



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4909 Frew Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://www.huntbotanical.org)

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

#### *Usage guidelines*

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

#### *Statement on harmful and offensive content*

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

#### *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.

Laboratorio General  
 Av. del Comodoro, Zona 3  
 se para de la 20 Calle  
 Tumbas de Ruben Mayorga

M-11-VI-74  
 home 690101  
 Ext. 1100 / manna, Ruben Jr.  
 Ruben Mayorga P. - farmacéutico  
 Químico Biólogo - Químico Farmacéutico  
 15 de  
 20 Av. A | 3-25, Zona 15 | casa Agosto de 1976.  
 Director Laboratorio de Micología Médica  
 Departamento de Microbiología  
 7a Av. 2-84, zona 1, Tel. 26-545  
 MIGUEL RIVERA

Dr. Ruben Mayorga  
 University of San Carlos  
 Faculty of Pharmacy  
 7th Avenida 2-84, Zone 1  
 Guatemala City  
 Tel.: 26-545

B. Lowy  
 Tel.: 388-8485 (LSU)  
 (Botany)

MESSAGE

RUBEN: PLEASE ACKNOW-  
 ledge RECEIPT OF MY  
 INQUIRY AND LET ME  
 KNOW WHETHER ALL  
 IS WELL.

BERNARDO

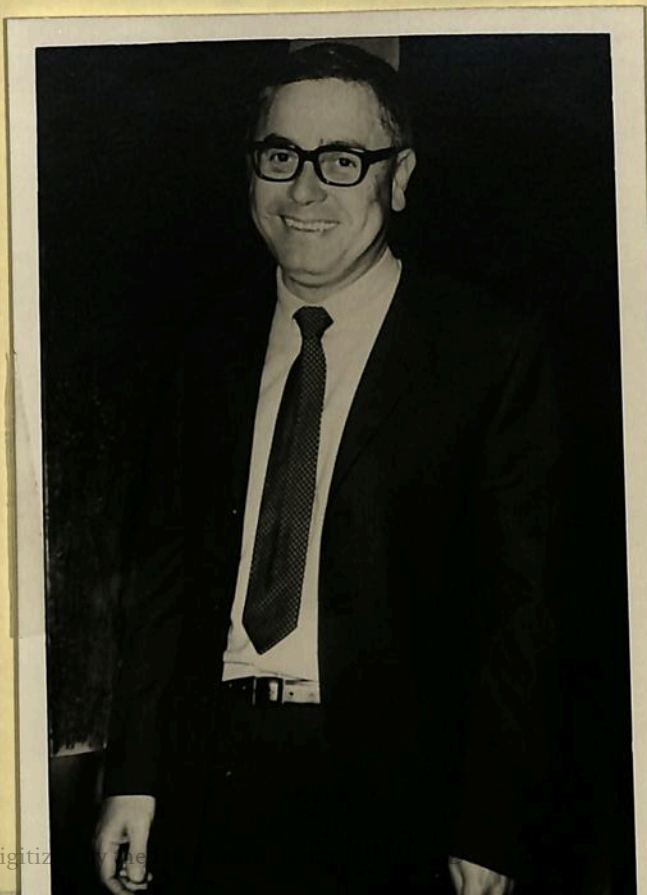
Marriage for Bob Koch: 12-11-72

Home Phone: 69-0101

not sent

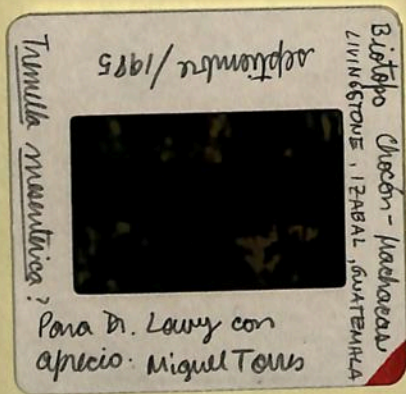
Ruben Mayorga

Guatemala - 14 - VI - 1977



Tremella mesenterica?

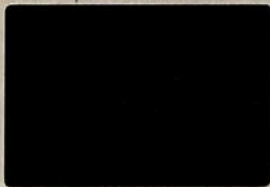
September 1985



Dacryopinax spathularia

September 1985

Río Ciénaga (Biotopo Checón-  
Machacas) LIVINGSTONE  
IZABAL, GUATEMALA



septiembre / 1985

Para Dr. Lowry con  
aprecio : Miguel Torres



FACULTAD DE CC. OO. Y FARMACIA  
ESCUELA DE QUIMICA BIOLÓGICA  
Edificio "F"  
Ciudad Universitaria, Zona 12  
Tels. 460321-25 y 460611-12, ext. 391  
Guatemala, Centroamérica

17 de septiembre de 1985

Doctor  
Bernard Lowy  
Herbarium  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-1705  
U.S.A.

Querido Bernardo:

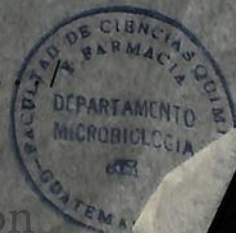
Desde hace varios días deseaba escribirte, pero hasta ahora me es posible hacerlo debido a los problemas ocurridos en nuestra universidad. Recibí tu carta del 16/01/1985 con tus valiosos comentarios sobre mi capítulo en el libro Etnomedicina en Guatemala, muchas gracias. Le escribí al Dr. Wasson y me contes--  
tó una nota breve pero muy significativa para mí, gracias por su dirección.

En primer lugar, deseo contarte que del 9 al 12 de agosto pasado, organizamos la "I Exposición Nacional de Hongos", (ver invitación adjunta), es la primera exposición de hongos que se organiza en América Latina, además de varias que se han organizado en México. El Dr. Gastón Guzmán estuvo con nosotros antes de la exposición para ayudarnos, ya que debido a su entusiasmo y consejos se hizo realidad nuestra exposición. Afortunadamente fue un gran éxito, con la asistencia de más de 4,000 personas. En vista del interés despertado, estamos planificando la II exposición, probablemente para agosto de 1986.

Sería un gran honor que pudieras venir y dar algunas conferencias sobre el grupo de hongos de tu especialidad y por supuesto de etnomicología. Espero tus noticias al respecto.

En tu última carta me pides que verifique la traducción exacta de la palabra "ixtanteloc" (fide Abdiel Orozco p. 117, Etnomedicina en Guatemala).

Con motivo de la I Exposición de Hongos, colecté la siguiente información en Totonicapán de informantes indígenas: en ese lugar, en realidad es más usada la palabra "kakuljá" en Quiché con las connotaciones que tu has acertadamente publicado.





El Departamento de Microbiología  
de la Escuela de Química Biológica,  
Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacia  
de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala

atentamente le invitan a la inauguración  
de la I Exposición Nacional de Hongos.

Lugar: Cámara de Comercio  
(4a. Av. y 10a. Calle, Zona 1)

Fecha: Viernes 9 de agosto de 1985.

Hora: 19:00 horas

Cocktail cortesía de:

Schering Guatemalteca, S. A.

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Sept. 17, 1985

.....2

En Quiché "já" significa casa, pero en el pueblo de San Barto--  
lo Aguas Calientes, Totonicapán, de donde proviene la informa---  
ción, "kakuljá" se asocia a "rayo" y "tempestad". En ese pueblo  
no usan "ixtanteloc" para designar a A. muscaria, pero el qui--  
ché que hablan varía desde Totonicapán; según informes de 15-20  
indígenas, hombres y mujeres encuestados el 19 de mayo de 1985,  
es definitivamente un hongo venenoso. Saben que brota entre  
los pinos en junio y es de los primeros hongos que salen con la  
lluvia. Ninguno lo había comido, pero suponen que a causa del  
hambre, algunas familias lo han comido y suponen que han muerto.  
Amanita cesarea es llamada en Quiché "Atzú" que significa tol o  
guacal y es muy apreciado como alimento.

Te adjunto dos slides recientes de hongos fotografiados en el  
biotopo del manatí, cerca del Río Dulce en el Departamento de  
Izabal en el norte, espero que te gusten.

Muchas gracias por la foto que me enviaste y en espera de tus  
noticias, recibe un fuerte abrazo de tu amigo:

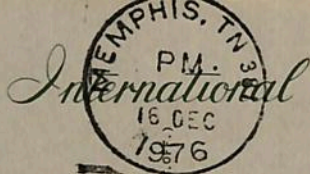
*Miguel*

Dr. Miguel F. Torres  
Catedrático Titular  
del Depto. de Microbiología



MFT/ls1

P. Mayorga  
9417 Rich Road  
Memphis, TN. 38117



Dear Dr. Lowy:

How are you? I am here in  
Memphis in an exchange pro-  
gram, and I've had fun.

I want to thank you for the  
letter you sent us when my  
father died.

Well, I wish I'll see you in  
Guatemala in your next trip.  
Sincerely yours,

Pablo Mayorga

Baptist Memorial Hospital is the world's largest  
private hospital and is located in the Medical Center.  
The Medical Center is among the largest such centers  
in the nation.



Post Card

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lowy  
622 Castle Kirk  
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

CURTEICHOLOR® 3-D NATURAL COLOR REPRO. (REG. U.S.A. PAT. 3,824,222)

M.109—C.B.S.—CARD SERVICE, 501 FRANKLIN DRIVE, PARIS, TENN. 38242

✓  
20-XII-76

15 de diciembre, 1976

Estimado Bernardo:

¿Cómo está ud. y su esposa Sarah?

Nosotros lo recordamos con mucho cariño debido a la gran amistad que hubo entre mi padre y ud.

Esperamos que pronto lo tengamos de vuelta en Guatemala.

Deseamos que pasen una feliz Navidad y que el año venidero les depare muchas felicidades.

Con mucho cariño,

Los Mayorga

Queridos amigos Fernando y Sara .

Muy Felices Pascuas y

Próspero Año Nuevo

desear para ustedes con todo cariño

María Elena Mayagoz,

Rubén, Pablo, María Elena, María Mercedes

y María Isabel.

Bernardo,  
Gracias por sus hermosas pala-  
bras de consuelo, no se imagina lo  
solos y fríos que estamos sin nues-  
tro querido Patén. Espero que algún  
día podamos vernos de nuevo, siempre  
tendría aquí a sus amigos y una casa  
a la orden. Saludos a Sara.

Afectuosamente

María Elena

Mis queridos Mayorga,

Reciban mis mejores  
deseos para la renovación  
de su ánimo en Navidad  
y que tengan todos un  
feliz y próspero Año Nuevo.

Un abrazo fuerte de  
tu amigo invariable

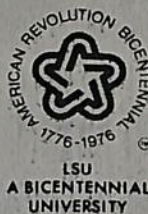
Bernardo Louey

20-XII-1976

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

30-XI-1976

Dear Miguel,

Is there any chance of soon getting a nice big collection of Ptilocybe mexicana? They may be dried by using the low heat of an oven for  $\pm$  20-30 minutes or until the specimens are stiff and brittle.

I have not heard from you since my last letter to you on 22-IX-'76. Is everything OK?

i R.S.V.P.!

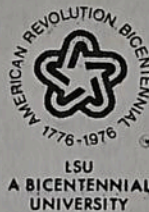
Con los afectuosos saludos de

B. Long

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

22-IX-1976

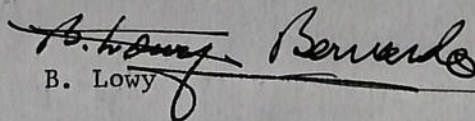
Dear Miguel:

I am enclosing for you reprints of a few papers that I still have on hand. Thank you for your notes concerning your experience with Psilocybe mexicana that we got near Sta. Elena Barillas in June. Some time ago I published a short account of my impressions after having eaten Psilocybe caerulescens var. maztecorum in Huautla de Jiménez, Oax., México in 1969. I no longer have reprints of this but you will find it in the Revista Interamericana Review, Vol. 1, No.1, 1971 under the title "Some observations on ethnomycology in Mexico and Guatemala."

How surprising that you should accidentally find a mushroom stone on the street! To check its authenticity, I would recommend that you take it to Dr. Edwin Shook, an American archeologist who has lived in Antigua for some years. His address is: 4 Av. Norte, No. 14. This might be his old address, so it would be best to inquire at the Centro de Turismo in Antigua. Es un yanqui bien conocido allá. In spite of the fact that mushroom stones are hardly among the most highly prized antiquities, nonetheless, fakes are being made of cement. I just remembered that you could see someone in town about it. Lic. Luis Luján Muñoz is (or was) in charge of the Instituto de Antropología at La Aurora and he could also tell you about it. The last time I was there, repairs to the building had not begun.

How is Rubén's family getting along? <sup>last</sup> I think about them a lot. I wrote to his wife at the same time that I wrote to you.

With best regards and also remember me to Armando.

  
B. Lowy

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY



9 de Septiembre de 1976

Muy estimada María Elena,

Acabo de recibir de Miguel Torres la dolorosa, casi increíble noticia que su querido marido Rubén falleció inesperadamente el 15 del mes pasado. ¡Qué golpe más penoso y cruel para Vd. y toda su querida familia! De mi parte, he perdido en Rubén no sólo un amigo simpatiquísimo y generoso sino también un colega a quien altamente aprecié. Lo lamento profundamente y estoy con Vds. en su dolor.

Acepte Vd. y toda su familia, con muchísima pena, las más sinceras condolencias de su amigo

Bernardo Lowry

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

August 31, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803  
U. S. A.

Dear and remembered Dr. Lowy:

Sometimes there is a time for writing letters with sad notices, this is one of those moments. By now you must know that Dr. Rubén Mayorga died from heart attack on August, 1976. This a huge lost for our school, considering his knowledge in Medical Mycology. Besides this fact, and probably more important, we lost one of our dearest friends.

Few days before he died we discussed your letter about the identification of P. mexicana, thanks you very much for this. As you supposed the fungi that we collected in Santa Elena Barillas had strong hallucinogenic properties. That night we ate about 40 mushrooms per person. We were a group of 8 persons, one of the group did not ate fungi. All the persons that ingested P. mexicana (mixed with bee's honey) had strong hallucinations for about five hours. Feelings of deep peace and fulfillment, beautiful colors and shapes, comunión with nature and heaven, splitting of personality into two persons (only one case) and ever lasting happiness where frequent in all the subjects. When I have the chance to collect some more P. mexicana for you, I will be glad to dry and send them to you. Please tell me how to send this material. Recently I had the chance to obtain a mushroom-stone. Surprisingly it was found on the streets of the city, among other

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Louisiana State University

-2-  
August 31, 1976.

stones (during a rainy day). It is partially destroyed and it seems to have a face carved in the front. Whom do you think will be the more adequate person here to ask if the stone is authentic?

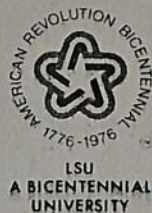
Dr. Lowy, nevertheless Dr. Mayorga is not with us any more, you know that I am very interested in ethnomycology, so I will be glad to help you in the future with your studies.

Your friend,

*Miguel F. Torres*  
Dr. Miguel F. Torres  
Chief, Department of Microbiology

MFT/mmm.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803  
*College of Arts and Sciences*



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

9 September 1976

Dr. Miguel F. Torres  
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala  
Facultad de CC. QQ. y Farmacia  
7<sup>a</sup> Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Miguel:

I was deeply shocked and greatly saddened by the news just received and which I still find it hard to accept, that my dear friend and esteemed colleague Rubén Mayorga suddenly died. Only a few short weeks ago we were together enjoying our work in the field! His last letter to me, along with which he included several reprints of his work, is dated July 29, 1976.

