly plants, and some other things of general interest to the traveler. I had about 2000 specimens, mostly plants, and some other things of general interest to the traveler.

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Yes, I am supervising an artist now for the new flora we are starting on Middle Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua) and we have very good illustrations. I am going to the Middle America, and plan to have every genus in the flora done as usual. Standley will leave in November for the beginning trip to collect material for this new flora, and when he returns, then I start out and will be gone, principally in Honduras and Nicaragua where it is the most difficult. I imagine we will meet on one of these expeditions. He is surely due to visit. Standley passed through here recently and we had an interesting and all too brief a visit from him.

Yes, it must be tough to run up against specialists in the government personnel and methods, instead of the real thing. I must be tough to run up against specialists in the government personnel and methods, instead of the real thing.



**FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE  
CHICAGO

Nov. 6, 1941

Dear Paul:

I am not a poor correspondent, but I have been so tied up into all sorts of knots getting this and that done that I plumb neglect to write you every now and then as I should. I was full to the gills when Standley returned in May and turned over all your plants to him. As I wrote you, I named that gentianaceous reddish-pink plant after you, and called it *Voyria allenii* and a species of *Connerus* you collected was new and I named it for you also. You had sent the sheet originally to the U.S. Nat. Herb. and they had sent their *Conneraceae* to me to be named and that's how I got hold of it. Standley works so fast compared to my slow plodding, but someday I hope to know the genera and species better. But it takes lots of practise and years of collecting and experience. On my next trip to the tropics I have visions of recognizing lots of plants I did not recognize on my last trip. There's so much in the tropics to grasp (both physically and mentally) that each trip finds one becoming acquainted with another new-to-him genus or species.

I leave Dec. 3 from New Orleans for my last trip to Guatemala before completing our flora of that country. I expect to be gone collecting 9-10 months or maybe more, and expect to hit some real wild territory (Southern Peten, northern Quiche and Huehuetenango, and other places in Izaabal and Alta Verapaz). I am surely looking forward to the trip with renewed zeal. I understand from Standley that you might be in Guatemala for your vacation. If that is true, and I hope it is, then we must by all odds meet somewhere and celebrate old times. You can write me C/O American Consul, Guatemala City, Guatemala, C. A. and they will forward my mail from there. I should like to get you out with me for as long as you could afford to spend the time. It would be loads of fun seeing you again. You'll probably find me very aged and decrepit now after all these years, you know.

I am driving down from here to New Orleans and will be leaving about Nov. 25th. Hope we can work out a way to see each other soon.

With fondest regards,

As ever yours,

*Julian*

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE

CHICAGO

February 27, 1941

Dear Paul:

Thanks for the new shipment of interesting plants just received and hope to be able to send you names shortly. If Stanley were here you would probably receive your names within a week of sending but my not knowing the flora as he does, it takes me so long to work things out. However, my heart is in the right place for you and I am not delaying because I want to, but because I can't find time to do everything quickly. I sent some of your *Ardisia* and *Coccoloba* to Lundell, but as yet have not heard from him. I believe I reported to you the determinations on the Bromeliads, but if I haven't I will do so again when I send you all of the determinations at one time. I cannot understand why the Missouri Botanical Garden has never sent me another reprint of the Panama plant booklet that you asked me to get for you. I never heard another peep out of Nell about it. I merely stated that I wanted another copy if possible. Something is wrong somewhere.

I sincerely hope we will get together before long to explore together. I am still a lover of mountains, cliffs, river floats and other interesting places. I shall probably leave for Guatemala this coming August or September, and be down for a year if possible.

Hoping all goes well with you and hoping to hear again soon.

As ever yours,

*Julian*

THE PANAMA CANAL  
CANAL ZONE  
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

Balboa C.Z.  
February 2, 1941.

Dear Julian:

By this mail I am sending you a small packet of plants, some of which at least I hope prove of some interest. There are three Begonias, a sterile Pedocarpus ( there is no Pedocarpus known from Panama ), a Gaephaelis that looks different to me, as well as other odds and ends . I would greatly appreciate it if you can find time to look them over.

I expect that by this time you are just about completely snowed under with Dr. Standley's sendings from Guatemala. It must be all the more interesting having been there yourself, and knowing what to more or less expect from a given locality. As you know, I hope to get there some day, and only hope that it can be arranged during one of the

times when you are working there.

