



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

April 3, 1950.

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass

Dear Dr. Merrill:

The fact that I have been a little bit slow in answering your letters, the one from Lancelilla and one just in from there, does not indicate that there was not interest.

Time is getting a little bit short for me down here and Dr. Fopence asked me to try to do some reorganization in the livestock division before I got away so I have had a little more on top of me.

It rather looks like we will try to get up there about the first of May or a little before..

I am sorry to hear that the scrap there widens but perhaps it will be just as well to have it in the open and settled as to have it drag on behind closed doors to no ones satisfaction.

A letter in a couple of days ago extending a cordial enough invitation to use the library facilities of the Bot. Mus. to finish up my ms. on Central American plants. Nothing said about using the orchid herbarium but I suspect that I shall.

My wife is stirring up something about a place to live out in Winchester during the time that we are there. If that goes through I suppose that we will go right out. It will at least have the advantage that she will be out where most of her friends are and she will probably have her days full -- I will do a little commuting, in case she finds a place to live out there, that will be slightly further than from Casa Williams to the science building.

Should the arrangement that my wife is trying to make not go through, which will be convenient enough if it does, then we shall be pleased to accept you invitation for a few days until we can find a place.

Summer is really here. It was 60 this morning at 5:30 and at noon 85. That is much more spread than usually, as you know.

April 14, 1950

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Officials of the botanical congress have not yet assigned a voting delegate to the school or the country, so far as I know, and perhaps do not intend to do so.

If you think that it would be well to have a vote from here I wonder if a note to Skotsburg from you would produce the desired result.

We still have not heard about a ship to New York. Seems that all of them must have sailed about the time that you did.

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

April 14, 1950

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Central America

Dear Dr. Williams:

One of the objectives of this letter is a note that I have just received from Mr. I. H. Burkill, Clova, The Mount, Leatherhead, Surrey, England. He is, as you know, our best or only authority on the Old World species of Dioscorea, and for many years has been intrigued with the under-ground parts of the various species. He says, in connection with an attempt to identify Dioscorea mexicana, that he needs under-ground parts of any and all specimens and wants to know if I can interest some of my correspondents in Central America. He does his work at Kew and made arrangements when I was there a year ago last summer, for the various species of Dioscorea to be grown under glass at Kew; he was then assembling the African species. I wish that you would hang this on the back of your memory and do what you can to help him. I told him that, if I remember correctly, you said that there was only one or two species in Honduras. Perhaps you can arrange to have Dioscorea sent to you from other parts of Central America. *He made valuable tubers.*

By all means, when you come to Boston, presumably in May, plan to stay with us for a few days if Mrs. Williams does not succeed in locating a permanent place of residence. Mrs. Merrill joins with me in this invitation, which is after all a repetition of one extended by both of us earlier in the year.

Keep me posted

I am just out of the Faulkner Hospital. I had a little upset Sunday afternoon and the medics thought I had to have a check-up. I don't think they discovered anything, and I think I know what the trouble is--and I am merely making a guess. Anyway, it is good to be out of the hospital with hospital charges what they are these days. And because the trip to the hospital was a check-up, my Blue Cross membership doesn't help.

Very sincerely yours,

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill
Arnold Professor of Botany, Emeritus

*I've sent a memo to the
re your note for the little box
exchange basis. Wait a bit to
see what they does before
issuing to see how you
outlined. EDM*

rec'd Apr. 24

E. D. Merrill

Arnold Arboretum

Jamaica Plain 30

Massachusetts, U.S.A.



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Central America

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 50
Massachusetts, U.S.A.
April 20, 1950

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Central America

Dear Dr. Williams:

As far as I know, voting privileges at the forthcoming Botanical Congress have not been assigned to any of the units here. I have, however, written to Skotsburg to look into the matter and see that action ~~was~~ ^{be} taken.

I have also recommended to him that the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana be recognized and that the voting privileges be extended to its delegate, which in this case is you.

Very sincerely yours,

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill
Arnold Professor of Botany
Emeritus

EDM:vm

ARNOLD ARBORETUM, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN (30)
MASS.

August 11, 1950

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

At the request of Dr. E. D. Merrill, I am sending you some seeds (fruits) sent from Ponape. The plant is Palaoea falcata Kaneh., a monotypic genus of the Sapindaceae, Palao and now Ponape. The seeds are edible and said to be excellent. A tree. You might be interested in trying to grow them.

Sincerely yours

C. M. Gilman
(Mrs.) C. M. Gilman
Executive Secretary

Louis - Shall we give this seed to George? What is it and where is Ponape? WJ

September 23, 1950

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We have the seeds of Palaoea falcata, which you had Mrs. Gilman send to us. They are being planted today. Thanks.

I am sending you a copy of a photograph which I took while you were signing the register in Linnaeus' house. It should arrive there in a week or two.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Williams

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

Sat . 23 Sept. 1950

Dear Williams:

News in by phone just now, Fernald papped on last night in his sleep. Like Rehder, it was the completion of the last large opus that kept him going, for the Manual appeared while I was in Europe.

Real object of this letter enclosed bargains. Prices very low considering fact that all reserve stock was destroyed at Leipzig! You have the Taxaceae, copy that I presented.

Got home on 16th badly in need of sleep but otherwise OK. Left Prestquick at ungodly hour of 2 AM 15th and reached NY at 6 PM British time (2 PM N.Y. time), and home at 9.30 same day---but I had no sleep except some short vat naps from time I got up in Edinburgh morning of 15th. Really had a wonderful trip. Then too

I brought home the bacon in the form of about 3,000 items---critical notes on Malayan types, very numerous fragments of types or authentic specimens, and actually 250 duplicates of types (Blume, Korthals, Reinwardt, etc. O that I am permitted me to withdraw at Leiden---sometimes there were as many as a half dozen sheets of the same collection in the herbarium!). So I have months of work ahead of me, as soon as I get to the bottom of a tremendous stack of retained mail, for nothing was done with what came to me while I was away except in a very few cases.

I left Boston just as the ~~xxxxxxx~~ botanical fight really started, as I told you, and got into the mess milly-nilly. I get back just as it culminates, for decisions are to be made this week (rather within a week). It is an ungodly mess and forrest for and against have been marshalled for the final showdown. I know enough about the legal opinion to say that it will be rather devastating, and my bet is that the University will reverse itself, or at least so greatly modify the famous new plan that it will be innocuous; that is the split salary will go out of the window, the Director of the AA will be master in his own house, all raids on AA funds will stop etc., etc. Of not I feel that the University will face a suit for breach of trust, and no endowed institution wants to have its dirty linen washed in public! A new building either at Biology or at Gray, may go through, but the wonderful new plan, that doesn't work, will be thoroughly modified---I'd say even to the abolishment of the two new "institutes" which were to batten on the AA funds, and the clipping of the powers of the infamous Council. Well we'll know in a week or so. But are the members of our visiting ~~xxxxxxx~~ Committee wrought up, to say nothing of Mrs. Ames in her antipathy to one individual who smeared her husband! The week has been full of meetings, and they are to continue next week until the showdown, including a call from Cambridge for all members of Biology. Nice plan. The Gray Herb. Visiting Committee abolished over night, not even the Director being consulted, so there could be no protests from that source, but our V.C. was too powerful to be disturbed, and so certain leading members of it were very thoroughly buttered up by advocates of the new plan, and were carefully not told what the real objectives of the new plan were. I've had several long distance telephone calls, (N.Y. etc.) for details and so it goes. Best regards to Mrs. Williams and to yourself

Sincerely 

September 30, 1950

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Curious things do happen now and again. Your letter came in last night with the page torn from Wheldon & Wesley's catalogue in it. Standley and I were sitting at my desk looking at the W. & W. catalogue and checking on the items from the Pflanzenreich when someone brought the mail with you letter which I opened and found the same page we were looking at.

There was a notice of Prof. Fernald's death in the New York Times so I saw it several days before your note.

The flight across the Atlantic is tiring. I had nearly the same one as you did except I got off at Boston. - At Gander there was fog right down on the ground and there was some doubt for a while if we were going to go in there or keep on going with none too much gasoline.

You did better on the trip over than I did on mine although I got quite a lot of things done while in Cambridge and did buy quite a lot of books while in London so the library grew quite some. Has somewhat more than 2000 volumes in it now so it is coming right along.

I have not heard a word about the goings on there since May. I did not even go over to Harvard during the week that I was there on my return. I hope that considerable good comes out of the shake up and would like to know what does transpire.

Next Ceiba is going through the mill now. Should be out in about two weeks. I am going to let them have as much time as they want at the press so that there will be no sloppy printing as last time.

Sincerely,

EDM

ARNOLD ARBORETUM
JAMAICA PLAIN 30
Mass., USA

SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. 30c
POSTAGE



AIR LETTER

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis O. Williams,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Reguigalpa
Honduras

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WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Nov. 26, 1950

Dear Dr. Williams:

I wrote Dr. Popenoe a few days ago, but I've forgotten whether letter went by air or by boat; anyway I mentioned some phases of the botanical difficulties here, indicating that as yet what I said was more or less confidential but that you would be interested. Some phases of what takes place are utterly unbelievable, for the authors of the new plan, now under very heavy attack do not stop at anything. I'm afraid that a cheap ward politician might learn a lot from what goes on in exalted circles at Harvard. Maybe we approach the time when something final will be decided, for another terrific blast on the new deal fortified by still another legal opinion goes to the Corp. this week; and this comes from ~~xxx~~ a member of the Corporation itself; maybe the wolves will sit up and take notice!

Popenoe asked me to come down again this winter, and I see no real reason why I should not do so; for to skip February in Boston is always desirable. But there are some limiting factors which might interfere, for the State Dept has me on the hook (i.e., I am now being processed), for a three months special tour in Europe. I told them that as far as I could see my services would be available, were I selected, yet I strongly suggested that services of a younger individual be sought. Then the Brit. Mus. has a proposal that sounds very intriguing, but nothing definite is decided as yet.

While I am writing, provided you can do what I need without getting into difficulties, and provided the ~~arrangements~~ are still in force, what about this photostat job. There is in the US Dept. Agr. a copy of Koorders, S.H. Supplement op het Eerste Overzicht der Flora van N.O. Celebes, Deel. III. 1922. It is not in the AA library. I want photostats of plates 1 to 127 and the title page (not of p. 2-3, only the plates). These I need badly for insertion into the herbarium, for the Koorders descriptions are very poor and very short; but the plates are good. So I asked that this be done by the AA and got a strong thumbs down, on the basis that I had a personal copy and that this would come to the AA on occasion. I was so damned mad that I immediately altered my will, and made another institution beneficiary of my library, notes, reprints, medals etc., etc. The scheme I originated here by pasting items on the specimen covers has been abandoned, and not even the AA items back to 1945 are in the herbarium, although the clippings were prepared for insertion as the numbers were issued. My own research grants were so far depleted that I couldn't draw on these and further I didn't see any reason why I should use my own funds for the institution, although I now have taken on a high school girl, part time, and I am training her to get the stuff in in the groups and areas in which I am interested.

There was an arrangement, I believe, whereby Latin-American institutions could get microfilms and I think photostats through Washington, on request. Now microfilm won't help in this case---I do have a personal copy, but the darned plates are printed both sides of the paper, so if I clipped I'd have to get 2 copies, and the darned thing (printed privately) isn't to be had from any source. But photostat copy would be wonderful. If the arrangement isn't longer in force, then of course there is nothing doing. If it is in force, either free, or at nominal cost, then I really am interested, for my research grants will stand nominal "cost"; and besides I may have another in my hands shortly as I was actually invited to make a proposal for funds---and this I did last week.

Best regards to Mrs. Williams and yourself,
Sincerely

ED Merrill

PS Rumblings of discontent re. what goes on at the Harvard Forest under the new dictator increase. Staff is now down to Director and one, perhaps two minor assistants, for Spurr left and I understand planted a bomb when he did so. Student body down to one man; and yet there is the income now from \$1,500,000.00! One wonders how far pure and unadulterated bluff will go with down to earth foresters.

December 2, 1950

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plains, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We certainly hope that you come down here and spend a month with us if you find that it will be possible for you to do so and you do not go to Europe. We will have your room well aired out for you by that time. Dry season is on its way and we are beginning to have nice clear days and cold nights. -- It was down to 50 on my porch last night, perhaps in sympathy with what is happening in the U.S. now. I am just as glad that ours is 50 (above) instead of what it might be up there.

I shall be interested in hearing anything further about what may go on up there. I have not heard much except that Reed Rollins wrote that he guessed that there would not be a new building.

I have never used the photocopy service of the U.S. Dept. Agric. library but the system has changed. Latin American institutions are supposed to request what they need through the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba. The cost is very little but I think slightly more than direct from the USDA library to cover the handling charges. -- The inside flap of Bibliography of Agriculture gives this rate: Photoprints, \$1.00 for each ten pages or fraction thereof from a single article or book. -- I do not know what size the photoprints are but I rather suspect natural size.

Incidentally I asked for a bit more money for "library" for this year, \$5,000 and I understand that I will get it. If I do Ceiba will be out in force in 1951. I still have about \$6,000 of the old fund yet unexpended, - can still get a book or two with that and if you wish the photocopies that you need.

I understand the U.F. Co.'s Harvard trained forester is back down here. Oh well.

Sincerely,

FROM EDMUND L.
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA

AIR LETTER



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. & Mrs. Louis Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

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Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Jan. 3, 1951

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Williams:

I have just written to Popenoe explaining very briefly what has happened in my family and that as a result I have almost persuaded Mrs. M. to accompany me to Honduras, to leave here as soon as arrangements can be made. I've got to get a passport renewal but this will be started tomorrow and should not take long. Maybe we can get off by the end of the month if all goes well. I'd stay for commencement etc.

Immediate cause is the sudden death of our youngest daughter Nancy who passed out early morning of Dec. 29 from heart trouble. She was taken first about Dec. 3, and was rushed to the hospital, and recovered apparently so that she was permitted to return to the house day before Christmas. But day after she was again suffering and so on Wednesday morning early she was returned to the hospital, but "went out" in her sleep between 4 and 6 AM on 29th December. But after all one at 29 years of age really shouldn't go out via this route! It develops that she had suffered at times since last June from shortage of breath, but nothing was ever said about it, so we were not quite prepared for the ~~sudden~~ end. Two out of three within six months makes it distinctly hard on Mrs. Merrill. Burial was from the JP church (i.e., cremation) yesterday afternoon. When I left the house about a half hour ago I told her that I was going to write to Popenoe and to you about the possibility of a Honduras trip, and there was no protest, from which I surmise that she is quite willing to break away from the old house for a time. Now I shall have to do a bit of exploring with view to devising ways and means, perhaps, of getting her over to England next summer while I do a lot of work at the British Museum.

With best wishes to both of you,

Very sincerely yours

E.D. Merrill

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL.
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 368
Mass. USA



AIR LETTER

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
HONDURAS

3
26
25
130
22
630

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WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Jan. 8, 1951

Dear Williams:

Your note of Jan. 5 just in. There is no change in our plans, as we are still scheduled to sail from N. on 18th at 4 PM but it won't be the Fra Berlanga as this ship has been diverted to some other run. Do not know the name of the substitute ships yet, but this doesn't matter, as Baker explained it will be on whatever ship sails for banana land on the 18th. Noted in the morning Herald that there is threat of renewal of the NY. longshoremen but this may have no particular effect on outgoing unfruitco ships, even if the strike develops.

Everything here pretty well under control. Passppts, visas (Mrs. M's passport will have to be renewed at the Honduras legation as it expires early in February and I didn't wish to risk sending to Washington because of the time element) etc. I've even more or less laced my large stack of accumulated mail, even if I can no longer work as rapidly as in earlier years. Had a physical checkup yesterday and the medico said nothing against the plan for the Honduras trip. And last few days have been winter, cold, snow, ice and what not. Maybe tomorrow weather will warm up a bit.

Still have some MSS to finish, and plan to bring with me some of my BMC Brussels notes on Roxburgh's Malaysian tapes so as to have something to play with on occasion.

Might be a good idea to get on your work early on reservations north (N.Y. or Baltimore preferred) for the EDM's on same boat you plan to take. Flowershow dates here are March 9-15 but this time I really don't have to be back !

Best to you both,

Sincerely

EM Merrill

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Tropical Documentation

January 11, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We were sorry to hear of Nancy's passing and send our condolences to you and to Mrs. Merrill.

I shall most probably not be here when you arrive in Honduras and I rather expect that Mrs. Williams will not be here either.--I have to leave about the 29th of this month to go down to Ecuador and am trying to argue Mrs. Williams into going with me.

The house will be here and at your disposal, even though neither of us are here. -- This is to be suggested but if it does not meet with your approval you may make whatever arrangements you care to through Dr. Penney. -- You may operate the house just as we do and the servants will be there,-- a cook, a yardboy and a maid-laundress. They are the same ones that we had last year I think so you will know them all. If we are gone when you arrive Mrs. Penney can explain about vegetables, meat, milk and anything else that you want to know about. If this sounds too complicated you may eat in the dining room but that implies rather rigid hours.

You will find your room just as you left it last year and the servants will know where most things are kept that you might need so ask for anything you want.

The cook is a good one and if you do not want to bother ~~xxxxxxx~~ but just let her get what she wants to she will feed you pretty well.

I do not know just how long I will be gone but probably will not be back here until toward the end of February.

You know your way around here pretty well so nothing else occurs to me that you will have to know.

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

Dr. Merrill:

11-5-1951

Frank Williams

If it is not too inconvenient I should appreciate it if you would buy and bring down some film that I need but can not get here. It should be obtainable from Gelottes or any other good camera supply store.

25 rolls of number 120 Kodak Plus X film. If possible it should be tropical packed and be fresh film for I will probably not use it all up for nearly a year.

11 January 1951

Dr Elmer D Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dear Doctor Merrill:

Your letter of the 3rd has just come. We are shocked by the news of your daughters death and all of us extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs Merrill and yourself. We think the very best thing you can do is to come down here just as promptly as you can get away, and to that end I have written the Boston office today, asking that they arrange transportation for you. I have no doubt you will hear from Mr Connelly as soon as my letter is received.