I hope that the university, at an appropriate time, will plan some fitting memorial to him. Through his work he not only distinguished himself but brought honor to the university to which he devoted his entire professional life. I knew Ruben Mayorga as an exceptionally kind and generous man as well and I feel privileged to have known him. One day after the receipt of your letter I received the notification sent by Dr. Leonel Carillo R. and I wish to convey to him, to yourself and to all your colleagues my deep sympathy for this great loss, which I feel so personally.

Miguel - Please forgive me if I make no comments on any other matters at this moment. I shall write to you again perhaps within a few days.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany

&

Chairman, Ethnomycological Section  
II International Mycological Congress

Ruben is buried in the Cementerio General, Av del Cementerio, Zona 3, al final de la 20 Calle. I visited the gravesite.

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC. QO. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

Agosto 23 de 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
 Department of Botany, Art and Science  
 Louisiana State University  
 and Agricultural and Mechanical  
 College  
 Baton, Rouge Louisiana 70803  
 USA.

Apreciable Dr. Lowy:

Atentamente me dirijo a usted, para manifestarle con el pesar que me embarga y a nuestra Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacia, que el DOCTOR RUBEN MAYORGA PERALTA, falleció el día domingo 15 del corriente.

Al comunicarle tan lamentable suceso, en nombre de la Facultad le agradezco la valiosa colaboración que se sirvió prestar al DR. MAYORGA PERALTA, solicitándole a su vez, si no hay inconveniente, que no se altere la colaboración ya mencionada para la Facultad que me honro en representar, habida cuenta, que hoy más que nunca necesitamos de esa colaboración.

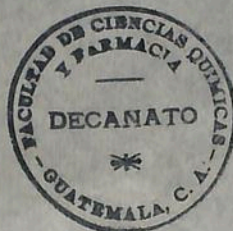
Por otra parte, le comunico que el Departamento de Micología de esta Facultad, ha quedado a cargo, interinamente, de la LIC. HEIDI LOGEMANN DE TOLEDO, por lo que le ruego comunicarse con ella, en todo lo relacionado con ese Departamento.

Al lamentar el sensible fallecimiento del DR. RUBEN MAYORGA PERALTA, me suscribo de usted con muestras de mi alta consideración,

"ID Y ENSEÑAD A TODOS"

*Leonel Carrillo R.*  
 Leonel Carrillo R.  
 DECANO

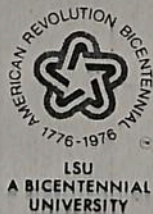
LCR:avb



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

6-VIII-1976

Querido Rubén,

My sincere thanks to you for sending the 2 packages that recently arrived, containing various treasures both mycological and touristic. Both arrived in excellent condition.

The specimens from the finca Padilla that you dried for me are Psilocybe mexicana Heim. One is enclosed so that you will know which collection I mean. The basidiospores are typical of the species, measuring  $\pm 9.5-11.0 \times 6.5-7.0 \mu$  and have a thick wall with a truncate germ pore. This, as well as I could tell, made up the bulk of the mushrooms that were offered for sale by the children along the roadside near Santa Elena Barillas - and also those that we collected ourselves - and I know that Miguel can testify to their hallucinogenic properties.

There is also a single, fragmentary specimen of the rusty-brown-spored agaric, the one that I tentatively called Copelandia in the field, but this may be a Psathyrella. I'll try to have it verified. Meanwhile, I

Thought you would like to have this interim report  
on the Psilocyphe. If you or Miguel go down to Sta.  
Elena again soon, would you be good enough to  
get another 40-50 specimens for me so that I might  
have a more sizable collection for the herbarium?

afectuosas saludas,  
Bernarda

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

July 29, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
 Department of Botany, Art and Science  
 Louisiana State University  
 and Agricultural and Mechanical  
 College  
 Baton, Rouge Louisiana 70803  
 U. S. A.

Dear Bernardo:

I am glad that you survived the intestinal disease,  
 that was probably sent to you as a Moctezuma revenge.

It was a real pleasure to have you among us and  
 we enjoyed very much your company and your teaching.

Enclosed please find a copy of some of the papers  
 that I have published; I hope they will be of some use to you.

Let us hope that in the future you will be able to  
 stay longer and be able to give the Mycology course.

With warmest regards to you and your family.

AS EVER,

*Abrazos de los  
 Mayorga*

RM:avb

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



LSU  
A BICENTENNIAL  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

14-VII-1976

Querido Rubén,

I have been home less than a week and in my absence a pile of mail has accumulated. I am also already busy with Committee meetings and other time consuming academic chores. Maybe I should have stayed away a little longer!

At Quetzaltenango and in San Cristóbal I made very good use of the remedio you gave me for diarrhea, so by the time I reached Tutta I was nearly cured and now todo normal y listo otra vez a tomar un buen chile de Cobán — con moderación.

The many courtesies that you and your family showed me were so far beyond the mere call of duty that I can hardly thank you adequately for your generosity and kindness. Whatever success I may have had is due entirely to your efforts in making my stay an unforgettable one. It was a rare privilege to share some time with your beautiful family and I am deeply grateful to all of you.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of Wasson's "Soma". Although Wasson is now 78 years old he plans to be on hand for the 1977 ethnomycological symposium.

Mis afectuosos saludos a toda la familia,

y un abrazo fuerte de Bernabé

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

May 24, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Department of Botany, Art and Science  
Louisiana State University and  
Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Baton, Rouge Louisiana 70803  
U. S. A.

Dear Bernardo:

I write you back in a hurry, hoping this will reach you on time.

I was out of town in Atlanta, Georgia, and got back last Saturday.

The "mercado" downtown suffered seriously during the earth quake, it was demolished completely a few weeks ago. I will try to find out where the people are selling the products now, and try to find the ones "que venden hongos".

It is possible to go to Totonicapán only via de Panameri can Highway, because the portion between Godínez and Patzún is now covered with a huge mountain. (This was the old road).

The road to Cobán, although many parts of it are in poor conditions, is accesible so there will be no problem.

I hope that you stay in Oaxaca and Chapas will be profit able. I will be waiting for you in Guatemala.

If possible, let me know when you will arrive, so I can meet you at the airport.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

ABRAZOS,

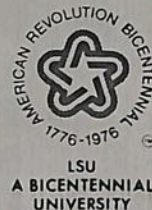
Rubén Mayorga

Profesor of Medical Mycology

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

14-V-1976

Dear Rubén:

One of the things I am interested in doing in Guatemala this summer is to visit more market places to check on the species of mushrooms offered there, to photograph them and record their common names - en "lengua." The mushroom season is generally under way by the middle of June and possibly this year, because of the widespread earthquake damage, a greater effort than usual may possibly have to be made by the native people to supplement their incomes by the sale in the market place of as many wild productos comestibles inclusivo los hongos, as they can find.

One of the places I want to revisit is Totonicapán, going via Chimaltenango-Paticia-Patzún-Panajachél-Sololá. Perhaps you could tell me something about the condition of the roads. If they are accessible, I would plan to go by bus, making the necessary stops. Also, I plan a trip to Cobán. From an ethnomycological point of view, documentation is essential for the kinds of data that I hope to get.

At the mercado downtown, there is a lady from whom I always buy hongos. She sells mostly miscellaneous plants but when la gente indígena find hongos they usually take them to her for sale. I have bought some fine Amanita caesarea ("Kantzúí" en idioma Quiché) from her and she offers others "in season." May I ask you, Rubén, to stop at the mercado once in a while, say about the beginning of June, just to find out what she or others in the mercado are offering in the way of wild hongos? It would also be interesting to know whether anything is available as early as June 1, or the first day that hongos make their appearance in the mercado. Of course I am not referring to the cultivated Agaricus bispora<sup>ya</sup> which is probably available throughout most of the year.

I plan to leave Baton Rouge on or about June 1 and should be ready to move on - via Oaxaca and Chiapas - to Guatemala about the 15th. I hope you have a chance to write to me before I leave.

Un abrazo fuerte de

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Lowy', is written over a horizontal line.

B. Lowy

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

April 27, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University and  
Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803  
College of Arts and Sciences  
U. S. A.

Dear Bernardo:

As of today I have not heard a word from the American Embassy, in regard to our request for you to come and give a course of Mycology. As you mention it is too late to think of such a course at present; however I expect that they would help us next year.

I will be in Guatemala in June and the second and third weeks are just perfect, because I will have some time to spare, so your schedule is just perfect for me.

Please let me know more about your plans.

The family joins me in sending you our best.

Cordially yours,

*Ruben*

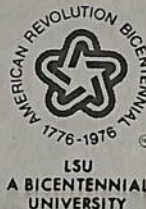
Dr. Rubén Mayorga  
Professor of Medical Mycology

RM:avb

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

19-IV-'76

Dr. Rubén Mayorga  
Facultad de CC.QQ. y Farmacia  
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala  
7a Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Rubén:

This has been and still is a very busy semester with many things to be done before it is finished.

When I first sent you a tentative course outline and vita last December, I thought it would not take too long to find out whether or not the Fulbright or some other agency would be willing to award me a grant. Now, I am afraid, at least from my standpoint, it is a little too late for me to think of getting together all the materials that I would need, including herbarium specimens, mimeographed keys, printed matter and other pertinent requisites that I normally use in the presentation of a short course. Consequently, I can no longer plan on giving it this year. However, if you are still interested in having it at some subsequent time, we can discuss this when I get to Guatemala in June.

My present plan is to first go to Mexico to follow up some ethnomycological leads in Chiapas and elsewhere and also to do some collecting, then to continue on to Guatemala and finally to El Salvador. Because of the flexible nature of these investigations, I can not follow a very rigid schedule but generally stay in a locality as long as it seems necessary (within limits, of course) to turn up the kind of information that I need.

Please let me know whether you expect to be in the city about the 2nd or 3rd week of June when I expect to be leaving Mexico for Guatemala.

I very much look forward to seeing you again and hope, meanwhile, that everything goes well with you and your family.

Cordially yours,

B. Lowy  
Professor of Botany

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

Guatemala City, March 2, 1,976.

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
 Department of Botany  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 Louisiana State University  
 Baton Rouge-Louisiana 70803  
U.S.A.

Dear Bernardo:

I was glad to learn that you are coming as you originally planned.

The request for you to come and give us a course in Mycology, has been already sent to the U. S. Embassy. I think that we will have an answer pretty soon and I will let you know <sup>their</sup> opinion. If they agree to help us, I don't see any reason to postpone the course.

In any case, if it is not possible to have it this year, we will try for 1,977.

In this case I would like to accompany you into the field. I spoke to Doctor Mario Dary, Director of the School of Biology and he thinks the same as I do.

Cordially,

Rubén Mayorga  
 Professor of Medical Mycology.

RM/mmm.

February 16, 1976

Dear Bernards:

Thank you very much for your letter from February 5 and for your concern about us. The devastation is really bad. The earthquake hit most of the cities and villages located at the "altiplano central", namely climate-mango and vicinities and the northeast part of the country. Guatemala city is situated because of the construction.

The whole "The whole earthquake", meaning that from 95 to 99% of all the houses made up of adobe, were destroyed; and you know that among the poor people this was the only type of construction.

Thank God we are O.K. The inter-national help has been very generous, but you know that 25,000 deaths can not be forgotten easily.

In my last letter, which I don't know if you got, I told you that we spoke to the director of cultural affairs at U.S. Embassy who promised to do his best to help <sup>us with</sup> Fairbright.

Now, I don't know if they will be willing to go ahead. In any event, we hope the project will work.

Thank you again,

Cordially

Leslie

---

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

February 20, 1976

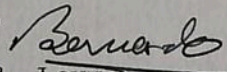
Dear Rubén:

I have just heard from Ramón Starr and am happy to know that you are all well. There must be a tremendous amount of repair work to be done in the city and throughout the country, but the numbers of dead, injured and homeless is appalling! It cannot help but affect you all profoundly.

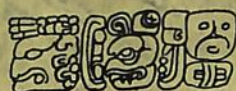
Your last letter was dated Feb. 3, which must have been about 12 hours or less before the disaster. I am having second thoughts about giving the course. For one reason or another it may not be quite appropriate just now and I would not mind postponing it. I don't know how you feel about it. As a possible alternative, since you mentioned that you may like to accompany me into the field, we could just concentrate on that. Anyway, please let me know what you think it is best to do under the circumstances.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

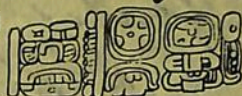
as ever,

  
B. Lowy

Expeditions Extraordinary



Apartado Postal 63  
Guatemala, C. A.



February 14, 1976

Dear Bernard,

Received your letter of the 7th.  
and called your friend Dr. Mayorga  
He and his family are all well and  
he sends his regards and appreciation  
for your concern.

I was in Poptún when the earth-  
quake occurred. (No damages in the  
Petén) It took me about 20  
hours to drive on into Guatemala  
via the back roads through Jutiapa.  
Fortunately, I found my house still  
upright & the family all well.

There was quite a bit of damage done in the capital but mainly to adobe structures. Most of the deaths due to the earthquake are reported from the department of Chimaltenango.

All in all things seem to be well organized & my faith in the Guatemalans as level-headed people has been confirmed.

My recent trip was to Yaxchilan on the Usumacinta River (Mexican side) with a group of archaeology buffs led by Nicholas Hellmuth whom I think you know. An egomaniac but he pays his bills promptly.

Hope all is well in La.

Saludos  
Ramón

Ramón Starr

AP 63

Guatemala

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

17-II-1976

Dear Ramón,

I just noticed that my last letter was sent to your old AP 1695, so you may not have received it. I've written to several people but no response so far. I attribute this to interruption of mail delivery following the earthquake. — I hope you are well and would like to hear from you. Also, if possible, please get in touch with my friend Dr. Rubén Mayorga (medical mycologist) at telephone 26-545 (office) or 690101 (home), and let him know I am inquiring about him and his family.

What is the situation at present? Was there much destruction in the city? Is help getting through to the people who need it — or has the ~~human~~ <sup>human</sup> democracy taken over?





**AIRBORNE RESCUE** — An injured Indian woman from the area of San Martin Jilotepeque is carried to one of the rescue helicopters which made it into the remote area outside of Guatemala City Sunday. The town sits astride a

major fault and was totally destroyed by the quake, which killed 2,904 out of a population of 3,760. It was cut off completely until Sunday.

— AP wirephoto

## Serum Need Voiced As Quake Toll Rises

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (AP) — The official death count in Guatemala's devastating earthquake surpassed 17,000 Monday night. Doctors pleaded for serum to fight an outbreak of typhoid and other diseases spread by contaminated food and water.

President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud told diplomats that 17,032 persons had been killed, 54,826 injured and 221,994 left homeless by Wednesday's giant earthquake and hundreds of aftershocks.

Unofficial sources said they expected other victims to be found beneath debris or landslides and predicted the final death toll could exceed 20,000.

U.S. Embassy officials here said the quake was the greatest disaster in recorded history in Central America. More than 6,000 persons perished in a Nicaraguan earthquake in 1972.

