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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.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL
GARDEN BULLETIN



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Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico

Growing an Orchid Plant

Balkan Holly (*Ilex aquifolium* var. *angustifolium*)

Volume XLIV

February, 1956

Number 2

Philadelphia Botanical Club

The Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Circle, Phila. 3

MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1956, 8:00 P. M.

"BOTANICAL GARDENS IN ANCIENT MEXICO"

ILLUSTRATED

Mrs. Ida K. Langman

WALTER M. BENNER, Secretary

May 6, 1956
PHILADELPHIA 19, PA.

Dear Ida,

I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed your talk at the Bot. Soc., and again in rereading the article. I would have returned the Bulletin earlier except for a bad week which included Sam Fernberger's death, an invasion of termites, several house guests in addition to our Indian friend (and his cooking), and an exasperating search for the right car to have abroad this summer -

Thanks again and adiosito

Helen Fogg

The next time you
give this talk, —

you're much too
good an extempor
aneous speaker
to use the device
of reading from
cards.

Mr. Cullin

Singer - History of Biology

The first step in the process of making science is the systematic collection of facts. In biology this is especially aided by botanical and zoological gardens. The habit of forming them is of great antiquity we hear of them from Fliny.

Aristotle 350 B.C.

1543, first modern botanical garden Pisa

Grand Duke Cosmo de Medici I.

Metzahualcoyotl - gardens by middle of 15th century.
acc to Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl.

Clavigero - Storia Antica del Messico - Chichinecas
no human sacrifices; herbs, flowers, fruits, copal.

Paso y Troncoso - Toltecs:

Michoacan - monarchs of Tziatuntzen (Tarascans)

Medicinal plants

Maldonado Koerdell - Mexicans far in advance
of their European contemporaries in understanding of curative properties of plants.

Emmert - few countries in the world can boast of such an extensive knowledge of native herb remedies as existed among the Nahuatl speaking people.

Earliest reports

Cortes - Cartas de Relacion - July 1519-Sept 1526

In 2d of five - march from VC to Mex. stopped at Ixtapalapa, palace of Quitlahuatzin. Night before entry into capital: There are very refreshing gardens with many trees and sweet scented flowers. Quitlahuatzin had also a large orchard near the house, overlooking a high terrace, with many

beautiful corridors and rooms; toward the wall of the garden are hedges of lattice work made of cane, behind which are all sorts of plantations of trees and aromatic herbs.

Wish for Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdes.

Ixtapalapa - also for Bernal Diaz del Castillo, 50 years later.

The gardens and orchard are most admirable. I saw and walked about in them and could not satiate myself sufficiently looking at the many kinds of trees and enjoying the perfumes of each. There were walks bordered with the roses of this country, and flowers and many fruit trees and flowering ~~shrub~~ shrubs.

Moctezuma's gardens

Motolinia. 1541 Historia de los Indios de la Nueva Espana.

The greater part of the city was surrounded by fresh water and contained many cool groves of cedars, cypresses, willows and flowering trees. The Indian lords do not try to raise fruit trees because fruit is brought to them by their vassals, but rather forest trees from which they can pluck flowers.

King: The raising of plants for food is not the concern of rulers but that of slaves and merchants.

Solis: Historia de la Conquista de Mexico: gardens of Moctezuma. In all their houses they had large gardens ~~ixix~~ carefully cultivated. All around were flowers of

rare diversity and fragrance, and medicinal herbs which were used in flower beds and bowers. These were given much care, and arrangements were made to have brought to the garden all the kinds of plants that this benign land produces. Here the physicians learned the names of the plants and an understanding of their virtues. They had herbs for all ~~ixix~~ ills and ailments and from the juices they prepared their remedies. But they did not like fruit trees nor edible plants in their places of recreation. In days gone by they used to say that orchards belonged to ordinary people, and it seemed more appropriate among the princes that their pleasures should not be barred by ideas of utility.

Diaz

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ - We must not forget the gardens of flowers and sweet scented trees and the many kinds that there were of them, and the arrangement of them and the walks, and the ponds and tanks of fresh water where the water entered at one end and flowed out of the other; and the baths which he had there, and the variety of small birds that nested in the branches, and medicinal and useful herbs that were in the gardens. It was a wonder to see, and to take care of it there were many gardeners.

Cervantes - Moctezuma's gardens - Tepochtlan, Chapultepec, El Peonon, Atlixco

This great monarch had many pleasures and spacious gardens with paths and channels for irrigation. These gardens contained only medicinal and aromatic herbs ~~were~~, native roses and trees with fragrant blossoms,

Anteca - Nahuas, Nahuatl; Toltecs, Chichimecas
Tarascans - Tzintzuntzan

Moctezuma - Motenzuma, Moteuzoma, Motecuzoma, Muteczuma
Moteuccoma, Montezuma

Cuitlahuatsin, Netzahualcoyotl, Malinal

Mexico City - Tenochtitlan, Temistan, Temestitan, Temixtitan, Tenustitan, Tenuxtitan que

Guernavaca - Quauhnaquac; Huaxtepec - Oaxtepec, Guastepec
Tzinanostic, Tzinaccotoc, Tzinaconostoc

Ixtapalapa, Chapultepec, Xochimilco, El Penon

Texcoco, Molino de las Flores, Texcotzingo, Bosque del Contador

Atlixco, Veracruz, Cuetlaxtlan (Coatxtla), Tlaxiaco
Patzcuaro

Huiztilopechco, Huichilubusco, Churubusco

Cortes, Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Captain Sandoval
Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdes 1526

Toribio de Benavente (Motolinia) 1541
Francisco Cervantes de Salazar 1524 - *frase p. Cates*
off. civ. city Mexico

Francisco Hernandez 1570

Francisco Jimenez 1612

Diego Duran 1577

Juan Gutierrez de Llaveana 1579

Juan de Torquemada 1615

Antonio Solis y Rivadeynera 1694

Francisco Javiero Clavigero 1764

Francisco del Paso y Trancoso 1876

③ Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl 1620 *Baldwin*
② Hernando Alvarado Tezozomoc 1578 *1578*
① Juan Bautista Pomar 1582 *72* *1582*

Wm. Bullock 1824

Edward Burnett Tylor 1861

Zelia Nuttall 1822

Cora Maud O'neal 1841

Brantz Meyer 1847

Susan Hale 1781

Emma Walcott Emme rt 1870

Manuel Maldonado Koerdell 1841

ahuehuete - bald cypress - *Taxodium*
tlatzcan - cypress - *Cupressus Lindleyi*
tlapalixquixochitl - huanita - *Bourreria*
yoloxochitl - Mexican magnolia - *Talauma*
cacaloxuchil - frangi-pani - *Flumeria*
huacalxochitl - philodendron - *Philodendron*
tlilxochitl - vanilla - vanilla
mecaxochitl - pepper - *Piper*
hoitziloxitl - Indian balsam - *Myroxylon*
cempoalxochitl - marigold - *Tagetes*
macpaxodiquahuitl - hand flower tree - *Cheirostemon*
aguacate - avocado - *Persea*
tejocote - hawthorn - *Crataegus*
capulin - Mexican cherry - *Prunus*
pochote - silk cotton tree - *Ceiba*

isote - Joshua tree - Spanish dagger - *Yucca*
oceloxochitl - tiger flower - *Ligridia*
xalxocotl - guava - *Psidium*
Poinsettia
Cleome
dicosapote - chicle - *Achras*
Moctezuma

Huaxtepec - figs - source of paper for inhabitants of
nearby Tepoztlán prepared as tribute.

Evaluation of sources

Solis - Did not know America but writing of high literary
quality;

Prescott - masterly use of documents high level of
scholarship but reveals lack of direct contact

Evaluation of gardens

A collection of growing plants, both native and exotic,
the primary purpose of which is the advancement and
diffusion of botanical knowledge as distinguished from
agriculture and horticulture.

While gardens today are used to help in identifying
and classifying, investigation of morphology and

physiology, for teaching, developed originally out of an interest in plants that could be used medicinally. Modern gardens supposed from those of herbalists and those possibly outgrowths of herb gardens in the monasteries of the Middle Ages.

Mexican gardens - native and exotic; medicinal and ornamentals; they had already evolved a kind of classification; all this studied in gardens or arboreta

Today we must hunt for the fragmentary remains of those once magnificent establishments. What a pity that no attempt was made to preserve these gardens for posterity. As one views some of the results of the conquest of the Aztecs by the Spaniards - the destructions of the superb monuments and temples, the burning of the priceless picture manuscripts, the neglect of the botanical gardens

of which there are many kinds.

On the top of the hill Montezuma had cultivated trees as if it were a garden, and on its steep sides were terraces with other groves of trees and hanging gardens. Montezuma had ordered his physicians to experiment with the medicinal herbs and to employ those best known and tried, as remedies in helping the ill of the lords of his court.

