

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.
CHICAGO.

Santa Rosa Island, Fla.
25 Feb 1897.

Mr E. Hartert,
Tring, England.

Dear Sir;

Your favor of the 3^d inst. was received just as I was preparing to leave Chicago for Florida. I am here on a short collecting trip for the Field Columbian Museum and expect to return to that city in about three and a half or four months.

In regard to your offer for specimens from the upper Orinoco region I will say that I accept. I am only sorry that you do not take more specimens of each species. While I accept your offer and will make the expedition, yet I must add that it will be impossible for me to get away for some months yet. In fact I do not think I can get away, or that it would be advisable to go, before the beginning of the next dry season. I hope you will not object to the delay and that it will not seriously inconvenience you.

In your letter you do not speak of mammals. I will certainly collect at least the small mammals. If you do not care for them may I not make other arrangements for disposing of the specimens I may collect? I will send you all the birds and lepidoptera as also coleoptera.

I will start on the expedition with the idea of remaining two years or more, as I would like to work the field & cover pretty thoroughly. Of course the length of time I am gone will depend much on whether, or how well, I succeed in making both ends meet.

Any suggestions or hints from you will be gladly received.

Before leaving Chicago I packed four small boxes with bird skins - I believe some by mail. I think from the lot you can get a fair idea as to my "make" of skin.

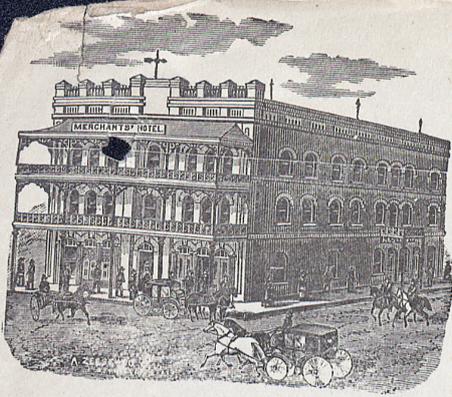
As you did not order the skins and as I need not have sent so many to show my "make", I will not send you a bill; but will say that as I have sent you a number of rather rare species you may pay me for them or not as you choose and entirely at your own price. In any case I will remain satisfied.

In a short time I will send you a list of the species in my collection of birds from Costa Rica.

Very Truly Yours,

Geo. H. Gerrish.

Please address me



Merchants Hotel,

J. KRYGER, Proprietor.

W. T. GORDON, CLERK.

RATE: \$2.50 PER DAY.

Pensacola, Fla.,

15th Mch 1897

Ms. E. Hartert
King, England.

Dear Sir;

I am just in receipt of word notifying me that the packages containing the bird skins of which I wrote you some time ago, have been detained in the Chicago Post Office. I have written and will try and have them sent in the same way the packages did not conform to the postal laws.

Very Truly
Geo. H. Herrie

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM
CHICAGO.

18, May, 1897,

Mr Ernst Hartert.

Dear Sir:

I have but just returned to the museum and am in receipt of your letter of May 1st. Yours of Feb 30th was received some three weeks ago but I was at that time quite unwell and only for the last few days have I felt like myself and disposed to attend to my regular duties. I am however now fully recovered.

I will try and answer your letters beginning with the last which for some reasons would seem to be the more important of the two.

I am sure that I regret as much as you possibly can the fact that there is another collector going into the same field that I expected to cover. I am not acquainted with Mr Klages, and I had no idea there was any one else contemplating a trip to Venezuela or I would have made more of an effort to get away sooner. But I may as well confess that the principal reason that I am not already on my way to Venezuela is that I need the money that I am now earning to pay for my outfit, passage, etc., etc. I would also a little rather have begun my work there at the beginning of the dry season (in Venezuela); that is about November, 1st. I have written to New York, to know if ~~possible~~ Mr Klages has already gone; if not, when he is going; and to learn, if possible, just what points he expects to visit. Of course I do not want to go to the same spots that Mr Klages visits — at least I do not care to visit them behind him! If I learn that Mr Klages expects to visit the same localities I anticipated working; then I will try and get in communication with him with a view of arranging in a friendly way that we stop at ~~some~~ what different places. If, when I learn

a little more fully of where Mr Klages expects to go, it seems best to lose no more time. You may depend upon it & will get away just as soon as possible. I do not however think I can in any way arrange to leave New York before the middle or last of July. In any case I will do the best I can.