The Agency for International Development in Washington reported U.S. aid to Guatemala totals more than \$1.5 million and it said food stocks are now sufficient for short-term needs. Israel and eight Latin American countries also are pouring aid into this ravaged nation with a population of six million.

Some business activity returned to the Guatemalan capital, but workers refused to enter the taller buildings for fear of new earthquakes and continuing aftershocks. Two more mild aftershocks rocked the city Monday but apparently caused no new damage.

Some banks were open, newspapers published, buses were running, and bakeries and supermarkets reopened. Mexican relief workers were distributing 94,000 meals three times a day in the capital.

More than 200,000 homeless were sleeping in the open or under makeshift tents when rain fell on Guatemala City and the temperature before dawn dipped into the 50s — cold for this tropical country.

The death toll began jumping repeatedly late Sunday as the relief committee got information from areas cut off until the first supply helicopters reached them.

Engineers worked to open more roads blocked by landslides and to repair broken bridges. Officials put survivors to work, promising extra food according to the hours they worked clearing roads or burying the dead.

# Toll of Dead in Guatemala Soars Past 15,000 Mark

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (AP) — At least 15,035 persons perished in Guatemala's devastating earthquake and aftershocks, the emergency relief committee announced Sunday.

The committee said its death toll was revised on the basis of new reports from the Chilmaltenango area, 40 miles north of the capital. It estimated 40,000 persons were injured and 200,000 were made homeless by the quakes that began Wednesday.

Police reported two looters were shot and killed by residents defending their homes in Guatemala City and there was sporadic gunfire in three of the capital's districts.

They also said five men wearing false Red Cross arm bands were arrested for distributing sleeping pills as antibiotics with the plan to loot homes after owners fell asleep.

President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud ordered police and soldiers to shoot looters. An aide quoted him as saying, "Ladron visto, ladron muerto" — thief seen, thief dead.

Foreign correspondents in rural areas saw hundreds of still unburied bodies bloating in the sun.

Defense Minister Fernando Romeo Lucas suspended food-carrying helicopter flights to the town of San Martin Kilotepeque where survivors refused to bury the dead unless they were paid. He ordered the town's men to continue the burials and there was an unconfirmed report that a special brigade has been dispatched to burn all unburied bodies.

A technician at the National Observatory said the first quake Wednesday set off internal activity in

three volcanoes surrounding Guatemala City, and the volcanic activity triggered another major quake Friday. The volcanoes did not erupt.

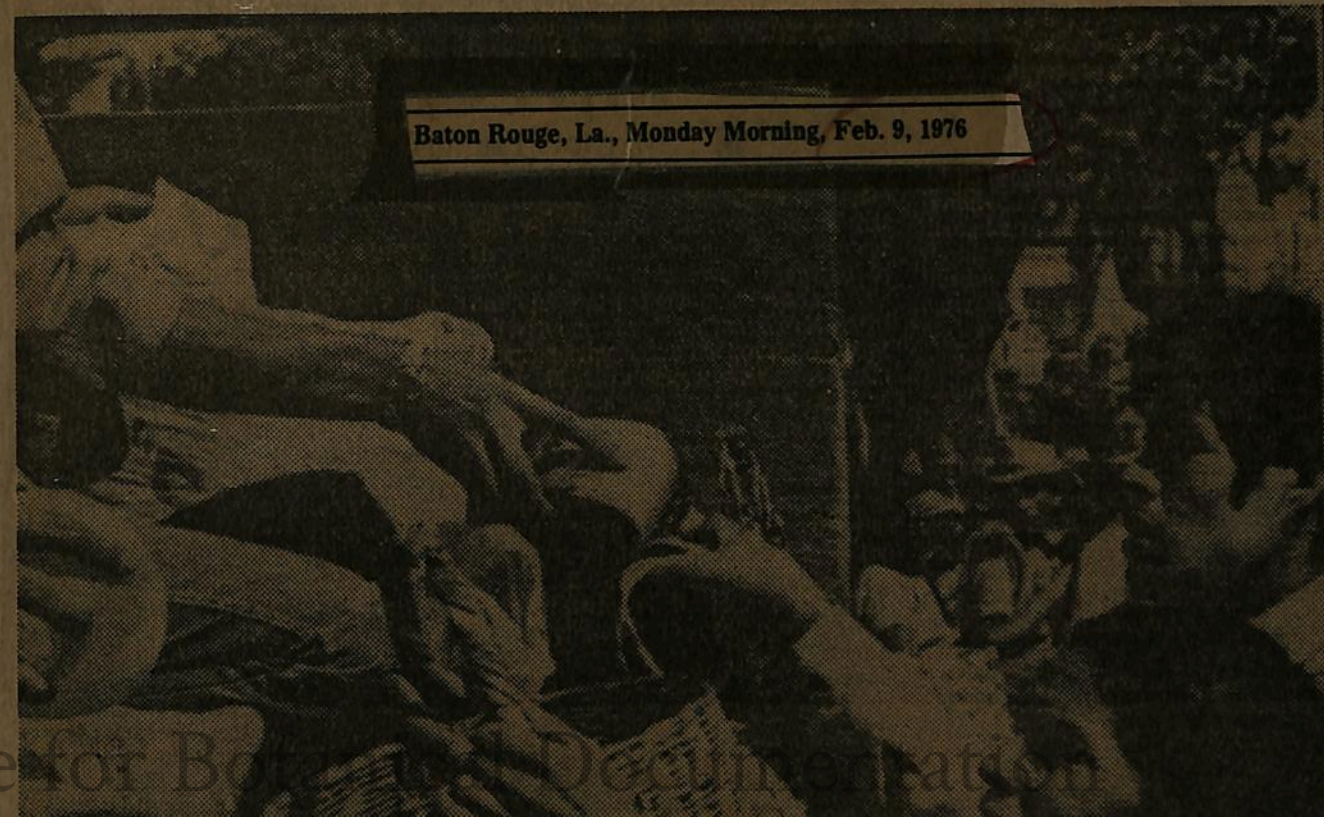
Milk was scarce and its price doubled to 50 cents a quart. The cost of bread, when any could be found, was up 150 per cent and vegetables cost 40 per cent more.

As the death count continued, Guatemalans gathered to hear Sunday Mass outside the ruins of their churches.

"We have been praying a lot since the many tragedies started hitting us on Wednesday ... but it is not the same as going to church and hearing the comforting words of the padre," said a mother of three whose husband died in the massive quake.

She was one of about 40 persons attending an outdoor service in Mixco, a town of 20,000 that adjoins Guatemala City.

Baton Rouge, La., Monday Morning, Feb. 9, 1976



# AFTERSHOCK RIPS GUATEMALA; DEATH ESTIMATES REACH 14,000

By JOE DARBY

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — Just two days after nature battered this city and small Central American nation with a killer earthquake, a powerful aftershock ripped through debris-strewn streets and created new panic Friday.

Unofficial death toll estimates in the aftermath of Wednesday's earthquake and subsequent aftershocks now range as high as 14,000. The official estimate is now 5,000 dead.

Reports from areas in the interior of the country Friday indicated entire villages were razed by the quake and

section of this nation of six million, along the Pan American Highway from Lake Atitlan to the capital.

The United States and other nations and international relief agencies have launched massive aid efforts, but conditions in the countryside outside this city have made the delivery of food, medicines, water and manpower nearly impossible.

"They're eating rats and anything else they can get their hands on," a Guatemalan Red Cross official said of the people in the interior.

The National Emergency Committee reported that in addition to the official count of 5,000 dead, 15,000 had been in-

jured and at least 200,000 were homeless.

Caritas, the Roman Catholic aid organization, said its reports indicated at least 14,000 had been killed by the earthquake and 40,000 injured. The Guatemalan Red Cross estimated 8,000 dead while the U.N. Disaster Relief Organization's office in Geneva said its field reports indicate 6,000 dead.

"You've got to get the word out to the world that the situation is very grave in Guatemala," said Rene A. Flores, the Caritas relief coordinator here. "World opinion has got to be convinced."

Guillermo Echeverria Vielmans, coordinator of the emergency committee, said 1,000 soldiers and about 900 military

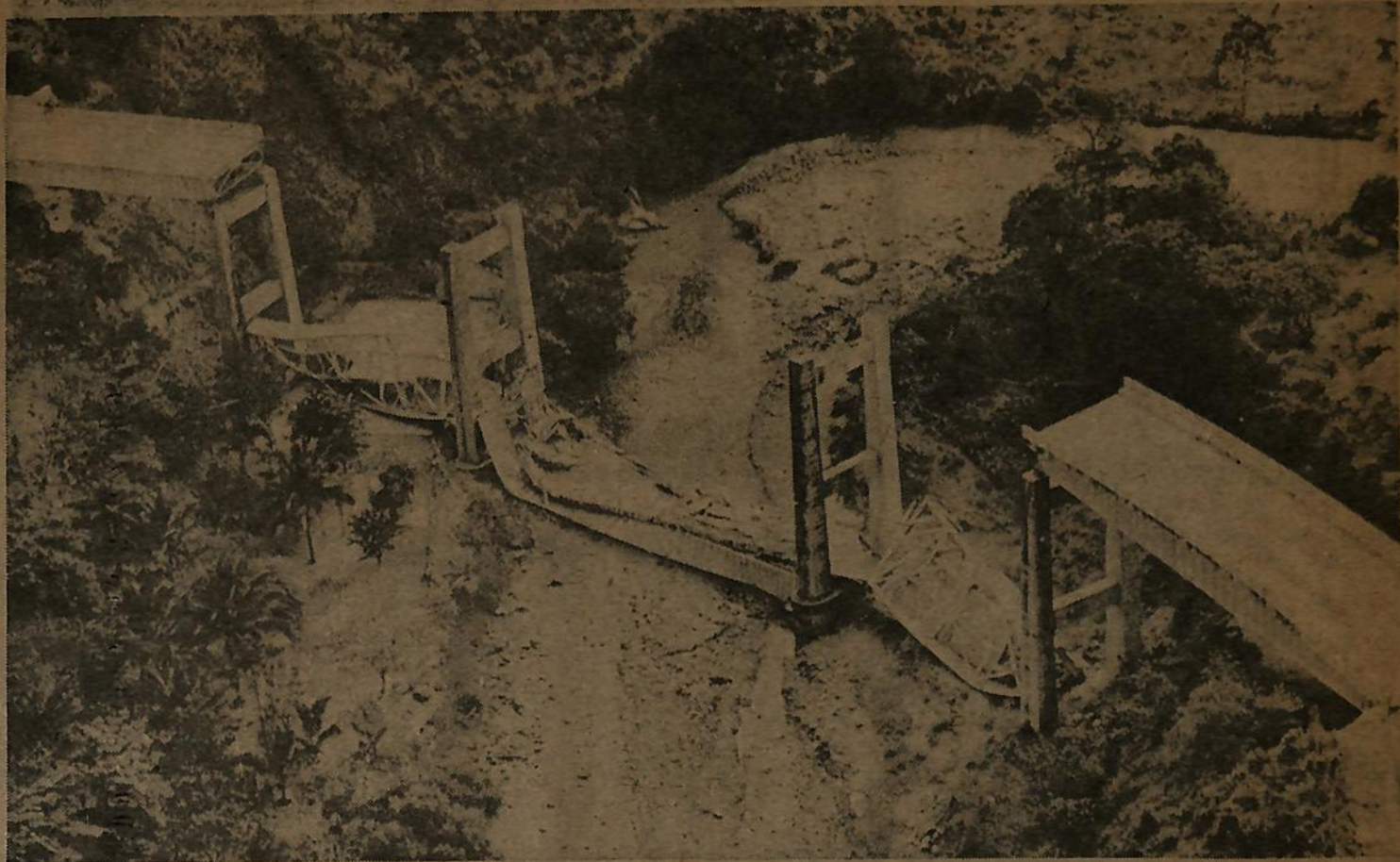
cadets had been assigned to distribute relief supplies, but most of the aid was going to stricken areas in the capital city because there was no way to get it out to the more heavily damaged countryside.

Echeverria said bridges at Aguacaliente and Belice were impassable, making it impossible for traffic to reach Guatemala City from its main Atlantic ports of Barrios and Santo Tomas de Castillo.

"The backbone of Guatemalan commerce has been broken," he said.

The Red Cross said it took six hours to

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 10, Col. 1



—AP Wirephoto

## Large Aftershock Hits

Continued from Page 1

get to El Progreso, a town usually within a 45-minute drive from the capital city. A spokesman said the only route open to the town was through neighboring Honduras.

Rosene said he was part of a 30-vehicle caravan which slowly made its way back to Guatemala City the day after the earthquake. "It took us several hours just to get through Comalapa," he said.

At one point the caravan found that most of the road had slipped off into a canyon. The cars got through, then some trucks and then some buses, "but I really didn't think the buses would make it," he added.

The U.S. Embassy said a convoy of 16 big C141 transport planes and a giant C5A that began landing supplies Thursday night had brought a fully equipped 100-bed field hospital staffed by 25 American doctors. The hospital was to start functioning by Sunday, officials said.

The U.S. aid also included 500 family tents, 500 pints of blood plasma, 5,000 doses of antibiotics, water purification equipment, a dozen water storage tanks, electric power generators, pumps and other supplies.

An American disaster survey team from the U.S. Panama Canal Zone flew over Guatemala in helicopters on Thursday and Friday. They reported the worst damage over a large region north and northwest of Guatemala City.

The team and the National Emergency Committee named several towns that they described as completely destroyed.

These included Joyabaj, population 32,000; Tecpan, 24,000; Patzicia, 11,000; Chimaltenango, 20,000; Comalapa, 18,000; El Progreso, 12,000; and Zaragozan, 8,000. Authorities said numerous smaller villages and towns were also leveled or partially destroyed.

"Up to Wednesday, it did not look so

bad because all we could see was Guatemala City," a U.S. Embassy spokesman said. "Today, it's an entirely different situation."

In the capital, thousands of poor people whose adobe houses were demolished by the quake remained in makeshift shelters in the streets, cooking over bonfires of timbers ripped from collapsed houses.

Light tremors continued to be felt in the city, and power was interrupted from time to time. Most traffic lights were not working and taxis were almost impossible to find.

The Ritz Continental Hotel, a plush hostelry full of tourists earlier in the week, was still operating, but its halls were full of debris and broken glass. Huge cracks were visible inside the building. Elevators were not operating and guests had to climb up to six flights of stairs to get to their rooms.

Other luxury hotels closed down completely.

The American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., said it has already sent \$100,000 to Guatemala and asked Americans to send contributions to their local chapter.

The relief agency CARE reported it had sent medical supplies and other emergency assistance to the country, including 5,000 blankets purchased in neighboring Honduras and flown in by the Honduran air force.

The U.S. Embassy said CARE had also begun to distribute 11 million pounds of food stockpiled in Central America and the agency said Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud had appointed his brother, Dr. Hans Laugerud, to work with CARE in organizing food distribution.

The U.N. World Food Program in Rome announced an initial emergency grant of \$53,000 worth of food and said it would send more.

**THE DESTROYED BRIDGE** at Agua Caliente outside of Guatemala City demonstrates the tremendous force of the pre-dawn earthquake which rocked Guatemala Wednesday. Landslides and felled bridges are hampering rescue efforts in the stricken countryside. So far the death toll is officially 5,000 but is expected to rise as help reaches outlying towns.

