

EXPEDITION # 12: TO COLOMBIA, SA, 1974 (Nov. 3 – Nov. 29) JRH is 57 years old. PN only.

This trip to Colombia is an extension of Harlan's trip to the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) and afterward to East Asia and Pacific. He does not even check in at home, but keeps going. Why did he go to Colombia? We have a clue: In Crops & Man, Second Edition, page 223, Harlan discusses a specimen recorded in difficult handwritten Latin by Jose Celastino Mutis in a diary entry of 7 Nov. 1777 describing "an inflorescence brought to him by a friend who had just been for a walk. They both recognize it as some kind of maize, but different from the cultivated kind. Mutis called it Maicillo Cimarron (*Zea Silvestris*). He was living at the time at Las Minas del Sapo, near Ibagu'e, Colombia. A month later, he wrote a brief Latin description, which is on file at the Jardin Bota'nico in Madrid. The handwriting, spelling, and Latin are all difficult. There is no specimen. The fact that the terminal inflorescence had only male flowers would seem to indicate the plant was, indeed, a *Zea* and not *Tripsacum*. On two visits to Ibagu'e. I was unable to find any such plant. I visited the Jardin Bota'nico to photograph the original description in Mutis' handwriting. But firm conclusions are difficult to reach. Mutis was the most prominent botanist in South America at the time, and one is inclined to believe he could tell wild maize from domesticated maize." We can conclude from all this that Harlan went to Ibagu'e, Colombia to look for this plant. Here we have a true Plant Explorer, an Indiana Jones, slogging through the swamps in search of a rare plant that a great botanist had described almost 200 years previously that would help solve the origins of maize puzzle. PN means Pocket Notebook.

PN 74:

Oct. 7 in garden, [Not sure where he is but this is the time between PRC & Colombia]
Oct. 8 to MTS, Djibodas Hort.
Oct. 9 Chichatry Mocket,
Oct 10 a.m. lecture //p.m. Herbarium,
Oct. 11 Rosalie / Tony Perez. For collections has been collecting for IRRI & Hails Beachell says he is good.
Oct. 12 – 16 [TECH TALK IN A PN. THIS PAGE & THE NEXT ARE FILLED, HARD TO DECIPHER.]
Oct. 17: nothing
Oct. 18: Maryborough // check ----
Oct. 19: Rhys Jones // "Firestick farming" // Austr. Nat. Hist., see Nature
Oct. 20: Crest Hotel, Brisbane // John Parham to meet plane
Oct. 21-22: various notes about N. G. art museums NSW) & musical instruments.
Oct. 23-Nov. 12: very little except a few obscure notes
Nov. 13-14: a couple of names
Nov. 19 & 23 a few names
Nov. 25-Dec. 1 TECH TALK

Note: this is his Indiana Jones style at its best, HVH2. In a Christmas Card to Phil Busey for 1974 Jack says that Jean came to visit him in Colombia for a few days.

3XI He flew to Bogota from Fiji; stayed at a small hotel.

4XI Bought a map of Bogota and hiked to US Embassy & talked with Agri. Attache' Alfred Persi, who wet him up with someone at the National University.

Next page I have is Tech Talk & may be out of place. Get originals.

6XI (May be missing a page) He finally went to the CIAT office in Bogota and got a case to be left there and then went to Velotax and got a seat on a car to Ibague'¹ and off he went.

7XI Met with Raul Escheverria of U. Totima (is he Teresita's brother that she talked about?) and saw his Botanical Garden.

8XI Rained all morning but went to market with Raul.

9XI Nothing much here but a birthday party and a conv. in French with one of Raul's uncle, Benjamin Echeverria Morgamz ? He blew all his money on whiskey for Raul at party and now could not find a bank to change his T-checks.

Next page is Tech Talk (I think the pages are mixed up)

Next page is Tech Talk on left, but on right has a dated entry:

13XI But this is still Tech Talk. It is beginning to look like he is in another conference and various people are presenting things or, at least, involved in a discussion and JRH is taking notes. At the bottom of this page is a monthly schedule of usual rainfall. On next page, which seems to be a continuation of 13XI he flies to Medellin

14XI Flies on a small plane, which is full of passengers, to Quibdo' (mostly blacks.) It drizzles between rains and then it rain heavy for an hour or so.

15XI No rush: the appointment was for 10:00 am. At 10, still no rush; no gas for 'launch', because no money for the gas. The problem seemed complex so did not offer to buy gas. By noon the problem said to be restored – so we adjourn until 2:00 pm. At 2, people began to gather & launch arrived eventually; off by about 2:30 in an elegant dugout w/outboard. The river very high & over its banks, swift in middle so we skimmed one shore & then the other riding v. low & shipping water continually. Still raining & swollen river seemed ominous, but vegetation fascinating & much to see. After about an hour reached village of Samurindo' upstream. On the bank, partially covered by the flood was small populations of *clivcociño*² maize. Off season and very green but being harvested already for snacks. Looked like maize to me although slender and depauperate³ because of growing conditions. This had been broadcast mostly in grass

¹ Ibague' is a state or "Department", one of 32 in the Republic of Colombia, in the mountains about half way between Bogota and Cali. According to Wikipedia it is the music capital of Colombia. In Crops & Man, Second Edition, page 223 Harlan discusses a specimen recorded in difficult handwritten Latin by Jose Celastino Mutis in a diary entry of 7 Nov. 1777 describing "an inflorescence brought to him by a friend who had just been for a walk."

² I am not sure of the spelling of this word. HVH2

³ lacking in numbers or variety of species

growing on the bank w little brush. Adjacent was *Tripsacum* which we collected for specimens – no seed. They call it “Guatemala” and it looks like it although they say it is not cultivated. The way this river floods it could spread by rhizomes. Anyway if it is real Guatemala it isn’t crossing w. maize. Not much more to be doing [BOTT]

18XI (Again, we are missing a page) Took bus to ICA Tuleo Ospina and met with Jesus Antonia Rivera, who seemed to know his business. He had a *Tripsacum* nursery and JRH collected some seeds, although a lot of specimens were still green and not even in flower. They have been doing a lot of collecting, but some 20 years ago. He said: “Without question or hesitation that bottle gourd is wild in Colombia.” They have more than 5,000 items in the Maize collection from the Andean region. Follows is some semi-tech talk. Flew back to Bogota that afternoon.

19XI Checked for mail from Rome. Went to Museo Nacional. They had a good program. It was taking notes on the back of his ticket but ran out of space.

27XI74 Found ICA office in due time (where is he now?) Someone took him to “La Libertad” station. Tech Talk about rainfall then *Tripsacum*. They don’t seem to have much *Tripsacum*. “Colombia looks less interesting than I had hoped. They assure me that ...” (lost at bottom of page – get orig.) On next page, still 27X74 we have some interesting statements. CHECK THIS OUT.

28XI “Valotax grounded for want of gasoline. Macerema? Bus co. ditto, but Bhliviariane went as promised.” But there was a grand detour which resulted in a magnificent view of Bogota from the mountains. What was the reason for the detour? JRH wrote: “I don’t know but the paper said the road to Villanencencio was blocked by riots & disturbances in aft & eve.” He ends up the entry with: “ Did huge laundry & ready to go.”

20X-30X To kill time he went back to the Museo Nacional and copied down the names on a display of “Conquistadores de Colombia”, with dates. From 1499-1540. “Finally of in aft for the usual long & boring flight.” And he flies to Madrid, then Rome. His bags did not make it and the last line is obliterated by copying.