Louis Williams is writing you regarding accommodations here. I do not need to add that all of us will be happy to see both of you and to do all we can to make your stay agreeable.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Tegucigalpa, 11 January 1951

Mr K H Redmond
United Fruit Company
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr Redmond:

Doctor Elmer D. Merrill, member of the Board of Directors of EAP, has visited us these past two winters as a guest of the school. We have received word from Doctor Merrill that he would like to come down again this winter, bringing Mrs Merrill with him.

If you are agreeable, we shall appreciate it if Mr Connelly can telephone Dr Merrill at the Arnold Arboretum and find out just when he wishes to come. He will prefer to sail from New York if possible. The school is of course willing to cover transportation of Dr and Mrs Merrill; as a member of our Board Dr Merrill has been of great service to us, in addition to lending us his prestige in the scientific world.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr Turnbull, who will advise you if he is not in agreement with this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Mr W E Turnbull

EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93,
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Jan. 18, 1951

Dear Dr. Williams:

Your letter of Jan. 11 just in. The film you want is ordered and I'll bring it with me. We do not leave NY until Feb. 10, as the boat on which I was filled. I am just as pleased for the Raup's to go on that for another blurring trip I suppose, and we do not see eye to eye, being one of the architects of our horrible "new deal". Well when the settlement finally comes the AA will most certainly be out from under, and on its own. Now more than rumblings are being heard re. what has been done to the Harvard Forest, which is really unbelievable, considering what its objectives were, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if some of its supporters didn't jump the traces, ask a lot of embarrassing questions and even go to the extent of the vigorous supporters of the AA, for that group says plainly in view of the now admitted "breach of trust" situation, return the institution to status quo ante, or else. And I can't quite see an endowed institution trying to bluff the XS point of view through, as they see the objectives, with a breach of trust suit facing them. Unfortunately the other units effected, and pretty thoroughly wrecked as units, have no powerful group like the backers of the AA to fight battles for them, and besides, their directors are, in gear, and are amenable to what they are told to do. Maybe when I really separate myself from this place I might sit down and write a rather interesting chapter in botanical history.

Horrible new typewriter keep tripping me up.

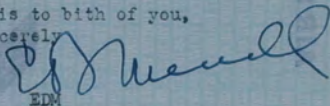
Sorry that you probably won't be in residence when we arrive. Can manage very well indeed without being much of a burden to the servants. Off hand I'd say that it would be best to sort of follow the lines of least resistance and let the cook use her best judgement with merely an occasional suggestion from higher echelons.

No more just now. I'll keep you or Popenoe posted. It was suggested that when the idea of a trip was first broached, that considering all factors, it would be very nice if our daughter in law could accompany us, not to remain, but merely to hat a trip, and to return to NY before we planned to do so. I sort of frowned on it as an imposition, and maybe nothing further will be said. If she went she would of course pay her own expenses. I don't even know whether or not she has a passport and this is probably the way out, for there isn't time, I believe, to get through the red tape of acquiring a passport anyway. Renewal, yes, that is simple.

Now I'll go back to polishing a manuscript for a "filler" for number of the Journal being made up, for the printer is practically breathing down my neck as it were. I have a whale of a lot of matters to attend to between now and the 8th or 9th February.

With best wishes, this to both of you,

Sincerely,



EDM

EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30,
Mass. USA



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams,
Eacuala Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

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Jan. 30

Dear Dr. Williams:

Thanks for your letter and "instructions". Everything is clear and all matters under control, vaccinations, passports etc. et Just notified that we sail on 9th instead of on 10th, and wrote Popenoe accordingly; also that as Raup is on his way down this week that I'm pleased that we couldn't get on same boat and that I don't want to stop in the low country until after being at the Escuela, i.e. Lancetilla, La Lima, etc.

Rumor has it that the AA is "out from under" that devastating council, and that the Director in the future reports direct to the President, but this is only rumor. No final action by the Corporation that I know of. Now "how long" at some of the other units, one of which is very thoroughly wrecked ----i.e., in reference to the work it was supposed to do---and I don't refer to the pretty well wrecked Farlow: I wouldn't be at all surprised if the demands built up from the outside to such an extent that somebody will have a lot of explaining to do.

Hope that you have a fine trip south. But if all goes as it is expected to go will see you in Zamorano before returning. I'm making no "rush" plans to be back here for the Flower Show, and on this trip will be more or less a free agent.

Now I ho back to cleaning up a lots of odds and ends, for time catches up with me, and I still have much to do.

Sincerely

EDM

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

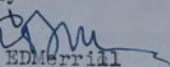
April 18, 1951

Dear Williams:

Here's a "new one" which just came in, and it may or may not contain items appertaining to your area. I'M in a terrible rush. In just 5 hours I take off for Philadelphia, to be away until 29th or 30th. My "rush" is occasioned by a totally unexpected windfall of \$ 5,000.00 (really a pretty good sized grant) which I never asked for nor even hinted I could use, for this means England for me as soon as I can get transport. I may have to work some shenanigans to get on a boat at this late date, but there are ways and means if I can hit the right combination. Fund has no strings on it, for whatever purpose I elect to use it for including the British Museum raid. I suppose I may be away 6 months or even longer. A nice foundation to make such a grant says I; but already among our "friends" on the other side of the Charles eyebrows are raised (I suppose) and the wonder is how it is done. Well I could answer for after all drones are drones in any mans language, and drones simply do not rate. I don't even have to routh this through our accounting office !

So you see I've got to cut this one short. All well here. The long fight not settled. We still degenerate, if farther decline is possible. Mrs. M. came home from Washington and N.Y. on 14th and is well. She could go with me to London and her expenses could be chg. to the nice grant, but decided that she had better stay put here because of conditions in Washington, for her oldest sister may drop out at any time.

Best wishes to you and to Mrs. Williams, el hombre bene aplatanado, and all others including Aninda etcetera,
Sincerely


ED Merrill

April 26, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

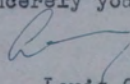
Could you have a generic ^{the} description of ^{a specific} Basiloxylon,
K. Schum., Fl. Brass. 12, 3; 12. 1886 copied for us, and
if by chance there is a plate of it have a photograph
made from it?

I think we have found the genus in Costa Rica and if
so it is certainly an interesting addition to the flora
of the continent.

If it is necessary to make a photograph we should be
glad to pay for it of course.

My regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Louis O. Williams

Who is the sec.-libr.? If TB's standby, my best wishes.
EDM

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

May 1, 1951

Dear Williams:

About the first thing I did on receiving your letter was to look up the Basiloxydon references. Essential parts are enclosed, all data in the Fl. Bras., and the description and essential figures on the plate in the Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Ges. (there was no habit picture, only details of the fls and fruits etc). There is about two pages of discussion in German in the Berichte paper which I didn't have typed but can do so if this be needed.

Typing is by a high school girl that I hire from my research grants (I have no clerical help from the AA)I.

Sorry to hear of the passing of that attractive little pup---never expected that I'd really like the breed, but Susie was some dog.

Nothing definite of trip across; waiting for better half to say yes or no, and today I practically told her the dead line had arrived. I've got to get busy on reservations etc. and it makes a difference whether or not one or two be involved.

Expect to see Popenoe at the annual meeting of the Bd. of Directors next week.

Our "fight" not settled yet, but all plans for the new building abandoned (after, I hear, spending about \$ 50,000.00 for architect's services---for the plans were drawn, redrawn, done over and God only knows how many times. Gosh, I could do some botany with that amount that has gone down the drain.

I'll keep you posted in movements, but I cannot get away before mid-June; there is a very distinguished honor coming up on June 12, and I must be present to receive it. The grant I got came "out of the blue" , \$ 5,000.00, for I never applied for a grant and never hinted that I could use one. So after all there is some balm in Gilead.

Trying now to finish that Jack manuscript on which I did quite a bit of work while putting in time at Zamorano, but I run into plenty of difficulties. Jack's descriptions are remarkable good, but monographers have given them too little attention. Got all his new genera placed, and most of his species descriptions are correctly (I am sure) tied up to actual specimens; and this in spite of the loss of his Sumatra collections when the "Fame" burned.

Best wishes to you both and to el hombre bien apKlatanado. Pop wrote that he was sending Mrs. in to Teguc. on a sort of rescue expedition day or so after you all started off for Lake Yojoa.

Got to stop, and get home for dinner; for the absolutely quiet building reminds me that all workers have long sunse left.

Sincerely


EDM

May 5, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Harvard University,
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Thanks for your recent letter and the book catalogue of the new firm in England. We found a couple of items which we would like to have, but the prices are terrific, two or three times what most dealers ask.

I am very glad to know that you got the good grant which you can use to go to the British Museum. It would be nice if Mrs. Merrill could go over there with you for the summer. Winters in England are liable not to be much fun from now on.

The rains have started about two or three weeks early and we have had two good ones already. They put an end to the fires.

I presume you have seen Dr. Popenoe and maybe eaten a lobster or two with him.

My regards,

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

May 8, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Harvard University
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We have just received the sketches and letter press from the Flora Brasiliensis on genus *Basiloxydon*. We are very glad to have this material. We have a species of this genus from Costa Rica, undoubtedly new, and also the genus is new to North America.

If you cannot get boat reservations across to England may I suggest that you fly. As I recall plane fare is less than boat fare to England, and the cabins on the big planes are pressurized so there is no difficulty about no oxygen content in the air. The only difficulty is that it is a long tiresome flight. I think about 12 hours from Boston to London.

I am enclosing a photograph with this letter that I should like to have you give to Mrs. Merrill.

My regards, I am

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

ED Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA



SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. AIR MAIL
PAYROLL SAVINGS

AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. L.O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

May 29, 1951

Dear Dr. Williams:

Too bad about Susie but I suppose just one of those things. Our "Susie" the hamster still goes strong.

The Pops didn't get out---or rather they did drive through the AA with Mrs Earbour, but they didn't drop in at the office---maybe they were here after office hours, but then I'm usually about until about 6 PM. If they had looked me up I'd have shown them the famous Dove Tree ("avidia"), in full bloom this year for the first time in 20 years---all because of the relatively warm winter, no killing of flower buds. For the same reason the bloom on everything unusually good this season.

We are off for NY on 25th June and sail on the Mauretania 26th June for Southampton, so my nose will be buried in the dry stuff at the B.M. by July 4th. She has reservations back on the Britannia, about 25th Sept. I have a ticket home, but no reservation---will make one when I get settled and have some kind of an idea as to when I will get cold enough to long for the heated houses of Boston. Maybe be near the end of the year before I say quits.

Time catches up with me. Have a half dozen items I am trying to finish before taking off, but I'm sure that I can't do all of them--after all there is less than a month to go, and I've got to take a couple of days off for the Yale 250th commencement when they hang a hood on me.

Another vast legal opinion in, the 4th, in the AA versus Harvard case. Now it won't be settled before next fall, and maybe after all the devil will be to pay if certain things be attempted. To add to the joy of nations, the little man at Petersham has apparently got himself fixed for an investigation, for Spurr has been raising hell, and has sent quantities of stuff on the wrecking of the H.F. to its "friends" and the Visiting Committee, and some of them are "all het up"; and a group of four are off shortly, including the lawyers, to take a look see at what goes on. No staff, one student, the school discredited by the Forestry Assn., no dean of any Forestry School will send students for advanced training, and there you have; and it isn't a question of money for the Stillman gifts amounted to more than \$1,000,000.00 addition to endowment. Too bad he went out at the time he did, for the wreckers would never have dared to do what has been done had he been around.

So with the AA fight, and it is a fight to the finish I am sure, plus the developing one at Petersham, and, I suspect, complaints from other units, maybe our new deal will finally realize what it is up against. The H.F. "bluff" is the biggest of its kind in our botanical history.

I have an idea ~~xx~~, as to strategy, that the scheme will be to try to get a signed statement from higher echelons that nothing like what now goes on will be attempted in the future, and if this doesn't come out, than that a friendly suit be brought to see what the court says (as in the famous Gordon McKay bequest), so as to get a court decision, not merely a legal opinion, with the threat in the back ground of suit for breach of trust.... a sort of "or else" situation.

I planted a garden and the stuff is just bursting out of the ground---so are the weeds. Mr King (Sax greenhouse assist) with his new wife will occupy the house during our absence, which is good for us and very nice for them. We are both well.

Best wishes to both of you,

Sincerely

E. O. Merrill

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL.
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

June 8, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We were glad to have your letter and to know that the trip to England is now definitely set and that you will be going in a short time. We both hope that you will have an enjoyable time over there.

Apparently the Popenoes were pretty well tied down while in Boston. I had a letter from Dr. Popenoe and he said that they had got to see almost nothing and that he did not even see the Arboretum except for a hurried drive through the grounds. He says that he will be glad to be back down here where he can get a little rest -- but there is not going to be much rest for him for a while after he gets back down here.

Glad to have the news about the botanical institutions. It drags on and on. I am not too surprised about our small friend at the forest. My opinion of him never was very high - could hardly fill his small-sized britches.

The rains have started and we are having some beautiful weather. -- Rua and I are going to walk up to San Antonio tomorrow, stay overnight and come back down Sunday. Things are all green now and all of the smoke is out of the air. Fires were bad this year.

Hurrah for the new hood that you are being given at Yale. Seems that that is getting to be quite a habit with you. I should like to see the newspaper account of it if you can get an extra copy.

Next Ceiba is on the press. It is dated June 15. I have started volume two (without finishing vol. 1) and my long paper on the Orchidaceae of Mexico. There will probably be about four number of more or less 100 pages each. -- The second number is also being printed but it will be dated ahead a couple of months.

With my regards, I am,

Sincerely,

EDM

Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain,
Mass. USA

JUN 12 1961

SAVE THE
BUY U.S.
SAVINGS



AIR LETTER

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis O. Williams,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD



SECOND FOLD

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

June 12, 1961

Mr Williams;

Well the Yale hegira is over; got home at 7.30 PM yesterday. Was a very nice and impressive function. The 250th anniversary was celebrated by conferring doctorate degrees on 25 selected scientists, all fields, from the higher echelons. I think that Dr. Urey was the youngest one honored, and he isn't exactly a spring chicken, and the oldest, John Dewey, somewhat over 90. I was the sole representative in the field of plant science, and probably some of our admirers in the city across the Charles may raise their eyebrows a bit. Well, patience. What I may get out of it, aside from certain personal satisfaction is probably an opportunity I may have in the future, as a Yale alumnus, of subscribing to the Yale memorial fund. The basis of selection was one man for each 10 years of Yale's history. If T.B. were alive he would probably make a crack about my being associated with a certain institution in partibus infidelibus, Harvard being Harvard and Yale being Yale.

That "citation" about our small friend, the pseudofoster was very pat, even better than Sax's reference to "the little man". Little in all respects of the world. Well I'm sure he will have some uneasy hours this week. Two organizations, and powerful ones, are up in arms, and both have appointed special committees to look into what has happened, and is happening, at the HF and this week (tomorrow I believe) the first committee journeys to Petersham. One of the members frankly told me that they were after higher game--- in other words, the administration at the level immediately below the president is to be a real target. Maybe as matters get settled and the dam falls, certain elements in the administration will stop, look, and listen---I don't have to name names. Last week came the report (authentic) that the opposing groups of lawyers had gotten together on the AA situation and that the famous or infamous "quid pro quo" had been thrown out of the window; so the chips fall from the famous structure that the new dealers so carefully built up, and it is apparently in the cards that the tremendously over-developed administrative machinery will fall of its own weight. They will have no funds with which to operate, I mean, the two ill-starred "institutes" for the large income of the AA will be closed to them. Farley told me that one thing that his powerful group would insist upon would be a signed agreement that at no time in the future will the AA funds be subject to raid from across the Charles---not those exact words, but that meaning. But the poor old Gray, the poorer old Farlow, and the Museum have no one to fight for them, and so they are all more or less down and out. Even Miss Schubert flatly refused to accept appointment at the Gray, which, to me, sort of shows how the wind blows. Poor old ACSmith. I have passed on to him from time to time "statements" that he is supposed to have made (these all "imaginary" ones). The last was through IMJ to effect that ACM immediately funneled all data he received to the little group in Cambridge to fortify them in their fight against the AA. You can't believe anyone here I take it! So in passing this morsel on to Smith for his edification I quoted O. Henry's translation of a well known Spanish phrase, figure it to yourself!

The few remaining days aren't long enough. I still have many matters to attend to before leaving in 25th for NY? I clean up one desk, and litter up another to take its place. There is no end in sight.

Best regards to you both,

Sincerely,
E. M. M.

3 OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL.
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

AA June 18, 1951

Dear Williams:

Late this afternoon to sort of equalize the pressure I scanned our Albizzia material in hope that I could match the enclosed fragment which you took off the one sheet in the ~~Exp~~ E&P herbarium. Planted at La Lima.

As far as I can tell with no fls, this matches a specimen (no fruits) 8500 Jack, from the Soledad garden, distributed as Albizzia chevalieri Harms, no fruits; and Harms didn't describe the fruits only the fls. Seems to agree pretty well with his descr.

So my guess is that seeds that produced the Dunlap tree in La Lima came from Soledad, and that probably the sp. is A. chevalieri. But I can't prove it. And we have with us that wonderful group of so-called botanists in Cambridge who do not believe in building up reference collections---killed the Farlow (no more stuff to go in I understand---this is hearsay), the Gray to be greatly restricted. The Bot. Mus. down to one orchidologist with a Director who is violently opposed to herbaria and systematics as such (and when he sent out that wild goose chase to find the original maize, I understand the collector was forbidden to collect any herbarium material; anyway in the 1945 discussions before the Bailey plan came up for consideration, the so-called Director told me that). And the AA is down to three which you know but probably not as well as I do. All I can say is that if the power that be had planned to kill off the systematics work at the AA they couldn't have done better than making the selection they did to head up the work. Unbelievably bad. Nobody trusts anyone else, and the underlings can't say a word, or don't dare to. They fill my ears on occasion when matters become too bad.

