



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
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

San Salvador
April 12, 1958

Dr. J. G. Harrar, Director
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Harrar:

The long delay in answering your good letter of February 7 has been occasioned by the very uncertain state of my personal plans since that time, but I do want you to know how much your interest in my Dendrological projects has been appreciated and your suggestions in regard to possible financing by the Guggenheim Foundation.

I am at present on loan from the Escuela Agricola Panamericana to the Salvadorean Ministry of Agriculture and am working on a botanical problem in Simarouba glauca, a native tree exploited to a limited extent as a source of an oil used principally in soap manufacture. This assignment is for a period of two months, but it now appears probable that I will return in August of this year as a full time consultant to do a manual of the timber resources of the country.

This has been an entirely unexpected development, and a departure from my original intention to try to complete the Panama survey at this time, but it will at least get me back into active work on Dendrology and in a country that is willing to back such a study with cash.

If this relatively uncomplicated job can be made into a sort of demonstration project, and published in presentable form, it should be of some help in selling the Panama idea to the Guggenheim Foundation at a later time.

I don't pretend to understand why a country like Salvador, with no remaining timber resources to speak of, feels in a position to finance such a study, while Panama, with a tremendous potential, does not, but I have decided to accept the proverbial bird in the hand, for the moment.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

AGRICULTURE

J. G. HARRAR, DIRECTOR
ROBERT F. CHANDLER, JR., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
A. H. MOREMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
ROBERT F. BURDEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JOHN J. MCKELVEY, JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KENNETH WERNIMONT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS:
ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE:
COLUMBUS 5-8100

February 7, 1958

Dear Dr. Allen:

I have had a brief conversation with Dr. Henry Allen Moe of the Guggenheim Foundation, and, on the basis of my comments concerning your work and interests, Dr. Moe has agreed that he would be willing to have you write him concerning your work and your future desires in the field of forest taxonomy. I have told Dr. Moe that your personal field is tropical botany with special emphasis on tree species, and I mentioned to him your excellent book on the rain forests of Golfo Dulce. I forgot to tell him, however, that you are in the fortunate position of having married an artist who has provided you with a never-ending source of fine illustrations for your publications.

I would suggest that you write Dr. Moe, tell him of your work and interests, and send him a copy of your book as well as any other publications which you think are pertinent. I do not know whether the Guggenheim Foundation would be especially interested in providing you with a fellowship in the formal sense, but Dr. Moe might be willing to consider one in support of your botanical activities. However, if you could combine your field activities with some arrangement at the University of Florida, you might possibly accomplish both of your purposes.

You will understand that I have no way of knowing whether or not the Guggenheim Foundation might be in a position to be helpful to you. However, in view of Dr. Moe's willingness to have you communicate with him, I would think you might wish to do so at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. Harrar
J. G. Harrar

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

JGH:ja

P. S. Dr. Moe's address is: John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
551 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Copy to Dr. William Paddock

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

October 14, 1957

COPY

Dr. J. George Harrar
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Harrar:

I am sorry that I have failed before now to send a letter covering Mr. Paul Allen's letter to you of September 28th.

The Escuela Agricola Panamericana has a traditional interest in systematic studies of the Flora of Tropical America. As a result, our herbarium, I am told, is probably the best between the Rio Grande and Bogota. As a result a number of worth-while publications in this field have originated here.

The school, in the past, has supported the development of the herbarium and has paid the expenses of some of its employees, such as Louis O. Williams, during collecting trips to Costa Rica, Belize, and Guatemala. I, therefore, feel that the school would be continuing a justified interest in permitting Mr. Allen to have leave for the project which he has outlined to you. We would be able, perhaps, to carry Mr. Allen on a small honorarium while travelling on this project; or help him with some of the travelling expenses involved. This we would do in return for a duplicate set of specimens.

Mr. Allen's work here at the school could be so arranged that he could take alternate semesters off for the work, since his chief responsibilities here are to be centered around some of our publications.

