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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.

INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFIA E HISTORIA

Organismo Especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos

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Secretario General

Ex-Arzobispado 29

México 18, D. F.

Dirección Cables
IPAGHIS
Tels. 115-19-10
115-08-29

March 23, 1965.

Mrs. Ida K. Langman,
Department of Biology,
Joseph Leidy Laboratory of Biology,
Philadelphia, Pa., 19104, U.S.A.

Dear Ida:

Just back from seven weeks of travels in Central America and northwestern Mexico doing field work and attending scientific meetings on geology, geophysics and oceanography, I hasten to write some few lines to acknowledge receipt of several letters and your magnificent gift of a copy of your bibliography. With respect to the letters, I am glad to know that everything is going well in your work, but sorry to learn that the Fellowship was not granted to you although the program was of good quality and within the several fields of interest in your own career. Your bibliography is simply magnificent, and should become the basic tool for research to botanists not only in this country but also in others that keep an eye on what exists in Mexico, including the historical background that is necessary for a comprehensive view of our problems in natural history.

I will write you again as soon as I get rid of the enormous amount of letters, publications and other documents that have accumulated on my desk after a long absence from this office. Please accept my heart-felt congratulations for having achieved such a splendid volume on which your fame of devoted worker will repose from now on. Our regards to Oscar and hopes to see you soon somewhere in this world.

Afectuosamente,

Manuel

*connections
his own*

*for
proof*

MMK/map

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Secretario General

Ex-Arzobispado 29

México 18, D. F.

Dirección Cartográfica
IPAGHIS
115-115-10
Tels. 115-08-20

December 28, 1964.

Mrs. Ida K. Langman,
Botanical Laboratory,
Division of Biology,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania 19104, U.S.A.

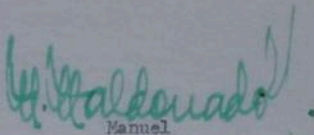
Dear Ida:

In a confidential way, and for your personal information, I am enclosing a copy of the report that I have just sent to Dr. Mathias, the Secretary General of the Guggenheim Foundation, with respect to your case.

I still hope that your study of Alzate's life and work will provide us with a good account of the Mexican environment and productions of the later part of the XVIII Century, rather than a translation of his writings.

María Luisa and I join in wishing Oscar and you a Happy New Year, and in acknowledging the receipt of your nice card.

Afectuosamente,


Manuel

MMK/map

I have known Mrs. Ida Kaplan Langman for a long time (almost a quarter of century), and have always appreciated her knowledge of botanical subjects, her energetic and continuous dedication to work, and her love for Mexican problems, demonstrated in the three aspects by many achievements. Mrs. Langman has spent several years in Mexico doing field and laboratory work and visiting various institutions to collect data on Mexican productions and to become familiar with the life and work of many national scientists. There is probably no other person that has assembled so many data on the development of Mexican botany since pre-Hispanic times to the present, and everybody is anxiously waiting for the appearance of Mrs. Langman's bibliography with more than 25,000 references and citations in preparation for more than two decades.

Now, about the research that Mrs. Langman proposes to carry out on the writings of José Antonio Alzate, the Mexican scientist of the XVIII Century, it may be said that it will clear out many obscure aspects of that epoch. If it is true that several essays have been written on Alzate, in their great majority (if not in all cases) a literary and/or philosophical attitude has been adopted by authors, leaving aside or dealing in a very superficial way with the scientific essence of his contributions. Furthermore, due to the fact that Alzate's writings were published in Spanish, with the exception of his report on the natural history of the Valley of Mexico which appeared in French in the book of Cassini on the voyage of Chape d'Auteroche, it seems adequate to make them known in English to a larger public through their translation and annotation.

It was in the epoch of Alzate that many cultural developments took place in the then Viceroyalty of New Spain, now the Mexican Republic, with many men of very high level participating in them. Alzate was a publisher of scientific and technical journals where news about the physical, biological and social traits of this country were printed, including his own contributions in different fields of knowledge, mainly on the natural history of Mexico. In order to judge and evaluate such contributions it is necessary to have the proper background, and to have studied the same problems in the light of advances made since then, and Mrs. Langman is definitely the person in possession of such antecedents.

I am strongly in favor of extending the assistance of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to Mrs. Langman, and definitely recommend her for a Fellowship to come to Mexico for her proposed program. Since the University of Pennsylvania Press might be interested in publishing the results of her work in this country, the assistance extended to Mrs. Langman will be assured of being fruitful, and for the benefit of the scientific and technical public. Last, but not least, Mrs. Langman's work will also serve to foster the relationships between both countries, and will probably give origin to further research on similar problems.

Dr. Manuel Maldonado-Koerdell

Technical Advisor - Pan American Institute of Geography and History

Ex-Arzobispado 29

México 18, D.F., MEXICO.

December 22, 1964.

INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFIA E HISTORIA

Organismo Especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos

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Ex-Arzbispado 29

México 18, D. F.

Dirección Calleográfica
IPAGH:115
115-15-31
Tels. 115-08-20

TA/64-65/391

August 18, 1964.

Mrs. Ida K. Langman,
Department of Biology,
Joseph Leidy Laboratory of Biology,
Philadelphia, Pa., 19104, U.S.A.

Dear Ida:

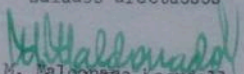
Your first letter of June 29 arrived here when we were getting ready to leave for Rome, where I had to attend the Summer Meeting of the International Association of Volcanology as one of the newly elected Vice-Presidents (Berkeley, August 1963). For your second letter, Miss Pifa sent you a short answer explaining that I was away, and that I would write you as soon as I came back from Italy. Now, I want to answer both letters, and give you my opinion on your project which once more shows your immense activity in all thing regarding Mexico and its productions.