Tomorrow PM the two lawyers on the AA side interview me for gunpowder I suppose. John Ames asked me to draw up a plan for the AA which will be demanded by the Corporation when they get around to vote on the acceptance or rejection of the Bailey plan; and so I talked with Sax, went over his plan, then wrote another one which basically is the same as the one Sax drafted. Only 2 pages. But then I took my hair down and wrote a general report on what goes on and why, what the result has been to date, and what the results to date will probably lead to, basically that the Bailey plan will be the rock on which Harvard's Botanical Empire will be wrecked. Am I pleased that the Harvard Forest comes under increasingly heavy criticism. Maybe some of our so-called leaders will stop, look, and listen.

I have got to the point that when I clean up one desk by transferring most of the stuff to another one, I seem to be getting nowhere. But just on top of my other troubles today came my authority from probate on Nancy's affairs, and I have three months in which to submit an appraisal; all this means it must be done now. So most of today went into this effort, and short of getting some corroborative data, it is now finished. We will get off for NY on Monday, 25th; but when I get on the boat I'll probably feel like "holeing up" for a few days. It is always so when one has so many irons in the fire as I have.

Sincerely

W. A. D. H. A. N.

July 9, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill
British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road
London S. W. 7, Inglaterra

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Thanks for your letter which you sent just before you left to go to England. We appreciate having your comparison of the Albizzia with the material in Arnold Arboretum.

I hope that your trip across the Atlantic was smooth and that you enjoyed the few days of rest that it would afford you.

I imagine that there will have been several decisions made around the botanical "empire" by the time that you return there. I think that I may go up there next spring, - but I will probably see you down here before I go there.

Rua and I walked up to San Antonio and stayed over the week-end. Rarely have I seen such gorgeous days during the rainy season as we had. Both of us got our share of sun burn from being out more than usual. -- We were sitting on the porch reading when Dr. Galvez wandered in to sit a while. This is perhaps the only place I know where the president of the country could do such a thing. The local gente began getting their coats out of mothballs and putting on their white shirts, but fast! There has been no warning that he was to visit there that day.

The beginning of the "Orchidaceae of Mexico" is out. One 98 page issue has gone out and another will be printed this week but not distributed until August. It will probably take two more of them to finish up the paper.

Sincerely yours,

Louis O. Williams

April 16, 1951

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for your letter of April 10. You know I have an idea that if you, on occasion, merely happen to mention that students benefit fund and what it is used for to selected representatives of that great group (Fulano de Tal) who spend a day or two (or more) with the Popenoe's or at the school with no expense to themselves, that you might pick up quite a bit of loose change in the form of dollars! One doesn't ask for donations; just casually discuss the fund and how it is built up in the course of conversation and let it sink in. Now I never asked Moxie Stillman for funds (except on the first occasion where I got turned down), but when I casually mentioned some project and didn't even hint that funds were needed, he would get the idea and if the item appealed to him in any way shape or manner he would volunteer to write a check; or would send one with no covering letter but merely a scrawl to effect that the money was to be used for such and such a purpose. Think this over, and when the proper well healed individual comes along try the tune on your piano; but **NEVER ASK FOR DONATIONS**.

Now there is a saying that it never rains but it pours, or words to that effect. On March 29 a letter was written in NY addressed to me in Zamarano notifying me that I had been made the recipient of a grant of \$ 5000.00, which I had never asked for. The matter of funds for that British Museum task was being worked on in Washington and at the London end, with the idea, of course, of certain federal funds which are available; but which are badly entangled in red tape. About a week ago Harold Coolidge of Washington dropped into the Guggenheim office just to see if he could pick up any ideas as to potential sources of funds. As I had not then "accepted" the \$ 5,000.00 grant (not knowing anything about it) Coolidge was not told what had happened, but copies of the correspondence were immediately sent to me in Boston. When I opened the letter I pretty nearly fell through the cement floor for although I have done a lot of work for the Guggenheim Foundation I had made it perfectly clear two or three years ago, in spilling my ideas about a broadened base for making grants, that I had no intention whatever of approaching the Foundation. I did mention three cases (all happened to be here) where a continuing grant for 2 or 3 years would produce results. For vast collections had been made on the basis of grants made for a year in the field, but then all work stopped because the grantee was so placed and so buried in teaching, that he could do nothing on his collections after his return from the field. One case was five seasons in the field in northern Canada, the first one going back nearly ten years; and to date nothing has been done with the vast collections! Do you think, in this case, that I would approve a grant to that particular pack rat so he could finish his task. NEVER, for there are limits. E. B. Wilson knew of my situation, for he had asked me to make appl. for a modest grant from Bache funds (he is chm. of the Bache fund committee). This I got (\$ 1200.00); but I had given him the details as applied here. He mentioned the matter casually at the final meeting of the selective committee on Guggenheim ~~xxxxx~~ applicants, and so the group went into a huddle and acted; and the Trustees approved and EDM has \$ 5000.00 to spend at his discretion on any project that may intrigue him on Indo-Malaysian Philippine botany, with a special annotation to effect that any part or all may be used for the British Museum project. I say it is pretty nice. Our "admirers?" friends in the other side of the Charles raise their eyebrows and wonder why. Well I could tell them that in any man's language a drone is a drone and drones do not rate support financial or otherwise.

Hope Helen retrieves Paul" successfully. Too bad that he

doesn't confine himself to bananas---Taking a lead from T.B.
I characterized him as un hombre bien aplanado, and Williams
as un hombre bien habichualado

May 8 is the set date for the annual meeting of the Bd. of
Directors of the Escuela Agr. Panam. Do we see Popenoe in attend-
ance. Is there anything that you wish me to mention or to stress?

I tacitly assume that you may not make the trip merely for this
function but that if you happened to be near Boston on that date
for other purposes you would automatically attend.

Best regards to both of the Popenoe's from both the Merrills;
Mrs. M. Got home from Washington and N.Y. evening of the 14th as beca-
of my grant I told her to step on the gas because we had some very
important decisions to make immediately. She to go with me or stay
put; reservations (which are had to get); shall we retain or give
up the house at 960 Centre St.---may have to give it up anyway as
Sax insists that he is fed up with administration and insists on being
relieved of the directorship; so we will have a new director and
doubtless he will want the director's residence.

FIRST FOLD

AIR LETTER

EMMerrill
Attila Johnson
damica P. in 30
Mass. USA

APR 16 02
3 30 PM '02

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Reguigalpa,
HONDURAS

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



SECOND FOLD

Held for Dr. Popenoe
1. 22

April 23, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill,
Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Dr. Popenoe put your long letter of April 16th on my desk yesterday, not saying whether or not he answered it, and I presume he did not.

Dr. Popenoe left this morning to go to the coast and should arrive in Baltimore and thence on to Boston within a few days. I am sure that he will get in touch with you as soon as he comes in. The fact that he is coming to Boston will answer most of your urgent questions in your letter.

Personally we shall be glad to know what you plan to do the coming year when the plans are made. I was very glad to hear that you have gotten a grant of \$5000 for study of some of your pet projects at the British Museum.

With my regards to both Mrs. Merrill and yourself, I am

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

December 2, 1951

Dr. E. D. Merrill
British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road
London S. W. 7, England

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your room will be all ready for you whenever you wish to come and occupy it.

The transportation will be requested from Boston probably today and I imagine that by the time that you are back from England it will be in order. I just saw a copy of the letter of request.

I would like to suggest that you come down in January, just as soon as you can attend to the absolutely necessary. The weather will be nice here but a little chilly (considerably better than Boston at that).

The reason for asking you to come early is that we plan to go to the States right after graduation. Graduation is the first of March this year. I want to do a little work in Cambridge then go out to Chicago to do a little checking up. -- We plan to get a station wagon somewhere along the route and from Chicago will go out west and visit the various relatives. From there we plan to go south, down through Mexico and probably spend a couple of weeks seeing a little of the West of Mexico which we have not seen then drive on down home, getting back here about in time for school to start again.

Mrs. Merrill could perfectly well come down if she wishes to do so. The request for transportation will cover here. As she knows there is not too much to do here but we will take good care of her. Rua has a new pup (a brother of Susie's by a different litter) that she may teach to do tricks.

My old radio is getting a little bad. Would you mind bringing me another if I have it delivered to the boat that you come down on and put into baggage room. It could be unloaded as baggage here and if the customs takes it then you forget it and let the company get it out for me. I would not anticipate that there would be any difficulty.

Roxbury, Nov 24

Dear Willbraut:

The time approaches when I'll be on my way back, but December 15 will be here before I know it. I've turned up so many "leads" that I would like to stay here indefinitely so that I could search some of them. Now that final settlement of the Trans-Charles war, has been postponed to 1902, I'm really very sorry that I don't have but a year rather than but six months only; now I have to go back to the terribly depressing Arnold Arboretum, for what the bicycle boys in Cambridge have done to that once reasonably productive institution (plus all the other work) has set it back indefinitely; and as a result there isn't a shred of morale left and nobody cares express an opinion to any one else but fear that it will be distorted or misinterpreted. It is really a hell of a situation. But it may clear up, although it will take years to rebuild what has been so casually cast away the window!

Now I'd like to get away from the place for a month or so in February-March; the sooner the better as far as I am concerned after Feb. 1. First, then, if I can get back here next spring (my Supperherm grant, well, never) maybe in the interim I can over significantly inefficient to manage (not with brains) administrative work, which may permit something constructive to be done. Whoever dreamed up that controlling Biological Council certainly had a magnificent for now all the productive botanical are dead or retired (well not a retirement) and the nice group of now productive would rule the roost! What has happened? And to return to the status of a part-time provincial institution in the field we are interested. So won't you send a short note to Person (will save me writing two letters) and if he is still a good Samaritan he could write the necessary letters & immediately I receive them in Boston I can get the people in the Boston office working on Trans-Charles war New York (to save long train ride south).

There is another reason which I am not advertising. The mother-in-law home so please tell her confidential. The morning of 15th Nov. I had some kind of an attack about 5 PM which more or less flattened me out for five days. I remained in bed all this time because I was very restless on my feet if I got up. Had very excellent medicine. I thought I had thromboses; he says no that it was due to a nerve spasm and I think he was correct in his diagnosis. He has since reduced my high blood pressure. But he says that I must not drink such

Long hours and has prescribed a
rest in the middle of the day, 20 min
down to 4 PM to 12 M and 2 in 2 PM to
5 PM. absolutely.

Tomorrow I (Sunday) go to Cheltenham
for the last scene (as far as I am
concerned) with the new crop of the
code. In attendance will be Dr. Mrs.
Seymour Langdon Stapleton (who
was 20, is secretary), Rogers, Basini
and 18 PM. So Monday and Tuesday
will be very stupid days for me
but I'll get through and I believe, pretty
much the old code in detail (I'll
in some terrible English in the breakfast
code in short). I shall return on
late afternoon train Tuesday, Mr. Sars of
my welcome by the Phlegm as I
got Stapleton to bring on my account
a kilo of nice Dutch butter and
butter is very strictly restricted here.

I got on the Great Western, Dec 15
from Southampton & wife has been
for Christmas. Even then at home
under control. Mrs. M. went back in
late September dressing London cab.
But here it is and now, a lowest
time! registered in London is 40 and
he got to turn on any heat in my
room! Attended Hunter Lecture at
Birmingham (Birkell) last Thursday but
Birmingham House will not see me at the
strictly formal presentation reception
early in December!

Hope this finds you with everything
under control & that all goes well
with both Mrs. Williams and yourself
the Roberts's, at all times.

Sincerely E. Mearns

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Dr. Louis O. Williams

Escuela Agrícola

Panamericana

Tegucigalpa

Honduras

Sender's name and address:-

E. Mearns

107 St. Vincent Street

Birmingham B5

Cromwell Road

Birmingham B5

→ To open cut here

↑ To open cut here

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

London Dec 11

Dear Mr. Williams:

This must be a "full" letter because in trying to
"chill up" my mind here and time catches up with me
from boat train leaves at 5.30 AM. on 15th Dec. (Thurs-
day) in your letter and thanks to all concerned
(Dobson at al.). I've sent it on to Mrs. E. H. but she
to digest and will write you from Boston as soon as
I know anything definite. She will have a "house
problem" to solve etc., which is my reason for
sending you letter by air mail.

Matters will under control here and I won't take
me long to really finish up. I've enough notes to keep
me going for another like time; but old man time
put his finger on me November 15 and as a
result the medical belt me in head for five days
(not so good), so I must slow down and take life
more easily. Details later.

Yes, I'm afraid that what you said about the
E. H. B. versus the G. H. is true. What a wonderful job
of unweaving the tangled web! After all
Dr. Schultze also (and her real business as a taxonomist)
she was offered an abt. at the Gray at \$2500.00
(less than an ordinary laborer, now \$4000.00 who can
run a lawn mower at the Bot.). She left in August
& now has a job in Brussels under one Van Cappelsteen
agency (head of which told her he had never ~~seen~~
heard of Brussels) and George Taylor offered her a
permanent abt. at the Bot. (only she moved leave
to become a British subject in 5 years or ~~less~~ less.
Is working at Belgian Congo Department etc. But I'm
pretty sure another U.S. D.P. not but a rather less serious

as I was written to his last address
+ his former wife that an inquiry
came to the B.A. so obviously some
thing is cooking. Quoted him
his letter of Dec 8.

"Last winter when I abolished
my basket habit to E.C.A. I was
notified in abstract that they had
never heard of Brussels. It is now
about time for them to have
caught up. I think your letter was
probably sent so that they could observe
the habit I have been
observing for the last 5 or 6
months." No it wasn't E.C.A.
but some other dogwood
moving in economic matters (well
little dogwood and no more)

Best wishes to all - Let some
starch in suitable papers in
preparation for clearing up
my table

Sincerely

E. Merrill

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



MISSISSIPPI TO BELIZE, B.M.

Mr. Louis C. Williams

Escuela Agricola Panamericana

Tegucigalpa

Honduras



Sender's name and address



To open cut here

To open cut here

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

London Wednesday
Dec. 12

Dear Louis:

It's a matter of age I suppose, but when I wrote you yesterday I clean forgot to mention that radio. Of course I'll be glad to bring it along as baggage if it can be delivered to the boat marked for me. I'll ask you postal as to time and boat & please re-departure (preferably New York) by telegram if necessary. So go ahead and get your order in and ask me posted.

I won't fill this sheet as time catches up with me and there is much I still wish to do. Went to Council office this morning for final arrangements and so all I have to do now is to be sure to connect with the boat train out of Liverpool Station at 8.27 AM on Saturday the 15th.

Best to you, Paul, Amanda it also the kids & Stanley etc - you must put Stanley before the kids!

Sincerely

Edm

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
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WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL



MISSSENT TO BELIZE, B.H.

Dr. Louis C. Williams

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana

Tegucigalpa

Honduras

Sender's name and address >



<- To open air mail

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EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis C. Williams

Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa

Honduras

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WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

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FIRST FOLD



SECOND FOLD

Dec. 31, 19515

Dear Williams:

Your letter of Dec? 24 in this morning, and before I left the house came a phone message from Mr. Connolly to effect that reservations had been made of the Gra Berlanga from N.Y. sailing Jan. 18. am sending him passpp~~pp~~for visaa and other required papers today. Don't know just what date we~~XXX~~ are due but the UFCO has its own methods of spreading information

I've seen enough damp weather in England to last me for xx some time, so an unusually dry dry season with you has no terrors, especially if there be an occasional bottle of cervesa or its equivalent

Two items really interested me, one that the orchidsof Mexico was finished (my congratulations), and the other that Don Pablo had keepe pretty close to the straight and narrow way for six months of so. My best wishes to him and tell him that when I arrive I'll help him reduce~~xx~~ the excess banana crop

More in detail we are both coming and one the form I had to fill out I put in an extra piece~~xx~~ of baggage for that radio in case your present one gets temperamental again and you decide to get a new one. I'll automatically check at the baggage office in NY. and if there be such a thing in evidence properly parked I'll connect with it and bring it along.

Curious thing about that upset I had in London that it has so badly effected my ~~xx~~finger system of typing that I am threatening to revert to illegible script

When I telephoned for reservations I said any boat from N.Y or Baltimore after Jan. 15, as there are various matters that I must take up (including income tax returns) . And I wan to get no notes and data on Roxburgh's Malaysian types into sh~~xx~~peso that I'll have something to play with ~~xx~~ while I am withstanding the rigors of the winter climate at ~~xx~~Manarano.

Best wishes from us both to you and to Mrs. Williams, and to the Popenoes.

Sincerely

Ed Merrill
EDM

EDM
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA

AIR LETTER



VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Jan. 11, 1952

Dear williams:

I think I wrote you a day or so ago about the ship, the Ulua, from NY 3 PM 18th to Corbes via Barrios (so Havana is "out."). But as I normally no longer keep carbon copies of my notes and letters, and my memory occasionally slips clogs, I thought I'd better repeat on receipt of your letter of "Dec. 5, 1952" which I judge to have been Jan. 5, 1952. Post cards aren't so good here either, as the one cent card is a thing of the past (now 2 cents). Maybe this will cut into the mail advertising so possibly I can reduce the size of my waste basket!

So all that remains is to watch for the arrival of the Ulua; when we get to the airport (Teguc.) I'll look about being warned that you probably won't be able to come in because of classes.

I must concentrate on various jobs needing attention having got through my annual tail spin by finishing Income Tax form yesterday (but Monday I'll have to go to the State office to get them to fill out the forms; I never did understand the crazy pattern. But mail still comes in and I must clean up my desk, finish a manuscript, and assemble the Roxburgh data to take with me---but I still have five d even if I can't work at high speed, and no longer work overtime.

Best wishes from both of us to Mrs. W. and yourself, and hasta la vista,

Sincerely

Edmund Merrill

EDM

Nice & wintry, ground covered with
soft snow, cold & breezy & more
cold weather forecast. So AD will
be nice to take advantage of
a fine day in Tegucigalpa and fresh in
a caba ceremony!

Em

May 20, 1952

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Williams:

Letter just in from Mexico (Mrs. W. to Mrs. M) reminds me that you are soon due in Zamarañoff June 1 is the objective (maybe it isn't) but assuming that it is I thought that I really ought to get busy and write. It is really a joint letter as the better half is more or less down apparently from eating a fish chowder I made last ~~Sat~~ Friday (16th), but she should be back on her regular canary bird diet within a day or two. I had to be in NY on 15th, going down on 14th and returning on 16th as at its annual meeting the NYBG Board conferred on me its Distinguished Service Award.