I wish to say that I am highly impressed by Mr. Allen's qualifications for the proposed project and feel that he has the professional interest and drive, as well as the scholarly understanding of his field, to be able to carry out the project with competence and with success. I hope that it will be possible to give the plan favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Sgd) Wm. C. Paddock
Director

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

AGRICULTURE

J. G. HARRAR, DIRECTOR
ROBERT F. CHANDLER, JR., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
A. H. MOSEMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
ROBERT P. BURDEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JOHN J. MCKELVEY, JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KENNETH WHEATMONT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS:
ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE:
COLUMBUS 5-8100

October 7, 1957

Dear Dr. Allen:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 28th, and I appreciate the further information which you have sent me concerning your plans for an exhaustive forest survey of Panama.

I have not yet heard from Dr. Paddock, and would wish to do so, before taking the next step which would be to discuss your proposal with the appropriate members of our committee here. While I do not wish to make any external judgments, I would wonder whether your responsibilities at the School are such that you could readily get away for the necessary periods in order to carry out this project which is, of course, not very closely related to the program of the Panamerican School of Agriculture. This would be a matter for decision by Dr. Paddock and yourself. I understand that even if the time factor could be resolved satisfactorily, there is no implied commitment that the School could or should participate financially in this project. I am not sure whether this means that you would have to seek salary support from outside sources if you were to go forward with the proposed timber survey of Panama?

Again, there is the question as to what the University of Florida might provide in the way of aid to publication and I would think this question would have to be answered before we could give any further consideration to the proposal.

Although we are at least willing to look into the situation a little more deeply in the event that Dr. Paddock wishes to bring it to our attention - I think I should again tell you that your project falls somewhat outside the limits of our regular program, and in any event we may very probably find it difficult or impossible to recommend support for it. I am sorry to have to send you this discouraging reply, but I think it only fair that you should completely understand our position and our limitations.

Sincerely yours,


J. G. Harrar

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Zamorano, HONDURAS

JGH:CC

cc: Dr. William Paddock

September 28, 1957

Dr. J. G. Harrar, Director
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Harrar:

Dr. Paddock feels that it might be well at this time, when the subject is fresh in all of our minds, to clarify the situation insofar as possible regarding my projected timber survey of Panama by providing you with the information which you request on support that might be expected from other sources, and our general plan of operation.

Unless some serious emergency occurs in relation to our present staff, I would be free, as far as the Escuela Agricola Panamericana is concerned, to spend alternate semesters and possibly the school vacation period as well entirely on the project, either in residence here or in the field, and would be, in addition allowed up to about a third of my time, when on regular duty, to take advantage of our very fine library and herbarium which are well up to the standards required for serious research. Dr. Paddock also feels that some funds might be provided by the School to cover part of actual expenses while in Panama, in return for a set of the specimens. This would be in line with our past practice of financing collecting trips to critical areas, and in fact it has been largely through this means that our present plant collection has been developed. Dr. Paddock desires to stress however that he cannot undertake a definite commitment on this score for any specific amount, since our budget for 1958 has been neither submitted or approved.

In regard to the part that might be played by the University of Florida, Dr. Reitz has already indicated his willingness to have their press publish the completed work, but whether this would be handled on a partial or total subsidy I have no way of knowing, other than that it has been my impression, in conversations with Dr. Lewis Haines, Director of the Press, that they sometimes accept subsidies of as low as 25% of the total printing costs, if the work seems to be of sound scientific merit. This is, of course, in the field of pure speculation, and would have to be taken up with Dr. Reitz directly, but the ~~my~~ promise of acceptance, and the services of Dr. Haines fine staff would, in themselves, represent material aid of considerable importance.

Present plans would involve residence here, on a basis as yet to be determined, from June of 1958 until about December first, while

at work on a basic check list and preliminary keys to known formations, after which I would go to Panama to begin a comprehensive series of forest population studies in representative sections of the Republic. This would take at least two, and possibly three dry seasons, with the intervening periods to be spent at Zamorano, or in the United States. Judging by my past experience on similar projects, I would envision a total period of between three and four years active work for the completion of the final manuscript. This would, of course, be an extremely short time for a project of this magnitude and complexity had it not been for my former nine years of exploration in the country.

