

Station Data

Station No.

Lower California, Mexico

- 1-38. July 17. Cedros Island. Shore collecting, both north and south of cannery east side of island. Amphipods and earthworms from under drifted kelp or gravel beach to north. Crabs from shore and "cliffs" and fossils from fallen portion of cliff to south.
- 2-38. July 17. Cedros Island. Bottom sample in 24-25 fms., about 1/4 way from shore to anchorage.
- 3-38. July 18. Magdalena Bay. Dredging, boat dredge. Inside northern point of entrance to bay, between Belcher Point and anchorage, 10-15 fms., sandy, weedy bottom, myriads of amphipods.
- 4-38. July 18. Magdalena Bay; filamentous green algae from deeper end of preceding dredge hauls.
- 5-38. July 19. Cape San Lucas. Dredging, boat dredge, 6-10 fms., off Punta Gorda, off rocky shore to west end San Jose del Cabo Bay.
- 5a-38. July 19. At anchorage, San Jose del Cabo, alcyonarian from anchor^{or};
depth 48 fms.
- Socorro Island, Mexico
- 6-38. July 20. Shore collecting, Braithwaite Bay, at "landing place".
- 7-38. July 20. Collecting up on land back of beach; soil put through Berlese funnel. Also scorpion, spiders, and a crab found under rock.

- 8-38. July 20. Dredging, boat dredge, two hauls, 7-8 fms., on sandy bottom, from off landing beach toward rocky point forming east side of cove where landing is located.

Clipperton Island (now a French possession)

- 9-38. July 21. Shore collecting at Clipperton on rocks to ~~south~~^{west} of landing place (on north eastern shore of atoll)
- 10-38. July 21. Bucket of algae from Clipperton lagoon, back of landing.
- 11-38. July 21. Piece of Clipperton Rock.
- 12-38. July 21. Muck from anchor chain. Was coated with this material; looked like old waste, depth 72 fms.
- 13-38. July 21. Two specimens blue trigger fish caught by President.
- 14-38. July 21. Debris from two boobies' nests on lagoon shore back of landing.

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

- 15-38. July 24. Sullivan Bay, James Island. Shore and tide pool collecting 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., tide beginning to run out.
- 16-38. July 25. Narborough Island. Shore collecting, east side directly opposite Tagus Cove.
- 17-38. July 25. At anchorage off Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island. E.L. (with electric light) off gangway 11:00 p.m., dip-net.
- 18-38. July 26. At anchorage off Tagus Cove. From anchor chain, 10 a.m., depth 50 fms.
- 19-38. July 26. Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle Island; landed in bay at south end of black beach north of mangroves, north of two "red" islands.
- 19a-38. July 26. Locality as for No. 19-38. Nest material of old flightless cormorant nest.

- 20-38. July 26. Locality as for No. 19-38. Taken off anchor chain, *depth 24 X 37 fms*
- 21-38. July 27. Crew ashore at Post Office Bay, Charles Island; collected various things; also specimens of all plants seen in flower on road to Wittmer's place.
- 22-38. July 27. At anchorage off Gardner Bay, Hood Island. E.L. off gangway, 11:00 p.m., dip net.
- 23-38. July 29. South Seymour Island, plateau-land section of island. Odds and ends picked up on beach and shore; sand sample, and sand washings.
- 23a-38. July 29. South Seymour Island anchorage. E.L. from gangway, 11:00 p.m., dip net.
- 24-38. July 30. James Bay, James Island. Bottom sample in about 24 fms.
- 25-38. July 30. Locality as for No. 24-38. Two octopi from rocks along shore.
- 25a-38. July 30. Mud and water sample from flamingo lagoon, James Bay, James Island.

Cocos Island, Costa Rica

- Aug. 1. Inland at Wafer Bay for rare palm; all day hike.
- Aug. 2. Ashore in a.m. at Wafer Bay, south side, for tree ferns; p.m. at Chatham Bay.
- Aug. 3. Forenoon in fishing boat with Messrs. Adams and Early for sailfish photos.
- 26-38. Aug. 3. Parasites from 116-lb. sailfish; forenoon.
- 27-38. Aug. 3. Copepod found in dish in which two sucker fish from sailfish were killed in alcohol.
- 28-38. Aug. 3. ^{At} Chatham Bay anchorage. Bottom sample, mostly sand; ~~at anchorage~~

(depth 30 fms)

An Appreciation

The scientific results of the Presidential Cruise have proved to be of extreme interest. Not only have a number of new records of occurrence been established and hitherto unrepresented species been added to the Museum's collections, but more than thirty new species, subspecies, and varieties were discovered. These will be described in a series of scientific papers which are to follow. To these the foregoing station list and chronological account of the expedition by Dr. Schmitt will serve as an introduction.

The fact that the collections in the Galapagos were made at a time of the year when these islands have seldom been visited by investigators adds materially to their scientific interest and value. Likewise, the avifauna of Clipperton Island until now was not represented in the Museum collections by so much as a single specimen.

29-38. Aug. 3. Several dredge hauls ⁱⁿ ~~off~~ Chatham Bay, 5-6 fms.

Old Providence Island, Colombia (in ^{the} Caribbean)

30-38. Aug. 6. Shore, reef, and tidepool collecting in early afternoon.

30a-38. Aug. 6. Bottom sample, at anchorage, in 8 fms.

31-38 Aug. 6. Dredge haul in about 7-8 fms., inside reef, Catalina Harbor.

W. H. C. H. A.

October 29, 1938

The Honorable
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I send you the enclosed letters from Mrs. Wittmer which just arrived. I do not know how they got to me without stamps on the envelope, but come they did, and I can offer no explanation. You may be interested in seeing the envelope, which I am sending to you, together with the translation of both letters.

The credit for leaving the foodstuffs is all yours, and I shall make that plain to Mrs. Wittmer when I reply to her. I so wrote her in the notes that we left behind on the island and which I showed to Commander Callaghan. It was a good deed, and one that I know gave them a great deal of comfort and pleasure. I do not quite remember the Sergius of whom Mrs. Wittmer speaks. I wonder if Commander Callaghan recalls him. He may have been on the beach at the time we went ashore at Black Beach Road, but he does not show in the few photographs which I took there.

The 5x7 photographs which I send you are enlargements from the Kodachrome pictures that I have of the trip. The few smaller photographs are contact prints from negatives made with my 3-1/4 x 4-1/4 camera. I am very happy to give you these photographs for your file of the cruise.

I do hope that you may be able to visit the Museum some time. It would be a great feather in our cap to be accorded such recognition by you. The mounting of the golden groupers is about half completed and the two rock beauties, Holacanthus, are nearly finished. The carpenter is getting out plaques upon which to mount the fish. I am about half way through with the collection of crustaceans. Among the starfishes and their relatives five new species have been discovered. The manuscript describing the new genus and

species of palm will soon be finished, together with a number of interesting illustrations. In the collection of shells fifteen new species or varieties have been noted. These, too, are being made the subject of a report. Other groups are still in the hands of specialists to whom they were sent, and when the various manuscripts come in the Smithsonian will undertake their publication as promptly as practicable.

All in all, the cruise netted us a wonderful lot of scientifically valuable material. I think I told you that ten of the species of fish brought back were new to our collections and that among them two represent hitherto undescribed forms.

My very best good wishes to you.

Respectfully,

WLS:LMC

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

September 30, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

Your mention of the possibility that you might visit the Venezuelan coast and the adjacent islands is certainly intriguing. From the northern coast of South America to Panama we have but scattered and meager collections, and so far as representation in the Museum is concerned, it is still largely a terra incognita.

In birds almost everything west of Margarita Island including the Dutch West Indies would be well worth collecting; especially sparrows and orioles from Curacao and Aruba.

Of land mammals, reptiles and amphibians, the Museum would appreciate any and all specimens that could conveniently be obtained. At best we have very few of the indigenous mammals other than bats and not many of these. Margarita, Curacao, Aruba and the Festigos Islands are type localities for several very little known species. On Margarita there is a small "pocket-deer" formerly very plentiful, which was hunted for its flesh which the natives dried. A few of these alive would make an attractive zoological park exhibit; and still others, if obtainable, are desired as study specimens. There's also a rabbit, squirrel and rat-oppossum to be found on this island. The Museum has no specimen of either the deer or squirrel, only one of the cottontail and only two of the rat-oppossum. The western drier end of the island is said to have been little explored.

Of marine mammals, porpoises are much wanted for study. They should be frequently met with along the coast and about the islands. Though not the easiest specimens to secure or prepare for Museum study, it would be a rather unique proceeding to bring some home frozen. Porpoises are poorly represented in all Museums because of the difficulties attendant upon their capture and preservation.

Anent fishing, there should be some grand sport down there and a lot of interesting reef and tide-pool fishes. A Mr. W. R. Boeckmann of Caracas, interested in the commercial fisheries of Venezuela, told me not many months ago that tarpon are so plentiful that they make caviar out of their eggs. It is estimated that a 142 lb. female may have as many as twelve million eggs! I shall casually drop Boeckmann a line asking about the more favored fishing grounds. The dolphin is an important food fish in Curacao, also the painted mackerel, and there must be goatfish, grunts, snappers and sea basses galore.

The channel between Margarita Island and the mainland is said to be a marvelously rich place for all manner of marine life, and so should offer good fishing as well as good collecting of all kinds. In this connection you will be interested to learn that the little sea-urchins we got off the anchor chain when it was hauled up at Tagus Cove are of a genus not before reported from the Galapagos.

The Museum would be happy to receive at least as large a shipment of frozen fish as they got as the result of your efforts on the cruise just past. I'm quite sure about twice as many as last time, a thousand instead of five hundred pounds would not be at all unwelcome.

Geologically phosphate minerals from deposits on some of the islands would be of interest to the Museum mineralogist.