By this you will surely have received the bird skins? A friend having forwarded them, by the American Express Co., some time near the middle of April.

The only labels I have at present are like the one enclosed. Do you object to my name appearing on your labels as the collector stamped on the back. As I don't suppose you will like the small label enclosed, it will probably be best for you to send me labels. And will you in your next kindly give me careful shipping directions?

If, as you suggest, you could make arrangements for me with the authorities of the British Museum to take what mammals and reptiles I may collect I would be very glad. (It is however very doubtful if I get many reptiles the question of spirits and transportation being a difficult one). It would be entirely satisfactory, to me, to send everything to you and let you forward them. In fact I would very much rather everything passed through your hands; because I wish you to know and feel from the beginning that I work for your interests as well as my own.

I think fair prices for the mammals would be about as follows; bats and all other small mammals to the size of the smaller squirrels \$1.50 from the size of the larger squirrels to that of the smaller opossums \$3.00; monkeys, sloth, larger opossums, other smaller cats etc \$4.00 for the other and larger mammals price would be conventional. I think at least fifteen specimens of each species should be taken at the above prices. ~~at least~~ \$1.50 up to 15 // \$3.00 " 10 // \$4.00 = 6 sides

I fear I cannot procure a specimen of cherries for you. Yours Very Truly Geo. K. Oberlin

If, after having had your pick you could dispose of two or three series of specimens for me I would esteem it a very great kindness.

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM,
CHICAGO.

Mr. Ernst Hartert

Dear Sir;

Your favor
was received this morning.
that after so long a period
have reached you safely
know that you consider the
confident that the specimens
in the field will meet with
will try and make the best
have ^{no} cause for complai-
notes & can give you the c-
of every specimen which I ha-
approximate altitude, charac

Chicago Ill
25th May 1897.

of the 13th together with the labels
I am very glad to know
of waiting the bird skins.
And I am also glad to
hear "mostly good". I feel
I ^{will} send you after I am once
in your approval. And I
am hoping such that you will
think from my field
color of the eyes, bill, feet and legs
we sent you, as well as the
color of the country etc. etc. H

you care for these notes
catalogue numbers from the
send the ^{fuller} data in my next
selected and packed in
record of the numbers and
a list of the species sent.

I can get labels such as
here and, as you say, there
being able to have my no
order them at once.

I have not yet learn
to start I only know that
and from the chief taxider
I learn that Mr Klages had
and that he is now tax
Rowley (the museum taxidermist)
and mammal skins.

You ask me to "let go"
I am hardly prepared to a
But will repeat substance
my last letter: that is,

, and will send me my
specimens, I will try and
letter. The skins were
such haste that I have no
specimens — I have only

you send, printed and strung,
will be the advantage of
me printed at the top. I will

need when Mr Klages expects
it he has not yet gone
mist at the American Museum
never collected birds nor mammals
ing instructions from Mr
in the "making" of bird
we know when I will go."
answer definitely just yet.
specially what I want in
if I find Mr Klages con-

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM,
CHICAGO.

tends visiting about the
expect to work; then I
get away without further
hand Mr Klages goes to
cality; then I would we
starting from New York
October so that I can
the beginning of the year
about November 1st I
you can be, to give
describe any new form
along the upper Arinae
our interests are identical
you I will do the best
My price on hop
I am not placing any

same localities that I
will make every effort to
delay. But, if on the other
some widely different lo-
ry much prefer not
before some time in
ld begin my work with
usual dry season; that is,
as first as anxious, as
you the first chance to
s that may be found
co. I think that at present
, and let me assure
t in my power.
nis adorabilis was \$2⁵⁰/₁₁; but
price on the birds I sent

to you, I sent the skin
what kind of skins I
at the time I first tried
were worth anything to y
you saw fit. Otherwise
charge. I did not, an
turned.