Loa Williams seems to be finding quite a few new things in the Orchids coming from El Valle, and according to Merton practically ALL of the Gesneriacs are new. I really believe I have stumbled on to a prize locality there, and hope that some of the species in your groupes may also be interesting. When the Flora of Guatemala is finally done, and delivered to an anxiously awaiting world, I hope that you may find time to get down and have a look at our corner of the world.

With renewed good wishes to yourself, I remain,

Most sincerely yours,



## FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE

CHICAGO

October 8, 1940

Dear Paul:

I was surely glad to hear from you. Only one specimen arrived, your no. 2240 and it was plenty exciting. I was holding up answering you until the other plants you mentioned in your letter arrived, but since they haven't and since I don't want to keep you in too long a suspense, I will report on 2240. Since it is a good new species I have named it Voyria Allenii. This is in the Gentianaceae, and some authors unite this genus with Leiphaimos, but I am inclined to leave it in Voyria. Voyria is

distinguished from Leiphaimos on the basis of its much larger flowers, thicker stouter stems from a much more branched extensive underground stem system, and in differences of the pollen grains. It is certainly a beautiful plant and you are to be congratulated for getting it, a genus new to Central America, and otherwise known only from 3 other species found only rarely in Colombia and British Guiana.

This is the second interesting plant I have had the pleasure of naming after you. The other was Stegolepis Allenii, an epiphytic sedge-like plant which belongs in the Rapateaceae, both the family and the genus new to Central America. When your collection arrived at that time, Standley did not know the genus or family and turned it over to me to work out which I did with pleasure. I boiled out the flowers and dissected carefully. We were highly pleased when it turned out to belong to the Rapateaceae. The family and genus Stegolepis was known previously only from S. Am. from the Guianas and Venezuela. It is quite thrilling, isn't it? It has been published and you should be receiving a reprint shortly. I suppose you got the last 2 papers Standley and I published. One of them, Studies of American Plants XI, has a new Genus Steyermarkia, and the other paper, Studies of Central American Plants I, by Standley and me has mostly Guatemalaa plants I collected. You should have received both papers by now, and the second one of the Cent. Am. series has just been published. There seems to be no end to the novelties in the tropics.

It surely is too bad we have had to miss one another. I was still exploring Guatemala when you passed through Chicago last April. Imagine two of us hunting together again, it sure would be great. I still am the old mountain goat, and nothing suits me better than getting to the top of a peak and exploring bluffs and canyons, and that sort of stuff is endless in the tropics. I suppose you heard that Dodge is going down to Guatemala to teach for a year. He's on loan to Central America from the Garden. Precious loan!

I'll be writing you again after I've received the rest of your awaited lot of material.

Best of luck and more exploring,

Yours as ever,

Julian

THE PANAMA CANAL  
CANAL ZONE  
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

Balboa, C.Z.  
September 15, 1940

Dear Julian:

This is addressed to you, since you are probably holding the fort during Dr. Standley's absence. Seeh folks, tak tak, perfect GLOBE TROTTERS all of you! I'm at least hoping that you tackle the flora of some west coast south American country next, so that you'll have to come through here on your many & varried travells.

By this mail I'm sending you another packet of plants. Most of them are pretty much routine tripe, but behind every cloud there's a silver lining, and bank night's every thursday. To wit, and in particular -----

# 2240

which I consider just as exciting as that, or it is in OUR provincial parts. I copy from my notes. # 2240, from hills north of El Valle de Anton, Coole province, about 800 M. elevation, 9/8/40. Terrestrial plant, growing in dense shade, Gentianaceae ?, Saprophytic ?, plant without chlorophyll, bracts dull red, flower bright pink, stems growing from a mass of fibrous roots, to which they were connected. Plant is EITHER parasitic, or has an unusually extensive root system for such a slender above ground stem. The roots looked a great deal like those of a nearby tree. Fragments of roots are attached to one specimen.

This is definatly NOT *Leiphaimos*, or anything like it. This one has flowers larger than a five cent piece, and is quite showy and attractive. In short, I'm all a-twitter. Please don't keep me in suspense.

They all of 'em will need collecting data, which follows.

Hills north of El Valle, Coole province, Elevation about 1000 M. 6/23/40  
2148 - Tree. 4M. tall, flowers white, fleshy.

Hills north of El Valle, etc. El. 1000 M. 7/14/40

2181 - Tree, 20 m. tall, *Coccoloba*, flowers white.  
2183 - Tree, 10 m. tall.