Dr. O. F. Cook, who is getting his report on the new genus and species of palm from Cocos Island in shape for publication, tells me that the usual run of field botanists seldom collect palms. With many of them the chief ambition seems to be to collect as many "numbers," (sheets of plants) as possible, and bulky, hard-to-transport things like palms would tend to cramp their style too much. With a lot of willing, able help such as the Houston affords, it might be possible to pick up a palm or two. Palms from out of the way islands and places do not often find their way back to civilization and museum herbaria.

On your next cruise I would suggest that you have a wooden aquarium-tank installed on the quarter deck, port side forward, in which to keep some of the smaller brightly colored reef-fishes alive overnight in case they are brought in too late for color photographing the same day. The ship carpenter's I think, could construct such a tank without much trouble. A tank of six or eight by three or four feet divided into two equal sized compartments about thirty inches deep should be ample, even something smaller, the size of a couple of wash tubs would do. The main thing is running water, and a small awning to shield the tanks from the sun.

Also a dory or two would be useful at times in enabling landings to be made on rocky shores when the bottom was too rough or shoaled too rapidly to permit the launches to get in sufficiently close enough to shore to land men and gear conveniently. I believe the navy could readily transfer a couple of dorys or skiffs to the ship for the duration of the cruise.

Almost anything that you might be able to bring back in the way of specimens from the region you contemplate visiting would be of great interest and real scientific value to the Museum, fish, porpoises, birds, mammals, the deer and tree-squirrel of Margarita particularly, reptiles, palms, phosphate minerals, and marine invertebrates.

Respectfully,

The President,
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

P. S. There is a bit of American history tied up in the Dutch Island of St. Eustatius that will interest you, I know, even if the island is too far out of the way to visit on your way to Venezuelan waters. On this island still remain a few of the old cannon that fired the first salute ever given the United States flag by the foreign power after we had achieved our independence. One or more of these cannons would be an exhibit of considerable historic interest. As the story goes:

"It was on the 16th of November, 1776, that the brig Andrea Doria fourteen guns, third of our infant navy of five vessels, under the command of Josiah Robinson, sailed into the open roadstead of St. Eustatius and dropped anchor almost under the guns of Fort Oranje. She could have borne no more fitting name than that of the famous townsman of Columbus, who, after driving the French out of his own country in 1528, founded the republic of Genoa and with the true spirit of democracy, refused the highest office of the grateful government which he had established. The Andrea Doria may have attracted but little attention as she appeared in the offing, for in those days the two miles of roadstead from Gallows Bay to Interloper's Point were often filled with ships. But with the quick eyes of seafarers the guests of Howard's Tavern had probably, even as she was picking out her berth, left their rum for the moment to have their first glimpse of a strange flag which they all knew must be that of the new republic.

"Abraham Ravene, commandant of the fort, lowered the red, white, and blue flag of Holland in recognition of the American ship. In return, the Andrea Doria fired a salute. This put the commandant in a quandary. Anchored not far from the Andrea Doria, was a British ship. The enmity of the British for Holland and especially against Statia was no secret. In order to shift the responsibility, Ravene went to consult Johannes de Graeff, the governor, who was at that time living in the hills at Concordia, his country seat. De Graeff had already seen the Andrea Doria, for Ravene met him in the streets of the Upper Town. A clever lawyer and a keen business man, the governor had already made up his mind when Ravene spoke. "Two guns less than the national salute," was the order. And so we were for the first time recognized as a nation by this salute of eleven guns. For this act, de Graeff was subsequently recalled to Holland, but he was reinstated as Governor of Statia and held that position when the island was taken by Rodney in 1781. The Dutch made no apology to England. Two years after this salute of '76, John Paul Jones was not served so well at Quiberon, for the French gave him only nine guns, the number at that time accorded to republics. This, of Statia, may well stand as our first naval salute."

The foregoing is from Fredrick Fenger's "Alone in the Caribbean" (1917, p. 298). A few pages farther along (p. 305):

".....There in a shallow pit, two yards from our path, lay seven rusty cannon, half buried in the sand. He did not have to tell me that these were the last of the old battery of eleven which had belched forth their welcome to the Andrea Doria. Some time after the salute, the guns were condemned and piled up near the present Government Post-Office in the fort where they remained till the late seventies. At that time an American schooner, cruising about for scrap iron, came to Statia to buy old cannon. The trunnions were knocked off so that they would roll the easier and they were thrown over the edge of the cliff."

As you may enjoy browsing through the original, I am sending you Fenger's book along with another he wrote, "The Cruise of the Diabliesse" (1926) in which the cannon are mentioned again (p. 260):

"Half hidden in the sand were the old iron cannon which are credited upon good authority as having bellowed the first salute to our flag. They lay almost directly beneath the ramparts of Fort Oranje whence they were thrown down forty years before. Originally they numbered eleven; when the skipper first saw them, on his Yakaboo cruise, four had been taken away by a trading vessel whose owner had an option on the lot but failed to return for the rest of them. Later three more were snagged off the beach by a New Bedford whaler. After the war, the skipper with others made an attempt to bring the remaining four to the United States for museum pieces, but the Dutch governor who was strongly Pro-German and hated Americans, frustrated their plans. A pity, that those old guns should be allowed to rust away or go down in the ballast of some worn-out old hōcker!"

Another out of the way island which also has no real place in this letter because it is to the east and not the west of Trinidad, is Tobago. I just can't help running it in here because of its sentimental or rather romantic interest.

Tobago furnished the locale of Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," even though the exploits of Defoe's hero were those of Alexander Selkirk on Juan Fernandez.

October 1, 1938

Dear Mr. Early:

In the accompanying letter is some information
I promised the President.

Will you not see that it gets into his hands along
with the package which contains two books?

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Early,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

On Tobago, by the way, is a squirrel, a rat-oppossum, and an armadillo. Of these the Museum has two specimens of the squirrel and one each of the other two mammals, a very limited representation. Hard by is Little Tobago where more than a quarter of a century ago a number of the Lesser Bird of Paradise, Paradisea minor, from New Guinea were introduced. This is a beautiful rich-brown bird with yellow and white wings, and green throat. The birds have thriven amazingly well in their new home, I'm told. A few study skins and preserved specimens would be of interest if only to see if the new environment had in any way affected the anatomical or plumage characters of the birds.

September 24, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

Here is that attractively illustrated two volume report on "The British Sea Anemones" by Stephenson about which I told you.

It is as nice a thing of its kind as I have ever seen, and quite a mark for the rest of us to shoot at. I am sure you will enjoy looking through it because of the interest you had and still have in these beautiful flowerlike animals. As you know, the Germans call them "see-rosen."

I am getting together some biological notes on the waters and islands off the north coast of Venezuela to the westward of Trinidad which I shall send you sometime this next week. It is a region from which the Museum has little, or no material.

Sincerely,

The President,
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

September 1, 1938

Dr. A. Wetmore
Assistant Secretary
U. S. National Museum

Dear Dr. Wetmore:

The President no doubt will be interested to know just what we have done with his material to date. Perhaps a letter like the draft herewith could be sent him if you approve.

I think something of this sort might well be forwarded to the White House from time to time.

Respectfully,

WLS:LMc

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

July 26 12 midnite

Dear Shummy just a note from
the famous Post Office Bay label
on Charles Id. I have so much
to do that I don't get time to
write & scarcely to sleep. Many
short stops were always a bugbear.
It's an eventful trip in many ways
and a treat to be along, but hard
work along with it all. Soon it
will be over, no doubt long before this
letter gets to you. Just a word
to let you know I've been thinking
of you, & the kids. We have only
a few hours ashore & get off at
6 o'clock & must be back by 10:30
a.m. It's just a sample of
the speed with which we are moving

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

along. I do not know how
much time there will be in Pensacola
if any, but if you all were
to come I could go back with you.
I don't know that I would be asked
on the Presidential Special. If I
hear anything near while I'll write
for Panama air mail or send you
a wire later. We are due in
Pensacola Aug. 9 at 5 p.m.

Sort of foolish putting this all in
a Galapagos mailed letter, but I
sort of feel I'm talking to you when
I do it. I'll do lots of love
to you all, + Mom + Helma but
~~Paul (By)~~
with old man.

COPY

September 29, 1938

Dr. A. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary,
Through: Dr. L. Stejneger, Head Curator,
Department of Biology,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Wetmore:

I am submitting a list of the fishes received from the Presidential Cruise 1938, which we have identified here in the Division of Fishes. I believe this list should be published and probably Dr. Schmitt would like to add some field notes to it, but if this is done I trust I may see a copy before one is presented to the President, or before it goes to press, as I feel responsible for any identifications of fish that go out of this Museum.

Please note that among the sixty-three species listed, eleven were not represented in our collection. This accession forms one of the most valuable additions to the study series in the Division of Fishes so far this year. I trust we may get many more collections of the same nature.

Very sincerely yours,

Leonard P. Schultz,
Curator of Fishes.

LPS:ZG

July 16, 1939.

Dear Mr. Shmitt:

I have been out of the Navy for the past 6 months and your book addressed to me on the Houston finally reached me at my home, and I am taking this opportunity to thank you so much, because it

Michael S. Simon
43 Prospect St.
Wilkes-Barre
— Pa. —

means a lot to me,
to know I was on
a hunting expedition,
I showed the book to
a neighbor of mine, who
is a professor at Lehigh
University, he liked it
so well he took it and
read it for a week

Thanking you
again so much for
thinking of me I
remain your old
shipmate —

July 17, 1939

Mr. Robert B. Thompson, SK2c, U.S.N.
U.S.S. HOUSTON
c/o The Postmaster
Seattle, Washington

Dear Thompson:

I can't begin to thank you for those several sendings of beautiful photographs. The 5x7's came with your letter and the two envelopes of smaller ones a day or two later. I am as pleased as punch to have them, yet with it all a bit sorry, because the pictures bring home to me what I missed. I would have given almost anything to have been along on that last Presidential cruise. You will be having another trip with him in the very near future, for as soon as he gets through with the difficulties that Congress has raised, he is going to make a quick dash up to Alaska. I saw Captain Callaghan just a day or two ago.

