



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

from Von Hagen

Hickory Hill,
No. Compo Rd.,
Westport, Conn.
December 22, 1948.

Mr. Phelps Soule,
Director,
University of Pennsylvania Press,
3436 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Mr. Soule:

Dr. John Fogg, Vice-president of the University, has suggested that I write you concerning a book which could be fashioned out of a unique collection in the University Museum. The piece: The Panorama of Dr. Dickenson now on exhibit.

I am the author of some twenty books, mostly of a Latin-American theme, published by Oxford University Press; A. A. Knopf; Harcourt Brace; J. J. Augustin; MacMillan, and the University of Oklahoma. At least two of my books have been "fine-press", three have been chosen "one of the fifty best" by the American Institute of Graphic Arts. One of these, *The Aztec and Maya Papermakers*, with an introduction by Dard Hunter, contained in its limited edition of 220 copies, actual samples of Aztec paper.

I now have in press two books, one of which is on Frederick Catherwood, the artist-architect (1799-1854) creator, inter alia, of the only permanent Panorama ever maintained in New York or, for that matter, North America (see "Mr. Catherwood's Panorama" Magazine of Art April 1947 by von Hagen); Catherwood was the co-discoverer of the Maya culture. This book, to which Aldous Huxley has contributed a preface, contains a full chapter on the Panorama and I have arranged the most complete information ever put into one chapter on the art of the Panorama.

This then, Mr. Soule, is my qualifications for the following suggestion:

That a book of Dr. Dickenson's Panorama could be published, text, pictures, with the broadsides (of which there are about 110) and the admission tickets (the

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Dec. 22, 1948

.....

same number) tipped in a deluxe limited edition, then another edition to follow, without the broadside and of a smaller format. It is, I believe, a sound publication venture. I did precisely this in the publication of my book "The Aztec and Maya Papermakers."

If, therefore, this suggestion is of interest, I can make a more detailed analysis of the material, enlarge it to an outline and so fashion a plan by which your board can make its decision.

Yours sincerely,



Victor W. von Hagen

VvH/hl

from Van Hagen

HICKORY HILL
NORTH COMPO ROAD
WESTPORT, CONN.

March 29, 1949

Dr. John Fogg,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia,
Penna.

Dear Jack,

Under separate cover comes a copy, affectionately inscribed, of a new book, published today, entitled ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. I think it may interest you--for therein you shall meet old friends: Humboldt, La Condamine, Spruce, and a few new ones.

You may be warned about this: something like timeo danaos et dona ferentis, for I have at this moment given your name as one most qualified to advise on my application for a grant from the American Philosophical Society.

Money, or the lack of it, now makes it difficult for me to acquire all the needed copies of mss, plates, portraits, books, that I need to do my history - a la "South America Called Them" on the Spanish botanists in SA: Mutis-Caldas-Lozano, Ruiz, Pavon, Dombey, Requena, Condal, Loeffling, Azara, Haenke, ~~Calleja~~, Neé., so after consultation with Dr. Eisenhardt I have asked for help, help! money with which to purchase the instruments.

You will be amused, perhaps confused, to know that the State Department has suppressed "South America Called Them." Copies purchased by the State Department for distribution will be destroyed. One

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HICKORY HILL
NORTH COMPO ROAD
WESTPORT, CONN.

Dr. John Fogg - 2 - March 29, 1949

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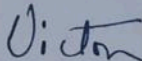
reason quote; "its Fascist tendencies," another because "it was felt that textual inaccuracies reflecting on the activities of the early Spanish naturalists in South America made the book inappropriate for distribution in the other American republics by this government."

Meanwhile, SACT was taken by the American Military Government because "of its fine exposition of democracy" printed in Vienna (1948) by Leinmüller Verlag and promptly taken by the Gutenberg Guild, Book-of-the-Month.

I send this enclosed document detailing my letter to the State Department to you for perusal (and return, please) since you yourself have thought so much of it; you can share my amusement, confusion and anger.

I invite you to join the circle of confusion.

Cordially yours,



Victor W. von Hagen

VvH/hl
Enc.

Mr. Carl A. Sauer, Acting Chief
Div. of Libraries & Institutions
(State Dept.)