Moctezuma - taken prisoner - solace in gardens.
Chapultepec; thought of Malinalin Tlaxiaco - Scurreria - tree of many red flowers

Huaxtepec
inherited from the Elder - ancestors had once lived there sent to Cuatlextlan for plants - 3 special - Talauma, Plumeria and Philodendron; vanilla, huanita, Piper special care and gardeners

Torquemada - Huaxtepec

The garden measured two leagues in circumference. In the middle of it ran a river; its banks shade by many groves of trees. Here and there were resting places with gardens of many different kinds of flowers and fruits. There were buildings, seed beds, fountains and scattered among the rocky cliffs, which were decorated with carvings were arbors, chapels, lookouts and stairways cut into the very rocks.

Nuttall - list of plants at Huaxtepec
avocado, hawthorn, cherry, sapotaceae, ceiba, poinsettia Cleome, Acacia, Yucca, Tigridia, marigold, zinnia, Hibiscus, guava, ferns, palms, orchids, cacti.

Huaxtepec - cited by Duran. I hear it is a fertile and plentiful land, with abundant water and springs. Where for relaxation and recreation it would be delightful to have a large basin or reservoir where all this water could be gathered as high as it could rise to irrigate all the land that it could reach.

Diaz del Castillo - Huaxtepec. It is the finest that I have seen in all my life. 3d letter - the garden is the best most beautiful and refreshing that I have ever seen. A very pretty rivulet with high banks runs through it from one end to the other. In it are an infinite number of trees with varied fruits, a many herbs and fragrant flowers,

Hernandez - 1570 Philip II. Ixtapalapa tlaxcan
Ximenez - Hospital de los Cipolitos Cuatro Libros
de la Naturaleza balsam and hand flower tree.
Clavigero - 1780 plants still being cultivated at Huaxtepec
Hernandez - runner for flowers from Cuernavaca.

Netzahualcoyotl - Texcoco

Motolinia - especially notable was the house of the principal lord; both the old house with its garden surrounded by over a thousand large and beautiful cedars, most of which are still standing (1541) although the house has been razed; and the other house, in which a whole army could be lodged, with many gardens and a very large pool which was entered in boats through an underground passage.
Camar - 1583 his grandson - garden not located - about 30 miles from Texcoco. There is no principal and abundant source of water in this city + it was necessary to unite into one of the many springs at their sources channeling them into canals. This was done not so much to provide drinking water as to provide water to

irrigate the orchards and gardens. Not only did they raise the flowers that grow naturally in this area, but they also had others from the more temperate regions and the tropics, all of which they cared for with much effort.

Ixtlilxochitl - "isteria Chichimeca 1600's early elaborate ~~garden~~ buildings, irrigation canals, reservoirs, baths, stairways, terraces; aqueducts bringing water to fountains from which a spray fell like gentle rain over the plants in the garden; job of caring for the gardens assigned to different tribes as their tribute.

Susan Hale says of him - cast over his picture of the Golden Age of Texcoco a glow which is hardly justified by the cold light of modern research

Hale - Ixtlilxochitl's story now regarded as unreliable in many particulars. Others call Netz. poet king wise enlightened, 1403-1474 made Texcoco the Athens of America.

Tetzcotzingo: The entire hill was planted with beautiful groves of trees and lovely orchards, with many jasmin plants and other scented flowers. Why on hill tops - kings were priests - rituals and astronomical observations.

Boaque del Contador n.w. of Texcoco: an ancient grove of double rows of gigantic cypresses, 300 in number, arranged in a square corresponding to the points of the compass and enclosing an area of nearly 10 acres. At the northwest point of this quadrangle, another double row

(By Brent Meyer - 1873)

of lordly cypresses runs westward toward a dyke north of which there is a deeply oblong tank, neatly walled and filled with water. From the soft spongy character of the soil in the centre of the great quadrangular grove, it is supposed that the vast area was once occupied by a lake. Along the raised tanks and beneath the shadow of the double line of majestic trees were the walks and arbors in which Netzahuacoyotl and his courtiers amused themselves.

Changes in the gardens
Tetzcotzingo - Tylor 1861 - The hill itself was overgrown with brushwood, aloe (agave) prickly pear, but numerous roads and flights of steps cut in the rock were distinguishable.

Boaque del Contador 1901

Tetacotzingo - Oneal & - 1941 even now some of the steps leading to the terraces remain in good condition extremely well preserved nearby is a large bathing pool with a stone seat and small fountain, all carved from native porphyry.

"large bath" - it might have been his foot bath, if you will, but it would have been an impossibility for any monarch, of larger dimensions than Oberon to take a duck in it.

Huaxtepec 1930 not one of the exciting list of plants brought there on the orders of Cortez; only the group of ahuehuetes. Heavy matted thickets alternate with clumps of trees, mangroves? willows and figs innumerable springs bubble continuously at the foot of the majestic cypresses

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GENERAL SECRETARIAT
PAN AMERICAN UNION
Washington 6, D. C., U. S. A.

May 25, 1956

Gentlemen:

The Columbus Memorial Library of the Pan American Union gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following publication from you:

Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin. Vol. XLIV #2

This generous gift will be a valuable and useful addition to our collection.

Sincerely yours,

Marietta Daniels
Associate Librarian

Dr. Ida K. Langman
3509 Baring Street
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Periferia de México

Por Rafael HELIODORO Valle

JARDINES BOTANICOS

Sobre los jardines botánicos del México Antiguo ha publicado Ida K. Langman un notable estudio que aparece en "Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin" y el cual presentó en el Congreso Internacional Botánico que se celebró en París en 1954. En ese estudio menciona a Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxóchitl, Netzahualcóyotl, la "Historia Antigua de México" de Clavigero, Francisco del Paso y Troncoso, Manuel Maldonado Koerdell y Emily Walcott Emmart, traductora del llamado "Manuscrito Badiano" (1940). Por supuesto que no olvida a Cortés en sus "Cartas de Relación", los jardines de Moctezuma y los primeros misioneros como Motolinía y los cronistas Díaz del Castillo y Juan de Torquemada, así como a Zelia Nuttall, la antropóloga norteamericana que preparó en 1920 una lista de plantas de Huastepéc sobre las cuales había escrito una descripción en 1930 Enrique Juan Palacios. Este estudio es valiosísimo no sólo para los botánicos sino también para los historiadores de la cultura en México.

1181 "Periferia" Moterney
11-8-56

JARDINES BOTANICOS

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El Instituto Ibero-Americano de Gotemburgo agradece a ustedes,
muy cumplidamente, el envío de las publicaciones siguientes:

O Instituto Ibero-Americano de Gotemburgo agradece atenciosamente a remessa das publicações seguintes:

Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico

Ensayo para una bibliografía ...

Gotemburgo, 4 de febr. de 1959



Dear Mrs. Langman:

acknowledge with thanks the reprints
listed below:

Botanical Gardens in Ancient
Mexico.
Missouri Bot. Gard. Bull. 44(2):
17-31. 1956.

We have read with much
interest your informative account
of the botanical gardens in Mexico.
Isn't it a shame that almost
nothing remains of what must
once have been lovely gardens?

As we read we began to wish
more than ever that we could be
going South — but it's out
of the question this year. How
we envy you!! Have a good time!!

We wish you the best of luck,
and good wishes on your bibliography
while you are down in Mexico City.

Thanks again for this and other
reprints which you have sent us.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Keiser

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Plant Introduction Section
April 24, 1956

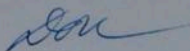
Miss Ida K. Langman
3509 Earing Street
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Ida:

I want to thank you for your kindness in sending me a copy of your paper on the Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico. As you suggested I showed the paper to Dr. Blake. He was much interested in it and has doubtless written you. I have been away and have not as yet had a chance to read it but will do so some nice rainy evening when I enjoy reading papers about nicer climates than the one we are in at present.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Donovan S. Correll, Botanist
Specialty Crop Introductions

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
MONEDA 13
MEXICO, D. F.

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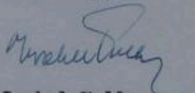
Mrs Ida Langman
3509 Baring Street
Philadelphia 4 Penn EUA

Dear Mrs Langman:

Thank you for the two reprints which I received quite recently—one via Dorothy Parker, the other direct from you.

I've shuffled through the bibliographic study and have read the article on Moctezuma's gardens with considerable interest. Incidentally, this reprint was accompanied by an assortment of your private correspondence, which I am returning herewith.

Cordially,



Isabel Kelly

Mrs Langman:

Thought you might like to
see this!

April 13, 1956

Ed.

There have been other letters

This is the best small city paper in
the middle west!

Mr. Fred Naeter,
Missourian Office,
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Dear Mr. Naeter:

I am so glad you were thrilled with the "Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico". It was long, and in a sense not horticultural, and yet I thought here and there there would be people who would appreciate it for the new dimension it would give to their thinking about botanical gardens. I shall pass your remarks on to Mrs. Langman; I know she will be glad to have them.

I am happy to say that our tree of the festigate English Oak came through the freeze almost unharmed and is looking pretty well. It is not as fine a specimen as yours and is small enough to be sheltered by the plants around it. Its proper name is Quercus robur v. festigiata. At the present I know of no one in this country who is carrying it. You should write immediately to the Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. They are the one place in the world which keeps an up-to-date check list of what is offered for sale by every nursery and seed house. If you will enclose a self-addressed postcard you will hear from them very promptly. I thought of you all when I came back from Natchez a month ago. If we had made better time we would have stopped, but it was after seven as we drove past the city and we wanted to get home that night. As it was we went through the tail end of an almost tornado so maybe we ought to have stopped.

