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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.

Antigua, Guatemala, 12 March 1959

Professor Raymond E. Crist,
University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dear Professor Crist:

On returning from a month in California (of course you fellows would ask, why does anybody want to spend a month in California) after a year in Spain, Israel and the Canaries, I find the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences, vol. 48, no. 12, with your highly interesting article on the Laguna de Sinamaica.

I suspect I may be the only guy who has read your article and who has been on Sinamaica. And to make my cause even weaker, I will say I didn't spend much time paddling around in a canoe among those interesting post-Venetian houses. But what I did do, quite a few years ago (I think it must have been in the late 1930's) I went on up to Carrasquero and spent some time looking over the land which the United Fruit Company had purchased some time previously. This was and I presume still a rather isolated region.

I wish I had years enough left to go back to the Goajira and more particularly, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. As far as we know, the first account of avocados was published by the Bachiller Fernandez de Enciso who was on the coast at the foot of the Sierra Nevada and wrote his "Suma de Geografia" which was published in 1519 if I recall correctly, and a copy of which I saw in the rare book room of the Library of Congress at Washington many years ago. I believe it would be very much worth while doing some more work in the Sierra Nevada region. There is not much left to explore, on this planet. The Amazon valley or basin is one of the interesting fields which remain for us and our descendants. I have always felt that it did not have much to offer, agriculturally, but my boy Hugh now tells me I am wrong. The main point is this: I don't believe we are in danger of starving to death in the next century or two, do you? After that, I am not greatly interested. I won't be here.

With old time regards,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Hotel du Grand Balcon
Toulouse, France Mar 27 '59

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Your very kind letter was forwarded to me here in Toulouse where I am working on a research project under the auspices of a Fulbright Award. (As soon as I get back to Gainesville - in September - I'll try to see that you get my papers on the Guajira, ^{for} the second one of which I've just corrected galley proof for the Smithsonian's Annual Report.) While here I'm very much interested in 'la géographie agricole' and its many aspects: such as the depopulation of the country side, huge rice fields in the Plots de la Camargue - big business - and so on - with the many stages in between. Hybrid corn, for instance, has tended to be a great boon here, to the greater prosperity of the farmers.

I am amazed at how much there still is left to explore - last summer in ^{Eastern} Ecuador I knew you could sure find wild country in a hurry - and rich country. Still 'poor' because it's too far from a market - as soon as roads or airplanes get to these regions, and people start living there they ^{if land} be rich regions. We sure have enough good land to last us a few centuries - if not a lot more. Depends on how we use it in the next decades.

I'm sure enjoyed seeing Hugh, and he is doing a wonderful job. Just hope he won't leave Gainesville.

All the best, always

Saludos y abrazos

Ramón C. Christ
[Crist]

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

February 14, 1961

Dear friends,

Only a week ago I was enjoying the warmth and sunshine of your hospitality, and I want to thank you again for the glorious days you made possible for me.

The trip back was without any incidents — untoward or otherwise — and I'm already engulfed in the 'guelaceros' of the new semester.

Have a glorious trip to Portugal and points east this summer and, again, thanks for your many and infinite kindnesses.

Most cordially,

J Ray

Cincinnati, O. Easter Sunday April 2, 1961

Dear Wilson,

We were both stunned at hearing
the terrible news, and wish there were
some way we could help. We do hope it
will be possible to come to Gainesville
som - donde tires tu casa! -
and pay us a nice long visit.
As long as I live I shall remember
the glorious days in your lovely home,
and the hospitality you showed me.
I am indeed grateful.

Please do come visit us, and please
remember that we share with you your
sense of bereavement and profound loss.

Yours,

Ray and Velda

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE

Soulhampton, Ont.

July 6, 1963

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Dear Wilson:

Many thanks for your reprint on
"Temperate Zone Fruits in the C. A. Highlands," which
I've just read. Now that I'm stuffed full of
my first mess of rhubarb since Antigua, I
felt I was in a good mood to write you from this
hideaway where we've had a blazing fire in the fireplace
these past three days. We sure wish you could visit
us here one of these years.