Before doing that, I want to tell you something about our experiences in Rome, a city that contains so many remains and signs of the occidental culture that it is almost impossible to synthesize in a few words its magnificence. María Luisa and I had a grand time after the reunion visiting sites, monuments, museums and galleries (more than 50), including a special visit to the National Library at Piazza dell Collegio Romano, where I went to look for some books and manuscripts on Lorenzo Botturini Benaducci (which I learned should be written Botterini Benaducei) and Alessandro Malaspina. I have already begun to think of a tripartite project of work on the natural environment (past and present), taxonomic clearance of some Pleistocene fossils of the area, and bibliographic research for a year or so in that city, of which I will tell you more in the future.

Concerning your own project, I frankly think that a complete translation into English of the *Gazeta de Literatura* of Alzate would take much longer time than you probably have thought yourself, and would be considered somewhat unjustified by certain people. Furthermore, Alzate's importance should be re-examined in the light of a better knowledge (which you undoubtedly have) of the rôle of other men of contemporaneous age in Mexico, like Joaquín Velázquez Cárdenas y León, Antonio de León y Gama, etc., as surmised by Humboldt in his books. I will support any application from your part, because I know that you will do a splendid work, but I would like to see your wits concentrated on a more comprehensive analysis of the personality of Alzate, say, as naturalist with excerpts of his studies in a nice volume for the American scientific public.

María Luisa is sending her love to Oscar and you, and for my part to both my

saludos afectuosos


M. Malcomson-Kandell
Technical Advisor

M. Maldonado-Koerdell,
Culiacán 74 México 11, DF
MEXICO.

Book 1305
1706 - 1710
1710 - 1712

Jan
Part I
69 - 70
St. Frederick
Books shown
Appraisal

Mexico, D.F., April 18, 1954.

My dear Ida:

I am back in the old country since Friday night after a very succesful trip in the U.S.A. for several weeks. Soon as I unpacked my things, Maria Luisa received your beautiful gift and she will write to you one of these days. I am hastening to give you the information you are asking for in your letter of yesterday.

I made a mistake when I said to you that Laignel-Lavastine, Professor of History of Medecine in Paris, was the author of a book where you could find information about botanical gardens in Europe and their origin. In reality, it is Charles Singer, in the History of Biology, translated into French and prefaced by Laignel-Lavastine, where you can see a discussion on such problem. Look in part two, chapter four, for a short summary of the first collections of plants and animals in Europe during the Renaissance, and from there you can go to other sources.

As for Radl's Gesichte der Biologischen Ideen I merely said that in its maze of references you probably could find another hint to more specialized works on the origin of botanical gardens. I am still sticking to the need of presenting a short dissertation on the theory behind botanical gardens as an introduction for your paper, and a basis for your discussion of so-called Aztec gardens. There is also the probability of finding more information in Norden-skiöld's History of Biology, specially in its long bibliography at the end of the book.

It is Sunday morning, and the Museum is closed until tomorrow, so that I can not give to you the exact reference to the German work on the Tetzcotzing garden, but keep in mind that it is a recent contribution, written by one of these men, Krickeberg or Trimborn (possibly Lehman, too), and that by checking in the Handbook of Latin-American Studies, for the last few years, you'll find the complete citation. Most assuredly, someone in the University Museum must have seen it, and help you tracing it back. It is essential for your reconstruction of that place.

Everything is allright in the home front, and after a couple of weeks of hard work here, organizing some notes and "pölicking" in different places, I'll be on my way to Costa Rica and Honduras, from where I'll return in the beginning of June. However, in case you need me during those weeks, Maria Luisa will know exactly where to locate me for a letter or a message.

My regards to Oscar, and my gratitude to both of you for your most charming and warm hospitality in your place.

Manuel

P.S. Don't forget to tell Prof. Fogg that I'll send other reprints of my little things later on.

M. Maldonado-Koerdell,
Culiacán 74 México 11, DF
MEXICO.

Mexico, D.F., Nov. 15, 1953.

Dear Ida:

Excuse me for ^{not} answering your letters until today. I have been very busy, and then Maria Luisa didn't go until yesterday to the University book store to get the volume of the Mexican Scientific Congress, where your paper came out. It is in the mail already, and it will probably reach you in about two weeks, as a present from us. If you need more, just holler and we will see what we can do.

My trip to the United States was very successful in all senses, and there is a probability of my going back there in two or three weeks more. I'll keep you posted, because my destination will be again Washington and New York, with side trips to several places. Then again, I may not be going until next year, due to other commitments in Central and South America. How does that sound?

In regard to your questions of bibliographical nature, ^{Jan} frankly speaking I have not kept my pace as in former times, and I am afraid to be of no service to you at this time. There are several Zacualpas in Mexico, but somehow I have the impression that you are right in your estimation. For the time being, I think that Hernández Corzo can do very little in securing help for you, due to astringence in budgets both in this country and in the United States.

Believe it ^{or not}, I still don't know if I am going to be in Mexico City in the first part of December, and in the possibility of taking care of your friend, Dr. Hackmann. However, give him my telephone number (37-50-47, from 3 to 5 p.m.), and if I am here, I'll see what I can do.

I have spoken already with Hernández Xolocotzi, of the Rockefeller-Agricultura Special Office, of your having more or less complete the Bibliography. He was very much interested in hearing that, and I think that he probably can do more at present time than other people we think of. Why don't you write to him?

Maria Luisa and Manuelito are sending their love.

Affectionately,

M.M.K.