We have had a very nice spring, and the AA is now at its peak of attractiveness. We judge that from the occasional post card received that your long trip has gone off well (at least as far as Mexico) and once over the hump of that enforced RR trip getting into Guatemala, the rest should be simple.

The botanical cold war suddenly flared into a distinctly warm one when the legal opinion (combined opinion of two of the best legal outfits in Boston) was published a few weeks ago. It is a beautifully prepared document of about 90 pages in which the Bailey report and the legal opinion of the attorneys for the University are both dissected very finely -- in fine that the AA is a highly restricted trust, and that the trustees cannot utilize any of its income for its desired ends short of a court ruling, and closes with the recommendation that if the University insists on the present status, it must take the matter to court. Curiously they did this in the Botanical Garden case, but never in the Bussey (also a tight trust), the AA, nor the Farlow. But two of these units had no friends at court, and the AA has a very powerful group of supporters. I don't suppose that the matter will be settled before fall, as whatever the Corporation finally decides to do, re-unscrambling the eggs, will have to be approved by the Overseers, and the latter group meets only twice a year. In the meantime nothing can be done regarding any appointments where the AA is concerned, and even in the Richard Howard case, whose services are badly wanted in Biology as he reaches the end of his term of appointment (and he is good), it is thumbs down until the final decision is made; and there are several other pending cases more or less similar. Personally I think that the matter is "in the bag" and that only one action is possible. But certain faces have to be saved, although some of them are bright red, and others deep pink in the north bank of the Charles. If I live long enough I may write a few paragraphs just for the record! Our enemy to the north which thought to batten on the income of the AA have at times admitted that I "know too much." Thank God, none of them come near the place, and that wonderful administrative setup that was to be supported by income from the orphan endowments isn't very active; at least there has been no meeting of the Biological Council which was to settle all things, in two years or since the really hot war commenced two years ago. But the wreckage is strewn all over the place from Cambridge to JP to Petesham and Soledad.

I get along, but I must slow down. I can't even type more than an hour or so before signs of the rise of blood pressure appear. I've done all that I can with the Roxburgh ferns, and my copy has now gone to Alston at the BM who has recovered from his setback of last fall, and is really interested in taking over. I've still got to provide him some of the data I have compiled for purpose of preparing an introduction. I have an idea that before the paper is finished that we will have located nearly all of the Roxburgh types of ferns, perhaps all of them, and as of this moment there are about 60 of his new species that merely "hang" because no specialist has ever

studied the actual types; and some of the guesses at reductions of others in Inx. Fil. are very badly off as is evident from Roxburgh's descriptions alone.

Just now I'm trying to compile data on Roxburgh's types of Malaysian species, for he described about 350 new species from Penang, Singapore, Sumatra, the "Malay Islands", the Moluccas and in a number of cases specifically from Amboina, Honima, Banda, etc., most of which have been most curiously overlooked or ignored. And I am still reminded that I should write up the Fernald biography and bibliography, and I very much would like to finish a paper on the Banks-Solander MS (unpublished) descriptive Flora of Tahiti based in three months field work by the said two, Cook's First Voyage (1767). Well it won't phase the true believers in transspecific early migrations even if the sweet potato was in 1867 the only American species in Tahiti--not an American



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weed, all the cultivated spp. (other than the sweet potato) from Malaysia, even to the seedless breadfruit, all the weeds from Malaysia (the number not large, perhaps a dozen or so) and the pig, fowl, and dog out of Malaysia, their only domestic animals. Well I see after all that this which was to have been a sort of social letter, turns largely into a botanical one !. Maybe I'd better stop and inspire the better half to bring you up to date on social matters. I'll now go to the library and do a bit of light work on William Roxburgh. Quatrecasas is here today.

Best wishes from both if use. Ory regards to Don Pablo

Sincerely

Edmund Arbernetum
EDM

of which are being again. The Smithsonian is now in order. June 3, 1952

With the usual regards to both Mrs. Merrill and me I,

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We are back in Zamorano and well settled down again. It is unseasonably hot here now for the rains started about the middle of May and put down something like five inches and since about the middle of May there has not been a rain.

Trip from Wyoming down through Utah, Arizona and New Mexico was interesting although it was cold in some places still. Northern Mexico, Chihuahua and Durango had had not a drop of rain for two years (so they said) and looked pretty sad. That, I imagine is the normal state of affairs for that part of the world. It is hard to imagine that those two are cattle states from the parts of them we saw. Vegetation of all sorts is almost lacking, - not even pasture for a goat. One stretch of the road in either Chihuahua or Durango (perhaps in both) has a tangent of 56 MILES without a curve and, for that matter, not much else either. The Mexicans are "growing" but they won't get much to eat from that part of their country.

Some mail that I know should be here, including letters I wrote to myself with accounts of money spent are not here. How much is missing I don't know. I wonder if you wrote about the situation in Philadelphia after your visit there. If you did get to see Mr. Cadwalader I would be interested in what may be done there.

I have heard nothing further about the application for directorship of U. S. Arboretum. While still in the States I had an acknowledgement of receipt of application, - nothing further.

Cases both for the herbarium and stacks for the library arrived during my absence and were installed. The herbarium will hold now for a few more years perhaps.

Don Pablito seems to be holding his own fairly well and I guess has stayed in line pretty well since I was away. He is beginning to show his age a little more.

Antonio Molina still has not heard about his Guggenheim application and probably will not for another month or so. He is working hard on his English in anticipation.

Bert Muller is back too. Says that he had a nice but short visit with you and that Boston was STILL cold when he

visited there. -- The Badminton games are going again, to keep the both of us somewhat in order.

With the usual regards to both Mrs. Merrill and yourself, I am,

Sincerely,

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We are back in Nahorano and well settled down again. It is unseasonably hot here now for the rains started about the middle of May and put down something like five inches and since about the middle of May there has not been a rain.

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Some mail that I know should be here, including letters I wrote to myself with accounts of money spent are not here. How much is missing I don't know. I wonder if you wrote about the situation in Philadelphia after your visit there. If you did get to see Mr. Gadowader I would be interested in what may be done there.

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Bert Miller is back too. Says that he had a nice but short visit with you and that Boston was still cold when he

June 9, 1952

Dear Dr. Williams: Ladino-US mail is at times curious. I wrote you in what I took to be ample time before you were due in Zamaramo, and even took a special 10 cent cover hope for Mrs. M. to do likewise. Well, doubtless the letter will have been delivered to destination long before this note reaches you! Do they ever "store" em in the Custom House and then after a year at so deliver and charge storage? There's an idea, but don't suggest it for some one on the make might give it a try! And here your letter of June 3 is delivered to me on the morning of June 9, which surely means it reached Boston on the 7th or 8th (Sat.-Sun. everything is dead here as far as mail is concerned)

I think I more or less brought matters up to date in my letter in May---no I'm not carrying it around in my pocket; I actually threw it into the outgoing mail basket. I did discuss the situation at Philadelphia with the Director of the Museum, but their plans were not perfected at the time. What they would like to do is to take on someone who could finish the Pennell Scroph. material but it is may not be possible. I reported also on Bert Muller. Beat him up at badminton, or should I say let him beat you up. Best regards to him.

Antônio won't have to wait too long. The actual meeting of the selective committee is June 17, in NY and I go down a week from today. I have all the "documents" here. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 160 applications, but as always there is a rather high percentage of also rans. In the office classification on the basis of the applications and the supporting document Antonio is placed high on the list, and should make the grade. I'll be present and can help answer any questions. There are five men on the panel. Next the secretary has to get "clearance" (at least from some countries) through the state dept. (especially Argentina), and that may delay matters a bit. Tell A. to keep plugging on his English, and Tina to follow through also. I'd hate to see her starve to death in a land of plenty merely because she couldn't ask for ham and eggs or pate de foi gras.

My best to Don Pablito, el hombre bien aplatanado ---now really this doesn't mean plastered! Anyway, I like bananas, Don Pablito likes bananas, we all like bananas, and they cost plenty here, so he might absorb a dozen or so on my account. Gosh, think of what our wonderful planners have done to potatoes. You can't find 'em now, or if they are offered, 16 cents per lb. And no relief in sight. Every single move the OPA specialists made boosted the price, and the last one (removing all price support for spuds a week ago) really boosted the retail price. Well we like potatoes, but we eat rice, spaghetti, macaroni, etc., etc. Too darned bad that there is no organization of buyers, for refusal to buy would quickly bring prices down.

I sit here, day after day, and get further and further behind in taking care of my mail. I'll be darned, when I came in this morning my stack was nearly as large as that to all other employees. Maybe I'd better go on strike and refuse to write any more letters.

Hope you both stood the trip nicely; it must have been sort of tough in spots, and that you are both more or less settled down and approach normal after the venture north and the overland trip south. I've got to stop, for Kobuski is standing over me with the proof on that Jack paper; and it is really horrible stuff to read. Well, I wrote it, and I suppose I must read it.

Best wishes to you both, Sincerely

C. Merrill
EDMerrill

PS Everything all right at the house. IMW is just getting off for London. Conant obtusely hold up everything appertaining to the AA "until the matter is settled" (which won't be before next fall), and in the meantime Dr. Howard, whom everybody wants including

the wonderful planners of our new deal, is really searching for a job elsewhere : Good research man, excellent teacher, good speaker and publicity man, and yet here he is caught in the ungodly mess that we are in (and have been in since 1946). I wonder at times how much lower we must sink into the morass before somebody in higher echelons wakes up to what our newdealian planners have dished up.

EDM

EDM
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. U.S.A.

STON. M.
JUN 9 6
9-PM
1952

AIR LETTER

Apartado 93

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
MECHICALPA
HONDURAS

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

SAVE THE EASY WAY
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PAYROLL

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FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

June 17, 1952

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I don't have the solution to your mail problems just now but perhaps along about the first of December you could just quit answering your mail and let it accumulate until you come down here, bring it along and I will get a girl in to do it up for you. You could do it a couple of hours a day until it were done.

I think that I told you that Maine potatoes were three cents a pound in Quito in February 1950. I object to 16 cents a pound, even we have not had to pay that for the tuber that goes under that name here.

Antonio is on a collecting trip down to the north coast. Another of these cortisone chaps came by and I wangled travel expense and a few extra dollars for Antonio to go look for some wild *Dioscorea*. He will collect plants, of course, and get a few dollars for possible future needs.

I suspect that this is going to be the wettest June on record. Normal is about 8 inches and we have had eighteen already. Our yard is a small frog pond most of the time, - and full of frogs at that!

If you get any more news on the Philadelphia set-up I should like to hear it. I would not mind taking on the Scrophs. I could not say, however, that any monographic work that I might turn out on them would be like that of Pennell. I am afraid that our respective ideas of what a genus and a species are varied to considerable extent. Do you think that it would be to advantage to write a letter to the director of the Museum?

Dr. Popenoe is due to leave for Europe about the first of July. Going to take a turn through Portugal, Spain, and France then attend a horticultural conference in London. He is due back here in September.

With regards to both of you, I am,

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

July 11, 1952

Dear Dr. Williams:

I've been somewhat off my beat, as it were. Just before the selective committee meeting (Guggenheim) I had a repeat of the trouble I had in London last November, and had to call the NY trip off. However I had sent in my set of the digests with comments, and notified Mr. Moe that I couldn't make it etc. Was confined to bed for a week and then had to stick around the house for three more days to recuperate from the bed ordeal. Same old trouble, high blood pressure.

So now I obey the medical suggestions rather better than I did after the November trouble, putting in only a few hours a day at the AA (part of each forenoon, sometimes all of it, and an hour or so in late PM after a mid day rest). It is somewhat difficult to make the adjustments to a slower pace, but I'm gradually getting to be reconciled. If I work too much either physically or mentally (if I ever did qualify under the latter category) the pressure increases; and if I type too much at any one sitting, ditto. When I automatically hit a lot of wrong keys in typing I know that it is a sign that I must desist. Today I seem to be doing pretty well. Have had the regular checkups etc, and the HBP is now more or less down to somewhere near normal--- and stays there if I don't do too much.

Otherwise all is well at 960 Cantre St. But there is one advantage. I can now gracefully withdraw from this that or the other activity. Put in time trying to draft a paper on the Roxburgh Malaysian types, and have her in prospect on what I really think about a sort of lunatic fringe in the anthropological and geographical fields. I really got the dope on "American" cultivated plants and weeds in the Pacific Islands before 1769 from the Banks and Solander unpublished descriptive floras Cook's First voyage and Forster's Prodrum (Cook's second voyage) confirms the fact that besides the sweet potato, there wasn't a single cultivated species of American origin in Tahiti etc. in 1769, and not a single American weed. Well here were four excellent botanists, Banks, Solander, and the two rosters, and like all botanists visiting new lands (they were the first in the Pacific Islands), who collected everything they could find (as we all do still). The first Prodrum has been available ever since it was published about 1780, but the bright young men who come up with a "new" idea couldn't possibly interpret the data---and because, even if they tried, it would all have been opposed to what they believed and "proved" to their own satisfaction and they wouldn't have mentioned it naturally. Well the dozen or 15 pantropic weeds (now mostly pantropic) in Tahiti all came from Indo-Malaysia as did all (except the sweet potato) of the cultivated food plants plus the hen, the pig, and the dog (which was used as food---even Banks tried it and pronounced it excellent); but none of these animals got to America before the Spaniards and Portuguese introduced them, and not one of the plants (except the coconut) got across---there was the gourd (but that is no food plant). I can write all this up, but what's the use, the geographers (worse than the anthropologists---I mean in the lunatic fringe) know no biology, and think it isn't worth considering. They won't believe a word, and if they are at all impressed, they will pass it all off with a shrug and think "Whoever ever collects a weed or a cultivated plant?" As if Banks and Solander and the two Forsters who had never been outside of Europe (except B. to Newfoundland) before the hegira to the unknown Pacific islands, knew all about the weeds there growing and didn't collect them. Well they would also have to distinguish between American, and Indo-Malaysian ones, for they got all the latter but none of the former! If I don't stop I'll find myself writing a rough draft manuscript!

I think that it would be in order to write to the Philadelphia Academy, mentioning my conversation with the Director (Actg. of last April and stating that you would be perfectly willing to take on the unfinished Scrophulariaceae task of Pennell. You don't have to mention any differences in treatment which might result, for

all understood that no situation here still ~~is~~ a sort of status quo. Nothing settled finally before next fall, and there will be then 6 years more less down the drain. Can't get any appointments through as far as the AA is concerned, even in the Howard case (an excellent teacher) and the Wyman case (whose services are badly needed for the plant materials course in Landscape Design). Everybody gets more and more fed up and Howard is actively seeking an appointment elsewhere. All in biology want him on the staff, for he is an answer to a maidens prayer to take care of the teaching--none of the "Profs." want to be bothered with the first year course, and by golly one on them may have to take it on if Howard leaves as he will if he can get a reasonable appt. elsewhere. You see the "split salary" has been thrown out of the window, and the gentlemanly drones (good teachers) on the ~~xxxxxx~~ north bank of the Charles who were never research men no longer get half their salaries from the AA, and botany within biology hasn't any money. There never was any trouble as to split salaries (AA and biology) as

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AIR LETTER

ADMINISTRATIVE
ARNOLD ARBORETUM
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. U.S.A.

Dr. Louis C. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Teacucigalpa
HONDURAS

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



SECOND FOLD

to AA funds as long as it was applied strictly to AA employees; but the small gang of bicycle boys and laboratory technicians overreached themselves when they wished off on the AA half the salaries of all the botanical staff in Biology, even including palaeobotany; the latter was the first throwout when the ruckus commenced. Now I believe that all the drones are off our payroll--if not, they soon will be. A MESS.

Best regards to Mrs. Williams, also to el bananero, otherwise known as Don Pablito. As you doubtless know Antonio got his Suggenheim--now tell him for me that he must make good; and work like the devil once he gets started in St. Louis.

Sincerely

PS How long will sweet potato tubers remain viable (i.e., without rotting) in the tropics at low altitudes without modern storage techniques? Maybe ~~xxxx~~ some of the boys may have the answer. I'm interested because I want to know their chance of survival on a trans-Pacific boat. *San Juan 1943*

July 17, 1952

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Thanks for you long letter of a few days ago.

I am sorry to know that you have had another bout with the bed but am glad that you are up and about again and feeling better. Take it easy and when the winter begins to get a little rough up there you had better think about coming down here.

I have just searched through what we have here looking for the name of the director of the Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. and come out with possibly the name Cadwalader. Apparently there are two of them who might be acting as director. Could be someone entirely different too. Would you drop me a note with the correct name and I will get busy on the job.

It is my guess that sweet potatoes would not last more than a couple of months in air storage, at sea level and under humid conditions. -- They will not last a month in the pantry of our house. -- I will talk to Morcillo and some of the other men around and see what they know about them. Sounds like a good lead on transPacific crossings.

I have just seen a paper published by Isabel Kelley, an anthropologist living in Mexico, in which Lagenaria siceraria is mentioned as a proven case of preColumbian diffusion. This based on a paper of Whitaker and Bird: Identification and Significance of the cucurbit materials from Huaca Prásta. in American Novitates N° 1426. American Museum Nat. Hist. 1949. I do not have this opus but have written for it. I have also written for one by George Carter: Plant evidence for early contacts with America, in Southwest Journ. Anthropology 6: 161-182. 1950.

Have to go eat my benas now so this must stop to go into the afternoon mail.

Sincerely,

July 17, 1952

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I have just talked to Luis Morcillo and to some of the other men here and they are in agreement that sweetpotatoes will not last long in the tropics stored in the air. Morcillo says a maximum of six weeks for small ones, i. e. hubbins which might be used for seeding. Morcillo says that sweetpotatoes stored as they would be in a canoe if they were carried for food, i. e. stored compactly, would not last very long. Tubers which are to be used for seeding here are air-dried on racks, never in sacks or in piles.

A Dr. ~~Haas~~ Haas from the Pharmacy School in Philadelphia was here this afternoon and says that Morris Albert Linton is director of Academy Nat. Sci. Phila. I have never heard of that name and think that I shall wait until I have a note from you before I write.

I sent some photos of Mrs. Merrill and yourself which I took in your house one evening last March. I hope that they have arrived there by this time.