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE RESEARCH FUNDS

April 6, 1949

1. Name: Victor W. von Hagen
Address: No. Compo Road, Westport, Conn,
Place and Date of Birth: Saint Louis, Mo., February 29, 1908
Education and Degrees: Special Student: Universities in North America, South America, England.
Present Position: Independent. Latin-American Adviser Encyclopedia Americana. Research-Associate. Museum of the American Indian.
2. Problem of Investigation: A study of the history of botanical exploration of the Spanish botanists in South America between the years 1750-1850 in work for five years. The problem is getting the material from Spain and France, most of it is in the Archives. The research on Jose Celestino Mutis is completed, much has been done on Alessandro Malaspina and his botanists. Research has been completed in Peru (1947-8) and in Colombia 1947. I am constantly at work on this problem.
3. Amount desired: \$Between 750 and \$1,000
 - a. Budget: The entire sum shall be expended for the micro-filming of manuscripts in England, France and Spain. Acquiring photographs, copies of botanical drawings, surveys. There will be occasional trips to the Library of Congress, Arnold Arboretum and Philadelphia.
 - b. To be paid to:
Spain- Dr. Guillermo Hernandez de Alba
England- Miss Sylvia England
Peru - Felipe Marques
France-I am only now acquiring an assistant.
 - c. Schedule of payments: \$150 per month
4. Procedure: I would secure an estimate of cost for this work in the four places, London, Paris, Madrid, Lima, and these estimates plus my explanation of the raison d'etre of the material would be sent to you; and the American Philosophical Society would then send the cheques.
 - b. Duration: One Year
 - c. Method of publication: Either the University of Oklahoma Press or Oxford University Press.
5. Institutional contribution: None
6. Other Grants: None.
7. Referees: Dr. John M. Fogg, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. George Sarton, Harvard University
Dr. Francis W. Pennell, Academy of Sciences, Phila.

von Hagen application page 2.

8. Publications:

- a. Francisco Hernandez, Naturalist (1515-1578) Scientific Mo. May '44
- b. El Botanico Immortal. Jose Celestino Mutis y la Expedicion Botanica del Siglo XVIII Universidad Nacional de Colombia
10 November, 1947
- c. The Immortal Botanist Jour. of the N.Y. Bot. Garden, V. 49
Aug. 1948 No. 584 and Vol. 49, Sept. '48, 585
- d. South American Called Them; Exploration of the Great Naturalists (New York, 1945)
- e. The Green World of the Naturalists, an Anthology, New York 1948
- f. The Aztec and Maya Papermakers " " 1943
- g. Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands Norman, 1949

Victor von Hagen

April 14, 1949

Mr. Victor W. von Hagen,
Hickory Hill,
North Compo Road,
Westport, Conn.

Dear Vic:

It was indeed pleasant to hear from you again and I am looking forward eagerly to seeing your book on Ecuador and the Galapagos. Since I am leaving here within a few days for a trip to the Pacific Coast and it may arrive while I am gone, I am taking this opportunity of thanking you in advance rather than run the risk of seeming negligent between now and the early part of May when I shall be back.

I am keenly interested in what you have to say concerning the treatment which has been accorded SACT by the State Department. I am wondering whether you think any good might be accomplished by my writing to Mr. Sauer telling him of my own very favorable impressions of this book and saying that I recommend it as collateral reading in my course on the History of Plant Exploration, which I certainly would not do if I felt that it contained textual inaccuracies. It may be, of course, that this inaccuracy charge is merely a red herring, in which case my letter would be completely ineffectual; so I shall do nothing until you tell me that you think it would be a good idea to place my own sentiments on record.

We had Herbert Lanks here a week or so ago showing his colored movies of the Pan Am Highway and he and I were talking about you at considerable length. Lanks' pictures are good, but personally I prefer your own excellent stills to movies. I am certainly eager to see you extend your own sphere of activities and you may be sure that if the American Philosophical Society requests a qualifying statement from me I shall do my best to give you a good buildup.

Sincerely yours,

enc.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
held at Philadelphia
for Promoting Useful Knowledge
104 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

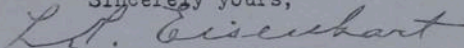
May 3, 1949

Dear Dr. Fogg:

In connection with the work of the Committee on Research of the American Philosophical Society, it is desirable to have expert and confidential advice regarding the importance of the projects which are presented and the competence of the persons who are undertaking the work. The Committee would greatly appreciate your advice in connection with the application which is described on the enclosed sheet. If you will kindly fill out the blank form or, if you prefer, write on the reverse side of the sheet such information as you may be able to supply, it will be treated as confidential and will be gratefully received.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter,
I am

Sincerely yours,



L. P. EISENHART
Executive Officer.

E/L

Dr. John M. Fogg
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Recommendation of Victor von Hagen for a grant by the American Philosophical Society

May 13, 1949

I consider Mr. von Hagen well equipped, both as to personality and experience, to conduct the problem for which he is seeking support.