The Institution has made a number of trips in cooperation with the Navy, especially at the time when some major eclipse has taken place. If I ever have the chance, I shall certainly do my best to see that you get an opportunity to go along. I have to go to the South Pacific this fall, but, as that is in connection with a National Geographic Society expedition, they will be furnishing the photographers and so I shall have no say on that score. You certainly did well by me and if I can, I'll have you another time.

The Geographic definitely turned down all papers on the big cruise. I sometimes think they might have taken our joint efforts if there had not been the question between Ageton's paper and mine, but I have no regrets. It is too bad, though, that I couldn't get your pictures figured in that magazine.

You will certainly have a grand time filming the national parks. They have been done on many occasions, but there is always room for another good picture.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

U.S.S. HOUSTON

5 July 1939
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Dr. Schmitt,

I received the exploration pamphlet a few days ago that you so kindly sent me. Also the other pamphlets that came direct from the Institution.

I had more or less delayed writing to you lately knowing you have been on a field trip and then too, shipboard routine is not conducive to letter writing as you know from our Galapagos trip.

I am more than pleased with the appearance of my photographic endeavors in the pamphlets. I eagerly watch each issue of the National Geographic that I receive in hopes you will have your description of the cruise in print. Some photographs in color in that magazine would to me, be a crowning glory.

When we returned from our east coast cruise I sent pictures of the Presidential and Sec Nav cruises to most of my friends. I thought I had sent some to you, but the more I think about it the more I believe that I delayed it in order to include a few more and consequently forgot it completely. Therefore I am forwarding a set of them under separate cover. If this is an additional set, then so much the better and I hope that you can use them both.

My photographic work has been rather on the wane since we came to the Northwest due to the lack of a way to get around conveniently. However a friend of mine going to Los Angeles on leave is going to drive my old "jalopy" back up here and I plan on using some Dufay in my Korrelle and record some of this beautiful scenery on color film. Then before the ship leaves for Long Beach in October I plan on taking 30 days leave and make the trip down the coast, stopping at all the National parks and any points of interest I can find.

U.S.S. HOUSTON

Now how about your recent trip and the many swell things I missed out on taking pictures of? I hope it was every bit as successful as all the pamphlets seemed to indicate the Presidential Cruise was.

Dr. Schmitt, if ever there is a chance of any naval personnel going along on one of the Smithsonian's trips I'd give a year's pay to go along as an assistant photographer and I would work like the very devil too. This plea may not seem so eloquent in writing but if the Houston ever gets near enough that I can get to Washington D.C., you'll know how much I mean it when I say it in person.

With my very best regards,

Robert B. Thompson

Robert B. Thompson,
SK2c, USN.

June 27, 1939

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Bremerton, Washington

Dear Thompson:

Through the publications office you will be getting a set of the papers that are being published on the cruise that we made. In order that you will have a copy of everything that is published, I am sending you with this letter a few notes that appeared in our so-called Explorations Pamphlet.

The more I look at the pictures that you took for me, the more grateful I am to you for doing so fine a job. I have had the most favorable comments on your photography wherever I have showed my pictures.

There isn't much more for me to say. I wish we might have another trip together, or that you might get a chance to visit here in Washington. It is too bad that the HOUSTON's stay in New York was so brief, for I had planned to come up with the whole family.

As always, my very best good wishes to you, lots of good luck.

Sincerely,

WLS:IMc

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

January 20, 1939

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. HOUSTON
c/o Navy Yard
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Thompson:

Thank you for setting me straight on the shore party for the palm hunt.

I would that I might be aboard for the maneuvers, but I understand there will be little opportunity for any extensive collection, even though a certain amount of fishing will be done by the President whenever possible.

I do not know just when you will be in Norfolk. Barron is going to try to get up and I hope that I may have a chance to see you, too. My trip south will necessitate my departure from New York about the 21st of March, and I won't be back again until early in May. If I do not see you before, I shall certainly get to New York to visit the ship while she is lying off the Exposition grounds.

My best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

WLS:LMc

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

Cristobal, Canal Zone
13 January 1939

Dear Dr. Schmitt

I am awfully sorry I dont have time to sit down and write a letter instead of just a few lines like this. Things seem to get busier every day aboard the ship for me. Keeps me out of mischief though I suppose.

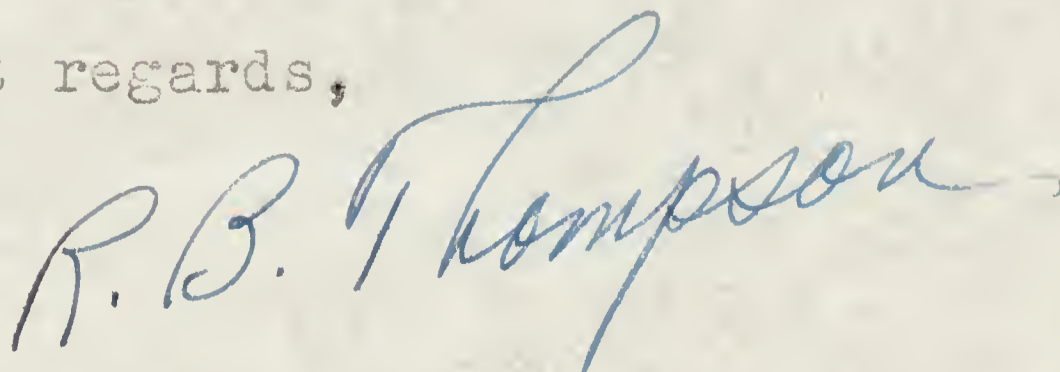
We are leaving on the morning of the 19th for Gonaives, Haiti and I look forward to that as a good possibility for some pictures. I have been doing a little of my own developing and printing and doing all right considering the excessive heat that one has to counteract down here.

Ensign Johnston told me of his enjoyable visit with you and I certainly wish I could have been there to see all those pictures that I have missed. If we get within striking distance I am going to get down to see you by some amanner or means.

The information you asked for I have copied down on another sheet and enclosed herewith. I am returning the letter also as you may need it for reference. The original will catch up shortly I imagine and I'll have it on hand.

Everyone to whom you sent pictures have expressed their gratitude to me many times and I cant say "Thank You" enough times myself for all you have done for me. We all certainly would like to make that cruise over several times with you. It will be one of my most vivid memories for years to come and one I will always hope to duplicate. Unless you were to command an expedition on which the Navy Department gave you a few men I would have very little chance of it though. I have signed my extension papers lately which gives me another two years to do at least. It looks now like I would put in thirty and then get land-sick when I retired.

Best regards,



R. B. THOMPSON, SK3c,
U. S. S. HOUSTON, % P.M. NEW YORK CITY.

January 10, 1939

Mr. R. B. Thompson
U.S.S. HOUSTON
c/o U. S. Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Thompson:

I am returning those two negatives of the ship that you so kindly lent me. I rather hate to do it at this time because the fleet is on the move. Nevertheless, I am sending them well guarded between cardboards by registered mail, so that at least they will not get lost in the mail.

You will by this time have had my letter regarding the group that went up palm-hunting. I don't want the names of everybody that went ashore, just those that undertook the trip into the hills. There is one name that I forgot to list, and that is Peacher's. Certainly he had lunch with us up under the palm trees. You might ask him if he recalls any one else who did their stint that day.

Thank you again for the loan of the negatives. The Smithsonian is getting out a few remarks on the trip.

My best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt,
Curator of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMC

U. S. S. HOUSTON

19 December 1938
Long Beach, Calif.

Dear Doc,

Only have time to dash off a few hurried lines and tell you "Many thanks" for the prints of the negatives you returned.

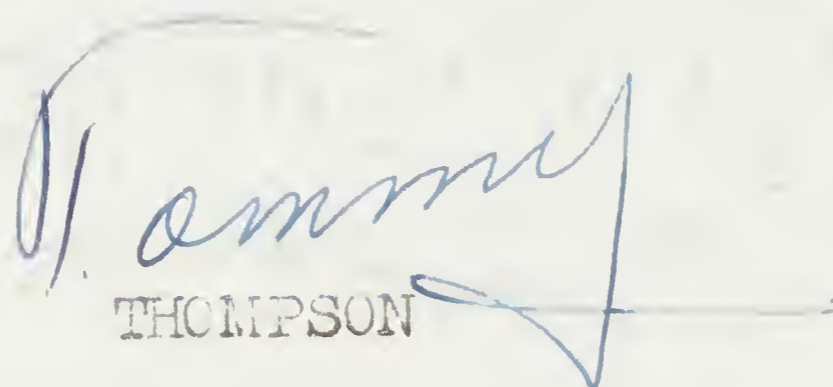
Enclosed are a couple of negatives of the ship that you may use for any length of time that you may happen to need them.

Came back from ten days leave today and got my mail and am going right back over in about ten minutes, almost forgetting to send you the negs.

Hope to see you on the east coast next spring.

Anywhere the HOUSTON is at you will be able to find me.

MERRY XMAS AND BEST REGARDS


THOMPSON

January 4, 1939

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Long Beach, California

Dear Thompson:

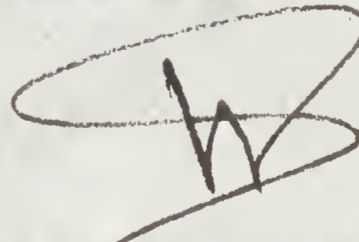
Do you remember all of those that were along with us on that palm hunt? Not all of the large party that went ashore went up with us. The following are the names of those that I recall. Please check it over for me and make any additions or corrections that may be necessary.

Peacher

Lt. L. M. LeHardy
Ensign R. W. Meyers
Ensign J. P. M. Johnston
Ensign M. H. Buass
J. L. Learson, CY
R. B. Thompson, SK3c
Jack Barron, Sealc
T. M. O'Neil, Sealc
Joe Balicki, Sealc
R. Hoag, Sealc
D. E. Jones, Sealc
L. F. McPherson, Sea2c
M. S. Simon, EM2c

I have slipped in a franked envelope for your convenience. You will need no postage if you mail it from Panama or some place in the U. S.