I am returning your beautiful picture according to your directions.

Sincerely,

EA:ep

Edgar Anderson
Director



CAPE GIRARDEAU SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

NAETER BROS., INC.

April 12, 1956.

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Dr. Anderson:

During our leisure hours at home we three Naeters have been enjoying the copies of your Botanical Bulletin. One in particular, your "Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico," brought back some fond memories. My brother and I made a trip down to Oaxaca several years ago that we will never forget--the hotel particularly. We had a hard time getting along with the food, but otherwise our trip was wonderful. We hired a guide to take us out to see what they claimed was the oldest living thing on the earth, the Tree of Tule: Two markers were there, one in English and one in Latin. The sand and dirt was more than shoe-top deep. The people of the settlement were beyond our imagination in several respects. The old tree showed a little green at different places and we were told that it was as alive as any living person that had seen it and then the guide remarked that "if you will look around you will see the four descendants of this tree." At different points in the distance we ^{seen} ~~was~~ four other trees of large size, but not like this original tree.

On Page 26 of your February bulletin you show a Bald Cypress at Santa Maria del Tule. We have driven to Mexico City twice and on the way down, not far on this side of Mexico City, as we recall, there is a very large Cypress tree with heavy foliage. It has a concrete wall along the plot and we went in to read the marker, which we do not now remember very well. The tree of Tule not far out from Oaxaca, as we recall, had deteriorated until its foliage seemed to be about at its end, and so the giant tree (or group of trees grown together) was not very tall, like its descendants.

Anyway, we enjoyed the article and the three of us agreed that we would have to make one more (always just one more) trip to Mexico and we think we will make it this year.

The real purpose of this letter is to ask you if you know where we can order one or two good specimens of ROBUR OAK. I send along a photo to show how our Robur Oak looked prior to Easter week, 1955. The top of the tree was frozen off and we then made every effort to preserve the bottom half but we noted last fall that it was doing no good at all. This spring it was entirely dead and we have taken it out.

As the two specimens we had were sent from the eastern states by mistake to a local nurseryman, they came in May and we were fearful they might not get started because the weather was then very warm. We planted them in different locations. One barely got started and soon died. The other one was in our back yard, close to our house and grew rapidly. We had two marvelous tree specimens, we thought. A Deodar--Cedar of Lebanon, and the Robur Oak. We had them at least ten years and then the Easter freeze came and killed them. So we are putting out one Deodar, about 30 inches tall, and if we can get a couple of Robur Oaks, we will feel like we are getting started again.

Years ago an attendant showed us one or two large spreading Robur Oaks in your "front yard" but we prefer a pyramidal like we had. We hope you can write us where we can get the specimens.

Early in May we want to get some water plants for our improved pool in our main flower garden and we hope to see you at that time. Command us at any time we might be of service to your great institution.

Sincerely,

Fred Naster
Fred Naster.

P.S. We have prepared this container so you can return the photo to us with your letter.
F

NSF April 9, 1956

Dear Mrs. Langman:

Many thanks for your thought in sending me a copy of
of your botanical gardens paper. I had not realized that
so much was known about the early history of these
gardens in Mexico.

When are you off to Mexico?

Langman

*Best wishes
R. M. Langh*

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
33RD AND SPRUCE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA 4

March 22

Dear Ida:

Thanks for interesting article on Mexican
Botanical Gardens, just received but not read yet.
I understand you are going to Mexico soon; I should
have asked you for details last Saturday. Please let
me know immediately what you are going to do there
for personal note in next PAN which I am on the point
of sending to press.

Good luck

Cordially

Jed
J. Alden Mason

*Beltterville Md.
17/3/58*

*Dear Mrs. Langman: Many thanks for the two
copies of your Mexican bibliography.
I should appreciate also a copy of
your paper on Mex. bot. gardens which Don
Correll has just showed me, if you can spare
one now or later.*

S. F. Blake

5-IV-1956.

NA - BOLOM.
Av. Vicente Guerrero 38
San Cristóbal Las Casas,
Chiapas. México.



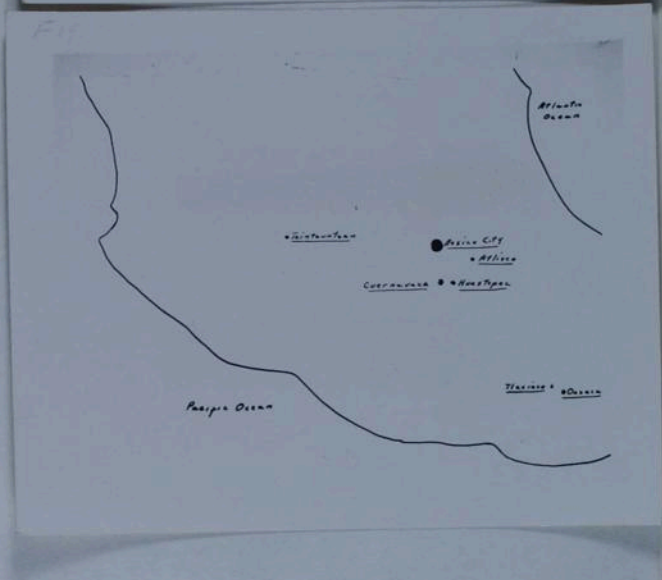
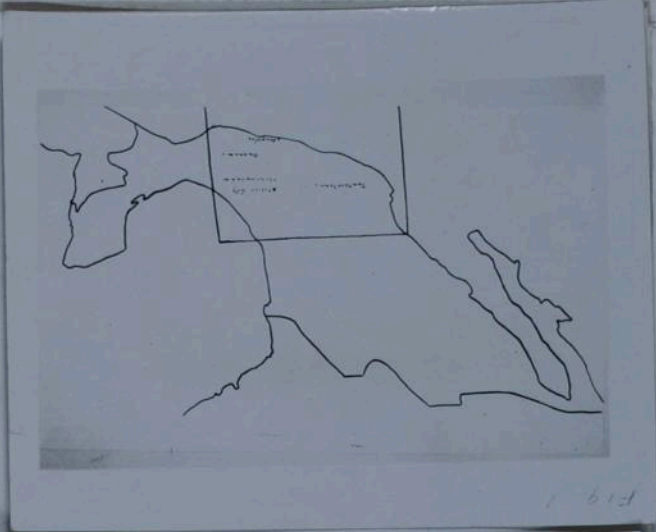
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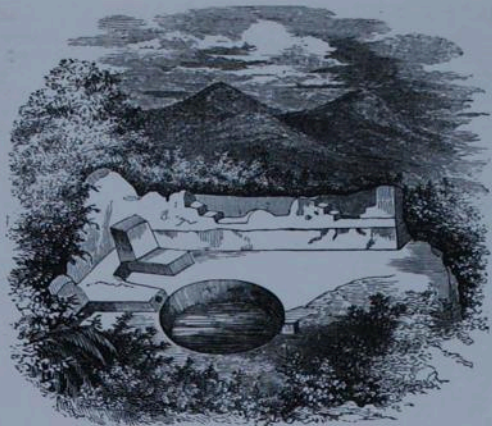
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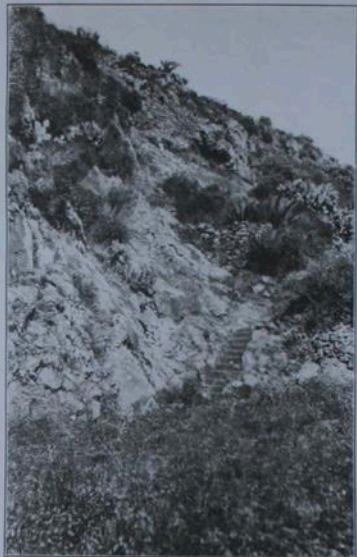
Obsequio del autor

Frans Blom.









VIEW OF TEXCOTZINGO SHOWING PRESENT CONDITION AND REMAINS OF
STAIRS CUT IN SOLID ROCK



Fig. 11

Comentarios del Dr. Verdow: I went with interest
and profit through the paper which you prepared
for the first to next section. It is excellent and will be
a most welcome contribution. The paper is positively not
too abundant!

Botanical Gardens in Ancient Mexico

1953 (2)

Dr. B. C. G.

I. Langman

"A collection of growing plants, both native and exotic, the primary purpose of which is the advancement and diffusion of botanical knowledge, as distinguished from agriculture and horticulture." This is how C. Stuart Gager defines a botanical garden in Bailey's Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture. He goes on to point out the many ways in which these gardens can be used: for the identification and classification of plants, the investigation of plant morphology and physiology, and for teaching and general plant research. He then traces the history of botanical gardens to show that they developed out of an interest in economically useful plants, particularly in the field of medicine. Modern botanical gardens, he recalls, were derived directly from the private gardens of the herbalists who were, of course, primarily interested in the medicinal uses of plants; and these gardens were, in their turn, outgrowths of the herb gardens in the monasteries of the Middle Ages.