DEPARTMENTAL INDEX

Amuse. . . . S3, P12,13  
 Books . . . . . S4, P10  
 Classified . S7, P2-13  
 Comics . . . . . S2, P6  
 Deaths . . . . . S1, P12  
 Editorials . . S1, P18  
 STATE NEWS . . . . . S1, P 4,8

Energy . . . . . S4, P9  
 Finance . . . . . S4, P12-16  
 Marine . . . . . S4, P5  
 Sports . . . . . S6, P1-7  
 TV . . . . . S4, P2,3  
 Vivant . . . . . S3, P2-6

# The Times-Picayune

CLOUDY  
 and warm, with widespread rain and south and southeast coastal winds at 10-15 knots is the National Weather Service forecast for Louisiana and Mississippi. Map, details, Sec. 3, Page 10.

FINAL STATE EDITION

140TH YEAR NO. 12

Full Associated Press (AP), National News, Chicago News and Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Wires and AP WIREPHOTO

NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5, 1976

Second-Class Postage Paid at New Orleans, La.

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS

## HUGE QUAKE KILLS 2,000 IN GUATEMALA



GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The military chief of staff of the National Emergency Committee said an estimated 2,000 persons were killed in Guatemala on Wednesday by a tremendous earthquake that rumbled over a 2,000-mile stretch through Central America and Mexico.

There were no reports of heavy casualties in the other countries hit by the predawn earthquake, but severe damage and panic were reported in Honduras. Officials in the other country hit, El Salvador, reported some roads and highways cut. Minor damage was reported in southern Mexico.

Col. Manuel Angel Ponce, the chief of staff, said the figure of 2,000 persons killed was "conservative," adding that "alarming reports" were coming in from the interior of

the country 15 hours after the earthquake hit at 3:04 a. m. (3:04 a. m., CST). It was recorded at 7.5 on the Richter Scale, an earthquake of major proportions.

Hundreds of thousands poured into the streets here in panic after it

Times-Picayune reporter Joe Darby and photographer Burt Steel are en route to Guatemala to provide first-hand coverage of the disaster.

hit. Guatemala City plays host to large numbers of American tourists this time of year, but there were no reports of American casualties.

Col. Ponce said the death toll in this capital was estimated at more than 300. Other unconfirmed reports earlier said the toll here might

reach 500 to 600.

The epicenter of the quake was put at 30 miles southwest of the capital between the villages of Siguintla and Escuintla.

The U.S. Embassy said a check of tourist hotels turned up no reports of American casualties.

In Guatemala City, a broadcast said: "The morgue is full. Please don't bring any more bodies to the morgue."

Ponce said the committee had reports of 175 persons dead in the town of Patzún, about 50 miles west of Guatemala City.

Radio Fabulosa, the only commercial radio station functioning in Guatemala City, said 500 persons had been killed in San Mateo Ixtiaban near the border with Mexico.

"Telephone communications are cut with many sections so we are having some trouble establishing accurate counts," Ponce said. "We only have a little information."

He said the hardest hit zones were the two-thirds of the country north of Guatemala City. Much of Guatemala's 67,511 square miles is remote and has limited communication with the capital under best conditions.

Roads into the destroyed provincial areas were cut, Ponce said, and the country desperately needs portable light plants, tractors and bulldozers to reopen them.

Two men carrying a wooden box with a body inside asked soldiers in the capital where they could put the corpse. All they were told was not to leave it in the street because it might hamper rescue workers.

Lines of bloody people formed outside Roosevelt Hospital, which had stopped admitting the injured. One woman said she had been turned away at General

A BROKEN BUILDING and rubble show the results of an earthquake which hit Guatemala City early Wednesday. The

—AP Wirephoto

Digitized by the Hunt Institute

# 2,000 Die in Quake

Continued from Page 1

the hall outside.

People jammed into the streets in the neighborhood of Barrio del Gallito west of the main square where full blocks of adobe houses were destroyed. Many wept helplessly for those trapped in the debris.

Hotels were damaged and several were evacuated until experts could determine their safety. American tourists rested in gardens of the luxury hotels, some with no idea where they would spend the night.

Some sections of this city of 1.5 million were without water and women and children climbed through debris looking for water.

Fist fights started around a broken water main where survivors tried to gather enough water to last the night.

The wealthy residential area in the southern part of town was largely spared, although some high-rise condominiums were cracked.

The earthquake was felt with varying intensities in Honduras and El Salvador to the southwest and in Mexico, 1,100 miles to the northwest. There were no reports of casualties in those countries but severe damage was reported in parts of Honduras.

Thousands in this capital erected makeshift shelters from canvas, plastic covers and bedsheets, preferring these to their damaged homes as aftershocks continued throughout the day.

The midtown area, known as the third and fifth zones, appeared the most heavily damaged.



Communications within the country were interrupted but reports of casualties were reaching other countries from Guatemala City.

The Guatemalan ambassador in Colombia, Stella de Cheesman, said after having made direct radio contact with Guatemala City she had received reports that at least 600 persons had been killed.

The CARE relief organization in New York said its representatives in Guatemala and Honduras reported a death toll in Guatemala City of 500 and 2,000 injured.

CARE said it was standing by with relief supplies in Honduras. Catholic Relief Services in New York said it was flying in supplies, funds and disaster experts to Guatemala.

Barbara Buck of Lawrence, Kan., a tourist, was asleep in an 11th floor room of the Camino Real Hotel and was awakened by a loud noise.

"I won't ever forget that noise," she said. "I was in bed and this horrible sound started."

Shirley Joseph, also of Lawrence, Kan., said: "I was on the ninth floor

## GUATEMALA QUAKE TAKES HEAVY TOLL

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

Other unconfirmed reports said the toll here might be 500 to 600.

### 'A Lot of Panic'

José Muñoz at the Hotel Ritz Continental said all the hotels in Guatemala City were damaged but that the damage was mostly broken windows and fallen masonry.

"There was a lot of panic," he said. "Most of the guests ran out and then came back to spend the rest of the night in the lobby."

Antigua Guatemala, the original capital, which was abandoned for the present site after being destroyed by an earthquake 200 years ago, was slightly damaged. It is now reconstructed and is a tourist attraction.

Reports of damage outside the country ranged from very light in Mexico to very heavy in Honduras, a nation still suffering from a hurricane in 1974 that killed some 10,000 people.

Electric power was cut in at least a dozen Honduran cities and many buildings were badly damaged in the northern part of the country. In San Pedro Sula, a home for the aged collapsed but local authorities said there were no casualties.

The police said 29 houses collapsed in Puerto Cortés and one entire neighborhood in the port city was flooded as a result of broken water and sewer mains.

Roads and highways in El Salvador were reported cut.

Guatemala City was last badly damaged by an earthquake in December, 1917.



The New York Times/Feb. 5, 1976

Many casualties in quake were reported in Guatemala's capital and interior towns. In Honduras, heavy damage was reported in San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortés.

## Guatemala at a Glance

**Vital Statistics**—Guatemala is a country of 42,000 square miles, slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, with coastlines of about 200 miles on the Pacific Ocean and 70 miles on the Caribbean Sea. It is bounded by Mexico to the north and west and by Honduras and El Salvador to the east and south. Inland from a region of lowlands along the Pacific coast, many volcanoes rise steeply, thousands of feet above the land. The tallest, Tajumulco, is 13,846 feet high.

A monsoon climate, with heavy rainfall in the summer, exists along the Pacific coast and on the volcanic highlands. In the capital city, Guatemala, the average temperature is 65 degrees and at sea level about 78 degrees.

**Population**—Out of approximately 5,853,000 people about 41 percent are Indians; the rest are almost entirely Ladino, people of Spanish-Indian ancestry who are Westernized in culture. Ladinos take the lead in public affairs.

Spanish is the official language, but approximately 18 Indian languages are spoken and are primary languages for almost half the people. The literacy rate is less than 50 percent.

The Roman Catholic church claims 90 percent of the population. There are some Protestants. Among the Indians, elements of indigenous religions persist and are tied to concerns about agriculture fertility.

**History**—Guatemala was conquered by Spain in 1524, at which time magnificent cities of the Maya Indians had already been deserted. It remained a colony of Spain until 1821. Before becoming an independent republic in 1847, it was a part of the Mexican Empire and then a state in the Central American Federation.

From 1954, when a left-wing government was overthrown—with United States assistance—through the early 1970's, political life was fraught with violence. There were military coups, terrorist activity and political murders, including the killing of the United States Ambassador in 1968 and the slaying of West Germany's Ambassador in 1970.

After elections in 1974, Gen. Kjell Eugenio Laugerud García was installed as President, replacing Carlos Araña Osorio, who had held office since 1970. The President has executive and legislative power. There is a single-chamber legislature and a Supreme Court. The present Constitution became effective in 1965. The Communist Party has been outlawed.

**Economy**—The country's economy is based on agriculture, with coffee, cotton, bananas and sugar constituting 54 percent of all exports in 1974. Historically, a few wealthy families have owned most of the arable land, and official statistics show that 2.1 percent of the farms occupy 62.5 percent of the farmland while 74.9 percent of

# *Quake Strikes Near Guatemala; 3 Known Dead*

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (AP) — An earthquake that struck the city of Patzu killed three persons and injured many others, police reported Sunday.

They said the quake Saturday shook central and western Guatemala and aftershocks followed Sunday. Many residents of Patzu, 50 miles west of Guatemala City, fled in panic from their homes and spent the night out in the open.

Authorities reported a child, 10, and two adults were killed in a landslide at a quarry on the outskirts of Patzu.

The city's marketplace, several churches and shrines and about 20 homes were damaged, police said.

A seismographic station in Mexico City reported the tremor registered five on the Richter scale.

A massive quake on Feb. 4, 1976, left 23,000 dead and 76,000 injured across this Central American nation. It registered 7.5 on the open-ended Richter scale.

On that scale, which measures ground motion as recorded on seismographs, every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in magnitude. Thus a reading of 7.5 reflects an earthquake 10 times stronger than one of 6.5.

An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter scale can cause slight damage in the local area, 4 moderate damage, 5 considerable damage, 6 severe damage and a 7 reading means a major quake.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

February 5, 1976

Dear Rubin,

News of the earthquake began coming in last night. Reports this morning are still fragmentary but they all stress the great loss of life both in the capitol and elsewhere. It is useless for me to speculate. I only hope that you and all your family are well and that you will confirm this for me as soon as you can.

With sincerest wishes for  
the well being of all of you.

Bernard

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



1,976 AÑO DEL TRICENTENARIO DE LA  
UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS

FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

February 3, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Department of Botany  
Art and Sciences  
Louisiana State University  
and Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Baton Rouge  
LOUISIANA 70803  
U. S. A.

Dear Bernardo:

Yesterday we spoke to the Director of the Cultural Affairs of your Embassy and he said he would try to get help so you can come and give us the Mycology Course this summer.

I hope everything goes well, but if this is not possible, I will be looking forward to your visit. This time I would like to accompany you on your mycological trip, so I can learn more about higher fungi.

With my best wishes to you and your family.

Cordially,

Rubén Mayorga  
Professor of Medical Mycology

RM:avb

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

January 9, 1976

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Botany Department  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, 70803  
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Lowy:

Probably you do not remember me, but I assisted to the lecture about Ethnomycology that you gave last year in Guatemala for the members of the Guatemalan Association for Microbiology.

Lately I have been reading some about this subject, and believe me I think it is a very interesting compound science. As a matter of fact I was quite impressed with the lecture that I heard from you, and Dr. Rubén Mayorga told me that you soon will be giving a Mycology Course in Guatemala.

I hope some day I can collaborate with your investigations that substantially help to the knowledge of our folklore.

I hope that you have some reprints of your articles that can send me, they will be appreciate very much.

Thanks in advanced,

YOUR FRIEND

Dr. Miguel Torres  
Teacher of Bacteriology  
Microbiology Department  
University of San Carlos

MT:avb

P.S. You will receive request cards for your reprints under separate cover. You can send them to my laboratory: Avenida Las Américas 21-69, Zona 10, Guatemala City, or to the same address of Dr. Mayorga.

January 16, 1976

Dr. Miguel Torres  
Facultad de CC.QQ. y Farmacia  
7<sup>a</sup> Ave. 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Torres:

Thank you for your letter which I received after your request cards for reprints arrived and I have already mailed to you those which I still have for distribution.

I am glad to know of your interest in my work and if I return to Guatemala I would be glad to discuss ethnomycological matters with you.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Lowy

December 2, 1975

Dr. Rubén Mayorga  
Facultad de CC. y Farmacia  
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala  
7<sup>a</sup> Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C: A.

Dear Rubén:

Organizing the ethnomycological section of the Congress has turned out to be more time consuming than I had expected. I have some first-rate people lined up for participation and if we are lucky, NSF will give us the necessary travel funds.

I have gotten in touch with the Fulbright Commission and they advise me that since I have already been supported three times (Brasil 1965-1966 and twice in Peru 1958 and 1972) there would need to be a very strong justification for another grant. I spoke to Miss Anne Carpenter who is Executive Assistant for the Council for International Exchange of Scholars in Washington and she suggests that the U: S. Embassy in Guatemala might be able to make the necessary arrangements (either through the Fulbright route or other source they might suggest) provided that you feel justified in advising them that San Carlos has a special interest in inviting me.

I am enclosing for your use some basic data including a tentative outline of the course which is subject to your suggestions and recommendations. I am assuming that the course would be conducted in Spanish.

With kindest regards, as ever,

Bernard Lowy

BL/ef

Resumen de un Cursillo de Micología Para Estudiantes

de La Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala

- I. Introducción
  - A. Orígenes; Plantas, Animales, Hongos; Discusión de criterios
  - B. Significado de teorías mono- y polifileticos
- II. Fundamentales de Taxonomía Moderna
  - A. Significado de taxonomía y nomenclatura en la ciencia moderna.
  - B. Taxonomía tradicional y interpretaciones modernas; influencia de investigaciones con microscopio electrónico.
  - C. Trabajo de Persoon, Fries, Saccardo, Patouillard, Brefeld, Bourdot y Galzin y otros; su influencia en la taxonomía moderna.
- III. Discusión de la sistemática de los Hongos.
  - A. Mixomicetos
  - B. Ficomicetos
  - C. Ascomicetos
  - D. Deuteromicetos
  - E. Basidiomicetos
  - F. Lichenes
- IV. Consideración de grupos especiales
  - A. Heterobasidiomicetos vs. Homobasidiomicetos
  - B. El basidio y su importancia en la clasificación; distintas interpretaciones.
- V. Tremellales
  - A. Consideraciones históricas
  - B. Morfología y taxonomía, el problema de variación en el basidio; consideraciones filogenéticas.
- VI. Introducción a Etnomicología
  - A. Antecedentes
  - B. Cultos alucinógenos en la antigüedad y hoy día.

Aulas prácticas y conferencias  
Viajes al campo para coleccionar

(To be arranged)

# COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS

Formerly Committee on International Exchange of Persons

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL / 2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W. / WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

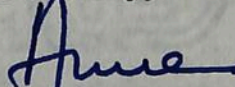
October 16, 1975

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Department of Botany  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Baton Rouge, La. 70803

Dear Bernard Lowy:

Thanks very much indeed for your letter of September 22 and for the enclosures which I read with great interest. I wish I could be encouraging about the possibility of a grant becoming available for you to accept the invitation from the University of San Carlos. Unfortunately, there are no senior lectureships offered under the Exchange Program with Guatemala at the present time. Since you have already held three previous grants, I am afraid it would be very difficult to convince the Board of Foreign Scholarships to make an exception to its present ruling that two grants are the limit, unless there is exceptionally strong justification for a third.