Sincerely,

July 23, 1952

Dear Dr. Williams:

Ref. to your letter of 17th in this morning, I checked, and Charles M.B. Cadwallader was President of the Phila. Acad. Nat. Science through 1949; he was succeeded by Dr. M.A. Linton, and entomologist. Linton is the man I talked with in April and I then had the impression that he was sort of filling in for Cadwallader (C. put in only part time anyway, acting more or less for the Museum as a worthy public duty). So I suppose the thing to do is to write to Linton under the circumstances.

Thanks for the data on keeping qualities of the sweet potato. It more or less checks with information I have from other sources---but it is curious how little definite information is really available. It has long been known that "processing" of sweetpotatoes was a requirement, and an essential one, to insure their keeping well---even the Maoris in New Zealand had worked this out independently---their problem was cold, rather than heat, for the tubers (unless processed) quickly go bad when temperatures go below about 60°. We all know how quickly they go bad with us in the late fall and during the winter. But of course cold was no problem in Polynesia proper!

I've been rereading Cook's First Voyage (Journal Banks Journal of the same voyage, Parkinson's account of the same, turning to earlier ones of Wallis (who discovered Tahiti) et al., and in all one is more and more impressed with the very few cultivated food plants that were available before 1767; and this is verified by Forster's Prodrromus based on the collections of the two Forster's, Cook's second Voyage. ~~no American weeds, no American food plant~~ (other than the sweet potato), such weeds as were present all out of Indo-malaysia, as were their food plants and domestic animals (3 only---pig, dog, and fowl). I probably mentioned this in one of my recent letters; but will it impress certain geneticists (I make it plural---there are two only), certain geographers who know no botany, and certain anthropologists who also know no botany. So after all, what's the use? Minds made up and minds closed and that's that! Well, for my book two very able and active botanists (Banks and Solander) and two more (the Forsters) on the second voyage, did exactly what you and I would have done we the first botanists to visit Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, etc. We would grab everything in sight. Maybe I can work in an expression of Cook, who, when Banks and Solander with a corps of assistants landed on Terra del fuego for botanizing (and two of the servants froze to death) commenting on the results of the expedition which got caught out over night, said "They brought back some plants whose only value was that they were unknown in Europe". Gosh, were I ten years younger I think that I'd write a book on the general subject, and flay the small crop of neo-scientists, long in theories but short on facts, rather than a short paper pointed at an anthropological serial. Trouble now is that I have such a sheath of notes and references that I don't quite see how anyone could do justice to the subject within the limits of a few printed pages. For example, Ames sort of took me apart because I "overlooked" the fact that in America corn, beans, etc. were "hilled" which was a new factor, not practiced in the Old World. Well as long as the greater yam has been cultivated it has been "hilled" and the New Zealanders "hilled" all of their very few root crops (3 or at most 4 species). Curious it is how many source books have been overlooked; but after all it does take time to wade through these old Journals.

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP AND SEAL.
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

The prints you mention not received as yet; but you know, as well as I, that the ordinary mail channels between reguc. and Boston get badly snarled at times. Will be looking for them.

Lagenaria is all right, it was one of the three species that really got across the Pacific (or in this case the Atlantic) at an early date, i.e., before Columbus. The coconut had become established on the west coast of Panama --- this is proved. The sweet potato had been taken by the Polynesians all over their culture area from America and the useful but not nourishing common Lagenaria. I've been casually checking up on this and I have a feeling that perhaps this was a case of very early pan-tropic distribution long before man appeared on the scene; but man really extended its range as a useful plant no matter where it came from or how it first got across the Atlantic of the Pacific. But if one assembled all the botanical specimens in

FIRST FOLD

AIR LETTER

EDL
Arnold Arboretum, CMH
Jamaica Plain, Mass., U.S.A.
JUL 22 1952

Dr. Louis Williams
Esquela Agrícola Panamericana
Reguiciagua
Honduras

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VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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SECOND FOLD

the world one wouldn't have sufficiently ample material on which to base a monograph. The plant is really not adapted to herbarium techniques. Looks to me that it might have originated in tropical Africa. But only three species (only one of which really got all over the tropics in pre-Columbian times) proves nothing except that occasionally some poor cuss got across and didn't get killed on landing, and eventually got back to his own people. Those who want to build up a case forget (conveniently) that several hundred species are involved, and what is 3 out of 300 or 400; for the others didn't make it until the Europeans intervened.

Best wishes from both of us to both of the Williams and to others including el bananero

Sincerely

Ed Merrill

July 26, 1952

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your letter is just in and I have written a letter to Linton to inquire about the position, mentioning the conversation that you had with him last April. I will keep you informed as to what may result from the letter.

I hope you luck with the article for the anthropological journal. I would offer to do it here and give you more than a few pages but I suppose that it would be interesting to have it in a journal which some of them would be more likely to see.

I am getting another copy of Ceiba ready for the press, will probably send it to the printer in a couple of weeks. I am starting it with that article on Maize, beans and civilization that I have had kicking around here for a couple of years and which I am sure that you have read. I have modified it a number of times and I think perhaps it is as nearly ready to print as it ever will be.

Incidentally on the lack of maize in some of the early lowland or coast diggings in Peru I have an idea. Perhaps maize is Central American, my guess is out of the highlands of Guatemala. It is a queer plant and does not adapt itself well to change in elevation. If maize were started in Guatemala then it might have existed here sometime before it was acclimated so that it would go through the lowlands of Panama and get into South America. My guess would be that it were then re-acclimated to highlands from whence it spread in South America. If this hypothesis is so the plant may well have existed for considerable time before it finally arrived to the coasts of Peru. To say that those diggings are pre-maize cultures is merely to say that maize had not arrived there yet, not that it did not exist as seems to me to be indicated by the word "pre-maize".

Sincerely,

Aug. 2, 1952

Dear Dr. Williams:

Time passes---even the goldenrod is commencing to take on color, indicating that the cool weather isn't too far off. July has been an atrocious month, no rain, high temperatures day after day, and everything (including crops) dried up with us. Many days temp. has been above ninety, and one day 100!

Sad news is that about three days ago White of the Farlow driving in with his family from Walden skidded on a wet road sideswiped a truck (one acct. says head on collision). He was terribly injured, and died in the hospital yesterday without gaining consciousness; his wife, also badly injured still in the hospital and unconscious most of the time; two children had minor injuries and Mrs. Rollins has taken them in for the time being. This was the first rain near Boston in a month, a freak storm that commenced near Concord and extended to Salem etc., doing great damage---high winds, heavy rain, and in places hail; and this was what White ran in to! It will be a bit of a blow to the botanical new deal at Harvard to say the least, for White conformed with what the powers that be desired in all respects.

I'm running into more and more data with which to confound the lunatic fringe in Anthropology and Geography (youngsters, mostly very opinionated, who know no botany, economic botany, or what not---one of the very worst, botanically, as Carter; and they simply will not take advice, for they have all the answers to all the questions). Verdorn is after me to write a detailed paper, I doubt if I can do it, but haven't answered his letter yet. What I do most wish to do is to prepare a short paper for the American Anthropologist---this was invited by those who are fed up with the meanderings of the uninformed and positive "new dealers". The first idea was on botanical errors of anthropologists---but for this subject I'd need a volume, for the more I dip into the anth. lit., the more I find that is appalling. So I'll settle for a short essay on when, how, and by what means the panpacific weeds and economic species got about. And it is aimed at anthropologists, even though it will be a semibotanical paper in an anthropological serial.

I really think you have something in that subject, maize, beans, civilizations and am glad that you are to publish the paper. I'm not so sure that I wouldn't put beans first, but after all maize would attract more attention after all that has been written (good, and indifferent) as to its origin!

Curiously in reading Oviedo I came up with something on the keeping qualities of batatas in the tropics. He said that when the tubers were well cured, they were taken (as food) on ships bound for Spain from Hispaniola, and that when the voyage was a quick one, all right, but more often they were lost at sea---i.e., rotted. and mentions his own taking some from Santo Domingo to Avila---got them through in not too good a condition. This sort of confirms my opinion that probably about a month would be the limit (if carried other than planted in earth, as the Polynesians would do). It knocks out the transmission from Chile to the Pacific islands by raft as this would involve 2 or 3 months!

I've restudied Ajes and have written to both Santo Domingo and to Haiti to see if I can get definite information. The more I scan the available data the more I believe that Ajes were sweet potatoes. Anyway, I can't find any information about any Dioscorea tuber that shows such variation in the outside color etc. I incline to ajes for the drier fleshed sweet potato, and the batatas to the one with water and more glutinous fleshy, our present "YAM" in local markets. I'll be interested in what you and ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Don Pablito may turn up. I can find no present use of the term aje, age, ajes in modern literature on economic plants of trop. Am., for the past

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150 years ! You might very well get some information from the students, coming as they do from such a wide range. And it was claimed by Oviedo that ages occurred on all the islands and on the mainland. He got about and really should have known !

Best wishes to all,

Sincerely

EDMerrill
EDM

SECOND FOLD



VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis C. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

AIR LETTER

EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA

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FIRST FOLD

September 2, 1952

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I have just gotten a copy of George F. Carter's "Plant evidence for early contacts with America". Southwestern Journ. of Anthropology 6: 161-182. 1950. If you wish to use a geographer to take the hide from here is one who is asking for it. There is no need to point out the errors of reason as well as of fact. You will pick them up easily in a reading of the paper.

With my regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Louis O. Williams

September 5, 1952

EDM:
arnold arboratum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. USA



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

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Sept. 8, 1952

Dear Louis:

Thanks for your note on Carter. I already had a copy and had sized it up as one of the most horrible or all horribilia botanica; but Fosberg says that Carter will not take advice---I think it was Fosberg who first called my attention to it. I showed my reprint to Mrs. Schwartz who "does" the IBC and Taxa Tax. Jour. entries, remarking that Carter had buried his paper in a place where no botanist would ever see it. She took a look and it won't get in the Index.

I am sure there is another paper by Carter in which he proved that the early colonial records of "peas and beans" with us refer to Phaseolus for beans (correct!) and to Vigna for "peas". I can't get at it for I unfortunately made no record when I saw it. Well the small white "pea bean" (= navy bean) was the basis of the Boston Baked, so that is that. The Vigna came into the West Indies with the slave trade, and in due time got into the southern US. But ~~xxx~~ this is Carter. when I suggested to him that Nelumbium really ought to be added to the list of American food plants (because our sp. was widely distributed by the Indians, he admitted that he took his list from Vavilov (included Chenopodium ambrosioides as one of the cult. and potential food plants! -well basically it is a vernifuge, but it may well have been used as a condiment, but surely never as a food plant; he immediately bit on the Nelumbium and I wouldn't be at all surprised if he prepared a paper "proving" that our native species is the same as the Old world one "because it is very similar in all respects, has the same uses, and is used (was used) in designs in Central America" etc., etc. One can prove anything in botany provided one knows not even the rudiments of the subject, and Carter "proved his point"! I made the mistake, I suppose, of criticizing one of his papers (the Chron. Bot. one) via letter so I am probably on his list. If you do happen to have one in which he discusses the Vigna "and Phaseolus" I will try to read it and be duly impressed.

I gradually slip and cannot at this time make any definite plans. Basic difficulty is high blood pressure and, I suppose hardening of the arteries that often goes with it. So I move about slowly, have to a long rest at midday, etc. Mrs. M. is in Washington, where her oldest sis is gradually fading out; can't possibly last much longer. And as to my I sort of feel that Thackeray hit it off in the last paragraph of Vanity Fair: last line is "Come children, let us shut up the box and the puppets, for our play is played out."

Best wishes to Mrs. Williams et al., including Don Pablito,
Sincerely

EDM

Sincerely,
George E. Carter

I do not have the literature available here to get into any large arguments but who in hell has proved that religion, arts,

affected the make-up of the woodland."

"Fruit" is Sapota sours (also other names are not revealed).

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

FUNDACION CENTROAMERICANA DE NUTRICION

Sept. 22, 1952

Dear Williams:

Many thanks for your letter of Sept. 13, which contains many data of interest to me. Cook is really responsible for a lot of misinformation that he, with no tropical experience, dredged up from the depths of his mind, because, like Carter, and like Sauer, he was looking for data that would support what he wanted to believe--a pre-conceived theory. Cook, as far as I can discover, is the individual who originated the "belief" that has captured some geographers, that American plants were all over the Pacific islands in pre-Magellan times; so I wrote to Sauer asking him for a citation as to where he got that impression--no answer. I'll write him again.

That distribution of the "nut bearing" trees is a honey. Gosh, all one has to do is to watch the common gray squirrel. I have one black walnut and one butternut tree in my back yard the G.S. dots on their nuts and plant them all over the place, forgetting in many cases where they did their planting. I have, at times pulled a couple of dozen seedlings out of the little bit of land at 940; and yet it was the Indians who did the job--maybe they antedated the G.S. ! I'll look up and see what I can find re Higbee. Incidentally this is the first time I ever knew that chicla was a nut bearing tree ! Whoever ate the seeds of chicla ?

I have so much information (and misinformation from the true believers in early diffusion) that I really don't know whether or not I can digest the data, being limited on how much I can work ---and then too my memory slips too many cogs to please me. But I am still reading up on early travels, having just finished Quiros and others associated with the early trips from Peru to the Solomons, New Hebrides, and Santa Cruz Islands. I haven't seen any notice of the Heyerdahl opus bit with the lake dramas. Probably is at the Peabody. If he is wilder than Carter, he is really wild indeed ! What do you know ? Within two years a publicity seeking anthropologist at Witwatersrand Univ has really come up with something spectacular, three times. Last (recently) that the whites in S. Afr. are nothing but faded out descendants of negroid people---maybe you saw the writeup in Time. I'll bet he got his name in all the S. Afr. papers ! The other was that Maize was in Africa before Columbus (maybe, but I'd like to see the proof) and that Columbus encountered negroes in America; and finally that all the Papuans (N. Guinea to Raji and N. Caledonia) including all the primitive Negritos are descendants of African slaves brought to Malaysia by the Malays ! If one is wild enough one can always make the headlines. I am reminded of the oft repeated "snake infested jungles of the tropics" !

Do you know what ? I criticized Carter's list of plants cultivated by (and distributed) by the Indians. He admitted he took it from Vavilov. One item I criticized by the inclusion of *Chenopodium ambrosioides* in a list of food plants. Maybe it was used as a condiment, but certainly never as food; or as a vernifuge. Then I suggested that *Nelumbium* should be added, for the Indians spread it widely. Rejoinder was that this needed looking into as the 2 spp. of *N.* were used in designs in both continents. Well he better do a bit of monographic work before he breaks loose with the idea that our yellow flowered species was introduced by man from the Old World (where it doesn't grow). As good as his crack that the *Am. Lomelocarpus* and the Old World (understood) *Derris* appears to be the same plant. He certainly needs to be taken apart on his putrid botany, but maybe I'm not the one to do it. I wrote him nearly a year ago that I had been obliged to discontinue work in this field, and that no rejoinder could be expected from me; but I do talk to people who visit the

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so this probably explains the crack at me! But with the absolutely unmistakable data from the results (unpublished) of Cook's Voyages, I'd like to see Heyerdahl, Carter, or anyone else answer! There were the coconut, the sweet potato, and the gourd in both hemispheres in pre-Columbian times; but there wasn't a single American weed in the Pacific islands covered by Banks and Solander, and only one American cult. plant in pre-Magellan times! I don't care how many or how large the eggs that Carter or anyone else "true believer" may lay. Facts are facts which they may ignore if they wish to, but not one EDM. But how the weeds increased is other ships commenced to come into the Pacific! A few years later when the Forsters came they did get at least one American weed (Waltheria); but please remember that all the ships that came via Cape Horn, up to the time of Cook, aimed for Guan where it was known that needed supplies could be secured, for scurvy was always rampant; and all.

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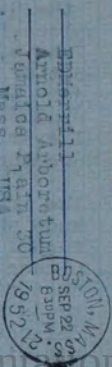
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Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Turkey
Honduras

AIR LETTER

Extraordinary

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



SECOND FOLD

these expeditions (and there were very many of them) stopped at Rio for supplies! So in addition to the Mexican weeds in Guan (and the Philippines) were added certain Brazilian ones a beautiful example being *Heliotropium indicum* L! Both via Ceylon-India (Portuguese) and via Cape Horn to Guan and other parts of the Pacific!

I really should be cleaning up my desk or trying to finish that Parkinson paper!

Best wishes to all,

Sincerely,

L. O. Williams

L. O. Williams

September 30, 1952

Dr. E.D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30
Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I am enclosing some clippings from Ceiba with my article on Beans, Maize and Civilization which I hope you will enjoy reading. I may get my ears knocked down for some of the things which are said, we will have to wait and see.

Chicle is never used for seeds so far as I know, but it has a fine fruit which is appreciated by all people who can get it. I did not check Cook's statement so I rather doubt that he said it. Carter probably made it up from memory, bad at that.

I shall be glad to see your new paper when it is published which I presume will be some time yet. With my regards to Mrs. Merrill, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis O. Williams

August 5, 1952

There was no one in the classes that I have here who
remembered the name Aje. In addition I asked the boys of
other classes that come from the island and none of them knew
it. I presume that it is rare.

I had a letter from Robert H. Roberts, director of the
Philip Barlow Herbarium, who told me that I have sent
him a letter. He told me that the one that I have sent
to him was in Spanish. This man says that you failed
to tell him at some length last night about the department and men
connected with it as a possibility.

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

I have your letter about the ajes of the West Indies and from
the literature which is available here they seem to me to be sweet
potatoes. Reasons: 1. Said to be like Correhuela, the bindweed, and
I suspect that the comparison is made with flowers in mind. 2. the
plant is said to be planted by sowing 5 or 6 stems or trunks in each
hill, which take hold to start plant, and the vine extended over the
ground and below the ground the vines give forth fruits which are ajes.
3. When they are ripe you open the hill with a hoe and take out 10 or 12,
or 15 or 20 or 30 or more or less ajes. Too many for Dioscorea.
4. Six months is, I think, little for Dioscorea (the great yam) to
ripen. 5. Oviedo says that it is good even for Christians, which
can hardly be said of yams. 6. Oviedo says that ~~some~~ some of them are so
big that they weigh 4 pounds or even more. Pretty small for yams
but it would be wise to check to see what a pound was in 1530 or there
about. 7. In Panama is sounds like he found a better variety. 8. Dr.
Roig y Mesa in Diccionario Botánico de Nombres Vulgares Cubanos (1928)
p. 110 comes to the same conclusion.