Singer, in his "History of Biology" takes a similar approach. "The first step in the process of making science", he reminds us, "is the systematic collection of facts. In biology, this is especially aided by botanical and zoological gardens. The habit of forming them is of great antiquity. We hear of them from Pliny". Others go even farther back and give the right of priority to Aristotle, as the founder of a botanical garden in about 350 B.C.

It is the year 1543, however, which is generally given for the establishment of the first modern European botanical garden. That was the year when Grand Duke Cosmo de Medici I, founded a garden in Pisa, Italy. Singer mentions, too, the early attempts to acclimatize exotic plants in the 16th century. It is, therefore, of considerable interest to realize that, before Columbus discovered America, Mexico already had gardens that were, in many respects, comparable to the gardens in Europe. For example, the gardens of Netzahualcoyotl, the poet king of Texcoco, were in existence by the middle of the 15th century and, according to Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl, a direct descendant of the Texcocan rulers, several of these gardens had belonged to Netzahualcoyotl's father and grandfather before him. Two hundred and fifty years after the conquest, Clavigero, in his "Storia Antica di Messico", goes back to the era before the Aztecs to show that their predecessors, the Chichimecas

gardens before the Aztecs arrived, and that for a long time they used no ^{human} sacrifices, but offered in their temples only herbs, flowers, fruits and copal for incense. Pasc y Troncoso agrees with the idea and goes back even ^{far} father - to the Toltecs. This ^{is} same authority cites ^{also tradition} testimony from a resident in Michoacan to the effect that, according to ^{tradition} tradition, the monarchs of Tzintzuntzan, the Tarascan empire, ^{maintained} had gardens in the hills near Patzcuaro, where they, too grew all the medicinal plants known to their people.

As in the European gardens, medicinal plants were a conspicuous element in the formation of the early Mexican gardens. ^{has stated that} According to The noted Mexican naturalist, Dr. Manuel Maldonado, while the Indians may not have surpassed ^{their} the Europeans of ^{contemporaries} that time in general knowledge, they were far advanced in the ^{advance} field of curative properties of certain plants. ^{was seen} And Dr. Emma Walcott Emmart, editor of the 1940 edition of the Badianus manuscript, concurs in that view. "Few countries in the world," she says, "can boast of such an extensive knowledge of native herb remedies as existed among the Nahuatl speaking people." In the development of this knowledge it seems quite likely that the royal gardens of the Mexicans played a very important role.

On what do we base our knowledge of these gardens? The earliest reports came from the "conquistadores" - Cortes, Diaz del Castillo, etc. Their reports were amplified by the monks who followed closely on the heels of the soldiers. ^{careful and} Also ^{carefully called} significant ^{reliant} were the descriptions of various parts of Mexico, prepared in answer to a questionnaire sent out by the King of Spain to all his territories. To these we can add the accounts written by descendants of the Aztecs living in Mexico at the time of the Conquest. ^{Most of} ~~the~~ the foregoing sources can certainly be considered highly dependable and trustworthy.

But there are, ^{in addition} in addition, many references to the gardens of the ancient Mexicans which are second hand accounts, often based on original reports ^{which are true,} but embroidered and decorated with imaginary details which must be discounted when we try to evaluate the true importance of the gardens which the Spaniards found in the land of the Aztecs. Such would be, for example, the "Historia de la Conquista de Mexico" by Antonio Solis y Rivadeynera. Solis was never in Mexico, had no dealings with the Indians, did not know the American scene.

What he knew of Mexico he learned from reading. Yet his writing was of such high li^{ght}

quality that he had an enormous following and his work went through many editions. The same might be said of Prescott who made masterly use of all kinds of documents, published and unpublished, to produce a work that sets a high level of scholarship but reveals, in spots, the author's lack of direct contact with the country of which we was writing.

Let us examine, now, the information we have on Mexican gardens from all the sources we have listed and, on the basis of that information, evaluate the role of the gardens in Mexico before the Conquest. Our first reports came from the letters that Hernan Cortes sent to the King of Spain. These "Cartas de Relacion", as they are called, cover the period from July 10, 1519 to September 3, 1526 and have been translated into many languages and printed in many editions. There were five letters altogether, and it is in the second letter, where Cortes described his march from Veracruz to Mexico City that we find the earliest reference to a Mexican garden.

This was a garden located at Ixtapalapa on the outskirts of Mexico City, in the palace of Cuiclahuatzin, brother of Moctezuma, the Aztec emperor. Here, in the last of the gardens to be built, Cortes spent the night just before his triumphal entry into the capital city of the Aztecs, and ^{he describes} ~~here is his description of~~ ^{as follows} what he saw: "There are very refreshing gardens with many trees and sweet scented flowers.... He, (Cuiclahuatzin) has also a large orchard near the house, overlooking a high terrace with many beautiful corridors and rooms.... toward the wall of the garden are hedges of lattice work made of cane, behind which are all sorts of plantations of trees and aromatic herbs."

From the botanical point of view, this description certainly leaves much to be desired and many have wished, with Prescott, that someone like Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdes had accompanied Cortes on his Mexican adventure, for then we might have had more meaningful descriptions of the plants found in these early Mexican gardens.

The gardens at Ixtapalapa made a strong impression, also, on another of the conquistadores, Bernal Diaz del Castillo, who waited almost fifty years to write his "True History of the Conquest of Mexico". Although there are some who criticize his writing as crude and boastful, most readers view the efforts of this soldier-author, relying on his

memories, as an extraordinarily fresh and vivid account of the events of those bygone days. Of the gardens at Ixtapalapa he says, "The garden and orchard are most admirable. I saw and walked about in them and could not satiate myself sufficiently looking at the many kinds of trees and enjoying the perfume of each. ^{As} And there were walks bordered with the roses of this country, and flowers and many fruit trees and flowering shrubs.... Again I say that I do not believe that in the whole world there are other countries known to compare with this one."

Diaz's recollections include also reports of a garden near Quauhnahuac, the Cuernavaca of today. Accounts of a famous garden in Cuernavaca in the 16th century, which belonged to someone by the name of Diaz, suggest that perhaps in helping to "liberate" the Mexicans from Moctezuma, Diaz liberated these gardens for himself.

At about the time Diaz del Castillo was writing his memoirs, ~~ca=shortly there-after,~~ ^(of who was later) another Spaniard, Dr. Francisco Hernandez was visiting Mexico on a mission from the King of Spain. He, too, visited the gardens in Ixtapalapa and noted in them much of interest. ~~In~~ ^{particular} his writings, he calls particular attention to a large "tlatzcan", or cypress tree, found in the garden. (This is probably *Cupressus Benthami*.) *Lindleyi* (accounts of P. H. Raven)

Another report comes from the Franciscan monk, Toribio de Benavente, or Motolinia, as he preferred to be known. He was one of the group of missionaries who came to Mexico shortly after the conquest, and in 1541 he wrote his "Historia de los Indios de la Nueva Espana". In it he refers at some length to the gardens of the Aztecs. Of the gardens in Mexico City he says. "The greater part of the city was surrounded by fresh water and contained many cool groves of cedars, cypresses, willows and other flowering trees. The Indian lords do not try to raise fruit trees because fruit is brought to them by their vassals, but rather forest trees from which they can pluck flowers." "The raising of plants for food", the King is reported to have said; "is not the concern of rulers but that of slaves or merchants." This idea is repeated by Antonio Solis in his "Historia de la Conquista de Mexico", when he describes the gardens of Moctezuma in Tenochtitlan (Mexico City). "In all their houses they had large gardens carefully cultivated. All around were flowers of rare diversity and

fragrance, and medicinal herbs which were used in flower beds and bowers. These were given much care and arrangements were made to have brought to the garden all the kinds of plants that this benign land produces. Here the physicians learned the names of the plants and an understanding of their virtues. They had herbs for all ills and ailments, and from the juices ... they prepared their remedies. But they did not like fruit trees nor edible plants in their places of recreation. In days gone by they used to say that orchards belonged to ordinary people, and it seemed more appropriate among the princes that their pleasure should not be marred by ideas of utility". How neatly this fits into Gager's definition which excluded agricultural or horticultural purposes from a botanic garden!

Returning to Motolinia, we find his description of the gardens at Texcoco. "Especially notable was the house of the principal lord, both the old house with its garden surrounded by over a thousand large and beautiful cedars, most of which are still standing, although the house has been razed; and the other house, in which a whole army could be lodged, with many gardens and a very large pool which was entered in boats through an underground passage".

^{Other} Two ~~early~~ historians found the Mexican gardens worthy of mention. The ~~first~~, Francisco Lopez de Gomara, chaplain to Cortes after his return to Spain, and his official historian, wrote his "Historia General de las Indias" in 1552. Most of his information, of course, he received from Cortes but the material on gardens seems to have been copied from Motolinia. His work seems to have served, in turn as the basis of later references by the "cronista mayor de su magestad", Antonio Herrera y Tordesilla, who published his "Historia General de los Hechos de los Castellanos" in 1601.

