

[March 12, 1957]

*Inserted April 8, 1955*

Dear Kenneth C. Brown:

I would be glad to advise you and your group on a trip to Guatemala. May I compliment you on your enthusiasm and courage and especially on your aspirations and the scope of your undertaking. I am sure with your experience in the field you will realize your goal.

As my experience in Guatemala was during a period of communistic unrest, and was based on a one man expedition fully equipped for independent operation and with institutional sponsorship, precise information for you will be difficult. Because of the variables of size of group and the complex interrelations of objectives, fields of interests and non-institutional representation, a certain caution should be exercised in accepting my information as applicable to your plans.

With your background of experience you could justifiably eliminate the short period reconnaissance which under ordinary circumstances would be advisable in a country that is so diversified in physiography, and so rich in flora and fauna and archeological material. In addition, when so much time and expense is required to go to and from a place as far away as Guatemala, there is good reason for making a full summer of field work instead of separate trips of shorter duration. To sample the several areas of suspected differentiation of fauna and flora (centers of probable speciation), to visit all the type localities of kinds previously named, and to take adequate samples of the several kinds of animals and birds will require the entire summer. I advise you, therefore, and assuming that finances are not too limiting, to plan on a full scale basis and start out as a specialized field party.

Enclosed are several items from my last trip to Guatemala of correspondence and documents which I have annotated, and which I hope will help you to see vicariously the problems of conducting field work in Central America. I am sorry not to be able to send my field notes, as they are presently in use. Retain the annotated sheets, but kindly return the original letters, documents and the map. In addition to these enclosed exhibit items, and additional statement or two can be made of some of the more general problems of conducting field work in Guatemala. I shall not attempt to organize this, ~~but~~, but I will jot down those ideas that spontaneously come to mind as being relevant in your case and not duplicated in the enclosed.

There are a number of things for you to do before leaving.

- 1) Check with the Alumni Office for a list of all former graduates of B.Y.U. who are now living in Mexico and Guatemala.
- 2) Get a list of all Latter Day Saints' missionaries in Guatemala, and where they can be found.
- 2) Have an international Certificate of Vaccination (World Health Organization) issued to you by the Trans-World Airlines. This organization will give you the vaccinations and certificate free of charge. Other agencies, however, have the authority to issue the certificate. Include the following for Guatemala: smallpox, yellow fever, typhoid, tetanus, and typhus. Allow a month for the completion of the series.