I have had a look at Oviedo and do not find anything that you had
not already found. Roig uses the word aje and also ajes. It seems
to me that the description which follows that of aje is again sweet
potato. Perhaps there were just too many sweet potatoes for him and
like the people of the south he confused some of them with yams.

Dr. Standley says he agree with the above.

I have a couple of classes of 3rd year boys this afternoon
with three Dominicans and one Cuban, as well as representatives from
Guatemala to Ecuador and I will try them on ajes.

Getting up the next Ceiba now. Hope to have the manuscript ready
to take to the printer next Saturday.

Have you seen Bob Schery's new Plants for Man. Doc. Standley is
looking it over and may review it in Ceiba. From the grunts that
emanate from the other room now and again I presume that he takes a
"dim" view.

* This certainly is in a library there but if not I can copy.

August 6, 1952

There was no one in the classes that I have here who recognised the name AJE. In addition I asked the boys of other classes that come from the islands and none of them knew it. I presume tht it is rare.

I had a letter from F. Radclyffe Roberts, director of the Phila. Acad. Nat. Sci. in response to the one that I have sent to Linton, ~~xxx~~ who is in Europe. This man says that you talked to him at some length last "pril about the department and men' tioned me as a possibility.

He says that no appointment will be made until 1953 (which would suit me), that "I am fearful that we can not offer a salary at the present time sufficient to attract a senior person". He says also that "As to the responsibility of the position it would be primarily for fundamental research if the field of systematics broadly speaking, and supervision of the herbarium as of secondary importance. With our limited funds it would be desirable to implement the budget of the department with funds from outside sources in support of research. In other words we would hope that the appointee would take an interest in building up the support of the department."

He asks some questions about myself and for a copy of my bibliography so I assume that there may be some interest in the case. At any rate I shall continue it along a bit and see what may come of it.

It is time to gather my things up and go up an teach another class so I shall stop for now.

Sincerely,

I have had a look at Oviedo and do not find anything that you had not already found. He has seen the word ~~ago~~ and also ~~ago~~. It seems to me that the description which follows that of ~~ago~~ is again sweet potato. Perhaps there were just too many sweet potatoes for him and like the people of the south he confused some of them with yams.

Dr. Standley says he agrees with the above.

I have a couple of classes of 7th year boys this afternoon with three Dominicans and one Cuban, as well as representatives from Guatemala to Ecuador and I will try them on ~~ago~~.

Getting up the next ~~ago~~ now. Hope to have the manuscript ready to take to the printer next Saturday.

Have you seen Bob Schery's new plants for Man. Doc. Standley is looking it over and may review it in ~~ago~~. From the ground that emanate from the other room now and again I presume that he takes a "dim" view.

Oct. 11, 1952

Dear Dr. Williams:

How time passes! The older one gets, the more fleeting the days, weeks, and months---this comment re. your letter of Sept 30. My mail tends to stack up simply because I have to take care of it for the most part on my own account---and I have learned by experience if I do more than a letter or two at a sitting the P.B. goes up. Now I even rough draft data for possible publication via the holographic method, which is bad, as my handwriting gets worse and worse---and I never would have won a prize in that field!

Many thanks for sending the beanmaize-civilization paper. It is good and I can surely use some of it. One of my troubles is that I start to prepare a text, discover in the process something else that needs to be done, and so I get deflected. Thus I wrote up the Erkinson data, and when it was about 2-3 done I got deflected by discovering a bibliographic problem regarding the Forster *Be plantis esculentia* etc. (1786) Nobody had realized that there were two editions of this small opus, and that the new spp. with very ample descriptions were earlier than the very short diagnoses of the same spp. in the Prodrum. Well, a two page detailed description is a bit better than a six word diagnosis, especially in *Ficus* and other large genera! Well, this is done and I am now back on the track again. Normally I should be able to finish the Parkinson paper in two or three days at most, but it may well take longer as I cannot concentrate too long on such matters, and that long enforced rest at noon cuts into my time badly.

Then my next is an attempt to digest the mass of data I have on the non-distribution of plants across the Pacific by man. But here one runs into the "pattern" set up by the anthropologists, geographers, and unfortunately a couple of geneticists who do not know what they are talking about, and yet they are all most positive. I'd need a book to present all the anti data, but what I can write will have to be condensed into a short serial item. But sometimes one is really amused at theories set up by this or that non-biological individual, for facts are not necessary. There is one in S. Afr. (anthropology) who has come up with several crazy ideas in two years, and he always rings the bell by getting wide press notices. He is a diffusionist of the extreme type. Try this one over on your piano: In a paper on the origins of negro agriculture he writes that the negroes were a food gathering people (what a wise and what a strange conclusion---as if all primitive peoples didn't fall in the same category and now comes the payoff "Until they were taught agriculture by the sky-Beings generally called the Children of the Sun" Gosh, did the primitives really have flying saucers so that they could get about?

Reading this over I note so many places where I automatically hit the wrong key, I feel that I had better stop, for that is always a sign that I am trying to do too much. I take it that the Popenoe's are back, or will be shortly. Hope so, as that would take a large burden off your shoulders and give time for you to look at a plant occasionally.

Maybe if I live long enough I'll write an essay on Soap Box orators in academic circles--we have an awful lot of them; Columbus Circle, Boston Common, and Hyde Park Corner collectively have no monopoly! I could name some at dear old Harvard, as could you! But what the devil can one do about them and other equally loose thinkers who must prove their preconceived theories regardless of the facts. And maybe the anthropologist percentage is small as compared with other professions. Politics, religion---but why go on, for all fields of human activity are involved in greater or lesser degrees. I'm probably one of them, but at least I now have some real facts back of what I plan to write on this Polynesian plant distribution idea! *Vamos a ver!*

All well with us, House full at present, for when my niece comes out week ends the totak female population (which I call my harem)

reaches six. Too much for an old man (or too many). To keep 'em satisfied I occasionally go into the kitchen and advise; and once a week (Sunday evening) I make a Welsh rarebit, and listen to the praise; and about one a week I make 'em a walloping big (and really good---they all admit it) fish chowder. So we get along. Mrs. M. had a letter from Rua a short time ago, and will be writing shortly. Best wishes from us to all at the house, and to various and sundry others at the Escuela, not forgetting Don Pablito. Tell the famous banana eater that I have just unearthed sixteen validly published Musa binomials (1786) all unlisted in IK and none of them ever mentioned in bot-lit. If I keep on I will become very popular in conservative circles! Were I a Moldenke (thank God I'm not) I would have kept count and published a useless statistic, for the total must now be at or above 3,000 not in IK, and they go back to 1754. I think the only statistic Moldenke didn't keep, was how many words were included in his letters and in his publications.

Best to all EDM

SECOND FOLD



VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

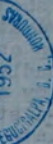
Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
regucigalpa
Honduras

EDMerrill
Arnold Arboretum OCT 11 1952
Jamaica Plain 10 10-PM
Mass. USA

AIR LETTER

MESSAGE MUST APPEAR ON INNER SIDE ONLY
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

Nov. 7, 1952

Dear Louis:

Next time you have to sit through a Lowell Thomas news broadcast try the marked part of the enclosed clipping over on your piano! You don't appreciate what our dear State Dept. does for you dwellers in foreign lands. Why the hell, don't all of you get together and protest the selection of L.T. advertised as the world's greatest and insist on the selection of a real one? Why should you have to listen five nights a week to the WORLD'S WORST?

I've typed too much at this sitting and will desist for the present---typing allways sends the blood pressure up and when you add "the world's worst broadcaster" it increases my difficulties. And I'm supposed to keep the HBP down.

You'll probably get an air mail letter before this reaches you. Windefully fall colors this year, and an unusually long season, but now the leaves come rattling down, and the temperature falls. All well with us. My "harem" has departed. Gosh, at one time as many as 6 more or less aged females at the house for a few days. Mrs. M's relatives from Calif. and Washington DC and a friend of one of the relatives, Miss West whom I renamed Miss Direction

Sincerely and with best wishes to all

EDM

Dr Wms: I assume I should wait until
Dr Merrill tells you when he wants
to come, before writing Boston. I
dont think there will be any problem
about approval.

WP

Dr. E. D. Merrill

Arnold Arboretum, Harvard

Jamaica Plain 30, Mass., U.S.A.



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams

Escuela Agricola Panamericana

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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MESSAGE MUST APPEAR ON INNER SIDE ONLY
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

ARNOLD ARBORETUM, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass. U.S.A.
Nov. 17, 1952

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Dr. Williams:

Yes, as of November 1 as the temperature at the Escuela is going down that is also true in Boston. We have had a wonderful fall for color but now the leaves except for the oaks are fallen which is an indication of colder weather to come. In reference to your review of the Carter paper you may, if you wish, add a statement that his long essay on Argemone is pure *Dushwa*. Recent studies not yet published have shown that the form in Hawaii has been utterly misunderstood and that a *vitaceal* morphologic and cyto-genetic study has shown that it has nothing to do with *A. Mexicana* being on the other hand a strict Hawaiian endemic. Here is a case of a geographer who doesn't know his elementary botany writing a technical paper in a field in which he is utterly unqualified to speak. You will have noted that he does not know the difference between an indigenous a "wide" of natural distribution and an introduced naturalized *was*. I do not remember in recent years of having read any paper of a botanical nature in which so many gross errors were perpetrated. *Horrible botanica!*

Referring to generous hints, invitations and so forth received by Mrs. Merrill and myself, I have concluded that it would be wise to accept for Boston weather is nothing to look forward to for the next few months. I do wish that you would start the ball rolling locally regarding transportation; but I shall insist that charges at least for Mrs. Merrill be paid by one E. D. M. In other words, I would write a covering check for the Escuela. So far as I can tell now we would be able to leave here at any time after the early part of January. My preference considering my own physical disabilities due to old age, I would very much like to have transportation on a boat sailing from New York. I am slowed down and this applies to both physical and mental aspects of the situation. Then too, I would like to put together a general summary of my present conclusions regarding the whole subject of when, at what time, and by whom the cultivated plants, domestic animals and weeds were disseminated as between the tropics of the old and the new worlds. It will be a severe jolt to certain theoretical geographers, anthropologists and geneticists. I am subject to so many interruptions here that I would like to resort to a quiet place where I may be able to concentrate and El Zamarano seems the place.

With best regards to Mrs. Williams, the Papenoes, Don Pa'lito and all the others,

Very sincerely yours,

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill

EDM:bo

*First boat after
Jan 10,*

** discretionary and/or
library fund!*

NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED.

November 25, 1952

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Harvard University
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We are very pleased to have your letter saying that you and Mrs. Merrill will be down and spend some time with us soon after the first of the year. I took the letter home for Rua to read and when I went back over there five hours later I found all of the playing cards out drying. I take it that there will be some big games of canasta this winter.

I shall give your letter to Dr. Popenoe and he will undoubtedly start the ball rolling in regard to your transportation. I assume by "any time after the early part of January" would be about January 10th, so I shall suggest to Dr. Popenoe that he asks for transportation for you from New York on the first boat leaving after that date. Will this be all right?

Mrs. Chavez says that she would be glad to work a couple of hours each day for you when you get here if she can do it, so that will be someone to help you out with your writing.

With my regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis O. Williams

November 26, 1952

Dr. E. D. Merrill

Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Dr. Popence says that he does not think that there will be any problems about the approval of your passage down here so as soon as you ~~write~~ can set a date he will ask for the passage. I suggested in letter yesterday that you might ask for the first boat from New York after January 10. It would be best for you to confirm that or to select anyother date that you wish. You can either write to Dr. Popence or to me and as soon as you do then he can go ahead with the necessary.

Heyerdahl's magnum opus came in yesterday. It is some volume! If you have not had a chance to see it there you can have a look at it here. The darn thing cost 60 shillings so is not cheap.

The next Ceiba has gone to the printer. I have a quite good article by Paul B. Sears as a lead article. The issue is in "the hand of the Lord" now but I hope to have it in the mail before the end of the year.

Beautiful sunny days these! The dry season has stated although there is still a bit of humidity and the grass is wet in the morning.

With my regards, I am,

Sincerely,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

8 December 1952

Mr. Martin J. Connelly,
Assistant Vice President
United Fruit Company,
Boston, Massachusetts.

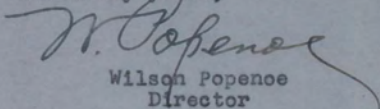
Dear Mr. Connelly:

We have been hoping that Dr. E. D. Merrill would again spend some time with us this winter. We now learn that he will be able to do this and we would like to ask that you provide transportation for Dr. and Mrs. Merrill from New York to Tela or Cortes by first sailing after the tenth of January.

Since you can get in touch with him by telephone you can let him know what sailings are available and make appropriate arrangements.

Dr. Merrill's visits are extremely valuable to us from several standpoints. We look forward to having him with us for as long as he can stay.

Sincerely yours,


Wilson Popence
Director

cc Drs. Merrill
Williams ✓

December 22, 1952

Dear Dr. Merrill:

The letter about Oviedo's palms came in a few days ago and I have sent the copy along to Paul Allen. He may be able to give a better idea of the palm that Oviedo had in mind than I can for he has collected the palms of Panamá.

I have spent most of the morning going over the part of the tale which concerns the plate and get no where. Quite possibly Oviedo was writing from memory and padding, both. Also it is more than probable that more than one kind of palm enters into the story. He talks about Panamá, Nicaragua and I suppose the Galapagos Islands. The fruit illustrated might be from *Bactris* (see Bailey Gentes Herbarum 3: 32-116) or from *Cryososophila*. I don't quite know whether he was trying to explain that the palm (or palms) had palmate leaves or whether they were like those of *Cocos* but merely originated a little differently.

Most of the rest of the account sounds to me like Coconuts. It is mainly interesting in that I suppose that Oviedo only saw coconuts on the Pacific side.

I think that Allen will be transferred to La Lima eventually. I don't know why. Unless perhaps for reasons of economy. The company has an economy program on again but I do not know how serious it is. I have not seen the 3rd quarter earnings of the Company yet but the earnings of the first half were only about half those of the equal period of 1951. - I sold most all of what little company stock I had when it hit 70 (much to Doc P.'s disgust I think) about two years ago and bought Ohio Edison at about 30, - O. Edison was 39 last week, - and UF 57.

When you hear about a sailing date drop us a line.

Sincerely,

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

3 April 1953 (GOOD Friday)

Guillermo Rosser
Santiago

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Andy brought the bean seeds which you had sent him and asked me to take care of them for you. I am only too glad to receive them and am expectant to know if they are the same as a collection I got from USDA. This latter collection was said to have been grown by the 'Aztecs' in New Mexico and to have been obtained from them by gardeners in New York where it is now? used as an ornamental. I had planted this collection in Zamorano and observed that it had germinated and growing nicely when we got the one and only flood which unluckily took them all with it. However I had only planted half the seed and still have the other half (Williams brought it back with him and I just received it-intact). Mixed with the large white there are some elongated red spotted black which are most closely resembled by some of the Guatemalan spotted *P. coccineus*. I am quite certain (no proof, only feeling) that this is of the same type as those you sent. As to whether they may be lumped *coccineus* or separated into two groups I do not as yet know but shall be only too happy to let you know as soon as I can be sure. I collected a bean from Tuxtla Gutierrez and from Quetzaltenango which has two forms, black and white, and only solid color. The seeds are somewhat rounder but nearly as large as the ones you sent and are called 'Pilo'. It seems to be definitely in the *coccineus* group for germination has been hypogeal. I would be very interested to obtain proof that the bean you sent is and has been cultivated in or around Santiago. Would it be possible to get more information on this? and as to how they are prepared for eating? Also as to what other beans the same 'informant' applies the name 'Pallar'. The use of this name on such a bean as you sent makes me wonder.

As concerns the Coyol: I really appreciate your taking an interest in the derivation of the word and writing. The emphasis on the spanish word meaning ballwas: 1. spanish-in the general sense (not Castilian, etc.) 2. word-in ~~xxxxxx~~ the modern sense and not derived. 3. entirely due to the author's interpretation. The Spanish people in Spain are probably not acquainted with the Coyol palm or if so only by hear-say, however in the present language in central Am. and Mex. the word is variously applied and usually applies to the fruit but may mean anything from wine to palm. It originally in the past came from the Nahuatl or Aztec word *coyolli* applied to the *A. vinifera* or, and *mexicana*. (see Santamaria-Mexicanisms) I was trying to give a modern interpretation.

Thanking you again for the beans and consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

George F. Freytag

*he said
coyol was
phallic
that it
meant
a ball*

*do you
want to be
correct in
your
derivation
but
some
evidence*

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THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

April 13, 1953

Dr. L. O. Williams
155 West North Street
Ogden, Utah

Dear Williams:

A note from Popenoe this morning included the enclosed for you. He says that everything is under control at Zamorano.

Here, although we have had a very few sunny days since you left, this one starts with overcast sky and the temperatures are distinctly on the raw side. Yet the Magnolias and other early flowering trees and shrubs are doing their best, for the Arboretum really is in excellent condition for the great spring show.

I am continuing work on the introduction to that paper I played with while at Zamorano, but the going is very slow, and my temporary typist is not too accurate and is slower than cold molasses.

There is one point which I am sure you can clarify. In your surveys, have you noticed the native peoples in Central America or Mexico eating the full grown galls on maize caused by ustilago? That is, good old corn smut, before the parasite is fully mature. I am interested in this because a species of Zizania is actually cultivated by the Chinese on a distinctly large scale, but only for the ustilago galls; and in northern China the giant millet is always watched for developing infection, and these are always gathered and eaten raw, this being largely, I suppose, as a safeguard against the spread of the infection. Every attempt is made to detect and remove all plants that are infected with ustilago. Maybe you even have the report on the nutritional value of these "galls."

We are well, but I have to watch my step. Recently I had a physical check-up and will be interested in the results which will come within a day or two, I suppose. I hope you had a nice trip West and that the conditions will be favorable for the long, last leg of your journey south to Honduras in the new car. With best wishes to you both.