The ~~second~~ ^{Another} historian, Francisco Cervantes de Salazar, a friend of Cortes, and official chronicler of the city of Mexico, wrote his "Cronica de Nueva Espana" in 1560 to 1567. This work, once though lost, by the way, was rediscovered by Zelia Nuttall in 1911 in Madrid. In it we find several references to Moctezuma's various gardens: one in the center of the capital city, Tenochtitlan; a ~~nother~~ to the west of the city, on the slopes of Grasshopper Hill, or Chapultepec (to use its Aztec name); a third, at a site called El Peñon, in the midst of the lake of Mexico, noted for its hot springs and thermal baths; and a fourth, in Atlixco, used as a hunting preserve. There is an interesting map, published first in

Nurnberg in 1524, in the Latin translation of Cortes' second and third letters by Pedro de Savorgnani, which shows the house and gardens of Moctezuma outside the city. The finest garden ^{is} was at Huaxtepec, located at some distance from the capital.

Here are Cervantes' ^{own} words: "This great monarch had many pleasancess and spacious gardens with paths and channels for irrigation. These gardens contained only medicinal and aromatic herbs, flowers, native roses and trees with fragrant blossoms, of which there are many kinds." In another of his works, the "Dialogues" telling of Mexico in 1564, he says, "On the top of the hill Montezuma had cultivated trees as if it were a garden and on its steep sides were terraces with other groves of trees and hanging gardens". At another point he reports that Moctezuma ordered his physicians to experiment with the medicinal herbs and to employ those best known and tried as remedies in healing the ills of the lords of his court.

According to Cervantes, during the ~~and~~ period when Cortes held Moctezuma prisoner, the Aztec emperor was given permission occasionally to visit one of his gardens for rest and solace, and he chose the only one of these gardens near the city that is still in existence - beautiful Chapultepec with its many magnificent ahuehuate trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*). One can imagine the captive Moctezuma bemoaning his fate, as perhaps his thoughts turned to the days when he was all powerful and had only to wish for something and his wish was granted. Perhaps he remembered the time when he heard of a king named Malinal, who lived south of Tenochtitlan near Oaxaca, at a place called Tlaxiaco. Among the treasured possessions of this king there was a beautiful tree called in Nahuatl "tlapalo^{ix}quixochitl" or the "tree of many red flowers." (This is ^{quizá una variedad del árbol} known today as "*Bourreria huanita*" ^(*Bourreria huanita*) ^{Bourreria} and is a species of *Bourreria*.) Moctezuma sent a demand to Malinal for this tree, but ^{surprisingly} for ~~some unknown~~ reason, Malinal refused the request. Upon which Moctezuma promptly sent an armed force to Oaxaca. His men vanquished the troops of Malinal and returned to Mexico with the tree, and presumably with many captives besides.

We return now to Dr. Hernandez, called by some the Mexican Pliny. Commissioned by King Philip II to prepare a report on New Spain which would cover the natural resources

of this area and its political history, Hernandez arrived in Mexico in 1670. He spent the next five years travelling through practically all of Mexico known at that time to the Europeans and, of course, visited all the important gardens then in existence. From Texcoco he described plants like "coccixhuitl", or Boccocnia. He noted, too, that where the gardeners could not succeed in growing some rare exotic, the King did the next best thing and had paintings of the flowers reproduced on the walls of the palace.

Hernandez was also deeply impressed by the part that flowers played in the court ritual. He says that among the ^ZAztec it was a sign of respect to bring flowers when calling on some one, particularly if that someone was the King. A good illustration of this is cited by Torquemada, He tells the story of a group of Indian chieftains who arrived at Tenochtitlan one day, and asked for an audience with Moctezuma. The audience was granted for the next day and then, at sunset, it was discovered that there were no flowers available, worthy of presenting to the King. Immediately they hunted up a youth famous for his speed as a runner and dispatched him to Cuernavaca about 50 miles away. This town, which in the 15th century paid a daily tribute of flowers to the King of Texcoco, is still one of Mexico's garden cities, famous for its year-round flowers. The runner reached Cuernavaca at midnight, picked up the flowers and the next morning was back in Mexico City with the desired offering.

Smith [The love of flowers by the Mexican has impressed almost everyone who has ever lived in Mexico. In Moctezuma's day, it was the custom to receive visitors under arches formed of branches and flowers, and wreaths were hung on them much as leis are used in Hawaii today. Acosta, who travelled in the New World in the 1680's, wrote in his famous "Historia Natural y Moral de las Indias", "The Indians are great lovers of flowers and nowhere more so than in New Spain". More than two hundred years later, Madame Calderon de la Barca, in her charming report. "Life in Mexico", said, "The same love of flowers distinguished the natives now as in the time of Cortes, And it presents a strange anomaly, this love of flowers having existed along with their sanguinary worship and barbarous sacrifices."

Even today, the Mexican Indians display amazing skill in working with flowers; as

witness the flower decorated boats at Xochimilco and the rather overpowering creations at the funeral wreath market in Mexico City. Bernardino de Sahagun, in his important "Historia General de las Cosas de Nueva Espana", written near the close of the 16th century, reports that the Indians could reproduce portraits of distinguished personages in flowers. And in some localities today, one can still see on certain fiesta days, carpets of flowers covering the church floor, much as they did temple floors long ago.

Other writers like Rafael Lucio, Zelia Nuttall and Rafael Sanchez Ventura have been impressed with the great number of words in the Nahuatl tongue that have to do with flowers. "Xochitl", the word for flower, appears over and over again in place names; as for example, Xochitepec and Xochimilco, and in the names of people like Cuetlaxochitl, Ixtlilxochitl and Netzahuaxochitl. The Aztecs had special words for actions connected with flowers. One meant to "offer a bouquet of flowers"; another, "to crown a person and place on him a necklace of flowers"; a third ^{with the ceremony} (and this is lovely) "to awaken one's beloved murmuring a sweet song of flowers." In addition, there were special words to describe different kinds of gardens, small gardens, palace gardens, gardens surrounded by walls, and gardens surrounded only by a fence of grasses and reeds.] omitted.

One more group of reports, towards the close of the 16th century, brings us first hand accounts of the gardens as they were just before and just after the Conquest. The first of these belongs to the series of "Relaciones", which the King of Spain ordered to be compiled from all the lands in his possession. These "Relaciones" consisted of answers to a series of questions, covering every aspect of the land its resources, as well as the life of the people and their culture. [They are available ^{in part} for a surprisingly large number of villages of Mexico. "For", says Marcos Jimenez de la Espada, a leading student of these Relaciones", referring to those compiled during the 16th century, "the great majority of them are from New Spain, the province which best complied with the request" (of the King).]

The "Relacion" for Oaxtepec (Guastepeque, Huaxtepec) was prepared in 1580 and is of particular interest for us, since it was here that the finest of all the gardens belonging to Moctezuma was located. The report states that although the inhabitants did not pay tribute to "Motenzuma", they did accompany him on his expeditions to Chiapas and Vera-

^{Castilla elastica}
^{? game =}
^{Bathai}
^{from some}
^{wood root}
 cruz, and when they returned they brought with them various trees, among them cacao and "batey". The latter was the tree from which they extracted rubber and ^{as said} Motenzuma ordered them to plant ⁱⁿ them in this village in a woods nearby in some ravines, which spot was to serve later for his recreation". This is the garden on which Diaz del Castillo lavished his most extravagant praise. "It is the finest that I have seen in all my life". He quotes Captain Sandoval, who, on an expedition to the ^{as stating} "tierra caliente", was the first to see Huaxtepec that, in his opinion, it was the most beautiful he had seen in New Spain. He adds that Cortes heartily seconded the warm words of praise by stating that "he had never seen a finer garden in Castilla". ~~Cortes' own words are found~~ in his third letter: ^{Cortes describes the} "which garden ^{as} is the best, most beautiful and refreshing that I have ever seen. A very pretty rivulet with high banks runs through it from one end to the other. In it are an infinite number of trees with varied fruits, many herbs ~~and~~ fragrant flowers".

Moctezuma had inherited this garden from his predecessor Moctezuma the Elder. The story of its founding is in Diego Duran's "Historia de los Indios de Nueva Espana", written in 1579-1581, and in Hernando Alvarado Tezozomoc's "Cronica Mexicana", written around 1598. Both tell how Moctezuma the Elder, when reminded that his forbears had once inhabited that delightful area around Huaxtepec, decided to establish a garden there. First he sent to Cuetlaxtlan along the coast for various plants. Among those which arrived were "yolochochitl", (*Talsuma mexicana*), "cacalochitl", (*Plumeria*), and "huacaxochitl" (one of the *Araceae*). All these three plants were reserved for the exclusive use of the kings. Others were "cacahuaxochitl" (*Quararibea*), "Izquixochitl", (the aforementioned *Bourreria*), "mecaxochitl", (*Piper*), "tlilochitl", (*vanilla*), and many others. The plants were sent carefully prepared, the roots covered with soil and wrapped, ~~carefully~~ and the Indian gardeners who accompanied the plants took such good care of them and the land was so fertile and well watered that in less than three years, all the plants had flowered and not one had been lost. All this caused much wonder among the gardeners for, it ~~seem'd~~ ^{seem'd}, the plants grew better at Huaxtepec than they has done in their native habitat.