After my little "cursillo" at the Universidad
Interamericana at San Germán Puerto Rico - of one week -
I had the good fortune of seeing Hugh a couple of times in
S. Vills while we were looking the car and closing the house.
He reported that you are as active as ever and getting
a lot done, and that you'll probably be in Spain
this fall and then back in S. Vills about two times -
Ojalá que así sea as we want to see you
again and get filled in on your activities - viva voce.

Henry has retired as head of the Guggenheim Foundation,
with home his office at 149 Broadway, running a lot of other
foundations. I just wondered if that would influence his
sitting on the Board of the E. A. P. or not.

You've probably seen that Thornthwaite died June 11 -

a great loss to science, as well as a great personal loss.

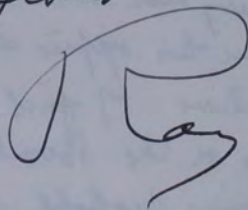
I had known him since 1942, at a meeting
in Mexico City, he had been my colleague
at the University of Maryland, and we
had kept in touch over the years. To be
he was only 64.

I have various things in mind, but I don't
propose to work too steadily on anything this
summer. One item on the influence of fear
as a brake on production, I'll probably work on,
and I'll get some more stuff together on
the opus on Andean vegetation. Hagen will
be in Honduras, Frost will be writing his
stuff up, and Wisely and Messing will be in
the field again: in Acre Territory and in Costa Rica.

Remember that you have two homes in
Gainesville; with Hugh and with us,
and that all your friends miss you a lot.

All the best, and may it be

Mosta fronts



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE

January 20, 1965

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Dear Wilson:

Just a note to tell you that you
are sorely missed around Gainesville, and
especially around 'your other home in Gainesville'.
Also to enclose this clipping that will give
you an idea, or so, as what that fine young
man of yours is up to here in Florida these days.
We are all proud and happy, as you can imagine.

We were under the erroneous impression that
we might not have any winter this year, but the
cold wave last week. end got us over that.
Any how, the days are getting longer, and in a
month or so it will be past the cold snap stage.

I had a great time around Panto and
Laguna de la Cocha a fortnight ago - and
my only regret was that Hugh couldn't go along,
as he had planned.

Sin otro motivo - etc -
Saludos Cordiales from us both
Ray & Wilda

Soulhampton, Ontario
July 25, 1965

Mi gran amigo:

A mí me gusta la franquiza,
Así es mi carácter etc etc ~~guerra~~!
Anyhow here we are enjoying the northern
breezes, the hot, but not burning, sunshines and
the cool, blue waters of Lake Huron. I've
been doing some reading, a bit of writing, and
a lot of relaxing — mainly relaxing, with
an enormous amount of good eating accompanying it.
Walks, wood chopping, and frequent dips in
the colony-absorbing waters of Lake Huron are
part of my procedure for using up some of
these calories — but it is a lost cause.
And I'm hoping for the best — I don't know why.

We had a glorious jaunt to Pelee and saw
a lot in the 'Arctic' that I hadn't seen before,
besides having a grand time.

Your distinguished son is so busy that he could
not run up here for a few days from Cornell where
he spent a few days on some project or other —
'official business', I suppose he called it.

But they sure do keep him busy these
days — fortunately at work he likes.

We trust that you are well and
continuing to enjoy life, and that we
have the opportunity of seeing you one
of these days — in Gamewills,
in Guatemala, I don't see — for
that always brightens our lives.

I have a little junket to Paris
in early October and a visit to
a student in Jamaica I trust
around Thanksgiving time.

Nilda joins me in sending
you all the best.

Saludos y abrazos,

Ray



June 25 '67
 Dear Hugh - After a grand
 week around Madrid - Toledo
 Segovia, Avila etc - we camp
 ed through Bordeaux & Toulouse
 where I was inducted into the
 Academy in a moving ceremony
 crowned by the presentation of
 the Fermat Medal. Made some
 excellent contacts at Bordeaux
 especially in their Dept. of
 Geog. and Center for Trop. Studies.
 We'll be moving on for best
 to Shannon Wed. and then
 back at the old stand July 2.
 Hope all is well.
 Warmest regards.
 Ray & Hilda

Mr Hugh Popenoe
 Director, Center for Trop. Agric.
 and Center for Trop. Studies
 University of Florida
 Gainesville
 Florida
 U.S.A.