Very sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill

SEE OVER

EDM:cg

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 80, MASS., U.S.A.

April 13, 1923

I wrote gall as gaul and EIM laughed, quoting "Omnia gallia in tres partes divisa est", and then gave O. Henry's translation from "Cabbages and Kings". "We will need all our gall to tree them ^{parties}," said Dr. L. I. West North Street 122
This is really as good as his translation of Figurase a Vd. which ^{he} rendered as "Figure it to yourself."
Utah

CG

Dear Williams:

A note from Popeano this morning included the enclosed for you. He says that everything is under control at Zamorano.

Here, although we have had a very few sunny days since you left, this one starts with overcast sky and the temperatures are distinctly on the raw side. Yet the Magnolias and other early flowering trees and shrubs are doing their best. For the Arboratum really is in excellent condition for the great spring show.

I am continuing work on the introduction to that paper I played with while at Zamorano, but the going is very slow and my temporary

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There is one point which I am sure you can clarify. In your survey, have you noticed the native people in Central America or Mexico eating the full grown Galls on maize caused by rust? That is, good old corn smut, before the parasite is fully mature. I am interested in this because a species of Gallia is actually cultivated by the Chinese on a distinctly large scale, but only for the rust Galls; and in northern China the giant millet is always watched for developing infection, and these are always gathered and eaten raw, this being largely, I suppose, as a safeguard against the spread of the infection. Every attempt is made to detect and remove all plants that are infected with rust. Maybe you even have the report on the nutritional value of these "Galls".

We are well, but I have to watch my step. Recently I had a physical check-up and will be interested in the results which will come within a day or two, I suppose. I hope you had a nice trip West and that the conditions will be favorable for the long, last leg of your journey south to Honduras in the new car. With best wishes to you both.

Very sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

SEE OVER

HM:cg

April 13, 1953

Mr. George F. Freytag
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis 10
Missouri

Dear Mr. Freytag:

The Pallar or Pallor seeds that I sent were from the open market in Santiago, Chile. I secured them through Senor Gaulterio Looser, Santiago, because I became interested in what Phaseolus pallar that the Spanish missionaries actually introduced into Tahiti about 1776 might have been. It did not persist any more than did maize which was introduced by Quiros into the Marquesas, 1595, and into the New Hebrides, etc. in 1606.

If you will look up Molina's original description you will find that it has nothing whatever to do with the lima bean to which the name "Pallar" is sometimes applied. His description of the pod is very definite. Incidentally, he said that the seeds were about "un pulgar" in length, but in checking one of the English translations of Molina's work, whoever did the job simply could not believe that any bean could be really an inch in length, and translated the size as one-half an inch. I am quite certain that Pallar that Molina rather casually described is in the group with the Scarlet Runner bean. Bailey reduced it as a variety. From all the information I have been able to secure, Pallar is widely cultivated in parts of South America, the name being rather commonly used in Argentina. Why not write, if you have not already done so, to all of the American Legations in Central and South America, requesting that you be supplied with as many different kinds of beans as possible? This would give the so-called agricultural attaches something to do rather than spending too much time at official and semi-official cocktail parties.

I am a bit amused at your last paragraph. Your argument impresses me as belonging in the same class as those used by certain eminent neo-geographers. The word "Coyol" is not and never was Spanish. It is not in our large Spanish dictionary. I have not checked on the dictionary of the Spanish Academy, but in other cases where I have done so the derivation of words of this type are usually given - not always correctly. "Coyol" is a modified word of

13-14-1953

To Freytag

Nahautl or Aztec origin as you say, but anybody who knows Spanish that happens to read your article will be very much amused at your interpretation of the word as Spanish and as meaning a ball. The name was unquestionably applied to the palm, no matter now if it may be used to indicate wine from the palm or any other product. If you were trying to give a modern interpretation, you really should have explained the background.

Sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

16 April 1953

Dear Dr & Mrs Williams:

See slipping — there is it. Three inches of snow night of 14th. All gone now. We take it that you too have seen a bit of snow also on your trip west of our marshes, which he correct!

All well. Even making progress on the Bower & Solander (Tarkenton) paper but some of my ket enemies won't like what I say about their "theories". The worst are F. H. B. Brown, George Carter, Hyslop and Carl Sauer and I have really taken them apart for at least Sauer listed certain biomorphs making the most absurd claims about a half dozen of them so this gives me the chance to unprint his charges so long as he merely lectured & never writes one couldn't get at him very well but when he printed his biomorphs, quite another thing. Best wishes from both of us & hope you will see it if the time trick Sincerely EDM

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

June 2, 1953

Dear Dr. Williams:

My intentions were good in that I had intended to write you so that the letter would be at Zamorano by the time you got back. Today, however, came a letter from Mrs. Williams telling about the trip, and that you were already home.

I am trying to close up the introduction to the paper on which I was working while at the Escuela a few months ago, but I have to watch my step and not attempt to do too much in any one day. This high blood pressure has to be watched, and so, I take a long rest in midday and take an assortment of pills which may or may not help! Verdoorn is very anxious to get the copy for immediate publication in CHRONICA BOTANICA. In certain respects I sort of took my hair down and called a spade a spade, and a half dozen people won't like what I say about them. The list includes my pet anathema, Carter, who is utterly impossible, Carl Sauer, a very, very close second, F.H.B. Brown, Heyerdahl, Anderson and Bakhuizen. When I really got into Sauer's little book, and again dipped into the Anderson volume more critically, I was absolutely shocked at what both of them accepted. Sauer, knowing no botany of course has no inhibitions; Anderson merely got on the wrong track, and roughly of 90 species that he included in his chapter on "Our most important crop plants" at least 10% do not rate at all. One can wonder indefinitely why such plants as Dahlia, Marigold, Job's Tears, and other plants of this type should ever have been mentioned, but Andy being Andy he could not resist the temptation of setting up certain hypotheses. So I quote from the latest books of two of the authors, and then dissect, and one really doesn't have to have a dissecting instrument finer than a meat ax! One can only conclude that EA was under the influence of COS, made up his mind in advance, failed to check the evidence and so, in places, sort of put his foot into a mess. Take down his little book on "Plants, Man and Life" and scan what he says about maize on page 160. The little expression "raises for some of us", is very amusing because Stoner and Anderson figuratively fell on their faces merely because they did not know of a continued commercial line that operated for 165 years with many hundreds or even some thousands of ships involved between Lisbon and Goa, a great many of them stopping at the bulge of Brazil for wood, water and general supplies. This also explains that "great center of diversification" of Cucurbita in Pakistan to Persia, etc. The economic plants and the weeds merely followed the old commercial route, even as they do today.

With best regards to you both.

Very sincerely yours

E.D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

Dr. E. D. Merrill

Arnold Arboretum

Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

U.S.A.



AIR LETTER

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

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The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.
U.S.A.

12 June 1953

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

Dear Dr. Williams:

Will you and Paul Standley put your heads together, and also on your part, ask various members of any class you may have, what the usage is in their respective countries for the "cigar". Now, as far as I can determine here, the Spanish "cigarro" was of Mayan origin, and in all of my experience I have never heard this word used. Universally in the Philippines it is "un tabaco" and I think it is the same in Cuba. I don't know why I didn't have sense enough when I was wandering about to realize that sometime I might need more information about this simple word. All over the Philippines and Malaya, including New Guinea, the term for the tobacco plant are cognate forms of the Spanish "tabaco", except that although I have a dozen or more forms for New Guinea, there are others involved. There are some of these superpositive individuals who don't know botany who insisted that "tabaco" was introduced into New Guinea long before the Europeans arrived, but they cannot explain to me, if this be true, how all of ^{the} Polynesian islands were skipped or how a Caribbean (Tino) name for the cigar (not the pipe) got applied to the plant all over Malaysia.

I am just now trying to finish my write-up on Dr. Bakhuizen, who some 25 or 30 years ago solved all of the problems about the introduction of American plants into Malaysia. He was a botanist, but his write-up in Dutch would do great credit to George Carter or a Carl Sauer. I am just posing a few questions for the superpositive anthropologists and a few botanists to answer.

With best regards to all, including the "banana specialist."

Very sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

Dr. E. D. Merrill

Arnold Arboretum

Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

U.S.A.

AIR LETTER



**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

DR. LOUIS O. WILLIAMS
ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA
HONDURAS

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The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.
U.S.A.

17 June 1953

Dear Dr. Williams:

I received yesterday a carbon copy of the paper that Burkill wrote for CEIRA on problems associated with the names of the sweet potato in America. It seems to me that he has done an excellent job. Can you let me know at your convenience in which volume of CEIRA this paper will be presented. I wish to add a footnote reference to it, as "ined." I am leaving tomorrow for Maine to be away not over ten days. Most of the time I will be sitting on the shore of Moosehead Lake or in boats out on the lake testing my ability to land a trout or a salmon or a togue. If the weather is anything like it has been in Boston for the past month, I may stay in the camp most of the time and keep the fire burning. Here it is the middle of June, and we still keep our furnace going. This is something!

Sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

June 30, 1953

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Before I get completely buried under I had better get a note off about Dr. Burkill's paper. It will be published in volume four of Ceiba, possibly in the next issue which should be out in a couple or three months.

The paper seems to me to be a little too drawn out in some parts and I think that it needs some correcting. I shall send you a comment by page and line as soon as I can do it for your opinion.

Cool here but not much rain yet. -- Rua and I went up to San Antonio over the week-end and found it uncomfortably cold up there.

I hope the trip to Moosehead proved to be enjoyable and productive of fish. Our latest was a fish procured in the local fish market and from it a chowder made "a la Merrill". It was good at that.

Dr. Popenoe leaves here about the 13 July. Flying to Florida and then on up to Boston. Maybe to Spain for a month after he has visited in Boston.

Regards,

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 80, MASS., U.S.A.

July 10, 1953

Dear Williams:

Thanks for your recent note. I am in touch with Popenoe and will undoubtedly attend one of his meetings with Mr. Coolidge in Boston toward the end of the month. I will probably keep going as long as I can make it.

Yesterday I turned over to Verdoorn about three-fourths of the manuscript that has been claiming my attention for nearly a year. I rechecked what I said about tobacco in New Guinea where, curiously, various forms of this Caribbean name are applied to the plant as is also true of all of Malaysia and the Philippines, and the Tano name that the Spaniards picked up in the form of "tabaco" was the name of the cigar, and was never applied to the plant; and yet this name of the cigar is all over the Philippines, Malaysia and Papuasias applied to the plant. I can't get van Nouhuys, who believes that tobacco was in New Guinea hundreds of years before the Europeans arrived, to explain this little enigma - he being an anthropologist with fixed ideas, like some other people I could name.

Now I really need information from you which you can easily secure from the students. In what countries in Latin America is the term "tabaco" applied to the cigar rather than the term "cigarro" - the former comes from the West Indies, the latter apparently is Mayan.

Verdoorn says that he may have proofs within two or three weeks, and I would like to slip in a little statement to bother some of the positive anthropologists who, when it comes to plants, frequently do not know what they are talking about.

With best regards from both of us to you, to the banana specialist,
also, one Paul Standley!
* and to Mrs. Williams

Sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

July 16, 1953

Dr. E. D. Merrill
The Arnold Arboretum
Harvard University
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. Merrill:

We were very glad to have your letter and to know that you and Mrs. Merrill are well.

I am glad to know that the paper you are writing will soon go to press. I am sorry that I have not gotten the information on the word "tabaco" for you. I am enclosing two sheets giving the use of the words and the countries represented by the third year class here. I hope it will be of some use to you.

With my regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis O. Williams

Enclosures: (2)

November 1, 1953

Dear Dr. Merrill:

You may have seen the following notice in "Science News Letter for September 5, 1953, but if you have not I copy it for you. I think that you will enjoy reading it.

"LANGUAGE DISPROVES THEORY OF KON-TIKI

Language disproves that the Polynesians came from Amaerica as the Kon-tiki voyage westward across the Pacific led Thor Heyerdahl to contend.

Evidence of this is communicated by Prof. Alan S. C. Ross of the University of Birmingham, England, to Nature (Aug. 22.).

No relationship exists between Polynesian and any American language-family, Prof. Ross observes. But philologists do find that Polynesian is related to Indonesian. There are written texts in old Javanese, which is an Indonesian language, of at least the eighth century A.D., and Primitive Indonesian was spoken earlier.

Thus language ancestral to Polynesian existed before Mr. Heyerdahl supposed two waves of "Polynesians" coming from America, one about 500 A. D. from Peru and ~~the~~ another about 1000 A.D. from northwest North America.

Comparative philology affords "an absolutely decisive disproof" of the Kon-Tiki theory in Prof. Ross' opinion."

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

November 12, 1953

Dear Dr. Williams:

I should have kept you posted on what goes on here, but unfortunately I got mixed up in proof reading on the opus I was writing when I was at Zamorano. I now have the last galley, but I have, unfortunately, to make certain additions if I can find the time and the "energy." Maybe I can get the work back to the editor (Verdoorn) next week; at least I hope so.

A very curious thing was that immediately before Anderson left for his trip to Zamorano, he wrote one of the strangest letters, actually hysterical, that I have ever received; I haven't answered it, and may not do so, because what I say about the six individuals that I have ennobled by giving each a side entry in black face type, will indicate just what I feel about the situation. I "showed up" O. F. Cook very thoroughly, but I did not "ennoble" him. He operated on the same principle that Sauer does, and Sauer's disciple, Carter; and unfortunately Anderson got bit by the same bug, and in respect to his expressed views in print, he is the worst of the lot. I think that what triggered him to write the hysterical letter was that I had merely commented on how both he and Stonor could get so far off the track when the Assam type of pop corn could be matched by the pop corns from the Atlantic watershed of South America. Not one of the theorizers that I have dissected knew anything about the long continued Portuguese route via Brazil to Goa, and thence to Amboina, Canton, Formosa and Japan. In the letter, in spite of the fact that I had given him the actual date of introduction of Bixa into the Pacific islands, (all of them within the 19th century) I suspect that he is off on another paper proving that Bixa was all over the tropics of the Old World long before the Spaniards and the Portuguese commenced their operations. Actually one does not have to go back of 1500. The Portuguese operations were on a very large scale, and they antedated the Spanish colonization of the Philippines by 65 years. I know that when my paper came out in 1950 that various of Andy's students raised their eyebrows and sought advice on my "exposure" of E.A. Unfortunately he will interpret what I have said about himself, Carl Sauer, and George Carter as an unwarranted attack on my part.

I really would like to see this opus through the press, because it is manifest that it will be the last one that I will write. The decline that I was in the early part of the year has continued. Finally in desperation and without the advice of my doctor, I went to my dentist and he x-rayed my teeth, finding all of those on the lower jaw (11, I think) in very bad condition, but there was no pain, and from the outside the teeth looked all right. It is almost certain that my present slowed down condition is, in large part due to the flood of pus that has been entering the blood stream for at least four years. Mrs. Merrill has been thinking of Florida, but I definitely turned that idea down. I think it is very doubtful that I will do any more travelling. I can be reasonably comfortable here, if I have sense enough to stay home in very cold or stormy weather.

With best regards to Mrs. Williams and yourself, and best wishes to the Popenoes, Don Pablito and others.

Very sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill, Arnold Professor
of Botany, Emeritus.

December 29, 1953

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Merrill:

The Popenoes were over to the house for dinner last night and Dr. Popenoe said that they had had a Xmas card from someone in Boston, who had seen you recently, and that they were of the opinion that you planned to come down here again this year.

I had the impression that you did not plan to come because of the book that you wanted to finish and see through the press.

If you want to come and find that you can we should like to have you and will get busy and dust out the spare room. - If you can come we can radio Boston for space on the next available boat from New York, or one at about the time you will want to come. - Perhaps it would be possible for your son to drive you to the ship in New York and then either Rua and I could fly down to the coast to meet your ship if you wanted us to do it. The offices on the coast are not in the confusion that they were last year so there would be little difficulty I imagine.

I am getting a small radio transmitter (amateur) so we could talk to Boston every day and find out just how cold the weather up there is for Mrs. Merrill.

It has been quite cold here the last few mornings. Down to 60° this morning. The rainy season is over though and the sun is beginning to show again with some regularity.

Sincerely,

Dr. E. D. Merrill

Arnold Arboretum

Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

U.S.A.



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

DR. LOUIS A. WILLIAMS

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

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The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass., U.S.A.

January 8, 1954

Dear Williams:

Your letter of December 29 came a few days ago. Your impression that we did not plan to come south this year was correct. I really am not in physical condition to make a trip, because the high blood pressure got the better of me and then I found that this was complicated by eleven badly infected teeth, all of which had to be pulled, which incidentally was no picnic! I had three seances with the dentist a week apart, and the teeth came out five, three, three. I had hoped that some improvement would be evident, but as yet I still live in hopes. Yesterday I had another seance with the dental surgeon who did the pulling, because parts of the bone projected, reminding me of the main range of the Himalayas. The result was that I carried my new store teeth in my pocket most of the time. Didn't even attend a meeting of the AAAS in Boston, and have cut out all outside activities.

We have had a very decent winter so far. Several times the weather prophets have predicted cold weather, but nothing happened. The hamamelis is in full flower just outside of the office - snowdrops are open, and almost the first of January the dandelions are doing their best.

I am really sorry that I must stay put until I finish the proofs. The second galleys should be here within a week or two; but I had to make a number of additions on the first galleys, because new items constantly appear, for the most part written by individuals who do not know what they are talking about. I do not think that the publication of what will be my last major work will have any effect whatever on the theorizers.

Please extend to Mrs. Williams our regrets that the combination of circumstances are against me as regards a trip to Honduras at this time. All depends on how these darned teeth extractions eventually work out. After all, you have to realize, as I do, that old age is really catching up with me too fast.

My very best regards to Don Pablo, to Mrs. Williams and yourself.

Very sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill

EDM:cg

*Andy, Carl Sauer & the most impossible
Critic just going to live my most ex
haustion!*
Ed

Dr. E. D. Merrill
The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.
U.S.A.



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

DR. LOUIS O. WILLIAMS
ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA
HONDURAS

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The Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass., U.S.A.