When Hernandez visited Mexico, Huaxtepec was, of course, another important source of information for him in his studies of Mexican plants. But his work did not appear in

print until 1651, and then in abridged form. A copy of this modified version, in manuscript, fell into the hands of a Dominican priest, Francisco Ximenez, who lived at Huaxtepec. He added to it from his own knowledge of the plants of the country and, in 1616, published the highly interesting "Cuatro Libros de la Naturaleza." In it we find mention of two additional plants that we can add to the list of those growing at Huaxtepec. Both plants were selected for their medicinal virtues: one, "balsamo de las Indias" or "hoitziloxitl" is Myroxylon ^{balsamum var.} Ferreirae. Another has been identified as ~~Cheiro-~~ ^{Chirantico} ~~stemon~~, the hand-flower tree or "magpaxochiquahuitl".

In the 1920's Zelia Nuttall, the American anthropologist, listed an imposing number of plants which, her studies indicated, were probably grown in Huaxtepec. In addition to those already mentioned, she included Persea, (the avocado,) Crataegus, ("tejocote,") Prunus capulin, (the Mexican cherry,) various members of the Sapotaceae, Moctezuma speciosissima (in the Bombacaceae), Ceiba ("pochote"), Poinsettia, Cleome, Acacia, Yucca, Tigridia, ("oceloxochitl"), Tagetes, ("cempoalxochitl"), Zinnia, Hibiscus, Psidium, ("xalxocotl"), Spondias, as well as ferns, palms, orchids, and various cacti.

Shortly after the Conquest, the Hospital de los Hipolitos was founded at Huaxtepec, and, according to Clavigero, in 1780 they were still cultivating medicinal plants there and using them in the hospital. Torquemada adds his description of the garden at Huaxtepec, just about a hundred years after Cortes first saw it. "The garden measured two leagues in circumference. In the middle of it ran a river, its banks shaded by many groves of trees. Here and there were resting places with gardens of many different kinds of flowers and fruits. There were buildings, seed beds, fountains and, scattered among the rocky cliffs which were decorated with carvings, were arbors, chapels, look-outs, and stairways cut into the very rock."

Two works by descendants of the Aztec rulers supply us with additional details on the gardens. One called "The Relacion de Texcoco" was written in 1583 by Juan Bautista Pomar, great grandson of Netzahualcoyotl. He writes of the gardens as follows: "There is no principal and abundant source of water in this city.... It was necessary to unite into one the many springs at their sources, channeling them into canals. This was

done by Netzahualcoyotl and Netzahualpitzintzli, not so much to provide drinking water..... as to provide water to irrigate the orchards and gardens. Not only did they raise the flowers that grow naturally in this area, but they had also others from the more temperate regions and the tropics, all of which they cared for with much effort. "According to Dr. Maldonado, the exact location of this garden is not known, except that it was about 12 leagues, (30 miles) from Texcoco. [redacted]

The second work is the important "Historia Chichimeca" of Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl, written early in the 1600's. ^{4 over} In this account we read, among other things, of how the job of caring for the extensive gardens of Netzahualcoyotl was assigned to different tribes as their tribute to the sovereign, each charged with definite duties in certain parts of the gardens. Ixtlilxochitl also lists various gardens, eight in number, that belonged to Netzahualcoyotl. Among them was one at Tzinanostic, (also written Tzinacostoc and Tzinaconostoc); this had been his grandfather's favorite. Mendizabal lists another at Chichuhnoyacan and says this was preferred by Netzahualcoyotl's father. In these gardens there were elaborate buildings, irrigation canals, reservoirs, baths, stairways and terraces. Aqueducts brought water to fountains and from these a spray fell like gentle rain over the plants in the garden.

The most famous of Netzahualcoyotl's gardens is, without doubt, the one at Tetzotzingo, on the slopes and summit of a hill near a spot now known as the Molino de las Flores. One may wonder, in passing here, why the Royal Gardens in Mexico were so often placed on the summits and slopes of hills. Perhaps it was because they were connected in some way with religious ceremonies. The kings were also priests, it must not be forgotten, and hill tops make ideal sites for astronomical observations and for conducting impressive rituals.

According to Fray Agustin Devila Padilla, quoted by Mendizabal, "The entire hill was planted with beautiful groves of trees and lovely fruit trees and many ^{jasmin} ~~banjin~~ plants and other scented flowers."

It is interesting to note, ^{too} in passing, that Netzahualcoyotl's interest in gardens seems particularly appropriate. He was known as the poet king and his domain is sometimes called the "Athens of America". He ruled from 1403 to 1474 and is reputed to have been a

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Insert * Before quoting here, it might be well
for us to consider Helen's estimate of her
contribution. According to her Autobiography
"cast over her pictures of the Golden Age (of
Tecuacan) a glow which is hardly justified
by the cold light of modern events.
Her story," she says, "is now regarded as
unreliable in many particulars." She does
not, however, specify that these are

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called the "Athens of America." He ruled from 1407 to 1427 and is reputed to have been a

wise, enlightened and cultured sovereign. *In closing this section of this report, I should perhaps mention that still remains to be done.*

One reference to Mexican gardens needs to be examined. It is a manuscript entitled "Breve y Compendiosa Narracion de la Ciudad de Mexico" and, according to Arthur Mangin's *where* "Histoire des Jardins", is in the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris. *the work is mentioned*

What has happened to all these gardens in the years since the Conquest? We have the answer in the reports of travellers who continue to visit Mexico and describe the things they ~~see~~. One of the earliest to visit Mexico after the War of Independence was W. Bullock who, after a trip to Mexico, in 1823, wrote his "Six Months Residence and Travels in Mexico". In this he described the aqueduct at Tetzootzingo and the old cypresses in the ~~old~~ palace of Netzahualcoyotl. *Many other refs. to flowers but not in gardens??*

In 1853, Brantz Mayer, of the U.S. diplomatic corps in Mexico wrote a scholarly, detailed historical study of Mexico. In Volume 2 of this work, he describes at great length the resources of Mexico and the things that interest visitors to that country. *These* ~~These~~ *which are the* include ruins near the summit of Tetzootzingo, 3 miles west of Texcoco, and in particular the aqueduct that brought water to the gardens of Netzahualcoyotl. He describes also the Bosque del Contador, northwest of Texcoco, as an "ancient grove of double rows of gigantic cypresses 500 in number, arranged in a square corresponding to the points of the compass and enclosing an area of nearly 10 acres. At the northwest point of this quadrangle, another double row of lordly cypresses runs westward towards a dyke north of which there is a deep oblong tank neatly walled and filled with water. From the soft spongy character of the soil in the center of the great quadrangular grove, it is supposed that the vase area was once occupied by a lake. Along the raised banks and beneath the shadow of the double line of majestic trees were the walks and arbors in which Netzahualcoyotl and his courtiers amused themselves."

In 1861, Edward Burnett Tylor in his "Anahuac", described the gardens at Tetzootzingo as they were then: "The hill itself was overgrown with brushwood, aloes" (agave, probably) "prickly pear, but numerous roads and flights of steps cut in the rock were distinguishable." He, too, mentions going to the Bosque del Contador, near Texcoco, where

there was "a grand square looking toward the cardinal points and composed of ahuehuetes, grand old deciduous cypresses, many of them 40 feet round and older than the discovery of America". One finds similar references in Susan Hale's "Mexico", published in 1901. "A magnificent grove of lofty ahuehuetes at some distance from the central part of the grounds surrounds a large quadrangle now dry, which was probably an artificial lake in the time of the great king." At Texcoco "are left remains of terraced walls, and stairways wind around the hill from the bottom to the top. The country all about is full of artificial embankments, reservoirs, and aqueducts for leading water and developing the attractions of the place." Referring to Chapultepec, Miss Hale writes, "There is now standing an ancient cypress or ahuehuete, huge among the other great trees of the grove, which goes by the name of Montezuma's cypress. Its gnarled trunk must measure more than 100 feet across and its branches themselves are as big as trees."

As for Huaxtepec, we have the description written in 1930 by Enrique Juan Palacios when he visited the area to study the archaeological remains found there. Of all the exciting list of plants brought there at the orders of Moctezuma, there remains not one. Only the imposing grove of ahuehuetes has survived. Approaching this "bosque", says Palacios "the terrain becomes rough and broken, covered with vegetation. Heavy matted thickets alternate with clumps of trees, mangroves(?), willows and figs..... innumerable springs, clear "ojos de agua" bubble continuously at the foot of the majestic cypresses. In spots, they gush forth, it seems from the very roots of the bananas and the other trees that flourish on the site." He recalls the words cited by Duran, "I hear that it is fertile and plentiful land, with abundant water and springs. Especially famous are the springs in Huaxtepec where, for your relaxation and recreation and for your descendants, it would be delightful to have a large basin or reservoir where all this water could be gathered as high as it could rise, to irrigate all the land that it could reach" Palacios comments also on the enormous fig trees that he sees, and speculates that these could well have been the source of the paper which the inhabitants of nearby Tepoxtlán prepared from the bark of these trees and sent as tribute to the Aztec capital.