Cordially,



Anne Carpenter  
Executive Assistant

AC/ji

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

September 22, 1975

Anne Carpenter  
Committee on International Exchange of Persons  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Miss Carpenter:

In the course of my wanderings in Latin America in recent years, I have had occasion to work in Guatemala and last year the Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the University of San Carlos in Guatemala asked me to address about 100 students of his college on the subject of ethnomycology, a kind of hybrid study combining mycology and anthropology. The enclosed reprint on the thunderbolt myth (which might make suitable coffee-break reading) will give you an idea of one facet of ethnomycology.

The Dean has written to me asking whether I would give a short course in mycology-ethnomycology at the university next summer and he inquires about the possibility of Fulbright support. Since I don't know whether there is presently an exchange program with Guatemala, would you be good enough to brief me on that? If we have no Program, nothing further needs to be done but if a travel grant for a short-term lecturer/(4-weeks) researcher is a possibility, please send me the pertinent Fulbright forms.

With kindest regards, as ever,

Cordially,

*B. Lowy*  
Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany

*Miss Carpenter phoned:*

*17-X-175*

*CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER  
AMER. EMBASSY, GUATE.*

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7\* Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

September 8, 1975

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
 Department of Botany  
 Arts and Sciences  
 Louisiana State University  
 and Agricultural and Mechanical College  
 Baton Rouge  
 LOUISIANA 70803  
 U. S. A.

Dear Bernardo:

As always, it was a pleasure to hear from you, and learn that you enjoyed your trip to Europe. I have recently spent four weeks in the Orient and came back delighted.

Thank you for the information on the Second International Mycological Congress. If I can help you with your Section, it will be a pleasure.

I have not heard about the organization of a Medical Mycology Section; please keep me informed.

We would be very much interested in having you give a short course in Mycology (the Program would be arranged dated). I am not familiar with Fulbright procedures and I would appreciate if you would make the necessary contacts. Of course as soon as I receive your news, I will start asking Fulbright for help.

With warmest regards to you and your family.

CORDIALLY,

Rubén Mayorga  
 Professor of Medical Mycology

RM:avb

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

29 August, 1975

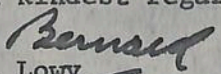

Dear Rubén:

Another semester is under way with the usual aspirations, frustrations and the like that beset us all. We have a record enrollment of over 24,000 students on the main campus although nationally enrollment has declined somewhat, which is believed to be a reflection of the economic doldrums at the moment. I hope you will have a successful academic year without too many administrative headaches.

This past summer I went to Europe for the first time but did not go to Leningrad for the Congress as I had tentatively planned. Instead I took a holiday with my wife and we toured Portugal, Spain, France and England. In Madrid, Paris and Kew Gardens I visited colleagues but the rest of the time I was just a tourist. España me encantó y La Alhambra me quedó emocionado. No doubt you were there with Rubén last year.

As you know, the II International Mycological Congress will be held at the University of South Florida, Tampa, in August 1977. Planning is under way and the Program Committee has asked me to organize a section in ethnomycology, which should be interesting provided that I can find enough qualified participants. Of course I expect there will be a medical mycology section and no doubt you will consider attending. Meanwhile I am thinking of returning to Guatemala next summer for more work in mycology as well as to follow up a few ethnomycological leads in the Quiché. Last summer you mentioned the possibility of having me give some lectures (or a short course?) in mycology at San Carlos under the Fulbright Program. I expect to have available about 2 months (mid-June through mid-August '76) but if this does not work out I'll probably be roving about Guatemala and Chiapas anyway and at least I would hope to see you again some time during the summer. In any case, please let me know whether you think we should go ahead with Fulbright plans for '76.

With kindest regards,

  
B. Lowy  


UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



## FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7\* Avenida 2-84, Zona 1

GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

November 15, 1974

Dr. Bernard Lowy  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803  
College of Arts and Sciences  
U. S. A.

Dear Bernard:

I have recently returned from my trips and am trying<sup>to</sup> catch up with all the things I found accumulated.

Thank you very much for your letter, fortunately we did not suffer with the hurricane because as you know, it was the northern part of the country that was hitten.

Our trips to South America and Europe proved to be very rewarding.

I hope everything goes fine with you and your family.

With warmest regards,

*Rubén*

Rubén Mayorga

Professor of Medical Mycology

RM/eym.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

24-IX-1974

Dear Rubén,

Just a note to wish you and your family well. The news of hurricane "Fifi" is alarming but from reports we have here the greatest devastation was in the northern part of the country and I hope that you all escaped the worst effects of the storm.

If I remember your schedule, you should be back from South America and ready for your European tour with Rubén Jr. Bon voyage!

Mis afectuosos saludos a todos, de su amigo

Bernard Howe

Dear Bernard :

We wish you and your  
family will have

Muy Felices Pascuas y

Próspero Año Nuevo

love

The Mayorgas

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC. QQ. Y FARMACIA

7ª Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA

Guatemala, May 8, 1974

Professor Bernard Lowy  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University, College of Arts  
and Sciences,  
Baton Rouge, La. 20803

Dear Professor Lowy:

Thank you for your letter from May 6 and the interesting reprints you kindly sent me.

I will be in Guatemala in June and will be delighted if you can visit my laboratory. Of course, it is only a medical mycology lab. and my mycological knowledge is almost confined to this field.

It will be very interesting to hear from your experience.

Please let me know about your arrival so I can meet you at the airport.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Rubén Mayorga  
Professor of Medical Mycology

RM/eym.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

May 6, 1974

Dr. Rubén Mayorga P.  
Laboratorio de Micología Médica  
7a. Av. 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Mayorga:

In connection with some further investigation of mycological as well as ethnomycological matters, I plan to be in Guatemala again this summer.

If you expect to be in the city early in June, I should very much like to visit you since your's must be one of the few mycological centers in Guatemala.

Enclosed are reprints which I do not think I sent you before.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Sincerely yours,

*B. Lowy*

Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany  
and

Curator, Mycological Herbarium

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE . LOUISIANA . 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

May 13, 1974

Dr. Rubén Mayorga  
Laboratorio de Micología Médica  
7a Av. 2-84, Zona 1  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Mayorga:

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am glad that I shall have the opportunity of meeting you, but since the exact date of my arrival is uncertain, I shall certainly not trouble you by having you come to the airport although I very much appreciate your courteous offer. I'll phone your office and in the event you are not there, will leave a message.

Tentatively, I plan to leave for Mexico about May 25 and expect to spend 10 days there before going on to Guatemala. My immediate destination will be Yaxha in the Petén where I have agreed to stay for at least 2 weeks with the F.L.A.A.R. ( Foundation for Latin American Archeological Research).

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*B. Lowy*  
Bernard Lowy

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

January 28, 1974

Dra. Elfriede Pöll  
Jardín Botánico  
26 Av. 10-78, Zona 14  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Pöll:

I have been looking over some of my notes which I took on my trip to Guatemala last year and I recall the courteous reception you offered me when I visited you at the Garden on June 28.

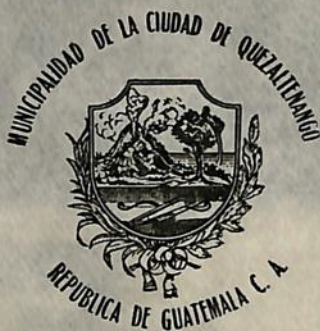
I hope that your work is progressing according to your plan. The Garden is certainly flourishing under your direction! Tentatively, I expect to continue my mycological as well as ethnomycological work in Guatemala again this summer, probably in the region of Alta Verapaz where few investigations of this kind have been made.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

*B. Lowy*  
Bernard Lowy  
Professor of Botany

*P.S. I enclose a few recent reprints that  
may interest you.*



Casa de la Cultura de Occidente

SECCION DE MUSEOS

Prefesor Bernard Low,  
Mycological Herbarium  
Louisiana State Univ  
Baton Rouge, La.

Muy estimado amigo;

Desde el 28 de marzo pasado tuvimos el gusto particular de recibir su muy interesante estudio titulado; "Un Hongo de Piedra Pre-Clásico de Mixco Viejo, Guatemala". Un duplicado del boletín informativo de la Sociedad Mexicana de Micología. Con mucho gusto lo hemos leído, porque el tema en sí es muy interesante, esta muy bien documentado y es conciso. Además en el trabajo se complementan las disciplinas arqueológicas e históricas con las botánicas y patológicas para dar la visión amplia que usted pretende, todo dictado por un estudio suficiente.

En nuestra Biblioteca, a la par de otras obras de consulta estan sus separatas para las personas acuosas e investigadoras.

Hicimos del conocimiento de los periodistas de esta ciudad y de la Capital de la República su envío; le adjuntamos dos recortes de Prensa.

Agradeciendole nuevamente en nombre del Museo y en el mio en lo particular, su bondad, me suscribo su atento amigo y servidor.

*Victor Salvador de León Toledo*

VICTOR SALVADOR DE LEON TOLEDO.

Jefe de la Sección de Museos  
de la Casa de la Cultura de Occidente.

7a. Calle 11-27, Zona 1. Quetzaltenango.

P.D. Recibimos dos ejemplares del Estudio "Taxonomic Problems In The Heterobasidiomycetes."

*Prensa Libre*  
**ENVIAN  
ESTUDIO  
ARQUEOLOGICO**

1969.-

No. 43.5.5.69magf.

Un estudio arqueológico sobre la escultura preclásica de Guatemala, bajo el título Un hongo de piedra preclásico de Mixco Viejo, Guatemala, fue enviado por el profesor Bernardo Low, del departamento de botánica y patología vegetal de la universidad de Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a la Casa de la cultura de occidente, con sede en Quetzaltenango.

Según lo informado por la sección de museos, señor Victor Salvador de León Toledo, el estudio en referencia está perfectamente documentado y se remonta al Popol Vuh, Los anales de los cakchiqueles, para citar a los diferentes investigadores que se han dedicado a esta especialidad en nuestro país, para llegar hasta nuestros días.

*12 de abril de 1969.*

# Mayas of Guatemala Live a Bleak Life as Migrant Workers

By ALAN RIDING

Special to The New York Times

EL BAUL, Guatemala—Smoke curled out of the open-sided huts where the Indian women gossiped quietly as they prepared the corn and beans that their men would eat when they tramped back from a 10-hour day cutting sugar cane. Barefoot children in traditional costumes shouted in the Quiche language as they played among the paltry belongings left hanging from the rafters by the migrant workers. Watching the scene in silence, three young men sharpened their machetes until each sang like a violin.

For five months each year the nine huts in the El Baúl sugar plantation, 65 miles southwest of Guatemala City, are home for 1,500 Indian cane-cutters, their wives and children. They sleep shoulder to shoulder on concrete floors, sharing discomfort and disease. They use a stream as wash basin and toilet.

They work all day to earn perhaps \$2. At the end of the harvest they return to the highlands with enough money to last until next season.

## 10% Join the Annual Migration

The main economic function of the highland Indians is to provide cheap labor for the sugar, cotton and coffee harvests in the tropical lowlands. Every year some 600,000 Indians—more than 10 percent of the population, a majority of which is descended from the Mayas—migrate to the coastal areas for up to five months, living in conditions that the International Labor Organization has termed “totally unacceptable with regard to hygiene, health, education and morality.”

From the sugar mill and administration building at El Baúl, the grim huts cannot be seen. Their location on the edge of the plantation seems an appropriate symbol of their inhabitants' social status, for Guatemalan Indians still have to be accepted by the minority, most of whom are themselves of mixed ethnic background.

During the recent presidential campaign the problems of the Indians—and the problem of how to deal with the



The New York Times/Alan Riding

## Indian children playing near the open huts where they live during harvest on the El Baúl sugar plantation

onto the highlands, where 400,000 families farm plots that, on average, are smaller than 10 acres and 200,000 have no land.

## Poor, Illiterate, Malnourished

In these regions, where crops must often be grown on steep, eroded slopes, the Indians are in deep poverty. According to official statistics, the annual average per capita income is below \$200, adult illiteracy exceeds 60 percent, 80 percent of children under age and life expectancy is under 50 years.

The staple products are corn and beans. But as Mr. Castaneda, put it, he

work land in the northern Quiche Province belonging to the Herrera family, which owns El Baul and 42 other farms throughout the country. Every year many of the same people trek down to El Baul, just outside the town of Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, for at least 30 days of obligatory cane-cutting; many stay on longer.

El Baul is a typical plantation, with its owners in the capital and an administrator on the scene. Because the mill is loethsdate apsrpyE & huyf T9 9 0 0

is the oldest in the country and there has been little investment in years, it does not have the usual military police guard. With over 7,000 acres in cane, the owners maintain their profit margins through low wages rather than efficient production. “The rural wealthy are not modern capitalists,” Mr. Castaneda said. “They still have a colonial mentality. They pay the lowest possible wages and risk nothing. Then they say that the Indians are the obstacle to progress.”



Quezaltenango, 20 de Abril de 1967.-

Casa de la Cultura de Occidente  
DEPARTAMENTO DE MUSEOS  
SOCIOS EN EL DESARROLLO

No. 06967.-1.

Mr. Bernard Lowy.  
Department of Botany & Plant Pathology.  
Louisiana State University.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.-  
-----

Distinguido Señor;

En nombre de la Sección de Museos de la Casa de la Cultura de Occidente, tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted, para expresarle mis agradecimientos más cumplidos por el valioso trabajo científico titulado "ESTUDIO SOBRE ALGUNOS TREMELLALES DE MEXICO", así como "REPRINTED FROM MYCOLOGIA, VOL. LVII, No. 2, p. 478-483, MAY-JUNE, 1965" y "A NEW SPECIES OF STYOE--LLA FROM BRAZIL", todo para que nosotros podamos ilustrar en mejor forma posible a nuestros visitantes tanto particulares como escolares.-

Sólomente con la bondad de ciudadanos como Ud., se podrá lograr en no lejano día, que la Casa de la Cultura, puede tener el mejor Museo de Guatemala, - para orgullo de la Zona Occidental, así como una magnífica Biblioteca de referencias.-

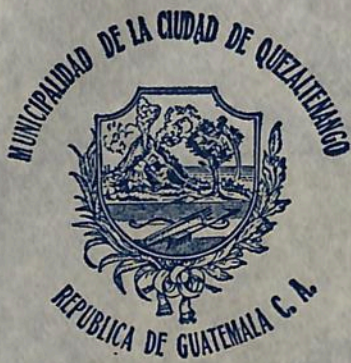
Con toda seguridad sepa que su importante trabajo será conocido por el público, apareciendo su nombre en forma destacada.-

Aproveche esta oportunidad para suscribirme de Ud., con toda simpatía atento servidor.-

*Tutor Labrador de León*  
victor salvador de León Toledo.  
Jefe de la Sección de Museos  
de la Casa de la Cultura de Occ.