The proposed project seems to me to possess considerable merit for there is a tremendous accumulation of material in this field which has never been collated and which should represent a significant contribution to the history of botanical exploration in South America. A similar problem now being investigated by one of my students in Mexico is yielding very important results, and interested as I am in the history of botany and botanical exploration, I shall keenly await the results of this investigation.

I have followed Mr. von Hagen's publications for a number of years and have used his book, South America Called Them, as a collateral reference in my course on the History of Botanical Exploration. In coming to know Mr. von Hagen personally I have been greatly impressed by the dynamic energy of the man as well as by his tremendous capacity for work. He is a splendid field man - one who has a genius for carrying through the objectives of any expedition or undertaking with which he is associated - and I feel sure that if given the opportunity which he now seeks he will turn in a highly creditable performance.

Vice-Provost,
University of Pennsylvania



FREDERICK FARNAM ASSOCIATES, INC.

60 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • MU 7-6066

PUBLISHERS OF

*Regional Guides
to the Americas*

August 15, 1950

Dr. John Fogg
Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

My dear Jack:

Again von Hagen is on the move. I have been hibernating for months in the West Indies, working on several projects, but in the main on my "Guggenheim", which is the "Life of E. G. Squier"; that is almost finished, and for it I have received another "Guggenheim", which you perhaps saw announced last April, if you scan such things.

However, I am going to lecture at Lehigh on October 24, 1950, and I am wondering if the University would like to hear/see von Hagen again, this time on Colombia. I have prepared an interesting lecture on Colombia, Cartagena, Popayan, the Indians of the Amazon, with particular stress on Mutis and the 18th century Spanish botanists.

If a date can then be arranged either prior to or after the Lehigh date, I could, in the parlance of hunters, use buckshot instead of a rifle bullet.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely,

August 17, 1950

Dear Mr. von Hagen:

Your letter of August 15, which arrived while Dr. Fogg is away on vacation, will be called to his attention upon his return on September 11.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to the Provost

Mr. Victor W. von Hagen,
c/o Frederick Farnam Associates, Inc.,
60 East 142nd Street,
New York 17, New York

October 20, 1950

Mr. Victor W. von Hagen,
Hickory Hill,
North Compo Road,
Westport, Connecticut

Dear Vic:

As I believe I told you when we chatted on the telephone recently, the week of October 23rd is so heavily crowded with activities on the campus that I deemed it unfeasible to attempt to take advantage of your generous offer to lecture here. I am now delighted to learn that you are going to speak to our Philadelphia Botanical Club, but my cup of dismay runneth over as I realize that I may not even be able to attend that meeting. The Undergraduate Council is holding its annual dinner for officers of the Administration that evening and it is incumbent upon me to go. My only hope is that the meeting which follows the dinner will be a short one so that I may at least get in in time to hear the end of your talk and have a chance to chat with you.

Incidentally, I am calling this meeting to the attention of people here on the campus who I hope will be able to enjoy your presentation on the Windward Islands of the Caribbean. I give a good deal of attention to these islands in my course on the History of Botanical Exploration and I am urging students in my class to be present that evening.

With warm regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

November 1, 1950

Mr. Victor W. Von Hagen,
Hickory Hill,
N. Compo Road,
Westport, Connecticut

Dear Vic:

Thanks so much for the copies of your articles on Coca and the Humboldt library. I have read them both with considerable interest, especially the former since much of what you say fits so well into my thinking on the broad subject of plant exploration and exploitation.

I had intended writing to you anyway to tell you again how much I enjoyed your presentation to the Botanical Club last Thursday night. Your marvelous pictures and interesting comments combined to provide a real treat for us and you certainly need not be apologetic about the lack of botanical content. We get enough of that in most of the other meetings. It was good to see you and I hope the next time you are here I can arrange to spend some time with you.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. I shall not forget that you promised me a private showing of the censored film.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF ASSOCIATED RESEARCH COUNCILS
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PERSONS

2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

July 31, 1951

Dr. John Fogg, Vice Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

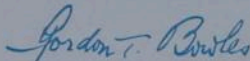
Dear Dr. Fogg:

The Committee on International Exchange of Persons has been given your name as a reference by the Applicant named on the enclosed confidential report form.

It would be appreciated if you would provide the Committee with your appraisal of the applicant's personal character, his professional qualifications, and his ability to accomplish the purpose for which the grant has been requested. Your comments will be used only in connection with a review of the candidate's application.