It is my impression that Dr. Paddock plans to write to you personally with the object of putting on record his ideas as to what the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana's policy would be in the matter.

Most sincerely yours,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. William C. Paddock

September 23, 1957

Dr. J. G. Harrar, Director
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Harrar:

Thank you for your letter explaining the Foundation's position in regard to research proposals outside the field of basic food production. While I may possibly contact you again, as you suggest, as to the alternate plan of requesting partial support from either the University of Florida or the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, it would seem best to first explore our chances with other organizations, such as the Guggenheim, who have backed a broad range of projects in the past.

With this in view, I have written to Dr. Edgar Anderson of the Missouri Botanical Garden, who is on the Guggenheim board, asking him for a frank opinion as to whether such an application would be in line with their present policy. If this falls through, I will let you know, and we can go into the matter further.

In the interval, I would like to express my real appreciation for your consideration and suggestions.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. William Paddock
Dr. J. Wayne Reitz

Write up Revised DRAFT of
Grant needs & program
& submit to Paddock.

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ASK FOR covering letter
to WAYNE REITZ.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

AGRICULTURE

J. G. HARRAR, DIRECTOR
ROBERT F. CHANDLER, JR., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
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ROBERT F. BURDEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JOHN J. MCKELVEY, JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KENNETH WERNEMONT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS:
ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE:
COLUMBUS 5-8100

September 16, 1957

Dear Professor Allen:

This will acknowledge your inquiry of August 30 concerning the possibility that you might apply for support from this organization for the completion of an inclusive survey of the timber resources of Panama. At the same time I should like to acknowledge receipt of a copy of your book, "The Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce", which is certainly an excellent and comprehensive treatment of this subject.

Although we clearly recognize the importance of the several aspects of forest science as related to agriculture, conservation, and allied fields, we have not thus far found it possible to include general support to forestry within our regular agricultural program. Rather we have found it necessary to commit available resources largely to problems involved in the production of basic food supplies. Such support as we have been able to provide in the area of forest science has been in the nature of very occasional exceptions to program.

From the foregoing, you will see that it is not possible to give you special encouragement that we might find it possible to support any part of your project. However, we would be willing to study the matter further if you will send us a little additional information. Specifically, we should like to know how this project would affect your present and continuing responsibilities at the Pan-American School of Agriculture and what support you might expect to receive from the School of from the University of Florida. We would then need information as to funds required from other sources for stated purposes and the duration of the project. With these details, we could at least give your proposal further study and inform you whether or not we could consider recommending partial support to it.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. Harrar
J. G. Harrar

Professor Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS

JGH:ja

Copies to: Dr. J. Wayne Reitz
Dr. William Paddock

August 30, 1957

Dr. J. G. Harrar, Director
Rockefeller Foundation
49 W. 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Dr. Harrar:

Dr. J. Wayne Reitz of the University of Florida has suggested in a recent letter that I contact you informally regarding the possibility of requesting funds from your organization for the completion of a comprehensive survey of the timber resources of Panama.

Work completed to date includes nine years of explorations in nearly all parts of the Republic, under the auspices of the Missouri Botanical Garden, providing the necessary groundwork for species identification. This phase produced literally hundreds of new species and/or extensions of range, as well as a wealth of photographs, drawings and preliminary maps, but would, of course, need to be supplemented by further studies in the field of distributional patterns and the dominant elements in the various ecological formations.

It has been my feeling for a good many years that orthodox manuals, where such are available, fall far short of fulfilling the basic needs of the practical forester or engineer in the tropics, since no means are provided for the use, in identification of the often very conspicuous trunk, leaf and bark characters recognized by every native woodsman.

It was with this in mind that I undertook my more recent study of the Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce, in Costa Rica, which was published about a year ago by the University of Florida Press, with the aid of a grant from the National Science Foundation. You may already be familiar with this work, but I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy under separate cover, since it will give you a far better idea of the sort of thing that I would like to do for the entire Republic of Panama.