Today we must hunt for the fragmentary remains of the magnificent gardens which one

flourished under the rule of the Aztecs. Can we consider that they were botanical gardens? I think so. They meet most of the modern day tests. They were collections of plants native and exotic; their major purposes were the cultivation of medicinal and ornamental plants. True, the description we have are often so superficial and inadequate that it is difficult to make up even a partial list of the plants that flourished there. One is tempted to accept Mrs. Nuttall's list with some assurance since it contains plants that continue to be used today in Mexico as ornamentals and medicinal plants.

Paso y Troncoso, in his article on botany among the Nahoas (1886), emphasizes the fact that the Aztecs had already initiated a system of classification and nomenclature that clearly indicated the beginning of a science approaching plant taxonomy. The bases for their taxonomy were, first, habit of growth (herb, shrub, tree, vine) or taste (this of course puts taxonomy on a chemical basis), and medicinal value. Certainly the gardens where these plants were being studied must have been what we would call today botanical gardens, or perhaps arboreta, since the emphasis was on woody plants. We can only bemoan the fact that no attempt was made to preserve these gardens for posterity, or at least until a botanist might have had the opportunity to study the plants as they grew in the gardens before the arrival of the Europeans.

*in the tradition of Theophrastus (trees, shrubs, under shrubs,
+ herbs),*

C. S. Gager (Kew) wrote a handbook of gardens of bot. world with det. ch. about 1939 Publ. by Garden If should be useful

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PERSPECT 6-5567

January 16, 1956

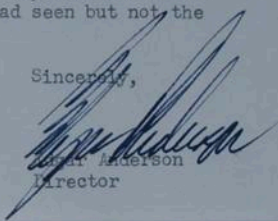
Mrs. Ida Langman,
3509 Baring Street,
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Langman:

Thank you for the manuscript. I am delighted with it. We will want to publish this some time within the next year as a special number of the Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin. I will go back to sources and get some big, splashy prints of one or two of your illustrations to use for the cover and frontispiece. We can let you have quite a number of them for distribution if you care to have them. I will, however, have to either pad it up or bring it down to exactly 16 pages. This is one of the ways we save money. I can probably do this with smaller type here and there without cutting, but I may have to condense a paragraph or something of that sort.

If you have seen our Bulletin in the last few months you may have noticed we are trying our best to have it look attractive and be of general interest. Thanks for the reprint and for the references. One of them I had seen but not the other.

Sincerely,



Arthur Anderson
Director

EA:ep

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

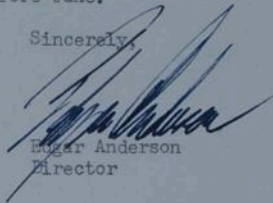
February 2, 1956

Mrs. Ida Langman,
3509 Baring Street,
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Langman:

At your convenience let me know how many re-
prints you want. I cannot tell yet when it will
come out, but it will be before June.

Sincerely,



Edgar Anderson
Director

EA:ep

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

March 8, 1956

Mrs. Ida K. Langman
% Academy Nat. Science
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Langman:

The fifty copies of your "Mexican Gardens" paper that Dr. Anderson promised you, are on the way by parcel-post. In Dr. Anderson's letter to you he said that you could buy additional copies at cost if you wanted them. Well, the bill has just come in, and an additional 50 copies would cost about \$7.00. I hope that you couldn't want any more than that because we wouldn't have many more.

I wanted to send you galley-proof of your Bulletin article, but Dr. Anderson said that it wasn't necessary. Anyway, if the mistakes that surely crept in make you blush, just blame them on the Ed. Publ. at the Mo. Bot. Garden, and the printer. The printer was entirely unfamiliar with the Aztec and Spanish words, and I kept on finding mistakes especially in the bibliography. That bibliography was a pain in the neck. I tried to make the printer (he is out of town and all my directions had to be in writing and "per sample") set it up in the form that you had it. But he didn't follow it precisely, and after making him reset the whole thing, I just gave up. The spacing is bad, for one thing.

How have you been? Isn't it about time for you to look up something more at the library? We think it is. Have you met Dr. Russell Seibert ~~from~~ from Longwood Gardens yet? He is "one of ours" for sure—a former Mo. Bot. Garden student whom we all like and are very proud of.

Incidentally, I enjoyed your article very much.

With best wishes

Nell Horner

NCH:eb

Nell C. Horner

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PERSPECT 6-5587

February 17, 1956

Mrs. Ida Langman,
Academy of Natural Sciences,
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

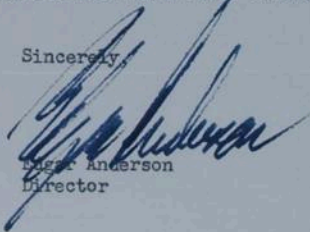
Dear Mrs. Langman:

We ordinarily give our authors 25 free reprints but in this case the article is coming out in the Bulletin and our printer for that cannot get them out as reprints. You will just have to take Bulletins as I have had to in the past myself. It will be the lead article and your fancy Aztec flower will be the picture on the cover and I hope it will be a nice looking number from start to finish.

We will plan to give you 50 copies and then you can order 50 more at cost if you would like to. They will be probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 10-15¢

I am turning your corrections and additions over to Miss Horner and we will get them in the galley somewhere when that comes around this weekend.

Sincerely,



Ernest Anderson
Director

EA:ep

A Third Station in Pennsylvania for *Potentilla tridentata*

IDA K. LANGMAN

On July 5, 1936, I visited Cresco Heights in Monroe County to collect plants that might have escaped my attention on previous trips, late the preceding summer. There, on the exposed red shale of the summit, I discovered *Potentilla tridentata* Ait. in full bloom. The white flowers, which had been absent on the dates of my other visits, now made an attractive show. The three-parted leathery leaves, with their slightly lobed leaflets, trailed in profusion over the ledges. Although the area covered by the plant was not large, it was quite exposed and it is difficult to understand how all those who have collected in this region, myself included, had overlooked it, especially since the locality is so accessible and so well known.

Potentilla tridentata has previously been reported in Pennsylvania from but two stations: Bald Mount in Lackawanna County and Penobscot Knob in Luzerne County. The new station at Cresco Heights is at an elevation of 1730 feet and is located just west of, and between, Cresco and Mountainhome, in Barrett Township, Monroe County. Here, on the rather dry summit, it is associated with such plants as *Arenaria groenlandica*, *Prunus depressa* and *Stenophyllus capillaris*, while on the wet ledge crevices below are *Woodsia ilvensis* and *Ranunculus fascicularis*. Specimens of all of these species have been deposited in the herbarium of the University of Pennsylvania.

To have added a new station in Pennsylvania for this attractive little northern *Potentilla* is indeed gratifying. To collectors who may visit the locality my only suggestion is that specimens be taken sparingly; the stand is quite limited and should not be disturbed.

Bartonian 1939.

A DOLLAR A YEAR • Vol. 9 No. 1

OCTOBER, 1944

Frontiers

A MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY



IN THIS NUMBER:

HOBART E. STOCKING

MIRIAM BECK

IDA K. LANGMAN

THEODORE H. EATON, JR.

BENNIE BENGTSON

WILLY LEY

HORACE G. RICHARDS

ELIZABETH BACHMANN

ALAN A. BROWN

FRONTIERS

A Magazine of Natural History

McCready Huston
Editor

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C. L. Matthews
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OF PHILADELPHIA

19TH STREET AND THE PARKWAY
PHILADELPHIA 3
RITTSHOUSE: 7622

June 28, 1944

Mrs. Ida K. Langman
2316 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, 3, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Langman:

Dr. Fogg has sent me your revised article and gives it his warm approval. I shall accept it for *Frontiers* with the understanding that I shall have to shorten it a little. I shall send you a proof before its publication and I shall try to use two or three of the photographs. Please let me know how your husband wishes his name used in a photographic credit line.

I cannot tell you which number will carry your story but when the time comes you will receive a check for the small amount we are able to pay and also two author's copies for yourself and two for your husband.

Sincerely yours,

McCready Huston

McCready Huston,
Editor

MH:a

MODERN MEXICO

APARTADO 2042
MEXICO, D. F.

April 3rd, 1944.

Miss Ida Langman,
2316 Delancey Place,
Philadelphia, Pa.

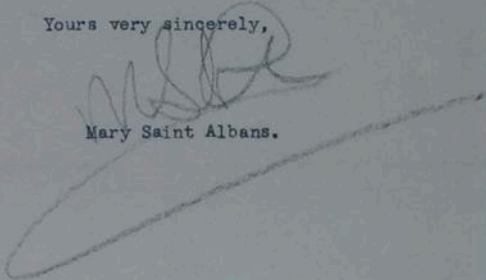
My dear Miss Langman:

I am sending you February which has your very good story on Mexico. I hope you do not find the pictures too awful. Some time ago you mentioned stories on Acapulco and Uruapan. At that time I could not use them; but if you care to send them along in the future I shall try to take special care in making cuts for them. These others were used with New York cuts ones we had on hand.