Paris June 29 '67
 Dear Wilson - One of my
 favorite haunts and views
 is the City of light where
 both cheeks I am 'hissing'
 for you during our stay
 here. We've had a most
 glorious day by through
 Italy Spain and
 southern France. Even
 having lovely weather here
 in Paris.
 Warmest greetings from
 us both
 Yours
 Ray & Hilda

Mr. Wilson Popenoe
 & Hugh Popenoe
 Director, Center for Trop. Agric.
 and Center for Trop. Studies
 University of Florida
 Gainesville
 Florida
 U.S.A.



Editions "C'EST PARIS" 10, rue de la Chaussée d'Antin - PARIS 9^e
 Tél. PRO 22 61



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Gainesville, 32601

April 7, 1972

Dear Wilson:

Department of Geography
904-392-0494

Many thanks for your letter ^{among other times} telling about the removal of the stitches. I was very glad to have this ^{letter} because it meant that you were back in form again. The 'no duels, verdad?' routine was excellently put. We both enjoyed the letter, and I even read it to your distinguished son or one of his rare stop-overs in Gainesville - or so it seems to those of us who most selfishly would like to see much more of him.

These have been busy months indeed, with two of my doctoral candidates finishing up in the last quarter, and a couple more becoming 'active' after rather lengthy periods of lying fallow. One of my boys in Mato Grosso just wrote me a long letter after a sabbatical of five months. Jim just spent two hours writing him a letter of suggested activities and field observations. I would like to get down to see him ^{in the field} but I'm afraid that is not in the cards - as I look into the crystal ball and try to get my spring and summer program into focus.

My friend and colleague Paganini is going to dedicate the summer to a leisurely, scholarly trip through Mexico and Central America and return, in his new Volkswagen bus, so he will be dropping in to call on you and Alice one fine day.

I plan to be in the Panamanian Republic in the early days of July, with a bi-national group of students and professors. Antonini has a long-range project there on which we will be working - he did his doctoral work in the area, has all the right connections, so there won't be time lost just spinning our wheels.

And when are you folk coming to Gainesville again? It will be great to see you. Que sea hasta pronto. Mientras tanto

Abrazos,
Ray

Hugh says he'll be seeing you in a couple of weeks, and told me you would



[June or July 1975]

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Gainesville, 32601

En casa al lado del Atlántico
Crescent Beach, Fla.

Mi gran amigo Weelam:

Department of Geography
904-392-0494

Sad to hear in your last most interesting note that you might not make it by this way for awhile, but I do hope that you feel well enough to get another shot at Europe this summer.

Mrs. Pagani is en route - he called his wife last Sunday night from La Fayette, La. to ask about what the hurricane was doing to Gainesville. Fortunately, he learned that it was just pouring down 5 or 6 inches of ^{in 2-4 hours} rain, that is all. And we needed it. So in due course he will be hammering on your door, a una hora fuera de las ^{horas} indicadas para turismo, te aseguro! He should have a glorious summer, with a person about his age and character who teaches political science at Florida Atlantic.

I was in N.Y. Guggenheiming two weeks ago, returning by Dayton, Ohio where my sister put me to work in her vegetable garden, ploughing with the garden plow and hoeing in the part already planted, making hills for cucumbers, squash, musk melons etc in the part not yet planted.

After a couple of days of that I realized how hopelessly 'out of shape' I was. I remember after my first football game when I was asked what I thought of it. ~~When I was in my 20s~~, that I felt like I had had

an easy day on the farm' became a team legend.
I realized ^{now} that my farming days are really over. At
any rate I was rewarded by ^{having} radishes, onions, and lettuce
fresh from the garden, and grape fruit, apple sauce, and
rhubarb from her deep freeze.