I still have about 1500
that I have failed to find
country, I do not know
I return I return from
sequently I am offering
of course if the entire
know of a dealer who
will you not kindly
your next letter. The
but as a whole I think th
Bel

and that you might all
make. I think I wrote
to post them, that if they
are, you might pay what
they were yours without
I do not want them re-

Costarican bird skins
a market for in this
the storing them until
South America and con-
the lot at 25¢ each - this
collection is taken. If you
could be likely to take them.
and me his address, in
skins are not all the best
they are good.

Give me
Sincerely

Field Columbian Museum
Chicago Ill

16th July, 1897.

Dear Mr. Hartert;

Your favor of June 29
with enclosure just received.

Please accept my best thanks for
the same. I return herewith the
signed receipt for the same.

I will forward the lot of
Costa Rica bird skins to your ad-
dress in a few days. Many of the
specimens have been packed for the

last three or four years and I am sure they are not in good condition but on the other hand I am equally sure you will find many desirable specimens in the lot; and I have every confidence that my interests will not suffer by placing the collection in your hands. Indeed I must thank you for the trouble you have been to in my behalf.

I am every so glad you are getting the first pick from the birds that will be collected by Mr. Klages for as you say it will not necessitate an undesirable hurry. And I wish to work the territory, over which I go, slowly and very carefully — and, incidentally, I am determined to send you only the very

best of skins!

As I was extremely busy when your letter of June 21 came to hand, telling me that Mr Oldfield Thomas would be glad to take the mammals etc., etc., answering and acknowledging your kindness in arranging the matter for me was neglected. I will certainly regard what you have written as "in full confidence."

Within the last few days it has occurred to me that I ought to ask you how soon after I have finished my work on the Upper Orinoco I will be able to dispose of the duplicates which you do not take. Do not imagine from the above that I am ^{or will be} in any hurry to take them out of your hands, because such

is not the case and I expect to profit by the arrangements you may be able to make for me in the way of disposing of duplicate sets as you have informed me you might be able to do. The question was prompted by the authorities of the Field Museum asking me when I would be able to let them have a duplicate series of specimens.

Upon receipt of your letter giving me the route that Mr Klages had written you he contemplated following; I wrote to that gentleman

suggesting what seemed to me
an equitable division of the territory
to be traversed. I detailed as nearly
as possible what would have been
my route as suggested by your
first letter regarding the matter.
I then stated that I would not go
up the Caroni nor the Caura. That
my work from Angostura as far
as Caicara would be confined
close to the main Orinoco; that be-
tween the latter point and Stures I
would probably extend my excu-
sions further to the right and left

especially in the hill country on
right bank of the river. From Sta
to San Fernando de Stabapo the coun
within reasonable distance from
the river would be carefully explore
As it was from ^{and beyond} San Fernando de Stabapo
that our routes seemed most to con
flict I suggested that I would stay
way from the Ventuari river and
the mountains to the north ^{and south,} of that
stream if Mr Klages would keep
way from the extreme upper Orinoco
and tributaries; thus leaving me the
rema range of mountains in
which the Orinoco has its head.

Mr Klages writes me that his Vene-
olan work was to have been chiefly
over; - (1) the territory between the $7^{\frac{1}{2}}$ degree

the of North latitude and the Brazilian border line and
 the 63rd degree of longitude west of Greenwich and
 try the Guianas; (2) the country lying ^{rather} close along
 the upper Coura; (3) the mountains north of the
 main Ventuari and along its headwaters -
 to not far south however -; (4) the Upper Ori-
 -noco and all navigable tributaries (by the
 Cassiquiare into Columbia a very desirable
 trip)"

This as you see nearly
 embraces the entire territory I ex-
 pect to go over. I don't know
 how we will be able to arrange
 as to the division of the territory. I
 am willing to make any reasonable
 concessions. Will write you
 the results later. But now that
 you get the choice from Mr Klages
 think it will not, I presume,

be of so much consequence even if
our routes do conflict a little.
Especially if we visit the same localities
at different seasons.