Sincerely,



Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMC

The original ^{of this} was mailed before I heard you were all on your way round to this side. Hope you get this in time to answer from Panama *W*

December 10, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK30
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Long Beach, California

Dear Thompson:

At long last I am returning those nine negatives you were kind enough to lend me for prints. Along with them is a set of prints made from them. It took some time for our photographer to get at them, and then he apparently laid them aside in his files. I have just lately been able to discover their whereabouts. It is the first time that I have had a little scare about borrowed negatives and I can assure you it won't happen again in a long time.

Could you lend me the negatives of the several views you made of the HOUSTON on that pack of speed film at Cocos Island? We would like to be able to select at least one view for a little explorations account that the Smithsonian is going to publish early next year. There will be just about four pages of pictures and four of text, but one of them should carry the ship.

Sincerely,

WLS:LMc

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

November 12, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3C
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Long Beach, California

Dear Tommy:

Here are a number of 5x7 prints made from the Kodachromes. Some of them turned out to be very beautiful, I think, all thanks to you. They are not for publication, at least until I have had a chance to place an article, which, as I wrote you before, could not appear before next February.

I wish that I could send prints to every one with whom I became acquainted on board, but we can't afford it at this end. However, I am enclosing a few for some of the rest of our shore gang, including one for Davey Jones and a few for Sivak. Won't you see that they get in their hands? One envelope labeled Worthington is for the carpenter of that name. He is standing just below the cowl of the second plane in the picture, the left-hand man of the two without shirts. He called on me here at the Museum and I promised him a print of himself.

In still another envelope are enough copies of three of the shore parties for you to give one to each of the men shown in the pictures except the officers and Learson, whom I have attended to separately. O'Neill, Balicki, and Barron, I know by name, as well as Jones, sitting on the launch; but for the moment I cannot give you the names of the other men in the pictures. I have sent pictures to Ensign B. Johnson for himself, Jakeman, and the other officer of whose name I am not sure. Is it Buaas?

I have heard nothing more about another trip beyond the possibility of going some time after the first of the year, but not before. Various circumstances seem to have changed what plans they might have had for an earlier cruise. Those rumors I got chiefly from you and you, in turn, from Jones.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

September 1, 1938

The Honorable
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You will be interested to learn of the progress that has been made so far with the collections of your recent cruise since their arrival at the Museum.

The fish collections, both frozen and pickled, received first attention. Work on them is in active progress in the Division of Fishes, and most of the specimens brought back to the Museum have now been determined. Including some fifteen species of the commoner sorts that were definitely identified in the field and of which no specimens were saved, the total number of species observed, or brought back to the Museum as specimens, will exceed my original estimate of fifty-five or sixty. It will run nearer seventy. It is planned to publish an annotated list of the species captured, giving place of capture, geographic range, size, weight, and other pertinent remarks.

Several of the fish to be mounted are being worked upon by the taxidermists. The two specimens from Hood Island resembling the "rock beauty" of the Atlantic have been cast, skinned, and mounted. They will be painted when the taxidermist who is handling them returns from a brief field trip that had been planned for some time past. The first of four golden groupers to be mounted has reached the same state of preparation. We expect that the painting of it will begin as soon as the mounted skin is sufficiently dry.

The birds obtained at Clipperton have all been made up into first class study skins. This is a distinct tribute to our taxidermists, as the birds were pretty badly mauled in getting them out to the launch anchored outside the breakers.

The invertebrate material is being sorted. The following groups have been distributed to specialists: hydroids, copepods, alcyonarians, echinoderms, insects, and mollusks. Other groups are to follow

shortly. The vast quantity of amphipods that we secured in Magdalena Bay are of great interest. Their occurrence in such great numbers is a surprise to us all. The crabs, shrimps, and other crustacea will be determined as soon as completely sorted.

The Zoological Park was very happy to receive the several live animals that were brought back. They are all doing well.

Dr. O. F. Cook, who is working on the palm, reports that it is a new genus, as well as a new species. He is engaged in preparing a report on the find for publication. The young seedling palms of this species seem to be doing well in the greenhouses where they have been placed. Some of the other plant material has been examined at the National Herbarium. One of the tree ferns from Cocos Island may also be a new species. The marine algae have also been placed in the hands of a specialist for report.

The color pictures on Kodachrome film which were taken in the course of the cruise are now mounted between cover glasses and are ready for showing. I shall be glad to project them for you at your convenience. I am naturally much interested in the luck that Mr. Adams may have had with his color pictures. As you know, he was kind enough to make a considerable number of color photographs of fish as they were freshly landed in the fishing boat. I anticipate that valuable information on the coloration of fishes will be obtained from his photographs.

Respectfully,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

Through Dr. A. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary,
Smithsonian Institution.

October 21, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3C,
U.S.S. HOUSTON,
Long Beach, California.

Dear Tommy:

This isn't a letter, just a few words acknowledging your letter of the 6th of October. How time does fly. Those 5x7's of which I have yet to send you some, were made by enlarging the Kodachrome film on two 5x7 cut film negative, from which in turn contact prints were made.

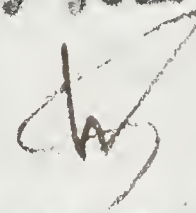
For some of the Kodachromes, the photographer used a light yellow filter, which may or may not be necessary with others of them. I plan to write you soon again, but just at present I am trying to get the shrimps of the cruise named up.

When all the reports are in, I am sure we will have something worth publishing that will please the President when he sees it in print. Besides, I will be returning your negatives as soon as the photographer has run me off a few prints.

I am sorry that you have been so busy. Another cruise may be a vacation of a kind for all of us.

My best to you.

Sincerely yours,


Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator
Division of Marine Invertebrates

WLS:k

6 October 1938

San Clemente Island.



U. S. S. HOUSTON

Dear Dr. Schmitt.

Received your letter of the 1st this evening when I returned to the ship from the PORTLAND, another cruiser which we were observing in their official rehearsal for SRBP. Tomorrow I will be over there again for the actual firing of the main and secondary batteries.

I am working now in the Pay Office on the ship, which is the one closest to the quarterdeck of the two that you usually looked in for me. Our work at this time of the quarter is especially heavy and to top it off we are now Commander-in-Chief's flagship which is another 150 pay accounts to take care of. Paymaster Snedaker is leaving on the 31st of this month and closing out his accounts will be another long siege of night work. In addition I have just taken over the job of Ship Service Bookkeeper and it will take a little while to catch on to the system they are using inasmuch as it is rather detailed. Not that I mind being kept busy but I can hardly find time off to take any pictures, or even to look over thoroughly what I already have.

Lieut-Commander Ageton has not said a single thing to me about how his article was received by National Geog. even though I received a letter some time ago saying that his pictures and manuscripts were being returned to him. I am in the position of course being an enlisted man that I cannot afford to say too much and the only way I can see to handle it to get the best results in the long run, is to just wait and let him tell me about it and give me back my pictures when he gets around to it. He is being transferred to the Asiatics in the near future though and I'll have to bring up the matter myself before he leaves if he cannot find the effort to do it himself.

As for the Kodachrome exposures - I used the arrow on the Weston meter exclusively for all readings and took no consideration whatsoever as to the distance of the subject - ie. - that the real close shots should be given a shorter exposure or a smaller diaphragm opening. I made no extra allowance other than the exceptionally low light readings that were so evident in the shots under the palm trees.

from N.Y.



U. S. S. HOUSTON

In the shots of birds in which there was sky in the background I tried to compensate by taking a reading from a bit of surrounding foliage which seemed to be receiving about the same amount of light as that to be in the picture.

The reddishness in any of the fish pictures to my mind positively identifies them as ones taken in the late evening as so many of them were. It was quite evident in the Kodachrome you sent me of the Golden Grouper and I know that all shots of the two we photographed were taken in the last rays of sunshine of the afternoon.

I used an eight exposure roll of Dufay color film in my Korrelle-Reflex a couple of weekends ago and had very good luck as far as composition and exposure were concerned but it is very evident that the remaining 50% of silver in this film keeps it from reproducing the brilliancy of colors that can be had in the Kodachrome. If only Eastman would put the larger and more usefull 120 size in Kodachrome on the market I think it would be well received by the general public, for it is very evident that Dufay is being well received by the amateur snapshooters out here in So. Calif. at least.

It is interesting to me to hear that you can get prints made from the Koadachormes in black and white but I admit I dont understand how you can make a positive print from a positive transparency. What makes me a little disgusted is that I cannot take time to look up the information on it. Having been on the PORTLAND since this forenoon--- its now 10:00 PM--I need to clean up and get a little sleep before they wake us up at 4:30 tomorrow morning to get an early start on our own firing before some of us go to the other ship to observe her firing runs.

I agree with your obseruation that normal exposure is most useful on the Kodachrome with the exception of a distant view and especially over water, anyway I went by that general rule throughout the cruise and you have indicated that the results were fairly good.

Sivak and Mr. Dunlap asked me to return your greeting.

I will write again just as soon as anything develops of importance, meanwhile - The best of luck

Sincerely

R.B. Thompson

October 1, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3C,
U.S.S. HOUSTON,
Long Beach, California.

Dear Tommy:

The several prints and negatives that you sent me came safely to hand. I am having the latter printed off, and will return them to you with a set of prints as soon as our photographer gets around to the job. I do not know whether I specifically thanked you for the earlier lot of prints that you sent me. It was fun to look them over, and I congratulate you again on your success as a photographer. I would like to know what I owe you on this second lot at least.

I find I can't do much with Kodachromes as pictures, so had some of them enlarged into black and white. I wanted 4x5, but the photographer insisted on doing them in the 5x7 size. I shall send you some of those as soon as I get a few duplicates made. Commander Callaghan got the first bunch, and I have promised the President a set. After that, we'll get some for ourselves.