Reprints sent: 26-III-69  
Tom II.  
Hoyos de Piedra



# CASA DE LA CULTURA DE OCCIDENTE

"JULIO CESAR DE LA ROCA"

7a. Calle 11-35, Zona 1

QUEZALTENANGO, GUATEMALA

Tel 4955

Cable Internacional  
CULTURAXELA

No. -432-agoe.-

Departamento Cultural  
de la Municipalidad de  
Quezaltenango

SOCIOS PARA EL DESARROLLO

Quezaltenango, 28 de

DICIEMBRE

de 19 <sup>74</sup>.-

Señor Profesor:  
BERNARD LOWY,  
Department of Botany  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.  
U.S.A.

Muy estimado y recordado amigo:

Al finalizar el mes de Noviembre recién pasado, tuve el agrado de recibir el libro que tuvo la bondad de enviarme titulado "SOMA DIVINE MUSHROOM OF IMMORTALITY", cuyo autor es el Señor R. Gordon Wasson publicado por: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Estudio Ethno-mycological No. 1.-

Con mucha curiosidad e tratado de penetrar el estudio, pues la diferencia de idioma dificulta el total entendimiento, pero me entero de que el Soma es una llave de la Historia Cultural y ha sido considerado en la India legendaria como una planta sagrada. Es la Amanita Muscaria y se utiliza en forma muy similar a como lo hacen nuestros indigenas Guatemaltecos, utilizandolo como alucinógeno. Y que son ritos como los que Usted conoce los que realizan en Siberia y los Urales.

Las ilustraciones y fotos le dan alta calidad a la obra. Le agradezco muchísimo su envío pues me resulta muy útil, -- para un trabajo que estoy desarrollando, que se refiere a -- una fase de la historia musical de Guatemala, no propiamente a los alucinógenos, pero que tiene puntos de contacto, con el Tema aquí tratado extensamente y con civilizaciones como las de la India.-

Le deseo mucha salud éxitos y nuevos estudios a Usted y distinguida familia en estas navidades y en el próximo año 1974. Y que tengamos el gusto de saludarlo personalmente -- por éstas nuestras tierras que son también suyas con un sin-

*Victor Wachsler de León*  
VICTOR SALVADOR DE LEON TOLEDO.  
Jefe Departamento de Museos  
Casa de la Cultura de Occidente  
"Julio César de la Roca".-

Dear Dr. Lowy:

I would appreciate a reprint of:  
Mushroom symbolism in Maya codices,  
Mycologia 64: 816-821, 1972

Thank you

Ruben Mayorga ✓

LABORATORIO DE MICOLOGIA MEDICA  
7a. Avenida 2-84, Zona 1  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

RUBEN MAYORGA P. DIRECTOR  
Laboratorio de Micología Médica

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Baton Rouge, 31 de enero de 1974

Profesor Víctor Salvador de León Toledo  
Jefe Departamento de Museos  
Casa de la Cultura de Occidente  
"Julio César de la Roca"  
7a. Calle 11-35, Zona 1  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Muy estimado amigo:

Me alegro que Ud. recibió y le gustó el libro "Soma" que contiene algunos datos etnomicológicos bastante interesantes.

Como Ud. ya sabe, tengo un gran interés en los mitos y cultos de la gente indígena de las Américas y muy posiblemente voy a seguir con algunos estudios lingüísticos y etnomicológicos en su país otra vez en el verano venidero.

Llama la atención un comentario suyo en su última carta en cuanto a la utilización de algunos hongos alucinógenos, como Ud. comenta, por los "indígenas Guatemaltecos". Me interesaría profundamente si Ud. podría verificar de su conocimiento personal, cuál es el grupo (o grupos) de gente indígena en Guatemala que hoy día usan los hongos de tal manera. Si la gente esta tomándolos acompañado por ritos ceremoniales, qué piensa Ud. de la posibilidad de acercarlos con el propósito de participar en tal ceremonia, como yo he hecho en México? Me gustaría mucho tener su colaboración indispensable en tal proyecto.

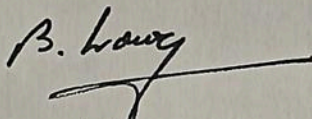
Como ya le conté en nuestra conversación en julio pasado, encontré que existe entre los Quiches el mito del hongo que está relacionado con el rayo. Así que usan la palabra "kaquljá" que significa a la vez el hongo Amanita muscaria y el rayo. También tienen la expresión "itzel ocox" que significa "hongo del diablo" y que se refiere al mismo A. muscaria. Todos lo consideran como un hongo venenoso (que lo es) así que me parece dudoso que esa gente lo consuman en sus ceremonias (si las tienen). Es mucho más probable que utilicen algunas especies del género Psilocybe que son poderosamente alucinógenos.

Baton Rouge, 31 de enero de 1974

Hágame Ud. el favor de contestarme e informarme qué piensa Ud. de nuestra colaboración en tal pesquisa.

Quiero agregar que he leído con muchísimo interés el librito de poemas que Ud. tuvo la bondad de obsequiarme y más que nunca tengo respeto y orgullo en conocer a un hombre tan sensible y talentoso, como sus palabras lo demuestran.

Reciba Ud. los afectuosos saludos de su amigo y colega,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Lowy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bernard Lowy  
Profesor de Botánica



Homenaje a

FRANCISCO SOJWEL

y

EL RILAJ MAAM

Conjunto

Ju'ul Juuj Tijaax

## CARTA AL OYENTE

La grabación del presente disco ha sido una labor ardua, se han presentado muchos obstáculos, los cuales se han ido venciendo paso a paso. Representa la primera manifestación pura y noble de la música sagrada del indígena de Guatemala. No fue creada únicamente para entretener, su objetivo es motivar al oyente a proporcionar un apoyo material y espiritual para preservar y valorizar el pensamiento e identidad del indígena.

Es un hecho innegable, que el yugo español que se le impuso al indígena después de la Conquista de Guatemala, y la despiadada explotación de la cual ha sido víctima, aparentemente han destruido la identidad del indígena.

Se considera que la cultura maya del altiplano del país, ha sido aplastada y mezclada con la cultura de los invasores.

La música contenido en este disco es una prueba tangible de la maravillosa habilidad del indígena de adaptarse al mundo moderno sin perder su identidad.

Una antigua historia tzutuil relata cómo un grupo de semi-dioses, los "Nahual Taq Acha", quienes conocían el futuro, asumieron la forma humana del humilde campesino indígena.

Sufrieron en carne propia la conquista, y viendo a su pueblo desesperado y agobiado de trabajo, asombrados de la avaricia de los europeos, crearon un nuevo sistema religioso, que permitiera preservar a los antiguos dioses, disfrazados con nombres de santos cristianos.

La creación más importante de estos patriarcas fue el "Rilaj Maam", conocido comúnmente como MAXIMON, y cuya imagen se puede observar en la carátula de este disco, que es un homenaje a él, y a Francisco Sojwel, el último de los "Nahual Taq Acha". El "Rilaj Maam" tiene muchos nombres y funciones, pero en su esencia preserva las antiguas palabras, oraciones, mitos y tradiciones. Es una deidad "diplomática" cuya función primordial es evitar que mueran las tradiciones pre-colombinas, y hacerlas semi-compatibles con la mentalidad europea, que ha destruido mucho de la América indígena. Por esta razón, Atitlán es llamado "Rukux Ruch' ileu", el corazón del mundo.

Los profetas dejaron al pueblo tzulujil profecías y encarnaciones cíclicas de sí mismos. Todas las profecías se han cumplido, algunas de ellas son el avión, los pantalones lar-

gos, la radio y el automóvil. Las encarnaciones de los patriarcas han luchado a través del tiempo por el mejoramiento y la preservación del pueblo tzutujil. Según las palabras de los "Ah Cuná", o sacerdotes indígenas: "Algún día nuestro pueblo volverá a su antiguo esplendor, el camino de los antiguos no se perderá. Daremos gustosos nuestras ofrendas de incienso y frutas al Señor de la Tierra".

Nosotros, los integrantes del conjunto "Ju' L'uj Tijaax", por esta razón dedicamos este primer paso, logrado con la grabación del presente disco, al resurgimiento de nuestro pueblo, y al último profeta Francisco Sajwel y su espíritu protector, el "Rilaj Maam" el Dios y el hombre.

El productor Martin Prechtel  
Enero, 1978

## II. CONJUNTO JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX

Santiago Atitlán, paraje encantado, se encuentra situado a orillas del lago más bello del mundo, en el departamento de Sololá. El idioma que se habla es el tzutuhil-maya (flor de milpa).

A principios del décimo primer mes del año 1976, se formó el grupo que hoy se denomina JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX, en español ONCEAVA LIBERACION. Desde la formación del grupo, se interpreta música original del lugar, y de autores Atitecos Nahuales.

Los objetivos son: preservar el pensamiento de los antepasados, sus costumbres, sus sistemas políticos, comercio, trabajo, artesanías, etc.

No hubiera sido posible la organización de este grupo sin la decidida participación y colaboración de los jóvenes: Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz, Nicolás Miguel S. Rabinal y el pintor Martín Prechtel. El ideal más grande es formar una institución sólida que fomente y dé a conocer la cultura verdadera del pueblo. "RESPECTAR LAS TRADICIONES Y COSTUMBRES NO ES RETROCEDER NI ESTANCARSE, RESPETAR UNA CULTURA ES DIALOGAR CON ELLA, CORREGIR SUS ERRORES Y MEJORAR SUS VALORES". Actualmente el grupo está organizado de la siguiente forma, sus integrantes son:

Alcalde.....Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz

Juez.....Martín Prechtel

Primero.....Juan Pablo Coquix

Segundo.....José Pablo Alvarado

Tercero.....Tomás Tiney Pablo

Cuarto.....José Cua Simaj

Quinto.....Miguel Pablo Coquix

Sexto.....Diego Tiney Pablo

Consejero.....Nicolás Chiviliu Tacaxoy

Todos los integrantes hablan el tzutuhil y son agricultores o pescadores, conocedores de la cultura de su pueblo.

Los instrumentos que usa el grupo son: guitarras de cinco cuerdas, tambores, tun, matracas, chinchines, flautas de caña, violín, cuerno de toro y caparazón de tortuga.

## III. HISTORIA DE LAS CANCIONES

Según el pensamiento tzutuhil, todo tiene su "dueño sobrenatural". Cada uno de estos seres mitológicos tiene su "son" propio. Las canciones contenidas en este disco, son "sones" atitecos, con el ritmo característico de la música indígena de Guatemala. Fueron compuestas por los profetas del pueblo, y su origen se pierde en la neblina del pasado.

En el lado uno del disco, se presentan los "sones" más sagrados, los más usados en las cofradías o "casas sagradas". Siempre acompañan los ritos tradicionales, pues se interpretan en honor a los "Nahual Taq Acha", los 12 sagrados patriarcas. En el lado dos, se presenta una variedad de "canciones sociales", dedicadas a antiguos reyes tzutuhiles, y otras son algunas canciones de amor ó de lamento.

### Lado Uno:

#### 1. RILAJ MAAM

Los sones del Rilaj Maam (el gran abuelo), son tres y nunca se interpretan por separado: Los sones son los siguientes:

- dedicado al SANTO MUNDO,
- María B'atz'b'al, la esposa del Rilaj Maam,
- María Castaliana, su segunda esposa.

Estos tres sones representan las tres épocas de la vida humana: niñez, juventud y vejez, y al mismo tiempo la trinidad: Poder supremo, poder engendrador y poder físico. Los tres sones se usan para invocar al Rilaj Maam para pedirle favores y curaciones de cualquier enfermedad.

RILAJ MAAM es el Dios maya-tzutuhil, formado por doce Nahuales y tallado del palo de pito con oraciones cabalísticas del Ajkuun; su edad, 25 soles. Considerado señor de la tierra y de la vida, justo juez, reformador social, amigo del caminante, compañero del Ajkuun (rezador), guardián de lo bueno, médico y procurador del bien común.

#### 2. LOS RECIBOS

Cuando los Nahuales formaron y engendraron al Rilaj Maam, hubo una gran fiesta por toda la comarca y todo el pueblo lo celebró. Enseguida cantó el Ajb'iix (cantor) dando origen al son que más tarde fuera el Recibo de Santiago, que también es llamado Rxin Msaat (de venado), al mismo tiempo, el otro Ajb'iix dió origen al son Recibo de Santa Cruz, que es el 5o. del Rilaj Maam. Una vez creados los sones, el Rilaj Maam bailó con las tixeles, y en esa edad hubo un gran brindis y el Rilaj Maam se alegró inmensamente. Al mismo tiempo,

dió origen a la cofradía de Santa Cruz, donde se mantiene su imagen. Una vez terminadas los tres sones, el rezador dijo: Que no se olvide nuestra palabra, que no se olvide nuestra costumbre, que se grabe en nuestras mentes y en la mente de nuestros hijos, nietos, bisnietos y los que vengan después. Entonces, los cinco sones quedaron grabados en la mente de los tzutuhiles.

### 3. MARTIN (señor del mundo)

Martín, es el señor de la tierra y lo que en ella hay. Cuando el Nahuatl quiere lluvia ó la solicitan de los vecinos, se marcha rápidamente a la cofradía de San Juan donde se encuentra MARTIN (señor del mundo) y se pide lluvia bailando con un Nahuatl en los brazos teniendo todas las puertas bien cerradas ya que es peligroso tenerlas abiertas, pues se teme un diluvio o terremoto. El día de San Martín es el día más alegre del pueblo.

#### Lado Dos:

### 1. FRANCISCO SOJUEL

Es el último profeta que tuvo Santiago Atitlán, y a él se debe el perfeccionamiento del Rilaj Maam, mediador entre Dios y los hombres. La gente le pedía que rezara por la lluvia y el lo hacía: fué constructor de sabiduría, doctor, astrólogo, filósofo, y sobre todo profeta. A él se atribuye el son del Rilaj Maam, fué el líder de los doce Nahuales. En Antigua Guatemala donde lo encarcelaron y lo torturaron durante La Colonia, y como venganza dió origen al terremoto que desoló Antigua Guatemala. Su poder fué inmenso, se cree que no murió porque en el momento de su velada, alguien lo encontró en el camino hacia la costa, y se sorprendió muchísimo al llegar a casa y ver a todo el pueblo lamentar el fallecimiento del profeta atiteco Nahuatl Francisco Sojuel. Fué gran procurador del bien común, ayudó a los desamparados y prometió que un día nuestros hijos llegarían a controlar todo el poder y que en ese tiempo la vida mejoraría ostensiblemente para nuestro pueblo.

### 2. CH'T XTAN

En Santiago Atitlán, como todos los pueblos, los jóvenes para enamorar allá en los tiempos pasados, le cantaban a sus muchachas en altas horas de la noche. Si la muchacha tenía dos o más admiradores, estos combatían entre sí, no con lujo de fuerza, sino por medio de grandes encantamientos y sacaban a las muchachas a cruces de los cantones para violarlas. También sacaban todas sus pertenencias personales, ropa, guipil, peraje para avergonzarlas, y el joven amado, ya no podría casarse con esa muchacha porque había perdido su vergüenza. Según la costumbre del pueblo, *una mujer así ya no podía casarse con un joven*. Las canciones de enamorar están encantadas y por más dormida que esté una muchacha, se levanta y sale de la puerta para hablar con el que la interpreta.