It was too bad not to see the great Henry here again,
but he has been quite ill. It was always a treat to
see him. But the Guggenheim team is still superb;
I was Jim Mallinas' house guest for two days, and we
had a lot to talk over. This was the year of the young
and outstanding Argentines - almost a third of the
grants went to them. Almost no Brazilian applications
so good is their economy for the research man now.
I was asked, and accepted, to be reappointed for another
4-year term on their Educational Advisory Board.
Oh yes, I had lunch at the Metropolitan Club - a
magnificent lunch, I might add - and a long visit
with Josh Powers, of whom I'm very fond. We
dined in fine shape, and we talked about prospects and
possibilities for work in Argentina, perhaps under the
auspices of the Zucker Foundation, of which he is on the Board.
Miss Mues, the Chairman, visited us last week.

I was happy to see the little French girl carry off
the honors over the American and English girls on the
Pacific islands. Vive la France!

Milda joins me in sending you and Alice our
affection and love, and
Abrogo,
Ray

Southampton Ontario Canada

August 20, 1972

Brian records on Guilson y Bina which: After almost three

weeks of cold, rainy, foggy weather, this is a morning
so lovely that I cannot but think of our dearest
friends tucked away in that beautiful Guatemalan
hideaway — this is not counting the avalanches of tourists
you have. Our own hideaway is not as hidden as it
once was, what with more tourists every year and the
new nuclear plant at Douglas Point, some 25
miles away. But it is off the beaten track, and
we have no telephone and the quiet is sometimes almost
deafening. And for walking, reading and relaxing &
is superb, and after overeating on gourmet food —
see enclosed postcard — there's always the most
welcoming smiling waters of Lake Huron at our door ready at
all times to extract calories from the human
bodies that trust themselves to ^{their} tender mercies.
Besides such 'cateries', there are church bake sales,
farmers' markets, and Milda's cooking.

I have spent some time reading really fabulous
books on our westward migration a century or so
ago, on the cattle ranchers, the great Mormon
movement, on the filling ^{up} of the Southwest
and so on. I am so illiterate about my own

Country that I have been trying these years to do a little background reading. Have you ever read a book by Mari Sandoz called 'Old Jules'? A picture of her Swiss father who settled in the sandhills of Nebraska in the 80's. A really magnificent portrait.

Our friend and colleague, Mr. Louis Paganini, writes that unfortunately you were in Honduras when he went out your way to see you. He did get to meet my student Lew Harris in the field in Costa Rica and visit with him in his Dissertation area, from which 'encuentros' both profited.

We still look forward to 'nuestras reuniones un día de esos' — irgendwile, irgendwann.

Mientras tanto, saludos, abrazos, y
Glad and
Ray



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Gainesville, 32601

Sunday March 25, 1973

Mis gran Amigos Don Guillermo y Dona Alicia:

Department of Geography

904-392-0494

I am in the process of making tentative plans for a little excursion down Central America way, and was wondering if your fine people were going to be in residence in Antigua during June and early July. I can't pinpoint our 'Roundreise' much more closely than that now, but I do want to be sure that we have a nice visit with the Popenas: - you don't have to have two mariacha bands for us, as you did in 1969!

Spring is somewhat coy about making its appearance, but we have been favored by nice sunny days and fresh nights - ^{no like those} of Antigua in the winter' ^(Hough, School, Archie et al.) when we sat in front of the fire and talked over what we had seen during those glorious days of our first think tanks - may there be many more.

I trust that this finds you both well and busy as usual and que sea, con muchos abrazos y hasta pronto
Ray & Wells

Anigua, 28 mayo de 1973

Dear Raymundo:

Hugh left here not long since loaded down with information regarding proximate arrival of su excelencia y soña Hilda, pero nin fecha exacta. Aber das machts nichts aus. He said you would be coming on or about 10 junio pmo futuro. Fine. Just let us know so we can meet you and we advise Pan Am these days as Aviateca which used to be much more economical is being re-financed or something of that sort and is the same price. Give me date of arrival and flight number. If we blow out a cylinder or break a crank shaft on the way over, if there is no marimba present to suggest that something is very, very wrong ask for Felipe Contreras one of the taxi men at the airport, or any other honest chauffeur who will bring you for \$10 maximum \$12. But all this only if the rains which we are now expecting has washed out all the bridges.