The Kodachromes came out so well, that I want to know more about the meter readings. When you were taking the palms in the jungle, did you use the C reading, double normal (the arrow)? It was pretty dark under the trees. For the fish pictures, I take it, you used the arrow or normal reading because it was a close-up reading of the light reflected from the fish. All the fish came out very well except the Golden Groupers which were too red. Our photographer says that they were taken too late in the day, and that although the exposure may have been right, the poor light threw the colors off.

One thing I learned was that airviews looking down on land should, at least be normal, instead of the A reading which I used. However, the off-color of my air pictures did not interfere with getting some pretty good black and whites of them.

Among the prints that you sent me is one of a little map. I judge one that Ageton is using in his article. I was surprised to see that he had on it "Flight over Naraborough." I did not think that we were supposed to make public anything about flying over foreign territory. I hope it is all right, because I would like to make public a couple of my aeroplane views. I have yet to get 5x7 prints of those Kodachromes to give the Hydrographic office. If I am free to show them around, I will send you copies of two, which were among the most interesting of the few color pictures that I took myself.

One other question about exposure. Do you remember how you set the meter for the bird pictures? Did you use the arrow reading, or half way between that and C. It strikes me that the normal or arrow reading is best for Kodachromes nine times out of ten, except perhaps right down in the jungle as with the palms or for an unquestionably distant view, especially when over water.

I'm gradually getting something together for the Nature Magazine, but they cannot publish it before next February or March at that.

I hope we may get together soon again on another trip of the same kind. Give my best to Sivack and Mr. Dunlop, and the rest of our mutual friends aboard. Best of good wishes.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator
Division of Marine Invertebrates

WLS:k

September 14, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Long Beach, California

Dear Tommy:

The news from the National Geographic Magazine is not so favorable. As I wrote you, Ageton beat us to the draw. He also applied to Mr. Adams for pictures, color and otherwise, but Adams wired him that I had spoken to him first, as I also did to you. However, no great harm seems to be done. The National Geographic has apparently turned us both down. Nevertheless, I am going ahead with an article and shall be getting pictures together for it. This makes me want to ask you at this time for a copy each of the 16 pictures that you gave Ageton, preferably other views of the particular subjects than those that you furnished "Our Navy" with your article. Of course, where there is only one of a subject that has been used in "Our Navy", send it along. I shall be glad to pay you for the cost of those 16 prints.

I have written Life Magazine this morning, and will ask you to keep that under your hat. In any case, the Nature Magazine has promised to take an article from me, but they are as poor as dirt and pay next to nothing. At any rate, I would be able to dig up a few dollars for such of your photographs as they may accept. You will be credited for all pictures on which you pushed the button, even those that you took for me, although a credit line is small recompense from a financial point of view.

I am enclosing several air mail stamps, both to reimburse you for postage you used in writing me and to cover the 16 pictures of which I want prints. A set of prints of the negatives I paid you for and those that you lent me are going forward this day without fail, along with your negatives. I am sending you also a few Kodachromes. I have not yet had an opportunity to show them to the President. He won't be back in Washington until after the 20th. At that time Mr. Adams will come down, too, and we shall have a mutual exchange of showings of color pictures. You did wonderfully well, as you can judge from the few that you are receiving. Please don't give them away to anybody for publication. If I can get a color plate carrying six to eight of these Neptune party pictures, I am sure they will make a big hit wherever they appear.

Though this letter is being airmailed, the other things are going regular. I hope that the Houston will stay put in Long Beach until they arrive.

You remember that picture of a striped fish from Clipperton. It was a tan colored fish with vertical black stripes rather distantly spaced. The name is Hepatus triostegus. It is a member of the family Acanthuridae, or surgeon fishes, as they are known.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMC

Form 3806 (Rev. Jan. 21, 1935)

(POSTMARK OF)

Receipt for Registered Article No. 170344

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Declared value 077 Surcharge paid, \$ 1

Return Receipt fee _____ Spl. Del'y fee _____

Delivery restricted to addressee:

in person _____, or order _____ Fee paid _____

Accepting employee will place his initials in space indicating restricted delivery.

POSTMASTER, per Burke



(MAILING OFFICE)

The sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry or application for indemnity.

Registry Fees and Indemnity.—Domestic registry fees range from 15 cents for indemnity not exceeding \$5 up to \$1 for indemnity not exceeding \$1,000. The fee on domestic registered matter without intrinsic value and for which indemnity is not paid is 15 cents. Consult postmaster as to the specific domestic registry fees and surcharges and as to the registry fees chargeable on registered parcel-post packages for foreign countries. Fees on domestic registered C. O. D. mail range from 25 cents to \$1.20. Indemnity claims must be filed within one year (C. O. D. six months) from date of mailing.

R. B. Thompson

film

Mare Island, California
10 September 1938.

Dear "DOC"

Your most welcome letter came this morning and I imagine the negatives will get aboard Monday when we get our next mail. I didn't stop and use my head when Mr. Ageton seemed so sure that it was him who was going to write the article for National Geographic. It just didn't occur to me that he was taking it for granted, rather than knowing definitely. Those who make it a point not to declare themselves unless positive are more gullible I guess.

However there was no agreement that the pictures I gave him were for his article exclusively and as I said on the back of the list you will have full permission to use any of them with the article if you are the one to write it which I most sincerely hope is the case.

I'm sure glad to hear that the Kodachromes were fairly good, though sorry that we didn't have the right "dope" on the aerial work. I appreciate very much the way you have helped me on all these pictures. I feel that they partly yours for I know that I never would have had the opportunity to take all the different ones that I did, had you not made it a point to take me ashore every day.

When I look back on it all I am not satisfied with the results I got and I can see so many things that I missed which really deserved a lot of attention. The worst of it is, I probably will never again have the chance to take any of the pictures over again or even any like them. As I asked in my other letter---Is there anything to what I have heard about your making a trip somewhere next summer on which some Naval personnel might go along? By then I will have had a lot of darkroom experience too as well as much more equipment as I get money to buy in the meantime...Guess the photography bug has bitten me very thoroughly. If you could take me on a cruise like that I would be indebted to you for the rest of my life and even in the hereafter.

As you said, it was quite a mix-up that we went to Norfolk and I am very sorry that you did not find it out and bring your family down to see us. We were ordered there for three or four months assignment and then sent west within five days. No one knows yet how it all happened and why so many sudden changes in our orders were made.

If National Geographic wants to cover the initiation pretty fully and time (which is what spoils everything)

permits and the prints available are not sufficient, I can have enlargements made of other negatives I have and have them on their way very shortly after I hear from you.

I rather think that you have pictures covering most angles but as I said before if you let me know of anything that you want I'll do everything I can to get it to you in the very shortest order.

We are leaving Mare Island on the 13th and arrive in Long Beach the 14th. We take Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Fleet on September 19th and expect to be in Long Beach for a couple of weeks after that before going anywhere. We have no information as to why CinCus is coming to a cruiser rather than a battleship which is much roomier, but we are in anticipation of a cruise to various naval bases in which the speed we have available, over that of his usual flagship, would be very desirable.

The "flag" of course has photographers and I am in hopes of getting a lot of valuable instruction in the darkroom and then after they leave I will have the entire darkroom to myself and really be able to "go to town".

I wont be able to express how sorry I am if the pictures I have given Lieut. Ageton inconveniences you in any way. I'm going to set National Geographic straight on the matter though by writing to them right away.

If any more developments come up in a few days I'll let you know. And many thanks for the prints you are sending back with the negatives.

Sincerely yours


R. B. Thompson

R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. HOUSTON
Long Beach, Calif.



R. B. THOMPSON
U. S. S. HOUSTON
LONG BEACH, CALIF.

U. S. S. HOUSTON

Dear Dr. Schmitt

The Houston has finally settled down sufficiently that we know our schedule a couple weeks ahead at least.

Happy to say, the article on the cruise to "Our Navy" was published along with 17 of the photographs I sent them. The magazine is anti-Roosevelt apparently and dropped a couple of the paragraphs but still I am quite proud of my first article and pictures to go commercially into print.

I have been hoping for a few lines from you about the color pictures. I know how busy you must be even yet though.

I'm almost afraid to ask about them, mostly because I had no previous experience at all.

If there are any negatives at all that I have which you need don't hesitate at all to let me know.

I've been wondering too about all those I took on Coconos, especially of the palms.

Lt. Ageton here on the ship is writing an article for Nat'l Geographic and is using a number of my pictures. I don't know all the details but I guess it was by request that he is undertaking it.

Jones mentioned (Coxin of our boat) the other day something about a cruise next summer and the possibility of some naval personnel going along. Is he talking through the well known hat? Best Regards Thompson

1. Albatross on nest at Hood Island in the Galapagos archipelego
Same as in "Our Navy"
2. CBM Proimos and 120 black sea bass caught at Cedros Island
Have others
- ***** 3. CBM Bartos weighing Proimos's large bass. *only one of this*
4. Young pig shot at Clipperton Island. *Had two — one in "Our Navy" and this one*
5. Blue skip-jack caught on plug at Clipperton Island
Have others that do not show artificial lure.
6. Long Palm at one end of Clipperton.
Have several others
7. Frigate bird and President's flag. Tower Island.
Have several
8. A cactus in foreground of usual terrain, Sullivan Bay James Island.
many others on this order.
9. Flightless cormorant and young at Eliz. Bay on Albermarle Island.
of this you had the best negatives
10. Two young flightless cormorants of #9 *do*
11. A.P. Mastio and R.S. Selby at Post Office Box.
Have several of the Box
12. Mr. and Mrs. Conway talking to Dr. Schmitt. *one of just them in "Our Navy" this is best.*
- ***** 13. The Zavala domicile at ^{Black} ~~Palmer~~ Beach Roads
(Lt. Ageton says) Front view of the "shack"
14. and 15. President's sailfish and knot entangled on its bill.
Could be used singly. Have two others similar
- ***** 16. "Oswald" from Seymour Island --- Lang iquana for the Washington Zoo.
Have others — This is one in "Our Navy"

over

Lieut. Ageton has 5 x 5 enlargements of these which he is apparently going to use with an article for Nat'l Geographic. We had no agreement that they were to be for his article exclusively, in fact no agreements at all except that I would receive credit for the pictures. I am informing National Geographic at once that any pictures with my stamp on the back of them may be used with your article. The pictures on the reverse side were well captioned by myself and only those with the **** were captioned by Lieut. Ageton. Have no copy of the OUR NAVY to send you but I specified in my terms for the pictures I sent them that they were sold to them for their use only and I believe that does not affect resale even though published. If National Geographic thinks there might be an objection, then there are plenty of others just a slight bit different. I'LL SEND ALL NEGATIVES YOU WANT BY AIRMAIL ON TEN MINUTES NOTICE. As enlargements are so necessary for good reproduction in the cuts it would be best that you had them made so that the best ones could be selected.