### 3. NIMQ'IIJ SANTYAAG

Viendo la necesidad de crear una canción para el pueblo, del patrón Santiago Apóstol, Felipe se dió la tarea de componer al son de LA FIESTA DE SANTIAGO. Es una canción que llama al pueblo a la unidad, a compartir la alegría y la tristeza, a sentirse como hermanos sin distinción alguna. Es exclusivamente para celebrar la fiesta del PATRON SANTIAGO, el día 25 de julio.

### 4. B'IIS OQ'IEJ

Es el llanto de la inconsolable madre. La pareja de enamorados se han com-

prometido para llevar a cabo el sueño de los sueños; el problema surgió cuando el joven era de escasos recursos económicos. Se vió obligado a salir para la costa en busca de trabajo, para sufragar los gastos necesarios del casamiento. Quedaron de mútuo acuerdo con su prometida, para que al regresar hacer realidad lo deseado... Así transcurrió el tiempo, mientras el muchacho se esforzaba para hacer dinero, la muchacha aprovechó la oportunidad que mañosamente le ofreció otro joven que poseía: casa, terrenos, maíz, frijol, sitios, etc., para proponerle matrimonio y así la muchacha violó la sagrada promesa ... Cuando el muchacho regresó, encontró que su novia estaba ya comprometida con el joven rico; así fué como el ofendido lloró su pobreza y en una noche de luna llena, derramó tres gruesas lágrimas suficientes para formar con ellas una cruz en el suelo del portón de la casa de la muchacha, y después de recitar siete palabras cabalísticas, la muchacha quedó sentenciada a muerte ... y en el día de la boda, la muchacha falleció, y su inconsolable madre la llora, dando origen a la canción B'IIS OQ'IEJ.

### IV. DE LOS INSTRUMENTOS

El grupo auténticamente folklórico-autóctono JU'LJUJ TIJAAX (Onceava Liberación), usa los siguientes instrumentos:

- Flauta de caña
- Tun
- Tambor
- Matraca
- Chinchín
- Caparazón de tortuga
- cuerno de toro
- violín
- guitarra

### FLAUTA (XUL)

La flauta es hecha de caña, que abunda en Santiago Atitlán y en las montañas cercanas.

Es un instrumento muy antiguo, sólo pueden utilizarlo las personas iniciadas, en la costumbre del lugar. Hay un sinnúmero de melodías, que son ejecutadas por el Ajxuu (flautista). Se toca exclusivamente en procesiones y reuniones de interés general, principalmente en la recibida y la entrega de las nuevas cofradías. El Ajxuu ocupa un lugar importantísimo, y es el cargo que más se ha venido perdiendo.

### TUN (C'UN C'UN)

El Tun, es un instrumento precolombino de madera más antiguo, hueco por dentro. Se utiliza exclusivamente en las cofradías. El ritmo más popular, es el que se oye todos los días en las horas de cada comida, marcando el camino del sol (desayuno, almuerzo, cena): Principio de claridad, Sol resplandeciente y Oración. También se toca cuando hay rezos importantes, como para pedir lluvia y curación de ciertas enfermedades.

#### TAMBOR (K'JOUR)

El tambor es de cuero y madera hueca. Tiene una historia muy importante y antigua, relacionada con la selección del cuero que se usaba antiguamente, de venado de un lado y de jaguan del otro.

El ritmo más conocido es el SIRMUY, se toca junto con la flauta. También tiene varios ritmos, y se usa para procesiones, reuniones y para invitar al pueblo al rito. Se mantiene o se encuentra sólo en la casa del tamborero.

#### MATRACA (C'AR C'AR)

Es un instrumento de madera, que provoca ruido al girarlo; se toca exclusivamente en la cofradía de Santa Cruz, donde se encuentra el RILAJ MAAM, y en Semana Santa, cuando lo acompaña. Simboliza el sonido del ave "shara".

#### CHINCHIN (SOCH)

Este instrumento, también precolombino, es exclusivamente usado en bailes ceremoniales, que se ejecutan al compás de sones antiguos. Está hecha de jícara (fruta de jícara). Y por dentro tiene semillas de "Cox", al tocarlo o girarlo, hace un ruido muy especial.

#### CAPARAZON DE TORTUGA Y CUERNO DE TORO (RIJ Y C'O WACAX)

La tortuga es considerada el cuero más duro, dado a que dió lugar a Jun Ajpuub" para recuperar su cabeza, en el campo de juego con los dueños de la muerte, de acuerdo con el libro sagrado Popol-Vuh. Se tocan en ritmo de son, igual que el tambor y el Tun.

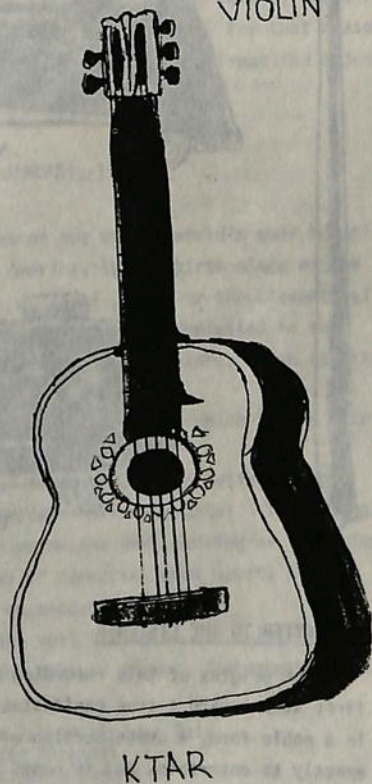
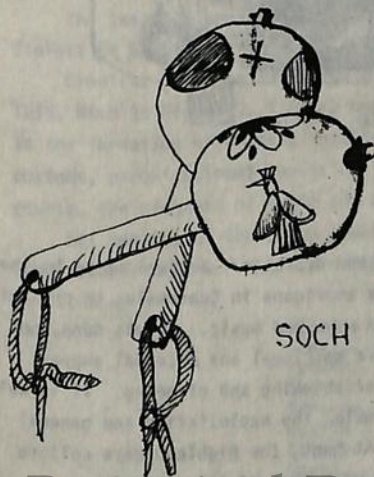
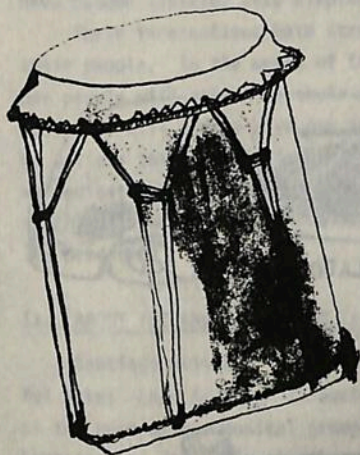
#### VIOLIN (VIOLIN)

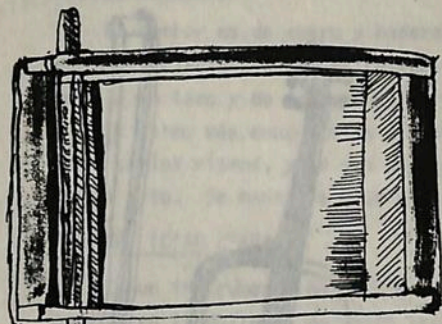
Es un instrumento muy usado por ciertas personas que celebran responsos, principalmente en el día de los Santos o cuando hay un difunto. Acompañado de un triste canto, que es el lamento de los familiares del difunto. El Grupo Tijaax, lo toca siempre cuando la canción es triste.

#### GUIARRA (KTAR)

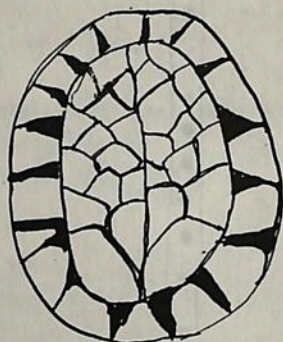
Las guitarras son de cinco cuerdas: prima, segunda, tercera, cuarta y prima. La última cuerda que ocupa el lugar de la quinta, se entona de acuerdo a la cuarta, pisada en el traste séptimo.

Es el instrumento que nunca falta en las cofradías, y en la traída de la fruta desde la costa. Lo tocan casi todos los cófrades, principalmente los ancianos. Generalmente las clavijas son de madera. Los sones más importantes son: Los tres del Rilaj Maam, Los Recibos, Ma Tz'ajte 1 (don palo de pito) y B'iis Oq'iej.

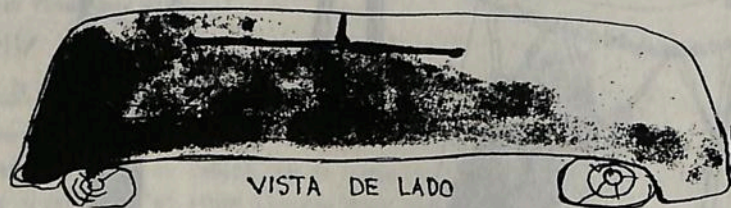




G'AR-C'AR

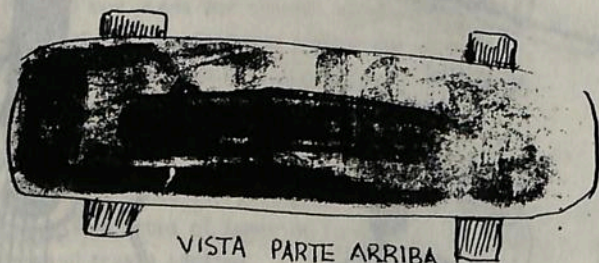


RIJ TORTUGA



VISTA DE LADO

G'UN-C'UN



VISTA PARTE ARRIBA

### I. LETTER TO THE LISTENER

The origins of this recording are involved and dramatic. We feel it to be the first step toward a true manifestation of native americans in Guatemala, to present in a noble form, a cross-section of their sacred ways and music. It was done, not exactly to entertain, but in hopes that a sincere spiritual and material support might arise for their profound traditional way of thinking and of being. It is well known, that after the Spanish Conquest of Guatemala, the exploitation and general destruction tore the heart out of the Indian. At best, the highland maya culture was considered to have been crushed and blended with that of it's intruders.

An ancient story of the Tzutuhil Maya of Santiago Atitlán, relates how a group of superhuman personages, the "Nahual taq Acha" foresaw all that was to come, and assumed the form of the everyday worker. They suffered the conquest and upon seeing their people desperate and degenerating from overwork, shock, and the greed concept of the Europeans, formed a new system of system of deities, many of which were given the names of Spanish Saints to cover up their true "pagan" identity.

The most important divinity created was the "Rilaj Maam". The record jacket shows how he looks as he is revered today. He has many names and functions, but the ancient words, prayers, myths and traditions have been preserved in his keeping. He is a "Diplomat" Deity, keeping the ancient precolombian ways semi-compatible with the European mentality, which has crushed so much of indigenous America. He is the Lord of the ancient traditions, of the Gods which can no longer be seen, but are remembered completely in form and prayer.

Atitlán is therefore called "Rukux Ruch'i liev", which means the heart of the world. These prophets, left their tribe, profecies and incarnations, all of which have become visible, like airplanes, long pants, radios, cars, etc.

Their incarnations have struggled for the improvement and preservation of their people. In the words of the "Ah Cunā", native medicine priests, "Someday our people will return to their magnificence, the ways of the ancients will not be lost. We will openly give our incense and fruit offerings to the lord of Earth". We believe this, and it is the basis of the Group Ju' ljuh Tijaax. For that reason, we dedicate this first step from the dawn to the last Nahual Achá: Francisco Sojwel and his protector spirit, the Rilaj Maam. The God and the Man.  
The producer

MARTIN PRECHTEL

JANUARY, 1978

### II. ABOUT THE GROUP JU'LJUJ Tijaax

Santiago Atitlán, situated on the shores of one of the world's most beautiful lakes -Lake Atitlán- in Guatemala, Central America, is the birth-place of one of the most unique musical groups of our time. Ju'ljuj Tijaax or the Eleventh Liberation was formed in november, 1976, and since then has been dedicated to the musical interpretation of original compositions of ancient composers, known as Atiteco Nahuales.

The language spoken is tzutuhil (pronounced "Sue two hill") which is the main dialect of Santiago.

Credited with the formation of the Ju'ljuj Tijaax are: Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz, Nicolás Miguel S. Rabinal and the northamerican Martin Prechtel. Their ideal is the formation of a solid institution for the promotion and teaching of traditions, customs, organizational, political systems, ways of commerce, work habits and of course, the richness of music and art of their ancestors.

All members of the group speak tzutuhil, are well versed in the culture of their forefathers and their professions vary from that of farmer, fisherman to artist. They are:

Alcalde.....	Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz
Juez.....	Martin Prechtel
Primero.....	Juan Pablo Coquix
Segundo.....	José Pablo Alvarado
Tercero.....	Tomás Tiney Pablo
Cuarto.....	José Cua Simaj
Quinto.....	Miguel Pablo Coquix
Sexto.....	Diego Tiney Pablo
Consejero.....	Nicolás Chiviliu Tacaxoy



girl to her death. The next day, the girl dies before the wedding and the mother cries uncontrollably for her dead daughter, thus the origin of this ballad.

#### IV. ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS

The instruments used in this recording are those used by Atitecos today. They, as their present culture, are a blend of precolombian and post conquest instruments. Each separately has its own use within the religious rituals of Atitlán. The precolombian instruments are:

1. XUL (Shool) CANE WHISTLE OF 6 HOLES. It is used in all public rituals together with the drum. They are never separated. There are innumerable melodies and rhythms, but all relate to sacred functions.
2. K'JOUM DRUM. It was modified after the conquest, but it has retained its importance nevertheless. Along with the flute, it always accompanies important "Co-fradía" rites and processions. It is the symbol of the ancients and all those who have served the tribe in a religious function.
3. C'UN C'UN or TUN - slit log drum. This drum is made of a hard wood log with three cuts in the form of an "H", which has four definite resonant tones. It is the representative of the God of the Earth and his assistants. It accompanies certain images, and all calls for rain and curing.
4. SOCH, Our rattles. These are used exclusively in public ceremonies (Dances: The conquest, Mjicanas, San Miguel Cuy, etc.) It is formed of either jícara o tree gourd with special pellets and seeds.
5. The guitar and violin are obvious post-conquest additions: The violin is used by only certain people in processions and in the death lament. The guitar is a little different than normal. It only has five strings, it has wooden pegs and uses the first string tuned normal. The fifth string is the same calibre as the first, but tuned either to A or D depending on the tune. It creates an interesting drone. As such, all the "sones" are played in either D or A. It is the favorite instrument of the Sorcerer and the Curer and it accompanies all private rites. A very powerful "musical weapon".
6. THE "C'AR C'AR" - MATRACA. This instrument makes a sound very similar to hard falling rain. Its use pertains only to the Rilaj Maam and is used only in his ceremonies during the Holy week. It is of wood and it like a big party crank. It is heard at the beginning the "son" of the Maam.
7. C'O WACUS RIJ TORTUGA - Cows horns and turtle shell. The tortuga is considered to be the "hardest skin". In the Popol Vuh, it is seen how the turtle helped the hero Jun Jun Aj Puub recuperate his lost head. These instruments are used in processions, and are purely percussive.

from Miguel Torres 7-VI-1978

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA

El Centro de Estudios Folklóricos se complace en invitarle a la primera presentación en público del conjunto - JU'L JUUJ TIJAAJ, de Santiago Atitlán, en la Casa Flavio - Herrera (14 calle, 7-46, zona 11), de conformidad con el programa adjunto, el día y la hora allí indicados.