14 January 1954

Dear Dr. Williams:

I ran across a lot of long stored material at the house, and in sorting it I found a number of pictures I took in the Jackson Hole country and neighboring parts of Idaho, Montana, etc. These were taken by me in 1900 and 1901. I thought that you might be mildly interested in your home terrain. The pictures are being forwarded by ordinary mail. I thought that you might be interested in scanning them, so suggest that some evening when you have a fire in your large fireplace, that you and Mrs. Williams might refresh your memory and then cast the individual pictures into the fire. I have an idea that if I had persisted I might have made a reasonably good photographer, but the old Kodak camera folded up on the famous trip to Mt. Falcon, and I left it behind when we departed from Calipan for Manila in 1906. In scanning the pictures I find that I apparently had a proper sense of "balance."

With best wishes to Mrs. Williams and yourself, plus various and sundry others, including Don Pablo and Antonio.

Sincerely yours

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill, Arnold Professor
of Botany, Emeritus

EDM:cg

Jan 29, 1954

Dear Williams

Thanks for the quote from Herodotus which I think I can slip in at an appropriate place when second books are received maybe in a week or so. I telephoned Prof. Peck and he and beheld he wanted a smoother translation + meaning is lay more with the original Greek (which I do probably want also - yet it might have the good lunatic neo-geographers that I am really cradling! The more I dig out of the dead and buried best L's. what has happened since 1495 and 1500) the more I am attached to the positive ignorance shown by modern theories - and to think that what they have overlooked is for the most part in the printed record for printing in Greek dates from the 16th century. Well, it is a pity that some of these same individuals will insist on putting into too much water when they cast our common swim! But still to write a very few paragraphs which may, may on occasion be merely a page with a brief comment! Verdon is to prepare a précis of the whole to the Taro Congress. In spite of various shortcomings, I think it is the best thing I have done even if there may be some violent dissent from those who don't know what they are talking about!

Some winter - few days ago 12 inches of snow, temperatures down to as much as -48.5° but couldn't stay down. Hamamelis has been in flower ever since for last month. Good old dandelions in blossom and down up to Christmas. If you want to know tell him we had "Molva" sunk three days ago when the snow melted in front of the Art building. You see I need vitamins or something of Molva" when the vitamins are found!

Feeling reasonably well but of course a good deal sicker. Yes, the is more. Better yet than I

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass.



AIR LETTER

Dr. Louis O. Williams

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

-BACK B

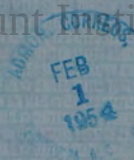


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I am so we get along more or less
slowed down. Best regards to Mrs Williams
and all the other people. Thanks for the
quote from Herodotus

Sincerely

Edmondo

May 1, 1954

Dr. & Mrs. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Merrill:

It has been quite a time since I have written you a note and I guess that it is about time that I did. I think that Rua keeps up quite a lot better with her personal correspondence.

We missed your visit here very much this winter and mentioned you any number of times. We had a quite nice winter and not quite so cold as some of them. It was really cold only one morning (44°). I do not think that we had the fireplace going a half dozen times all winter.

We got a ham radio some time ago and it has been quite a lot of fun. It takes up some of the time that I used to use to read and which my eyes will not permit any more. I was talking to a chap in Brookline about 6 oclock one morning (7 there) and he telephoned your house to let me talk to you but the phone did not answer. I guess that you were not up.

Things go along about as usual down here. We seem to get a bit of work done and to not get around to a lot that we should do. The days are not long enough for all of it.

My Grandmother, at 96 years, passed away in the winter so we decided not to make a trip up through the United States this year. Rua is going up to New York in August, I think it is, to visit with her brother and her parents who will be in New York and then I guess turn around and come back down. I have not much desire to go to New York in August. It will be cool down here then.

We have not heard much about the Arboretum now for a long time. I have heard that the new Herbarium (?) building is finished in Cambridge and that the Gray is being moved there.

We have just had some propaganda from *Chronica Botanica* to the effect that your next book is due before too long. I suppose that it might be out by this time.

Doc Standley has been very well now for the last six or eight months and I think he says that he has put on eight pounds of weight, if you can imagine that. He looks and I think feels very well. He has cut his working hours considerably from what he used to do but that is only natural.

Antonio Molina has long since returned from St. Louis, as I am sure you know. The year there did both he and his wife a great deal of good. I hope that I shall be able to wangle him another year or two in Florida eventually so that he may learn a little basic biology now.

Time for me to close and pass along my best regards to both of you,

Sincerely,

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain
Massachusetts, U. S. A.



AIR LETTER

**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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May 17, 1954.

Dr. L. O. Williams
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Dear Dr. Williams:

This one of those weekends when I feel very low, perhaps with real reason. I've come to the time when I can no longer work and get about, aided by a cane, very slowly. So I say as Thackeray did in the last short paragraph of Vanity Fair, beginning "Vanitas Vanitorem". I have your list of queries on the Burkill manuscript and will try to get at your needs - but may not make it. The fact is that I slip steadily on the route to Avernus. All my botanical books are packed for shipment to New York (Bot. Garden). Get about only to a limited extent but am dependent on the use of a cane. Well anyway I made it through the past winter but surely will not outlast another one.

My various desks are pretty well cleaned out. The botanical fight goes on but nothing can be done until this fall when the Supreme Court is to pass on the issue. For Harvard to make a move now would merely mean it would face an injunction. It is perhaps just as well that I drop out now. My interpretation was that Harvard deliberately planned to rook the Arboretum of a large part of its income to support biology in Cambridge and really had to change its plans when the Visiting Committee got fighting mad to the extent of raising \$50,000. to be used for legal fees.

Other than my infirmities being on the increase all is well at the house.

Best regards to Mrs. Williams and to you in the words of the Roman poet: "in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale."

Very Sincerely Yours,

E. D. Merrill
E. D. Merrill

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

June 17, 1954.

Dr. L. O. Williams
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Dear Dr. Williams:

I am not certain that I have acknowledged the receipt of your last letter and so if this be repetitious I apologize; because I have advanced to the stage where my memory fails me on details. Perhaps better stated that I have reached the more or less irresponsible stage in my decline. The Communist trouble in Guatemala and the communist inspired strikes in Honduras are still more or less in the news. Maybe the troubles will be settled before long.

June 2nd was a sad day at the Arnold Arboretum for that morning the move commenced to Cambridge and is steadily continuing. Much of the herbarium has already been moved and a good start has been made on the library. I merely comment that when the announcement was made regarding who was to be head of the library Miss Stone immediately presented her resignation. I am informed that the Visiting Committee subscribed \$50,000.00 to be used to cover legal fees but I begin to think that some accomplishments might have been reached if this money were made available to support research. I am not legally trained but suspect that the lawyers ran into difficulties for no injunction on Harvard was imposed. Within a month or so, possibly less, this building will be largely an empty shell - other than perhaps books that form a part of the Arboretum Library may be kept in storage here as moving them now would merely duplicate the holdings of the Gray Herbarium. The Arboretum is apparently to be maintained only or chiefly as a city park in the future although the university lawyers cancelled certain very important parts of the original action of the corporation appertaining to income from the Arboretum endowment.

The volume that Verdoorn is publishing progresses slowly. It is about one year since the copy was sent to the printer but there has been delay after delay chiefly, I suppose, because Verdoorn is not in good health and again he has a very small staff, altogether too small to handle the number of publications he is putting through the press. However, my last opus will be very well illustrated with about thirty plates and figures, mostly reproductions of drawings prepared on Cook's first and second voyages.

Physically I gradually decline and I suppose it will be only a question of time before I will have to confine my efforts to the house. - presumably the decline is in part mental and in part physical. I find it increasingly difficult to keep up with normal correspondence. I have already disposed of most of my correspondence via the waste basket route; I have sent typed copies of my

at least 15 volumes, perhaps more - I may be off here I forget details. Maybe what he told me was 150 volumes!

17-VI-1954
To L.D. Williams

-2-

compiled data on the status of the Roxburgh Malaysian types to Kew, British Museum, Leiden, Geneva and Brussels, with a set filed in the Arboretum Library. Maybe Mr. Alston at the British Museum will actually finish a technical paper on the status of the Roxburgh ferns which were originally described in 1844. There is no record that any of the fern specialists have ever actually examined the Roxburgh types, at least I stimulated some action because I located a great many of the actual types at the British Museum at Kew and most surprisingly in the Martius Herbarium, which is now at the Brussels Botanical Garden. Incidentally you had better hang this information on the hake of your memory, because the Martius Herbarium contains a very high percentage of the actual Martius types.

Mrs. Merrill is getting along very well in comparison with what I have to endure. It is not impossible that we will give up the house at 960 Center Street within a few weeks, or possibly months, and take a smaller place if we do not decide to move south and take life really much more easily in the future. I suppose that it is inevitable that I will have to resign from the Board of Directors of the Escuela perhaps at the coming annual meeting. With what has happened here my mind is an absolute blank as to the selection of my successor. I could prepare a short list of individuals who under no circumstances should ever be considered to fill the vacancy.

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Very sincerely yours,

and now both at Kew
and the British Museum
make me regretting the
Roxburgh specimens in stalled!

EDMerrill

E. D. Merrill

EDM-S

Best regards to Mrs. Williams

I am likely to often two or three weeks (probably July 1) I'll
never have occasion to visit the work of what was a
very active institution - as it is that time changes

Richard Schuster has been appointed senior
in the staff of the Botanical Museum to handle

taxonomy. Schuster has been hired and
specimens to the new building. Good chance to move to the
Cactus Area botanical building (Mrs. A. to provide much of the
cost) filled, empty because the two members of the
committee who interviewed him did the trouble merely because
Mr. had been briefed! as Mrs. C. A. has a head on her
shoulders! from which is forward built the new herbarium
(over)

building (which cost of course even added the herbarium for
obvious reasons) which obviously only the administration
plus two scholars wanted (no body else did) at a cost
of \$1,000,000 (some say \$1,300,000) from unrestricted University funds
for the long, long time the balance of putting the funds
received from dissolved AA lands, undivided lands of the AA, no longer
needed, residual residence the purchased in the Daily report as being
illegal. But Harvard's "Botanical Empire" is pretty well wrecked.
What is it? The budget at the Harvard Forest \$60,000 a year
no staff. One director who isn't a forester. The institution discredited
by the Am. Forestry Assoc. & so no more graduate students from the forestry
schools. I'd say, saved but a wreck! ~~Only~~ It is used for
conferences on various non-forestry subjects I understand - but
after all \$60,000 is \$60,000. 10/

July 9, 1954

Dr. E. D. Merrill
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Merrill:

Your letter of June 17 has just arrived here this morning and we are very glad to have it.

I had not heard that the move of the Arboretum from the Arboretum to the new building in Cambridge had begun, nor that the Visiting Committee had not brought an injunction against Harvard to stop the move. -- I suppose that any systematic work at Harvard will be pretty much looked down upon from now on. This must be the first time for much more than 100 years that Harvard has ~~had~~ no outstanding systematist on the staff.

If you feel it necessary to resign from the Board of Directors of the Escuela, which I hope will not be necessary, I hope that you will make your opinion known about a suggested successor. -- My personal feeling at the time ~~sketching~~ is that Dr. Sax is the only scientist around the place who should be considered. - I could compile some who should not be considered too.

We continue to move ahead slowly. A bad hip kept me out of the field most of the past vacation time but I hope that next year we may spend a couple of months in Costa Rica working that field. The library is growing slowly also.

Conditions have improved considerably during the last month here in Central America. It looks like the commies have been tossed for a loss in Guatemala, - and I hope it is for good. Here there are rumors that the strike will be settled this week-end. I hope that it comes about.

I had not heard that Schultes had been appointed to the Staff of the Botanical Museum to "handle taxonomy". They will not have much there with the orchid herbarium gone.

Rua is going to go up to New York toward the end of this month if the strike is over and the ships are running again. I do not know whether she will go to Boston or not but I suspect not. Her folks are coming to New York to visit with one of her brothers there.

AUGUST 6, 1954

I did not do very well in continuing right along with this letter. I put it in the top of my desk when I was called away and for almost a month it has been there.

It was very nice to talk with you this morning although through someone else. It is too bad that the man did not have an apparatus to connect the phone directly to the radio. He had a very strong signal in here. It was just as good as if he had been sitting here in my house with me.

I am glad that the "opus" is coming along to proofs and hope that it will not be very long before it is out. I, for one, shall be very happy to see it.

We have the usual number of visitors and it seems to me that there is almost never a time when we do not have someone here in the science building using the facilities which we have. I am glad to see it used so much.

Don Pablito is getting along quite well and I have hopes that he will not again have any difficulties. He works not more than four or five hours a day now. Taking things considerably more easy.

I received a printed screed from the director of the Arnold Arboretum in the mail a few days ago. I assume that it was sent out to the entire mailing list for the copy which I received had been addressed with a stencil. -- My guess is that some of the more "embarrassing" questions were not asked nor answered.

I hope that Rua can find the time to get up to visit with you. She went to New York just as soon as the strike was over and the ships running again. I had a letter from here in the mail this morning and she seems to be doing alright but not enjoying the heat too much.

Tomorrow is Saturday and there are two groups of guests due out here, -- 40 in one and 50 in the other! Probably a few extra ones will come along.

I should think that it might be quite a good idea to move to Florida where the climate is not quite so rigorous as that of Boston. The moving of the Arboretum library and herbarium is going to make the use of them quite difficult from Jamaica Plain. And I even suspect that they may not be in very usable shape for some time to come.

Think I had better close off and think about getting a bit of sleep.

Regards to both,

E. D. Merrill
960 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.
U. S. A.

**AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME**

Dr. Louis O. Williams

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana

Tegucigalpa

Honduras



**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVIÓN**

Apartado 93

MESSAGE MUST APPEAR ON INNER SIDE ONLY
NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

August 16, 1954.

Dr. Louis O. Williams
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
Dear Dr. Williams:

This is a brief response to your letter of July 9th. Mrs. Williams writes that she hopes to get to Boston about a week from now.

I have not been at the Arboretum since the end of June but am continuing my work at the house. The long delayed final work of E.D.M. is almost, not quite, finished as far as the final page proof is concerned. The Index should be ready to go to the printer within a day or two, so we begin to see the end - and as I told you before a number of individuals will not like what is contained in the book.

I got sidetracked last night by trying to check out a reference by Messedaglia who "proves" that maize was in Europe before the return of Columbus. Curiously I think he was correct. There is a lot of evidence that maize had been taken across the Atlantic by the negroes a century or two before Columbus - 1492; but one of his proofs is a picture from the Pentsao which he says proves that maize was in China before the arrival of the Europeans - all the trouble was that he forgot to check his dates. There were many editions of the Pentsao, the first without illustrations and roughly even this was not published until about 1575. I will have more exact data this evening in spite of the fact that the Harvard-Yenching Library is closed for a month, and you know what that means.

Naturally I hear very little of what goes on in Botanical circles and unfortunately what I hear is sometimes very disconcerting. Clearly the idea back of the Bailey Report was that the herbarium work should be very greatly reduced and the money used for more practical purposes, especially by the Laboratory Technicians. My resignation delayed the final action for about eight years.

I finally shipped my personal library as a gift to the New York Botanical Garden. The librarian is a bibliophile and apparently if I made a pencil note in any single volume she thinks that volume should be retained indefinitely. I objected. The whole idea was that the library should be listed and sold by items for the purpose of building up a special restricted fund the income to be used only for specified purposes. If I remember Miss Hall's last letter correctly she had located about 800 bound volumes - but a number of cartons still remained to be unpacked.

The Ames Herbarium and Library has been moved to the New Building; I could tell a story about this, but I will merely outline it to Mrs. Williams. Apparently the Laboratory technicians did not find the going at all simple or easy.

It was nice to hear from you through the local radio ham a week or so ago. I could recognize your voice but the power apparently was low so that I could not make out individual statements.

Incidentally the supreme court has still to pass on this Arboretum controversy; frankly I should have been slow in taking action until after the court acted. Maybe it will be several months yet before final action is taken. There is a great deal of resentment at what has been done. It is reported that friends of the Arboretum have provided \$45,000. to fight the case but what the final decision will be no lo se.

With best wishes

Very sincerely yours,

E. D. Merrill

E. D. Merrill

960 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

ARBORETUM STIRS ISSUE AT HARVARD

Alumni Group Is Fighting Plan
to Move Much of the Adjunct
From Site in Boston

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 12—

A group of Harvard alumni, headed by Grenville Clark, a former member of the university corporation, has charged that "nothing less than the university's good name" is involved in a plan to remove most of the Arnold Arboretum's library and herbarium from Jamaica Plain to a new central botanical building in Cambridge.

The arboretum, widely known for its display of trees, shrubs and flowers, was made possible through a bequest of James Arnold. It was established in 1872 in one of the more attractive sections of Boston.

In a letter published in the December issue of The Harvard Alumni Bulletin, the graduate group contended that the plan constituted a "legal breach of trust and a breach of moral obligation." It asserted that the proposed removal would do a grave wrong to the benefactors of the arboretum.

The group said that it had filed a petition in the State Supreme Judicial Court for a review of a decision by an assistant state attorney general refusing permission for a test suit to determine the legality of the plan.

The Harvard Corporation, in a reply printed side by side with the protest, declared that the decision on the change had been reached after seven years' consideration in the belief that the university would be best served by having part of the herbarium, a collection of dried plants, and the library available for study and research nearer the main Harvard buildings.

The corporation said that it had had legal advice on the issue and it showed that no restrictions had been made concerning the location of facilities for teaching "the knowledge of trees in the university."

The signers of the letter of protest, in addition to Mr. Clark, class of '03, were John S. Ames, '01, and Ellery Sedgwick, '94. They and the following signed the petition to the Supreme Court: Benjamin S. Blake, '01, Godfrey L. Cabot, '82, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Henry F. du Pont, '03, Childs Frick and Mrs. Susan Delano McKelvey.

The corporation reply was signed by Dr. Nathan M. Fensholt, '28, president of the university; Paul C. Cabot, '21, treasurer; Dr. Roger I. Lee, '02, Charles A. Coolidge, '17, William L. Marbury, Law '24, R. Keith Kane, '22, and Thomas S. Lamont, '21.