Hugh will have told you that you will have two alternatives (he often says 3 or 4 alternatives, but I assume there are not more than two if you know your English grammar). The snuggly little apartment right across from the little house where Alice and I now live, move and have our being and one of the rooms in the Casa del Olor. We suggest the little apt across the street, mit penthouse complete, because 50 to 100 tourists a day are beginning to make life difficult in the Casa del Olor; but if you stay down with Alice and myself during the rush hours the old house still has the atmosphere.

And don't forget there is no limit on how long you want to stay, and you can use the Volkswagen ever and anon; I have just had it overhauled estilo Paganini. It runs like a maquina Sing-er model 1974.

Soulhampton, Ontario, Canada
August 13, 1971

Dearest Helen & Alice -

Had a telephone chat with your distinguished
son today, largely about George Fisher, whom I did
not see in Colton last March and who had the
bad luck to stop two bushshot while out
interviewing farmers. Hugh told me that he had
seen y'all last week and that you are
looking fine, so I told him I would get a note out
to you from this cozy little hideaway where I
do a lot of reading, a little writing, and a lot
of eating my way through rhubarb, gooseberries,
black currants, peaches, plums, - to mention the
fruits currently on the table on the back porch - as
well as pies, home made bread and rolls, and
brown-shelled country eggs from Church Lake sales
and Farmers' Markets held in town. I again
urged Hugh to visit us for as long as he can make it
and I think I may have done a little toward
freeing him loose from that most demanding job
that would take any other three men, or more, to
do alone. We would love to see him relax here

It sure was great seeing you in Garrettsville.
The next time bring Alice and stay longer!
We look forward eagerly to your all-too-infrequent
visits. I still look back nostalgically to
those wonderful days with you folk last March.

Hilda joins me in sending you and
Alice all our love

y abrogo

Ray & Hilda



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Gainesville, 32601

Crescent Beach
July 23, 1973

Dearest friends:

Department of Geography
904-392-0494

What glorious memories of our stay with you - they become keener and more vivid as the days pass. We got as far as Cuernavaca as planned, as you will see from this envelope. A really worthwhile trip - a kind of colonial town set down in a beautiful mountain rimmed valley that seems to have protected it from desecration by modernity in the form of tourists, heavy industry, and jet strips.

We saw the Eders in Cali - they went along to Cuernavaca - I got a look at CIA TV and some other features of Agrimelting change in the beautiful Valle - great fields of soya beans, tomatoes for Frisco, and vast corn fields for producing for Maizena etc. Jim Eder is running an experiment in the papaya, with the idea of producing 'papayne' - or however you spell it - commercially. But the old 'mosaic' or 'bunchy top' was affecting a lot of the plots, placed at different places around the vast fields of ^{mosaic} cane.

I guess the prospects of papaya plantations are dim.
I recently read about a mountainous family in Tennessee
being poisoned by eating tomatoes ^{produced by a papaya plant} that had been
grafted on to a Quince weed! Times far fetched & dim.

Now we are putting things in order so
we can be away at Southampton, beginning
some time next week. Not sure just
when we'll get away. Meanwhile, it's great
to sit here and watch the Atlantic, and
take long walks along the beach, still lovely
in spite of a growing row of 'Cordonisimus'.

And all this, as a backdrop,
are the glowing, golden memories of
those wonderful days with you, and
the anticipation of those to come
'irgendwo, irgendwann' - page 213 -
and may the opportunity to 'Cambiar
impressions' present itself soon.

Yours, gratefully, for your lasting
friendship and overflowing hospitality.

Ray & Melda

P.S. In a discussion recently the question of the
copying of botanical specimens, and that had us
all slumped.

Southampton
Ontario, Canada
August 15, 1973

Dearest Alice and Wilson,
You have been in our
thoughts + in our conversation
many a time and oft
in the month (or is it more?)
Since we waved to you
in the glorious Aeropuerto
on that early morning -
we were loathe to say
farewell, but all good
things come to an end,
+ THAT was a very good thing,
indeed!