Dr. Reitz tells me that he would be glad to again have their Press undertake publication of the completed job. He feels that the Rockefeller Foundation might prefer to have funds administered by an institution such as the University of Florida or the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, rather than to have the grant made to a private individual. Dr. William C. Paddock, our New Director, whom I believe you know, also says that he would be glad to endorse my participation in such work, and that part time release from my duties here might be arranged.

Since I have never previously made application for a grant of exactly this kind, it would be greatly appreciated if I might hear from you as to your general reaction to the idea, and, if this is favorable, how we might best proceed to meet your requirements.

Most sincerely yours,

Paul H. Allen

cc - Dr. William C. Paddock
Dr. J. Wayne Reitz



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE
CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS

TURRIALBA, COSTA RICA

August 27, 1957

Air Mail

El Instituto es un Organismo especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Fue establecido por los Gobiernos de las Repúblicas Americanas para promover el adelanto de las ciencias agrícolas por medio de la investigación, la educación y el desarrollo de servicios regionales.

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Paul:

It was certainly nice to see you on my recent trip even though it was for such a short time. Unfortunately that is the way most of these trips are nowadays.

I discussed the matter of the Rockefeller grant on your Panama book with Dr. Harold Mowry and Dr. Ralph Allee. Dr. Mowry is sure that President Wayne Reitz of Florida would be only too glad to have Florida take on the administration of such a grant and since the Florida Press would probably publish the book it might be a good idea to give this institution first consideration. Dr. Allee informed me that the Institute would be glad to help in such a matter and that perhaps Dr. Holdridge and Gerardo Budowski might be in a position to assist technically in addition to the administrative help the Institute might give. However he too felt that perhaps Florida might be in a better position to assist. In any case, Dr. Allee stated that the Institute will give you all the help it can.

As you can see from the attached letter I took the liberty of telling Ernesto Imle that you might be able to help him on this question of bamboos.

I would like to toss around an idea that I picked up as a result of my trip through Central America. Since the Point IV Missions in all of these countries tend to use graduates of your school when ever they can get ahold of them why couldn't it be a good idea if they could help in the training. We have a good staff of experts here in the fields of coffee and cacao who could, I am sure, assist you considerably in certain aspects on training in these crops. If the ICA Missions would request these services we could send technicians up to Honduras to fit into your schedule at no cost to the school. I mention this to you as you indicated that you would have liked for me to have given a lecture on cacao while I was there. Please think about this idea and let me know how it sounds.

Mr. Paul Allen

August 27, 1957

Thanks for taking time out a couple of Saturdays ago to show us around. Please give my best to Dorothy.

Sincerely,

Bob

J. Robert Hunter
Project Leader
Coffee & Cacao Technical Services

JRH/mila.-

[Handwritten signature]

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR ROCKEFELLER PROJECT

Half time, at EAP for preparation of preliminary keys & lists. (Probably best submitted on a per diem basis)
Period June-January or May-December (8 months) ----- \$2000.00

Examination of specimens in U.S. (Wash., St. Louis, N.Y.)
for about 4 months, plus transportation to & from Hond. \$2000.00

18 months in Panama, divided into three periods of 6 months
each, to be spent in Chiriqui-Bocas, El Valle-C.Z. & Darien-
San Blas plus transportation to & from Hond. ----- \$10,000.00

Art work - 120 drawings at \$20 each ----- \$ 2,400.00

Photographic work & supplies ----- \$ 600.00

Half time for two years at EAP (Final work on Mss). \$ 6,000.00

Secretarial help ----- \$ 2,000.00

Subsidy to University of Florida to cover publication \$ 5,000.00
\$30,000.00

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NOTE: NOT included in above:

LABOR (Felling's Sample Tracts) in Panama
TRANSPORTATION in PANAMA } include under
COLLECTING SUPPLIES } 18 month BUDGET
FRIGHT on specimens } plus maintenance.

Time in U.S. + TRANSPORTATION for identification
of specimens - (About 1 year)