The Committee has found that comments from references on the following points are particularly helpful in reviewing applications: What have been the achievements of the applicant and what is his promise as a scholar or teacher considering his age and present stage of professional development? If the candidate is applying for an award as a visiting lecturer, does he possess sufficient maturity and experience to undertake teaching responsibilities in a foreign university and to represent creditably his American colleagues? If the applicant requests an award for advanced research, does he have the necessary preparation in his special field, as well as the intellectual qualifications, to undertake independent and productive research? How would his candidacy be viewed by his colleagues in regard to his professional standing? Would he be an effective representative of American academic and cultural life? It is also hoped that you will refer to any other factors which you feel the Committee should consider in reviewing the application.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon T. Bowles
Executive Secretary

GTE:RGB als
Copy Jan. 1951
Encl.

Purpose for which the grant is requested:
See applicant's statement which is enclosed.

VICTOR WOLFFENBACH VON HAGEN

HICKORY HILL
WESTPORT, CONN.

December 19, 1951

My dear Jack,

No word from this source usually means that I am deep in projects; my writing has been not as usual--it has fallen off to one book a year, papers about normal and a few articles. But I have managed to insert romance, married (as you will see from the enclosed) and in the throes of plotting an expedition to Peru.

This is the Inca Highway Expedition marked for two years in the field beginning Spring, 1953. The details of the road you shall read in the Scientific American. But a highway, one of the finest outside of the Roman roads, connected the Inca Empire from Titicaca to Quito, a coastal road, and many laterals running down in jungles, south in Chile, etc. We propose to follow the principal ones, some digging, much history, ethnography, geography. I want a botanist along to work on ethno-botany and to make a general collection for two years through the regions made classic by Humboldt, Boussingault, Weberbauer and Bonpland. He must be young to stand the rigors, enthusiastic and versatile (I have asked Schultes and Hodges, both had to decline). I shall not need such an one until Spring 1953. He will be fully financed. I wish so much that you keep this in mind.

A new book, this one called THE FOUR SEASONS OF MANUELA, is in galleys at Little Brown. My Guggenheim project continues, and I am working too on translating the 5 vols. of Memoirs of Boussingault and editing it down to one with the original illustrations of Desire Roulin. Thus am I. And you?

Sincerely yours,

Victor

Dr. John Fogg
Vice-Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Enc.

January 8, 1952

Mr. Victor W. von Hagen,
Hickory Hill,
Westport, Conn.

Dear Victor:

Needless to say, I was delighted to receive your communication of December 19th with its joint announcement of your marriage (cordial congratulations!) and your projected trip to Peru. I have my eye on a couple of lads who have taken work in systematic botany with me and it may well be that by the spring of '53, I shall feel that they are sufficiently well trained in field techniques to be at least possible candidates for your consideration.

A couple of my students have in the past given good accounts of themselves under tropical conditions and I shall certainly, as you request, keep this very firmly in mind.

I am myself hoping to secure a year's leave of absence in 1953, but it will be devoted not to field work, rather to putting together the manuscript of our Pennsylvania Flora. Do keep me in touch with you as the plans for your expedition mature.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany



THE INCA HIGHWAY EXPEDITION

1953 1955

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT



April 15, 1952

Dr. John M. Fogg
Vice-Provost, Univ. of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

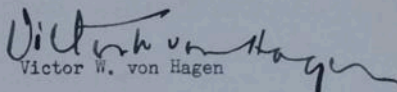
Dear Jack,

This, the enclosed, is the program of an expedition which has been organized to carry out an archaeological reconnaissance of the famous Inca Highway which ran over two thousand miles through the mountains, deserts and jungle of South America.

It shall be a difficult and, at times, a horrendous expedition; and this is a program of it. Here is told what the expedition will do, how it will be done and, in summary, what may reasonably be expected, in scientific terms, of its contribution to the history of man in the Americas.

Since it is, in its essence, a preliminary program, we will be most interested (should there be details that need expanding), to have your commentary on it.

Very sincerely yours,


Victor W. von Hagen

from Fagg

November 13, 1952

Mr. Victor W. von Hagen,
Hickory Hill,
Westport, Conn.

Dear Vic:

I have been wondering how plans have been developing for your expedition and whether there is still a likelihood that you will be able to take a botanist along with you. The boy I spoke to you about, Paul Green, is keenly interested in this opportunity, should it materialize, and I would like very much to be able to tell him whether there is any chance that he might be considered.

As I told you last summer, he is an excellent field man with years of mountain climbing experience behind him in the Rockies, and possesses at least a basic knowledge of Spanish, which he would proceed immediately to improve if there were any likelihood of his going with you.