How can we thank you
for your wonderful hospitality
and royal friendship ??
It was a rare + never-to-be-
forgotten interlude in our
lives - from Alice's mouth-watering
Swiss coffee cake + other delectable
concessions to Wilson's salty, ^{and philosophical} jests
+ Racontes, not to speak of the

2.
Delightful trips in your colorful
land, and the just the
atmosphere of beauty, relaxation
+ serenity in the Casa Popenoi
which we were privileged to
share — all that and
Charlie, too! He is a favorite
of mine. He is small,
but what spunk + spirit!

After we left you our
days were full of movement
+ we were constantly on the go.
Panama, Cali + environs,
Guayaquil + Cuenca; the
latter, visited for the first
time, proved tremendously
interesting + picturesque, but
we had to spend a disproportionate
amount of time contriving
to get there + then to get away
again + back to Cali + on home to
Gainesville in accord with schedule.
Once ~~there~~ ^{there}, we had a guest for
ten days, ^(our turn!) + then a party for
our neighbor's son, home for a
brief visit from his business in

3./ Brussels, with his recent
bride. Finally we repacked,
closed up shop, + made it
here August 2nd.

Hugh took time from his
busy roundabout to have
dinner with us a night or two
before we left. He was in
great shape, + he relished
our accounts of the delightful
days we had spent with you
in the Casa + tripping around.

Here we are leading a
quiet + healthful existence,
swimming in Lake Huron,
reading, walking &c - (but
no coffee cake!) We'll return
to G'ville about mid September,
when the bell rings.

With our affectionate thanks
for all the rare treats you
gave us, + for your priceless
amistad -

Ever fondly
and aller Gutes!
Hedra

Crescent Beach
November 25, 1973

Sehr geehrter Freund!

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Time flies by and the fall quarter is just about over. We are out here at the beach girding by our loins for the next week or so in Gainesville and then we'll probably spend much of the holidays right here overlooking the Atlantic.

I've just returned from our S.E. Div. meetings in Boone, North Carolina, a beautiful site for a University, surrounded as it is by nicely rounded mountains, light blue in the afternoon sun.

From Nov. 1 to 10 I was in Colombia, attending a conference on Colonization that was held in Florencia, where the action is: small scale farmers, large scale ranchers, and 'official' ^{and intermediaries} colonists of Tucora — all were duly vinted.

It was a most interesting, well organized conference with little 'paja' and lots of actual contact with the folks at the grass roots level, and I mean that literally. For me the most interesting

part was the return trip to Bogotá with Gübel by jeep; after first following the road under construction to Mocoa to its end, we returned down the Magdalena valley to Girardot and then

up to the Savana de Bogotá - always a thrilling drive. But I needn't tell that to one who has done the old mule trail trip, from Honda to Facatativá. Que viva.

There is another Conference, on the Use of Ecological Guidelines for Development in the American Humid Tropics, scheduled for Caracas - Altos del Pipe - in February, to which I'm invited. It won't be as grass roots as the one in Florencia, but there is a post-conference tour of 2 or 3 days in areas with of the Orinoco that I'd like to participate in - but I'm not sure I can get univ. funding for this trip - we'll see.

The feeling of euphoria that we had after our visit last summer is still with us but it only serves to whet our appetites for more! Anyhow it was lovely being with you, and ^{we} are hopeful that you might make it up to Gainesville one of these months. Also let us hear from you, at all events.