Summit of Cerro Campana, Panama Province, 800 to 1000 M. 9/1/40  
2214 - Epiphytic bromeliad, climbing woody stem averaging more than a meter long. Bracts pink, flowers yellow.

THE PANAMA CANAL  
CANAL ZONE  
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

Same locality as # 2214

2215 - Epiphytic bromeliad.

2226 - Ardisia, near Seibortii, small tree, 3 m. flowers pink.

South Rim of El Valle de Anton, El. 700 m. 9/8/40

2228 - Epiphytic strangler Ficus, fruit pink.

Floor of El Valle, 600 M. 9/8/40

2229 - Cecoloba, tree, 15 m. tall, along stream banks, flowers white.

2230 - Aroid, terrestrial, on steep banks in deep shade.

Hills north of El Valle, 800 M. 9/8/40

2232 - Dioscorea, flowers dull purple, growing in scrub on edge of grassy ridge.

2233 - Phorodendron, parasitic shrub, branches  $\frac{3}{4}$  m tall. Flower tube salmon orange, tipped yellow. Common in scrub thickets.

Hope that some of these prove of interest.

Most sincerely yours,



THE PANAMA CANAL  
CANAL ZONE  
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

Hills North of El Valle de Anton, Prov. of Coclé, Elevation 800 to 1000 m.  
Jan. 2, 1941 .

2284 - Tree, 6 meters tall, flowers green, branches very brittle, leaves giving off a very pleasant aromatic odor when crushed.

2286 - Begonia, very common on banks along trail to La Mesa. Flowers dark pink, undersides of leaves red. ( B. Alleni ? )

Hills North of El Valle de Anton, Prov. of Coclé, Vicinity of La Mesa,  
Elevation about 1000 meters, Jan. 21, 1941.

2297 - Begonia - Epiphytic, flowers pale pink.

2298 - Podocarpus, sterile specimen. Small tree, 3 meters tall.

2299 - Lauraceae, small tree, 4 meters,

2303 - Palm, 4 meters, fruit fleshy, yellow.

2321 - Cephælis, shrub or small tree, 2 1/2 meters tall, bracts orange,  
flowers white.

2325 - Cyclanthus - terrestrial.

2341 - Begonia, terrestrial, flowers white.

2345 - Rubiaceae - Vine , flowers white.

Box 43, Gamboa,  
September 14, 19

Dear Julian:

Yesterday's mail brought the first volume of the *Flo* of Guatemala, which you so kindly and thoughtfully sent. I have heard from several sources that it was an excellent job which is more than confirmed upon personal examination. I don't know how to thank you enough. As I skim through it, read the localities, in the Alta Verapaz, Retalhuleu, Quezaltenango, Huehuetenango etc., all parts of Guatemala unknown to me, my mouth fairly waters, and I envy you both your unique privilege of seeing those untouched parts of a wonderful land. I have been in Guatemala twice, but unfortunately both times briefly, but even in such a short stay it was evident that far and away the most interesting of the Latin American countries. I had until recently supposed that perhaps Peru might be a bit better, but those who have seen both say that Guatemala is by far the finer of the two.

Things run along here about as you will remember, excepting that we are in a new location, since intense crowding here has made it impossible, at least so far, to get our operation back. In some ways it is probably just as well, since no feeling that we are here on any permanent basis. The FI goes forward slowly, and I'm trying to get in as good a job as possible toward its completion. I am doing rainfall maps of place, on the meager data available, and hope to do some accompanying maps showing plant distribution. It all will be far from perfect, since Panama presents many peculiarities not elsewhere. Local knowledge of, or interest in, the plants about zero. The usual answer to inquiry about native names "Esto, --- (a long pause) Estos son flores de la naturaleza there is not a single resident of Panama, native or foreign is interested enough to collect so much as a single herbarium sheet. I worked on don Alejandro Mendez, Director of the Museo Nacional for the better part of two months, trying to sell on the idea of having school teachers in the outlying districts send in dried specimens of interesting things, but all it did to was to have don Alejandro write a long memorial to the government calculated to display his personal erudition, but not deal to any concrete results. Oh, well.

Lou Williams writes me that your next field to conquer is Honduras. I envy him the opportunity of being in the field yourself and Dr. Stanley, and being able to profit by your experience. We read in the papers in St. Louis of the excellent job you did in Ecuador and Venezuela on Quintine, and I only wish we could have gotten together & exchanged experiences.