THOMPSON

September 6, 1938

Mr. R. B. Thompson, SK3c
U.S.S. Houston
Mare Island, California

Dear Tommy:

You will recall our discussing the National Geographic Magazine and the opportunity that it might offer of placing a number of your pictures with the article that I contemplated. I have started negotiations with them, but learned when I went up there that Lieut. Ageton jumped the gun, as it were, and sent them a lot of pictures from Norfolk with the idea of doing an article himself on the cruise.

I am taking the matter up today with Mr. Early and the Geographic Magazine, to see whom they may want to write up the Presidential Cruise. Whichever way they decide, you will have a chance to place your pictures and so you will not be the loser, but meanwhile I hope that I may have first call upon them. No matter how the decision runs, I shall certainly put them in touch with you for pictures. I want you to be able to make the utmost out of what you have taken.

I am returning under separate cover your negatives and a set of prints made from them. Of my own negatives I have requested so many prints that the photographer is doing them as he finds spare time. When they are finished, you will have a full set of everything that I took. I fell down on the airplane pictures, underexposed them because I thought one had to allow for distant views. Normal exposure would have been much better, at least at the height at which we were flying. The Kodachromes were very excellent for the most part, and there are enough for you to have duplicates of a number of the scenes. Before I ship these on to you, I shall await the National Geographic Magazine's decision.

Wasn't it a mix-up that the Houston had to go to Norfolk? Had I known it in sufficient time I would have driven down with my family to pay you all and the ship a visit.

I'll be writing you soon again when my prints come through.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

August 19, 1938

Dr. A. Wetmore
Assistant Secretary
U. S. National Museum

Dear Dr. Wetmore:

In accordance with your letters of instruction and authorization of July 7th, I left Washington at 5:45 p.m. July 10th for Los Angeles. The opportunity of securing some additional color film at government rate at the Chicago branch of the Eastman Kodak Company was made use of during a four-hour lay-over in Chicago.

The Santa Fe Chief, on which I travelled, reached Los Angeles at 11:57 on July 13th. Here I visited the zoological laboratories of the University of Southern California, where I went over the more recent Hancock Expedition material and consulted with Dr. Irene McCulloch, who is in charge of those collections, and with Dr. Olga Hartman, who last winter worked over a portion of our worm collections here at the Museum and who is now busily engaged in studying the Hancock collection of annelids.

On the forenoon of July 14th, I was with Captain Hancock, going over plans for furthering studies on the collections already amassed by him and other plans contemplating the enhancement of those collections by future expeditions.

I also spent some time with Mr. Steve Glassell, who is at present engaged in reporting on both the National Museum and Hancock Pacific Porcellanids, along with representatives of the same group from Atlantic waters, chiefly in the region of Florida.

Captain Hancock's yacht, the Velero III, was also visited. Here I picked up a few pieces of collecting equipment which I had left behind on an earlier occasion.

Arriving in San Diego in the late forenoon of July 15th, I straightway made such purchases of collecting equipment as could not readily and economically be transported from Washington: tubs, buckets, harpoon and dip net handles and poles.

My outfit and baggage was placed aboard the Houston early on the morning of the 16th of July. We departed on the first leg of the cruise, to Cedros Island, at 4:00 p.m. the same day. En route, one of the vacant office rooms aboard was rigged as a laboratory, with wooden table tops, extra lights, and other conveniences.

At all stops the commoner fishes were named as they were brought in by the several fishing parties. More difficult species were given critical attention in the laboratory. But few of the commoner species were preserved. On the other hand, all species representing extensions of range, rare species, and those not now in the Museum Collections were saved at all times.

One of the finest things about the whole cruise, next to the encouraging and stimulating interest of the President in all the scientific work undertaken, was the fact that unsurpassed freezing facilities were constantly available at practically all times. This made it possible to bring back to the Museum a considerable number of fish in virtually fresh condition for the most desirable means of preservation in the Museum's own laboratories.

In order to avoid a recapitulation of the scientific work done in the course of the Presidential cruise, I here insert copies of the progress reports which I made to the President direct during the cruise.

What does not appear in these accounts is the time given over to the sorting and preservation of the various material collected at each stop, a phase of the work that took up a no inconsiderable part of my time.

Some words in commendation of the part the Navy personnel played in the scientific success are given in both of my progress reports to the President. If in place, the Secretary of the Navy should be thanked for the generous and whole-hearted cooperation extended me on all occasions. To the Navy a great deal of credit for the value of the collections gotten together during the three weeks cruise is due.

To the President, of course, we are indebted for everything. His live interest in all that went on and in the collections made was a great stimulus to both the Navy personnel and myself to do our utmost to further all the aims of the expedition.

The very excellent refrigeration facilities aboard the Houston have opened up an entirely new field and opportunities of obtaining much desired specimens in the best of condition for the most approved methods of preservation right in the Museum's own laboratories.

Of the collections so far as we have had time to unpack and examine them:

Dr. Schultz says that the fish collection is one of the best received at the Museum for some time, and that it was in beautiful shape for permanent preservation.

Dr. Foshag is making an examination of the portion of the original Clipperton rock we obtained. It is of igneous origin and is apparently like some on the mainland of Mexico. A chemical analysis and a report upon the rock will be prepared by him.

The palm from Cocos Island has proved of great interest to Dr. Cook. Not only does it represent a new species, but a new genus as well.

The crustacea promise to yield a number of things of interest. The wealth of amphipods in Magdalena Bay has surprised even Mr. Shoemaker, who has spent a lifetime studying these forms. He knows of no record of comparable abundance anywhere. They were almost as numerous where they were dredged as grains of sand on the beach near by.

As rapidly as the sorting progresses we shall place the material in the hands of specialists for study.

The cruise terminated at Pensacola shortly after noon on August 9th. It was impossible to complete shipping arrangements for my outfit and collections in time to make a train that evening. The dry icing of the fish caused the greatest difficulty. Mr. N. Bear, of the Pensacola Dairy Co., kindly parted with a portion of his own limited supply of dry ice to make possible the successful shipping of the frozen fish, birds, and iguanas.

I was able to get away at 1:30 p.m. August 10th. Dry ice was again added to the box of frozen specimens at midnight in Atlanta under my personal supervision. We reached Washington at 7:25 the same evening. Before going home, I made sure that the box of frozen specimens was on its way to the freezer of the Terminal Refrigerating and Warehousing Corporation, a fact which I checked by phone after I reached home. The next morning at nine o'clock, August 12th, I reported for duty at the Museum.

Respectfully,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 7, 1938.

Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt,
Curator of Marine Invertebrates,
U. S. National Museum.

Through: Dr. L. Stejneger.

Dear Dr. Schmitt:

Herewith I am forwarding to you two letters of authorization to cover your expenses while on a cruise arranged by the President of the United States. The first, from the National Museum will cover your railroad fare and pullman only; these will be secured by transportation request. Your subsistence and miscellaneous expenses, including board and other expenses while on board ship, will be paid by the Smithsonian Institution under the advance of funds that has been made to you.

Briefly, your work will be to obtain desirable material for the U. S. National Museum collections. Necessarily most of this will be marine material. In view of your long experience with this type of work the details for the work are left to your own discretion.

If it is practicable to land on Clipperton Island, as we hope, in addition to marine collections it is desired to have from three to six examples each of all of the species of birds found on this island. These should be shot carefully to avoid too much damage, should have the throats plugged with clean cotton, and should then be wrapped in paper after the feathers have been arranged smoothly so that they will not become injured. In this condition they can be placed on cold storage on board ship and so carried. You can probably arrange to get them back to Washington from your point of debarkation by handling them with dry ice. As they will be frozen they should not be allowed to warm up to the point of thawing until they reach here as when that happens it is necessary to prepare them at once or they will spoil. We have no bird material from Clipperton so that specimens from there will be extremely useful. The Island has been little visited.

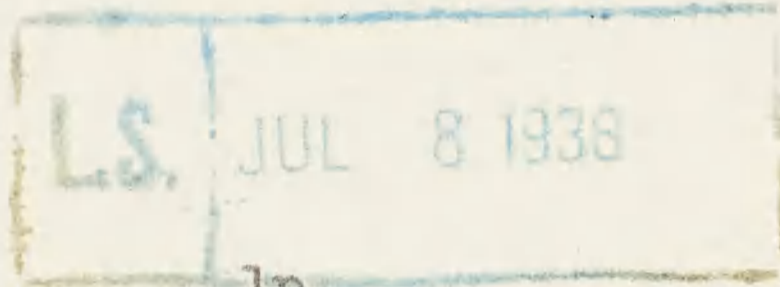
While such collections are desired from Clipperton we do not care to have any birds shot on the Galapagos Islands should you visit them. You will recall that these islands have been established as a reserve by decree of the Ecuadorian Government. We do not at this time care to have specimens from there in addition to those now in our possession as we have good series of most things from that area.

I give you my best wishes for a successful journey and shall look forward to your return.

Sincerely yours,

A. Wetmore

Assistant Secretary.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1938.