May all continue well with y'all

Bonne chance, Glück auf und

Alles Gute -

Abrazos! Ray



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Gainesville, 32611

Sunday April 7, 1974

Dear Don Guilson y Doña Abias:

Department of Geography

904-392-0494

We have just returned from a most relaxing Caribbean cruise on a French ship with very good wine and excellent cheeses — not to speak of the rest of the fabulous dishes that have made France a byword for things cultural these many millennia. The itinerary took us close to your hideaway, but we didn't get close enough to look in on you. We touched at Port au Prince, Cartagena, San Blas, Panama, San Andrés, Puerto Cortés, and Playa del Carmen. I was given two passages in return for lectures on Mayaland. Your distinguished son ^{temporarily} lent me some slides on Copán and augmented my collection on Chichén Itzá and Tikal. We did have a most enjoyable time, and I was very much pleased to see such interest in pre-Columbian civilization on the part of the passengers. And we hope that it will be our privilege to see you here in Gainesville sometime this spring — we have had a very mild winter generally, but very dry. I haven't seen the figures, but we certainly haven't had half the usual rain fall. And now the many shades of green are everywhere in this garden city — it just looks like a woods from a tall high rise.

One of the by products of preparing for the cruise
was a great deal of reading about the Mayas! one
volume on "The Mayans and their Neighbors" is a real
treasure house, and I also read John L. Stephens
"Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas
and Yucatan" — I had read parts of it before,
but this time I read it through carefully. And
during the week since our return I've read
carefully Spenser's "Peru: Travel and Exploration
in the hand of the Incas" — really a remarkable
job to have been done before 1870. An outstanding
documentary called "In Search of Lost Worlds" was
shown on shipboard, and I went to it twice.

I might say I've spent valuable time getting
my receipts in order for the lawyer to make out our
tax returns, but then that's a prosaic, universally
fracticed chore.

Do let us know when you plan to arrive in
Gainesville, donde Tania y Tienen su casa.

Saludos cordiales y

Abrazos

Ray & Bilda

Southeastern, Ontario, Canada
College 16
July 30, 1974

Siempre bien recordado:

A great delight to have yours of 21 July, forwarded me from Gainesville, and sorry to hear that you have insufficient time for loafing. You must work harder on that project. I, for instance, spend my grasshoppery days eating rhubarb, drying peppermint for my tea this winter, and reading about the Maya. Just back from a fortnight profitably spent in Yucatán and Chiapas - we got to Palenque, and what a treasure that is. Am now writing up my notes under the rubric of "The Maya: a Continuum" or "Resurgent Mayaland" or --- have an idea for title?

Now, as to your business: Victor Manuel Patiño is, I think, your man. In the excellent report put out by the Rockefeller Found. in I think, 1973 they mention in very laudatory terms the work Don Victor accomplished in getting all kinds of corn for the gene pool project of C. I. A. T. He has written extensively on 'pehhibays' and on the corn sown al vaho in the rain-drenched Chocó. If there is anyone who would know about, or who could get you information on wild agave in Colombia, or palmas in Ecuador, it is Don Victor. Now the question is for you to get a message to him. He lives in Cali and the last time I was there a year ago I talked to him over the telephone. I do not have his exact address, but I am sure that a letter addressed to him c/o C. I. A. T. in

Palmyra would reach him, and you might, to be doubly

sure you might write him care of James Eder ^{with a}
^{request to forward it} who would see to it that the letter reached him.
Eder's address is Apartado 6701, Cali, (Valle) Colombia.

En attendant, I shall immediately write to Jim
and ask him to see that such a letter from you,
when he receives it, ^{is it} be forwarded or delivered
to Don. Victor. Conforme? I would have asked you to
send me the letter and I would forward it to Jim, but
this ^{method} will facilitate things - and time is of the essence.
We have been here two weeks this evening, and
will stay on till mid-September, so that with Jim
us a lot of time in which to absorb and store up
relaxation of body and spirit. I is just finished
reviewing for the Geog. Review "Brasilia: Plan or Reality,"
a study of the slum settlements & that beautiful place,
where lived those who built the New City. I studied the
monumental city in '62 when I was there - and
wrote it up - and am glad to see this study of
the "over-the-tracks" settlements.

I shall enlist the aid of your distinguished son in
writing ^{for UNESCO} of a state of knowledge report on the ecosystems
of the tropical ramped and tropical grazing lands in
Latin America - come September.

May we four meet again soon, anywhere, for when
we do it will be in sunshine. From Wilda and
me to you and Alice

Abrego,
Ray

P.S. My letter to Jim Eder is going out in the same mail