Guatemala, mayo de 1978

Entrada libre

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA  
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS FOLKLORICOS  
CASA FLAVIO HERRERA

CONJUNTO  
JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX  
de  
Santiago Atitlán

PRIMERA PRESENTACION EN PUBLICO

25 de mayo  
20:00 HORAS

GUATEMALA, 1978

La presentación del conjunto JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX es posible gracias a la colaboración de los doctores Miguel Torres y Armando Cáceres, de la Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacia y el Centro Mesoamericano de Estudios sobre Tecnología Apropriada (CEMAT).

Al concluir el programa, los asistentes podrán adquirir el disco que los integrantes del conjunto tendrán a la venta en el vestíbulo de la Casa Flavio Herrera.

PROGRAMA

1. Rilaj Maam (sones)
  - \* Dedicado al Santo Mundo
  - \* María B'atz'b'al (esposa indígena del Rilaj Maam)
  - \* María Castelliana (esposa no indígena del Rilaj Maam)
  
2. Los Recibos (sones)
  - \* Canción del venado
  - \* Canción de la Santa Cruz
  
3. Martín -Señor del Mundo- (son)
  
4. Francisco Sojuel (son)
  
5. B'iis Oq'iej (lamento)

## EL CONJUNTO

Fundado en Santiago Atitlán, departamento de Sololá, en 1976, el conjunto JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX (en español Décima Primera Liberación) interpreta música original de ese lugar.

"Respetar las tradiciones y costumbres no es retroceder ni estancarse; respetar una cultura es dialogar con ella, corregir sus errores y mejorar sus valores".

Con esta divisa el conjunto JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX se propone, además de difundir la música tzutuhil, preservar el pensamiento de sus antepasados, las costumbres y artesanías, los sistemas políticos, el trabajo y el comercio tradicionales.

Los organizadores de este conjunto se llaman Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz, Nicolás Miguel S. Rabinal y Martín Prechtel. Y sus integrantes -todos agricultores o pescadores- son gente conocedora de la cultura popular de Santiago Atitlán: Luis Felipe Vásquez Tuiz, Martín Prechtel, Juan Pablo Coquix, José Pablo Alvarado, Tomás Tiney Pablo, José Cua Simaj, Miguel Pablo Coquix, Diego Tiney Pablo y Nicolás Chiviliu Tacaxoy.

Según las concepciones tzutuhiles, todo tiene su "dueño natural". De ahí que cada ser mitológico tenga "su son" y -

que esta música sagrada se escuche en las cofradías o casas sagradas.

Los sones y lamentos que oiremos durante esta presentación, acompañan siempre el rito en honor de Rilaj Maam (venerable abuelo), conocido comúnmente como Maximón. Este rito se inicia con la entrada del Ajcún (el que busca, rezador), personificado por Nicolás Chiviliu Tacaxoy, un anciano de 93 años que, en 1950, al ocurrir los llamados "escándalos de Maximón", lo rescató e impidió su "muerte".

Con un ceremonial en que se hace uso de candelas, pom, corozo, aguardiente y frutas sagradas tales como el cacao y el pataxte (melocotón), el rito en honor de Rilaj Maam constituye un llamado a los doce formadores y a todas las fuerzas de la naturaleza para que bendigan nuestro camino. El Ajcún, entonces, se hace acompañar del Teleniel, cuya misión consiste en armar al Rilaj Maam y aconsejarlo.

El conjunto JU'L JUUJ TIJAAX usa los siguientes instrumentos: flauta de caña, tun, tambor, matraca, chinchín, capa, razón de tortuga, cuerno de toro, violín y guitarra.

Los tres primeros sones de este programa están dedicados a la imagen del Rilaj Maam.

## LA MUSICA

### RILAJ MAAM

Estos tres sonos, dedicados al venerable abuelo, se interpretan siempre juntos. Simbolizan las tres épocas de la vida humana -niñez, juventud y vejez- y al mismo tiempo la trinidad constituida por el poder supremo, el poder engendrador y el poder físico.

El Rilaj Maam es el dios maya-tzutuhil formado por doce nahuales, está tallado en madera de un árbol conocido como "palo de pito" y tiene numerosas inscripciones cabalísticas del Ajcún. Es considerado señor de la tierra y de la vida, justo juez, reformador social, amigo del caminante, compañero del Ajcún, guardián de lo bueno, médico y procurador del bien común.

Los sonos de esta trilogía sirven para invocar al Rilaj Maam, para pedirle favores y curaciones.

### LOS RECIBOS

Cuando los nahuales formaron y engendraron al Rilaj Maam, hubo una gran fiesta y el pueblo celebró el acontecimiento. En seguida cantó el Ajb'iix (cantor) y dio origen al son denominado Recibo de Santiago o Rxin Msaat (de venado). Otro Ajb'iix creó el son titulado Recibo de la Santa Cruz, que es el quinto del Rilaj Maam. Una vez creados los dos sonos, el Rilaj Maam bailó con las tixeles. Entonces hubo un gran brindis y el Rilaj Maam se alegró muchísimo. Fue el momento en que se fundó -

Tonal y Nagual [DON JUAN - CASTAÑEDA]

la cofradía de Santa Cruz, en cuyo seno se conserva la imagen del Rilaj Maam.

> | Al finalizar los tres sonos, el rezador dijo: -Que no se olvide nuestra palabra, que no se olvide nuestra costumbre, que se grabe en nuestras mentes y en la mente de todos nuestros hijos, nietos, bisnietos y los que vengan después.

A partir de ese día, los sonos quedaron grabados en la mente de los tzutuhiles.

#### MARTIN

Martín es el señor de la tierra y de lo que en ella hay. Cuando el nahual quiere lluvia o la piden los vecinos, va a la cofradía de San Juan y baila a puerta cerrada para evitar que venga el diluvio o el terremoto.

El día de San Martín es el más alegre del pueblo.

#### FRANCISOO SOJUEL

Así se llamó el último profeta que tuvo Santiago Atitlán y a él se debe el perfeccionamiento del Rilaj Maam, mediador entre Dios y los hombres. La gente le pedía que rezara por la lluvia y él lo hacía: fue constructor de la sabiduría, doctor, astrólogo, filósofo y, sobre todo, profeta. El pueblo - le atribuye el son del Rilaj Maam.

Francisco Sojuel fue el líder de los doce nahuales. Encarcelado y torturado en Antigua Guatemala, durante la colonia, se vengó ocasionando el terremoto que arruinó esa ciudad.

Se cree que Francisco Sojuel no murió, porque cuando lo estaban velando alguien lo vio camino de la costa.

Gran procurador del bien común, el profeta Sojuel ayudó a los desamparados y prometió que un día el pueblo alcanzaría todo el poder. | <e

B'IIS OQ'IEJ

Sugiere el llanto de una madre que se lamenta de la muerte de su hija comprometida a casarse con un joven pobre a quien engañó al aceptarle compromiso matrimonial a otro rico. El joven pobre, llorando su amargura en una noche de luna llena, derramó tres gruesas lágrimas que formaron una cruz ante el portón de su prometida. Entonces, después de siete palabras cabalísticas pronunciadas por el burlado joven, la muchacha quedó sentenciada y murió el día de su boda con el novio rico.

Desde ese día llora la madre desconsolada y también desde ese día existe el B'IIS OQ'IEJ.

## LOS INSTRUMENTOS

### FLAUTA (XUL)

Es un instrumento muy antiguo, hecho de caña abundante en Santiago Atitlán y las montañas cercanas. Sólo pueden utilizarlo las personas iniciadas en la costumbre del lugar.

El encargado de tocar la flauta se llama Ajxuul y lo hace con exclusividad en procesiones, reuniones de interés general y entrega de nuevas cofradías.

### TUN (C'UN C'UN)

De origen precolombino este instrumento de madera es hueco por dentro y se toca nada más que en las cofradías, durante los rezos importantes y para pedir la lluvia y la curación de ciertas enfermedades. El ritmo más popular que se ejecuta en el tun es el que sirve para marcar el camino del sol (desayuno, almuerzo, cena): principio de la claridad, sol resplandeciente y oración.

### TAMBOR (K'JOUR)

Hecho de madera y cuero de venado de un lado y de jaguar del otro, este instrumento es también muy antiguo. Se toca en las reuniones, en las procesiones y para invitar al pueblo al rito. El ritmo más conocido que se ejecuta en el K'Jour es el Sirmuy, que se acompaña con flauta.

El tamborero tiene a su cargo la conservación del K'Jour en su propia casa.

MATRACA (C'AR C'AR)

Instrumento de madera que produce un ruido característico al - hacerlo girar. Simboliza el canto de un pájaro azul llamado shara y se toca en la cofradía de la Santa Cruz, en donde se encuentra el Rilaj Maam, y durante la semana santa.

CHINCHIN (SOCH)

Similar a las maracas que se usan en otras sociedades, este instrumento de origen precolombino se toca con ocasión de bailes ceremoniales que se ejecutan al compás de sonos antiguos.

El soch se hace de jícara vaciada y seca a la cual se le pone en el interior semillas de cox.

CAPARAZON DE TORTUGA (RIJ)

Considerada el cuero más duro, se la utiliza para acompañar los sonos, al igual que el tambor y el tun. Se la menciona en el Popol Vuh.

VIOLIN

Es muy usado para los responsos, el día de los santos y ceremonias en honor de los difuntos. Acompaña canciones tristes que simbolizan el lamento de los deudos.

GUITARRA (KTAR)

Tiene cinco cuerdas (prima, segunda, tercera, cuarta y prima). La última, que ocupa el lugar de la quinta, se entona en la cuarta oprimida a la altura del séptimo traste.

Este instrumento no falta jamás en las cofradías ni para la -  
traída de la fruta desde la costa. La tocan casi todos los co-  
frades, principalmente los ancianos.

MYCOLOGICAL HERBARIUM OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

*Erythrina rubrinervia*

fr.

"Palo de Pito"  
Vea mitologfadel  
RILAJ MAAM

LOC. Jardín Botánico, Guatemala

12-VI-1978

LEG.  
y B. Lowy

DET.

*Erythrina*

It is from the wood of this tree that the image  
of Rilaj Maam is carved.

BL

A NEW TREMELLA WITH DECIDUOUS STERIGMATA

B. LOWY

---

EN MEMORIA DE MI QUERIDO AMIGO Y COLEGA  
EL EMINENTE MICÓLOGO MÉDICO  
DR. RUBÉN MAYORGA PERALTA  
10-VIII-1924 - 15-VIII-1976

---

Reprinted from MYCOTAXON 6(2): 371-374. 1977

En recuerdo de nuestro vïepo "Chito"  
Nayoga. Paris 17 de octubre 1978

Sabouraudia (1978), 16, 185-198

J. Mariat

ETUDE D'UNE ZONE D'ENDEMIE SPOROTRICHOSIQUE  
AU GUATEMALA



MAYORGA, A. C.  
O. ÁLVAR  
e Ciencias Quím

François MARIAT  
Professeur à l'Institut Pasteur  
Institut Pasteur

UTIÉRREZ,  
Guatemala et

75 - PARIS (XV<sup>e</sup> Arr<sup>t</sup>)

une zone endém... Lac d'Ayarza au  
Guatemala où 53 malades ont été observés en 5 années... leur infection à  
l'occasion de manipulation de poissons. La maladie a été observée plus fréquemment chez  
l'homme (83%) et chez des individus de moins de 30 ans. La forme clinique la plus fréquente  
a été une lymphangite ascendante mais quelques cas de sporotrichose ulcéreuse ou verruqueuse  
ont été notés. Presque tous les malades ont rapidement guéri, soit par un traitement à l'iode  
de potassium (46 malades) soit spontanément ou après application de chaleur (4 malades).

Des réactions intradermiques ont été réalisées sur des individus sains de la zone endémique  
d'Ayarza et, comparativement, de la ville de Guatemala avec antigènes cellulaires de *Sporothrix  
schenckii* et de *Ceratocystis stenoceras*. La fréquence des réactions positives à ces 2 antigènes est  
plus élevée dans la zone endémique. La fréquence la plus élevée correspond à l'antigène  
cellulaire de *C. stenoceras* sauvage.

Une étude sérologique a été effectuée chez 26 malades. L'immunofluorescence s'est mon-  
trée plus sensible que l'agglutination de levures ou de particules de latex sensibilisées.

La recherche des champignons responsables a permis d'isoler *C. stenoceras* de l'écorce de  
divers arbres, principalement d'*Eucalyptus*, mais non *S. schenckii*.

La sporotrichose est une mycose de l'homme qui se contracte principalement par  
inoculation traumatique au niveau de la peau. Après formation du chancre d'inocu-  
lation peut apparaître une dissémination par voie lymphatique, limitée le plus souvent  
aux tissus cutanés et sous-cutanés. L'agent étiologique est l'hyphomycète *Sporothrix  
schenckii* qui vit à l'état saprophytique dans le sol, sur les végétaux ou sur d'autres  
substrats. Ces divers matériels d'où le champignon a été isolé constituent le réservoir  
de champignon et le vecteur infectant (21).

Dans la quasi totalité des cas décrits on peut rendre responsable un contact plus  
ou moins prolongé avec de la terre ou des végétaux et bien plus rarement des  
morsures d'animaux ou des piqûres d'insectes (20, 21).

La sporotrichose est largement distribuée sur le continent américain (24) où  
elle est considérée comme étant la conséquence de certaines occupations profession-  
nelles ou de loisirs (17, 18). La plupart des cas décrits dans la littérature correspon-  
dent à des cas isolés. On connaît cependant de petites épidémies plus importantes  
autour d'un milieu contaminateur commun de nature très variée (18, 21). Dans  
l'exemple historique de l'importante épidémie du Transvaal (5) où 2441 cas ont  
été observés, les bois utilisés pour étayer les galeries de mines constituaient l'unité  
contaminatrice (1). Dans les régions endémiques où ces épidémies sont observées,  
le champignon pathogène est largement répandu dans l'écosystème.

On a décrit récemment les relations existant entre *S. schenckii* et un *Ceratocystis*,  
ascomycète saprophyte de végétaux qui peut être impliqué dans l'épidémiologie de  
la sporotrichose. Sous leur forme conidienne, ces deux champignons ne peuvent se

\*Mémoire rédigé en hommage au Professeur R. MAYORGA PERALTA qui a été l'initiateur de  
cette étude conduite sous sa direction par ses élèves et collaborateurs.



50 ANIVERSARIO

1922 — 1972

**MUSEO DE HISTORIA  
NATURAL  
Y JARDIN BOTANICO**



Escriba aquí el nombre y dirección del destinatario lo mismo que

sobre el paquete

Dr. Bernard Lowy

Dept. of Botany Louisiana

Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803 U.S.A.

LABORATORIO DE MICOLOGIA MEDICA

7a. Avenida 2-84 Zona 1

GUATEMALA, G. A.

**NOTA:**

Táchense las  
indicaciones que  
no se deseen.

Instrucciones del remitente en caso de no entrega

- a) Que el Paquete sea devuelto al remitente
- b) Que el Paquete se entregue a \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Que el Paquete sea abandonado.