DIVISION OF
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt,
U. S. National Museum,

Dear Dr. Schmitt:

Referring to your question regarding the palm on Cocos Island, the reference in the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, 4th Series, Vol. 1, p. 388, January 19, 1912, is as follows:

Palmae sp.: an undetermined species of palm occurring quite abundantly on the hillsides above both Chatham and Wafer bays. It seems to be most abundant above 400 ft. (Nos. 273-74).

The foliage of the palm, of which I saw a botanical specimen at the California Academy several years ago, no doubt will have a general similarity to that of the coconut palm, but the leaf-crown probably is smaller and the leaves more open and more slender than those of the coconut palm. The fact of growing on the hillsides away from the shore probably will distinguish it at once, since the coconut palm is intolerant of shade and would not grow in the forest among other trees.

This similarity in foliage does not mean that the palm is related to the coconut. It is much nearer to the royal palm and probably has a green column of cylindrical leaf-bases, 4 or 5 feet long standing above the trunk, like the other royal palms. It may prove rather closely related to a palm that we found in Guatemala several years ago, or may be a distinct genus. Photographs of the Guatemalan palm will give the best idea of what to look for.

Since flowering and fruiting usually do not begin in this group of palms till the trunks are 20 to 30 feet tall, one or two of the palms will have to be cut in order to get botanical material. In the way of specimens a freshly opened inflorescence with the male flowers still in place would be desirable, also an inflorescence with ripe fruits, unless a good quantity of recently fallen fruits can be found on the ground.

A section of the trunk showing three or four joints would be desirable, also one of the cylindrical sheathing leaf bases, which may be rolled or folded, and should show the attachment of the petiole, or the entire petiole, including the upper part of the sheath and the attachments of a few of the lower pinnae.

The entire rachis or midrib of the leaf may be kept or sections with a few pinnae from the base, middle and tip of the leaf-blade may be cut and the pinnae folded once or twice, small enough to go in herbarium sheets 11 by 16 inches. The length of the midrib and of the entire leaf-blade should be measured, and the number of pinnae counted, along one side of the midrib.

One of the inflorescences may be kept entire, and others split or cut and pressed in any convenient size for showing their characters.

The two spathes that enclose the young inflorescences fall off and will be found lying on the ground, the outer spathe short, probably less than a foot long, flat and open at the end. The inner "complete" spathe probably is two or three feet long, open along one side to near the tapering point, that should be kept intact. If convenient, the ends of several spathes may be cut off a few inches below the end of the opening as these can be treated as herbarium specimens. But at least one entire spathe should be kept, by folding if necessary.

The branches of the inflorescences may be subtended by large tongue-shaped bracts that fall off readily, and may be found only on young inflorescences only recently opened, or before opening, so that material of small inflorescences should be preserved if found on the palms cut down.

Seedlings should be collected, not only as pressed specimens but probably could be brought back alive if possible since this may save several years in growing the palms to maturity. The seedlings may exist in large numbers and a dozen or a hundred would be very welcome. They should be taken up carefully, the roots packed in damp moss, and the moss rolled in waxed paper, the paper closed, folded back and tied on the root end, but other end left open, forming a cup or funnel around the leaves, for light and water when opportunity offers.

Two forms of seedlings are shown in the photographs, one with simple leaves the other divided, both forms being represented in this group of palms, a simple V-shaped leaf or a leaf with separate segments on each side.

August 20, 1938

Commander C. A. Bailey, U.S.N.
U.S.S. Houston
Navy Yard
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bailey:

I am asking our Director to thank the Secretary of the Navy for all that you folks did for me while I was on board the Houston, but nevertheless I want to thank you personally for the wonderful time I had. The President's invitation was but part of it, and the grand way that I was received and treated by the Navy was the rest of it.

It was with considerable shock that I heard that the Houston had been ordered to Norfolk and would probably be there until the exposition in New York. I certainly sympathize with the officers who have their families in California. Now that you are not so far away, I trust that I may look for some of you in Washington from time to time. If you will be at Norfolk for some time and the weather gets cooler, I shall drive down with my family to pay you a little call.

I have sent Mr. Kelley all of three letters the burden of which was our desire to acquire a sailfish if one was still available in the refrigerator. I know several of the officers planned to take their catches back to California, but since that is out they might be willing to part with a specimen, or at least the head of one. Should I get a favorable response from Mr. Kelley, I shall start action at this end looking toward shipment of the specimen to Washington in dry ice.

You will be interested to know that all of the fish that I brought here arrived in perfect condition. We re-iced them in Atlanta and when they were thawed out in Washington they were just as fresh as though they had been caught an hour before. Most of them had their colors almost as in life.

Please give my very best regards to all our mutual good friends aboard. My best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

Seeds also should be brought back alive, and probably are quite perishable, in the sense of being killed if allowed to dry out, and hence should be packed in slightly dampened moss or weathered charcoal. Several hundred seeds should be obtained if practicable, since it is not impossible that the palm may thrive in Florida or in California. At least it should grow in conservatories and might make a fine display in the large high-roofed conservatory of the United States Botanic Garden, by growing above the other palms.

Most of the related palms from Central and South America grow in mountain forests and have not been introduced in cultivation, either in Florida or in conservatories, but this island palm might prove more hardy and better suited to moderate conditions. The most important economic member of the group is the assai palm of Brazil, with purple oily fruits used extensively in the district of Para for making a popular food beverage, reported very favorably by Alfred Russel Wallace.

It is remarkable that in the palm group several of the most interesting and important species have been found on small islands, and in nature are confined to these single locations.

The palm of Guadeloupe Island, off the west coast of Mexico, Erythea edulis, is one of the most beautiful, and is planted extensively along the coast of California, but not adapted to other parts of the United States.

The hardy date palm, Phoenix canariensis, the most imposing member of the date-palm family, now planted extensively in California and through the Gulf States, comes from the single island of Palma in the Canary group.

The so-called "Kentia" palm, the most important commercial species for decorative uses, familiar in hotel lobbies, comes from Lord Howe Island, between Australia and New Zealand.

Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa and other island groups have their local endemic palms, and new species are still being discovered. A very remarkable new genus, Pelagodoxa, was found a few years ago on one of the Marquesas islands.

More than one palm may be endemic on Cocos Island. If any of the hills have rocky out-crops that can be seen with a telescope, palms should be looked for in such places. Some of these have broad, overlapping, fan-shaped leaves, and are very compact in their habits of growth, with only short trunks, thus giving the impression of a

August 29, 1938

Mr. Jack Barron
U.S.S. Houston
Long Beach, California

Dear Jack:

I have been wanting to write you a personal letter ever since I left the ship, but unless I get busy now and have it typed it looks as though I never would get it off.

We all know it was a grand cruise and I do not tire enthusing about it. I have been busy getting out from under the accumulated things at the office here and getting the collections straightened out and distributed to specialists. The fish collection was perhaps the best and most important. Our taxidermists are a very fine lot, and no matter how bad the birds looked when we wrapped them up, they are coming through in fine shape as the taxidermists finish with each of them. The boss is mighty pleased with the bird collection. There are lots of other interesting things which will be the subject of a report by the Smithsonian later on. I must not forget the palm. Perhaps it was the most outstanding thing of the cruise.

I am getting my pictures printed up and when they are complete you shall have a set of them, but that takes time. Perhaps that is one reason why I delayed writing. I would like to have had pictures to include in the letter.

Meanwhile, I am sending you a little whatnot in a separate package. I hope it reaches you safely. It is but a very small token of appreciation of all that you did for me while I was aboard. I hope that we may have another cruise together and that I can have you to help me again.

You will be getting another note from me with the photos. My very best to you and yours and all of our mutual friends aboard.

Sincerely,

Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

September 9, 1938

Commander C. A. Bailey, U.S.N.
U. S. S. Houston
Mare Island, California

Dear Commander Bailey:

We all played into hard luck, didn't we, with those sudden orders that you folks received and their sudden change? I certainly would like to have visited the ship with my family while you were at Norfolk, but I got word of it entirely too late to take advantage of the opportunity before you left.

I have written Mr. Kelley several times about sailfish, and all we can do now is to hope for another chance another year.

Everything got home in good order. As the collections are being worked up we find more and more of interest in them. The Clipperton visit was a rare thing for us. The birds have worked up beautifully into study specimens. You would hardly know them for the same things; they are really very excellent Museum accessions. The palm is not only a new species, but also a new genus. We even got a couple of new species of fish, but not among the larger game fish. The new ones are a couple of tiny things we got out of the tide pools at Old Providence. From a fisherman's point of view, that place would not be worth revisiting, but it certainly would be a wonderful place for a scientist. One could well spend a week there.

The Museum couldn't see eye to eye with me on a return to Clipperton. You know how much I wanted the Houston to stop there on her way back to the west coast. The Secretary of the Institution thought it was asking entirely too much so close upon the heels of the Presidential Cruise. However, I shall not let the matter rest and, if I can do it no other way, I shall ask the President to stop there again the next time he goes with you.

I am sorry you missed your chance to spend a little time on the east coast. How did the majority feel about that sudden return to the Pacific after you had gotten up as far north as Norfolk?

I certainly was flabbergasted when Lieut. Gates sent me that third snake! I hope it didn't create any excitement on board when it turned up.

One really gets quite homesick for the Houston, and your visit to the New York Exposition can't come too soon to suit me. I shall certainly be up there to pay you a visit.

My best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

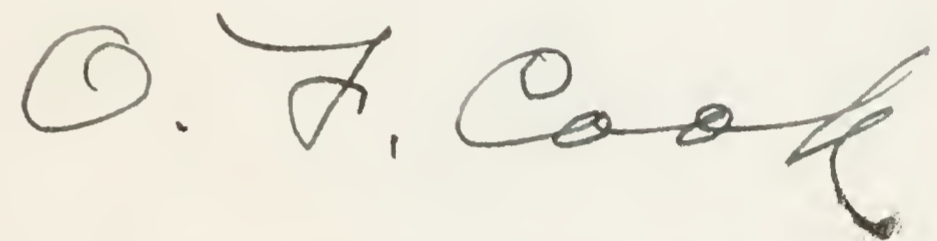
Waldo L. Schmitt, Curator,
Division of Marine Invertebrates.