I should think however a more interesting story would be the plant life of Mexico as that is what you were investigating, a personal story of your own experiences in that work. When are you coming down again?

If you send one along send along a picture; New York has promised to do better and maybe we can make a good feature.

Yours very sincerely,



Mary Saint Albans.

TWENTY CENTS

FEBRUARY, 1944

Modern mEXiCO

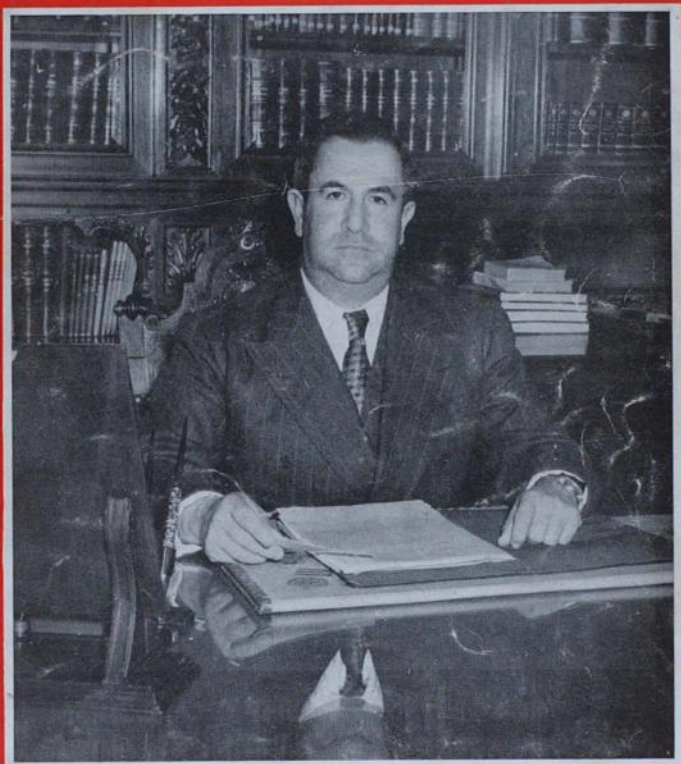


MOVIE MIRACLE MAN - Mary Saint Albans
RICHES IN JALISCO - General Ignacio Richkarday
WOMEN IN THE WAR - Evelyn Leego

TWENTY CENTS

JULY 1938

Modern MEXICO



MEXICO AND THE WAR - Ricardo G. Hill
DRAFTEES AND TANKS - Mary St. Albans
NEFERO - Manuel Rodriguez Lozano

MODERN MEXICO

APARTADO 2042
MEXICO, D. F.

December 20, 1943

My dear Miss Langman--

You were right about the subtitle , but as you seemed to be as pretty, probably prettier than the other girl, I wouldn't be worried about it. I cursed, but that did no good.

The article on Acapulco was a big drawing dard here; for advertisers and people. It had to be written in that fashion; people love names and gossip and themselves mentioned-- and we have to live. If you would like to send yours, I might be able to use it later.

In November, we have a Volcano story published; also one coming in March-- Michoacan does not rate more, as I've done many stories on villages there. As Uruapan's life is bound up with the Volcano, ashes on the streets, tourists, etc., a story written before this event would give an erroneous impression, even if we needed it.

Governors sometimes take stories, and we have to ~~pay~~ ^{pay} up certain states at certain times; Guerrero's Governor pays nothing practically and Michoacan's is making me a lot of expense and trouble.

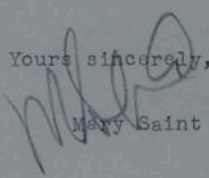
MODERN MEXICO

APARTADO 2042
MEXICO, D. F.

Miss Millan received a few days free room and board in Texuitle for that article and I imagine she typed it out in as many minutes, which accounts for the difference. However, she had, at no cost, a Cardenas translation which was important to the magazine.

Thank you indeed for the pleasant words; and Happy New Year--

Yours sincerely,



Mary Saint Albans

MODERN MEXICO

APARTADO 2042
MEXICO, D. F.

August 26, 1943

My dear Miss Langman--

The title must have been changed in New York--as I sent it up as was; I thought it was your error when I saw it. I am very sorry but while I prepare everything here, in this case, I did not even have the article copied. You would be surprised however to know how few people distinguish between oriente and occidente. No one here has noticed the error and believe me they say so when they do notice errors. Any rectification could not appear until November and it would merely call attention to it. If Modern Mexico and other publications which are rich and famous would apologize for all errors made about Mexico, there would not be space for any thing else.

Your pictures would have been better-but in this case as we had good Jalisco cuts I asked New York to use old ones. They made a bad selection. However when you send pictures to other magazines, send half as many and make them twice or three times as large. That's the custom.

We frankly, have no money; I do all the work myself and New York sometimes balls it up; but there's no remedy.

It was awfully kind of you to allow me to use the story and I am very distressed over the incident. I asked N.Y. to mail you many copies; apparently they did not. I have a story about you in the August number which I shall mail you.

I am writing about the error; confidentially I think the man there had had two drinks or so and he thought of Guadalajara, as many do, as being toward the east-- but I can not put him on the wagon.

Yours very sincerely,

Mark Schubert

All pictures and stories about Uruapan would have to include the Volcano which I have just done thoroughly.

MODERN MEXICO

APARTADO 2042
MEXICO, D. F.

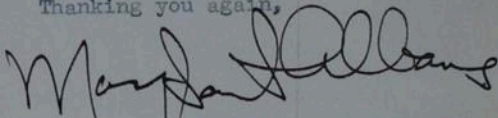
July 17, 1943

Miss Ida K. Langman
2316 Delancey St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Miss Langman:

Your story appeared in July and I am sending you some copies. I liked it very much. Unfortunately, the picture and the write-ups did not arrive in time, and those I hope to use in the October number with the other story.

Thanking you again,



Mary Saint Albans, Editor

MSA/M

N.Y., 3/1/43

DEAR MISS LANGMAN:

WE HAVE CHECKED AGAIN
AND CAN FIND NO TRACE OF YOUR MS. OR PHOTOS.
IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT THEY WERE SENT,
AUTOMATICALLY, TO MISS SAINT ALBANS, PO BOX
2042, LEAVING NO RECORD, SINCE SHE IS THE
EDITOR OF MODERN MEXICO, HAVING THE FINAL
SAY ON WHAT AND WHAT NOT TO USE. TRY HER.

THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Box 2042
Mexico DF Mexico
May 18, 1943

My dear Miss Langman--

I wrote you months ago saying
we should be glad to use your story but we could
not pay for it; evidently, as happens in wartime the
letter was lost.

If you would send me a short personality
sketch and a picture I should be glad to publish them.

Yours sincerely

Mary Saint Albans
Editor Modern Mexico

THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.
SIXTY WALL STREET
NEW YORK

APRIL 10, 1943

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MISS IDA K. LANGMAN,
2316 DELANCEY STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

DEAR MISS LANGMAN:

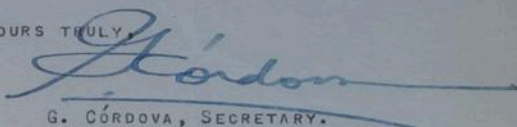
AS REQUESTED IN YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7, I AM WRITING TO MISS SAINT ALBANS IN MEXICO CITY TO SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOCATE AND RETURN TO YOU THE MANUSCRIPT SENT SOME TIME AGO, WHICH I CAN ASSURE YOU HAS NOT BEEN USED IN OUR MAGAZINE "MODERN MEXICO".

HOWEVER, I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I ACCEPT NO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, AS YOU PUT IT. AS YOU KNOW, MISS SAINT ALBANS IS THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE AND MY POSITION AS SECRETARY OF THE CHAMBER IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, THE ARTICLE WAS SENT TO MISS SAINT ALBANS FOR HER APPROVAL OR REFUSAL. DUE TO WAR CONDITIONS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE MAILS OR CENSORED OUT. SINCE YOU PROBABLY HAVE A DUPLICATE COPY, YOU CAN OFFER IT TO SOME OTHER PUBLICATION.

MY I ADD THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION WAS ENTIRELY UNSOLICITED AND UNWANTED SINCE MISS SAINT ALBANS HAS AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT STAFF OF WRITERS AND WE SELDOM, IF EVER, ACCEPT OUTSIDE HELP, WHICH IS, IN MOST CASES, NOT WELL INFORMED AS TO THE REAL AND ACTUAL CONDITIONS IN MEXICO.

YOURS TRULY,



G. CORDOVA, SECRETARY.

GC-HS

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JULY 17, 1941

IDA K. LANGMAN
JON DA COTTAGES
CANADENSIS, PA.

DEAR MADAM:-

MODERN MEXICO, AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, IS
NOT PUBLISHED FOR PROFIT; THEREFORE, WE ARE
NOT IN A POSITION TO PAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

SHOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES ON A FREE BASIS, WE SHALL BE GLAD
TO PUBLISH THEM, WITH DUE CREDIT TO THE AUTHOR.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

G. Cordova
G. CORDOVA, SECRETARY.

GC:JP

*Correspondence
converted
into article*

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