It was fun to see you and your charming wife last August and I hope to see you soon again, if for no other reason than to tell you what an excellent time the Fogg family had in Mexico.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



THE INCA HIGHWAY EXPEDITION

1953 1955

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT



November 19, 1952

Dr. John M. Fogg
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Jack,

Thank you so much for your letter which comes on the eve of our departure for Peru. The expedition, thanks to everyone but our "cooperating" scientific bodies, is now completed and financed until 1st of April, 1954.

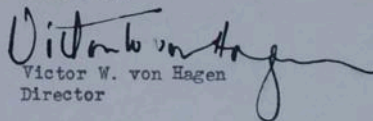
In order to undertake this, I had to cut and cut so that the first to go was a "botanist" as much as I would like to have someone like your Paul Green. There will be none of that wherewithal to carry him. Perhaps later.

Ironical comment: While I found no university - including your own - which had a combination of interest, personnel or money to participate on this expedition, I found in Germany not only a scholar, who has been to Peru before -- Dr. Hans Dietrich Disselhoff - BUT that the German government will provide for his family while he is gone fifteen months and will pay his way to and from Peru. The results of my plan to bring down graduate students failed, because of the wowsier tendency of the archaeologists, and America loses the collections. These birds are going to have a tough voyage in my popular book which I plan - and which, incidentally, has already been contracted for - on the expedition.

But all is done. The research, the maps - beautiful to behold, the planning of work, food, travel, organization of six vs. the Andean gods, the big and large details. If anything breaks for participation of a botanist, you know that I will remember my good and enthusiastic friend, Jack Fogg.

Silvia joins me in our best.

Yours sincerely,


Victor W. von Hagen
Director

vwvh-h

VON HAGEN, V.

HICKORY HILL
NORTH COMPO ROAD
WESTPORT, CONN.

December 19

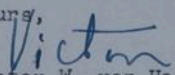
Muy querido don Juan,

I wanted to tell you as soon as I could place myself on my writing stool, the delight that I had with you on el día de von Hagen in Philadelphia.

You were a most gracious most considerate one and it was a deep pleasure in talking to both groups.

Mil gracias, as the Spanish hyberboke goes,

Yours,


Victor W. von Hagen

HICKORY HILL
NORTH COMPO ROAD
WESTPORT, CONN.

Dear Jack,

Herewith the copy of the letter that I sent to Mr. Soule. Should he be interested I shall gladly ~~to~~ go into details concerning the proposed publication.

I am very much touched by your kind personal letter as regards me; this is a very gracious tribute. Nor have I ever thanked you really for the splendid introduction you gave me for the Incas--; South America Called Them still remains my favourite among my books and I am very happy that among those such as you who know it should be so well thought of.

Before I begin on anything else I thought you would like to know that I have just arranged the final details on the publication by Oxford University Press on Frederick Catherwood, a separate biography of the artist that accompanied Stephens of which I wrote in MAYA EXPLORER. It will have sixty plates one color, a long preface by Aldous Huxley and there will be an exhibition of Catherwood's work in connection with the publication which --with the connivance of JAMason I am bringing to the Museum, late 1949.

Last week I talked to Harry Shaw Newman

of the Old Print Shop(150 Lexington Ave). They are anxious to make a bid on the purchase of Dr. Dickenson's mural-panorama. I told them I did not know if the Museum would entertain a sale of it, but I knew that there is not much you can do with it, and the money obtained from its sale would and could be used for something else.

Would you like to tell me, sub rosa, if the Museum would like to dispose of it. The publication (if any) could be arranged before the sale.

And now to work. Off the press comes in February "Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands" then proofs on an opus from England and then the Gatherwood, but by that time I shall be deep into many other items... How your enthusiasm will be justified.

Muchos saludos.

Victor

Recommendation of Victor W. Von Hagen to Committee on International
Exchange of Persons for a Government Grant under the Fulbright Act.

I have known Mr. Von Hagen both through his published work and personally for a number of years and have a high opinion of his ability as a writer in the field of exploratory history. I consider his book South America Called Them so significant that I make use of it in a course which I give on the History of Plant Exploration in the New World. Von Hagen's qualifications for the task which he has in mind are almost unique and I feel that the projected volumes on the History of the Americas will perform a much needed function in this area. He is well qualified by virtue of his personal traits of industry, intellectual curiosity and fine talent for writing to execute this project, and I am pleased to lend my enthusiastic support to his application.

Vice-Provost and Professor of Botany
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

August 8, 1951