WLS:LMc

tuft of grass. Such palms might grow on the Galapagos, and should be looked for on any "desert islands".

Any points that you could note regarding the general size, shape or habits of the Cocos Island palm, or any others, would be appreciated, as whether the trunk tapers or is cylindrical, thickens at the base or is supported above the ground by a mass of the roots, the thickness of the roots, also specimens to show structure, diameter of trunk, and lengths of joints and whether the leaf-scars are even or constricted. Photographs like those of the Guatemalan palm would be very desirable, also showing the trunk and root features, if such are feasible.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. F. Cook". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

O. F. Cook,
Collaborator.

OFC:RL

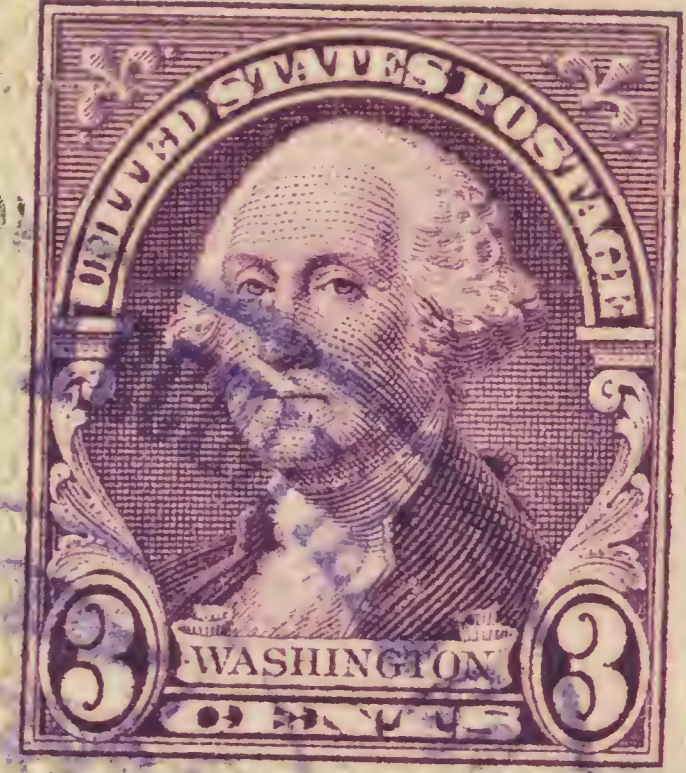
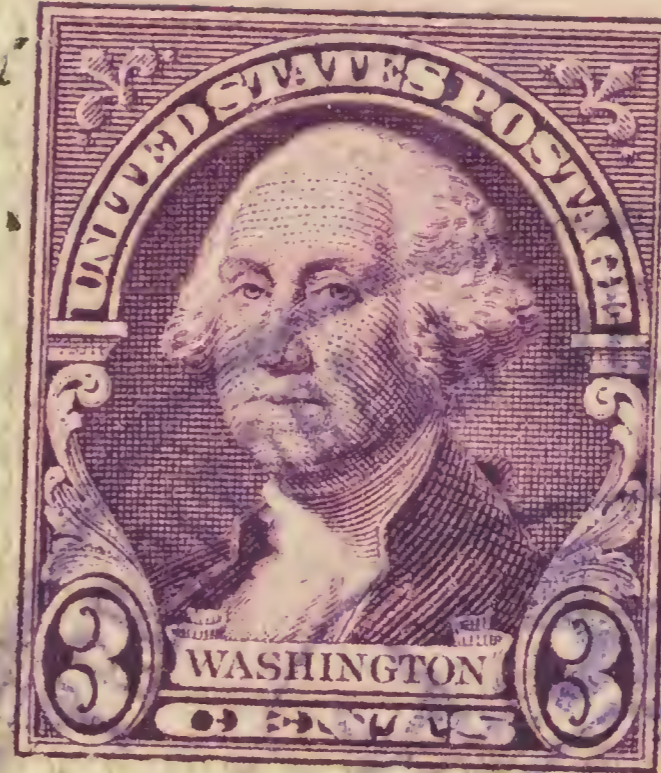
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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PEN



ID

Mrs. Waldo L. Schmitt,
Pine crest, Highland Lane,
Takoma Park, Md.

Rec'd Gulson
Parks Md. on
Oct. 18, 1938
Tuesday

Lower California, Mexico ^{Cedros Island}

Sta. #1 - 38 July 17^o 1938. Shore collecting,
both north and south of cannery
east side ~~Cedros~~ Island.

Amphipods and earthworms from under
drifted kelp on gravel beach to north.
Crabs from shore cliffs, and fossils
from fallen portion of cliff to south.
Cedros Island.

Sta. #2 - 38, July 17^o 1938 Bottom sample
in 24-25 fms. about 1/4 way from
shore to anchorage.

#3 - 38, July 18^o ^{Magdalena Bay.} Hedging, boatdredge.

Inside northern point of entrance
to Magdalena Bay, between
Blecker Point and anchorage,
10-15 fms., sandy, weedy bottom,
myriads of amphipods

#4 - 38, July 18^o ^{Magdalena Bay;} filamentous green
algae from deeper end of
~~at~~ preceding dredge hauls.

Cape San Lucas

5-38, July 19. Hedging, boat dredge,
6-10 fms. off Punta Gorda, off rocky
shore to west end San Jose del
Cabo Bay.

6-38, July 19. At anchorage, San
should be
5a Jose del Cabo, alcyonarian
from anchorage, Mexico.
Socorro Island,

6-38, July 20. Shore collecting,
Breathwhite Bay, ~~Socorro Island,~~
at "Landing place".

7-38, July 20. Collecting up on land
area back of beach; soil
~~put~~ put through Berlese funnel
also scorpion, spiders and a
crab found under rocks.

8-38, July 20. Hedging, boat dredge.
two hauls, 7-8 fms, on sand
bottom, from off landing beach
toward rocky point forming
east side ~~of cove~~ of cove ~~at~~ of cove ~~at~~ of cove ~~at~~ of cove ~~at~~ of cove
Landing place is located

Clipperton Island

9-38. July 21^o Shore collecting at Clipperton on rocks to south of landing place.

10-38. July 21^o Bucket of algae from Clipperton Lagoon, back from landing place.

11-38 July 21. Piece of Clipperton Rock.

12-38 July 21. Muck from anchor chain. Was coated with this material; looked like old waste when first given me.

13-38 July 21. Two specimens the trigger fish caught by President out of school at surface with ^{mouth} hooked fore; ^{the} of fish ^{shown} (over)

14-38 July 21. Helix from two boobies nests, back from landing place. Eggs separated, 2 clutches. One of crew brought home speckled eggs.

as hair. Bright blue color
like "queen trigger" fish, but head
markings darker blue ~~light~~ blue stripe
across base of dorsal and
ventral = 33 I 8

Galapagos Islands

#15-38, July 24^{1/2} ^(shore and tide pool collecting) Sullivan Bay, James
Island, 3³⁰ to 5 p.m. tide
beginning to run out.

#16-38, July 25. Harborough Island²
Shore collecting, chiefly marine
iguanas and some rocks for
exhibit group.

#17-38, July 25⁰ At anchorage off
^{Albemarle Island}
Jaguz Cove, E.L. off gang-
way 11 p.m. dip-net.

#18-38, July 26⁰ At anchorage
off Jaguz Cove from anchor
chain, 10 a.m., 50 fms.

19-38 July 26. Elizabeth Bay,
Albemarle Island; landed ~~at~~ⁱⁿ
bay at south end of black
beach north of mangroves,
north of two "red" islands.

19a-38 July 26. Locality as
for #19-38. Nest material
of old, flightless cormorant
nest put through Berlese.

20-38, July₂ 26. Locality as for
19-38. Taken off anchor
chain.

21-38, July₂ 27. Crew ashore at
Post Office Bay, Charles
Island; various things collected.
Got specimens of plants in
flower on road to Wittmers place.

22-38, July²⁷ At anchorage,
of Gardner Bay, Hood Island.
E.L. off gangway, dinner
11 p.m.

23-38, July 29. South Seymour Island,
at north end, of ~~plate~~
plateau-land section of
island. Odds and ends
picked up on beach and
shore; sand sample, and
sand washing.

23a-38, July 29. South Seymour
Island anchorage. E.L.
from gangway 11 p.m.

24-38, July 30 James Bay,
James Island. Bottom
sample is about 24 fms.

25-38, July 30 ~~two~~ locality
as for #24-38. Two octopi.

26a-38, ^{July 30.} mud, and water sample
from ~~the~~ flamingo lagoon
James Bay, James Island.

August 1. Coco Island; inland
for palm at Luper Bay,
all day like.

August 2, Coco Island; ashore in
a.m. at Luper Bay, north
side for tree ferns. P.m.
at Chatham Bay.

August 3. Coco Island; forenoon
in fishing boat with Messrs
Adams and Early for sail fish
photos.

26-38, August 3. Coco Island²
Parasites from 116 ^{lb.} ~~pond~~
sail fish; forenoon

27-38, August 3, Coco Island²
Copropod found in dish in
which two sucker fish from
sail fish were killed in
alcohol.

28-38, August 3² Chatham Bay,
Coco Island² Bottom
sample, mostly sand.

29-38, August 3. Coco Island.
Several dredge hauls off
Chatham Bay (by Barron)

30-38 August 6. Old Providence
Island, shore ~~and reef~~ ^{and tide-} _{pool}
Collected in early afternoon

30a-38 As above, bottom sample, at
anchorage.

31 - 38, August ~~19~~ 60 Old Providence,
dredge haul in about 7-8
fms. inside reef Catalina
Harbor.