I think I will be able to
get away some time during
September.

I am Very Truly Yours
Geo. K. Sherrie

Chicago, Ill.
22 Sept. 1897

My dear Mr. Hartert;

I expect you have been wondering for a week or two if I had gotten away for Venezuela. This of course will answer the question, and serve also to tell you that I have engaged passage on the American S.S. Curacao sailing about Oct. 7th. I had expected to get away this month but so many matters came up to detain me that I was compelled to postpone my going.

You probably will have received the Costa

Rican bird skins are
this as they left New York
on the 1st per S. S. St Louis.
I should you have time
to write me, after receipt
of this and before I sail,
kindly address me % Dr.
J. A. Allen, American Museum
New York City, N. Y.

My address in Venezuela
will be care American Consul,
Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, S. A.

I have high hopes of
making a successful trip
and sending you much
rich material.

Believe me

Sincerely

Geo. K. Cherrie

Ciudad Bolivar

Oct. 30 1897.

Mr Ernest Hartert

Dear Sir

As you will see from the above I am at last in Venezuela having arrived here three days ago. And to-morrow I expect to start up the river ~~to~~ to a point called La Bonito about three hundred miles above Bolivar.

Within a month's time or less I hope to be able to make my first shipment. As I wrote you in my last letter my address will

to Ciudad Bolivar of
American Consul. I
hope you will find it
convenient to remit
for the skins I shipped
you from Chicago pretty
soon.

My wife has ac-
companied me to this
point and will go with
me as far as possible.
She will devote much
of her time to the collect-
ing of butterflies etc.
In my next letter I
will speak at length
regarding what progress
we are making and try
and give you an idea
of the country and its

fauna. 2.

Very truly yours
Geo. K. G. Harris.

P.S. While in New York
I was at the American
Museum and learned
that Mr Klages had
not yet sailed for
Venezuela. He had a
very pleasant voyage
out.

Ciudad Bolívar ¹⁴¹
Oct. 30. 1897.

Mr Ernest Hartert

Dear Sir

I have just made arrangements here with Dalton & Co of this city to act as my bankers, but I will ask you kindly to place all money that is or may be due me with J. Henry Schröder & Co. London, requesting them to notify me that I may draw on them through Dalton & Co

Attagracia Venezuela
Dec. 4. 1897

Ernst Hartert
Spring England.

My Dear Mr Hartert

I have two boxes bird skins packed and ready to send down the river as we are expecting a boat to-day. The boxes go to Raltou & Co. at Cd. Bolivar, who will forward them immediately to your address. The two boxes contain five hundred and twelve birds skins I believe, representing the greater part of our work here for the month of November, and while the collection does not contain many species of humming birds in which I believe you are particularly interested yet I am sure it will prove of

much interest. I think I
have been fairly successful
and I believe the skins will
reach you in good condition,
I think they are mostly good.
As one must expect in these
countries, we must fight
the ants.

The dry season seems
now to have fairly begun
and I am trying to make the
best of it.

The last of this month or early
in January, I expect to go
with the tanned-bean gatherers, up
to the head waters of the Cuchivry
river into the Guamapi mts. I
probably will remain there for
two or three months. I might
say ^{also} that ^{now} these mountains ~~are~~
on the opposite side the Ventuari
river has its head.

The birds have kept
me so busy that I have not
yet had time to do anything
to speak of with either the

Lepidoptera or mammals. My next shipment will probably contain some of these.

Will you be kind enough to remit at as early a date as is possible. I need the funds to carry on my work.

As soon as you have received the present shipment please write me if the labeling is satisfactory. I am taking a great deal of care. If you will find a few small labels but all containing the necessary data. The large labels I had with me being exhausted and the new ones not yet having reached me.

Mrs. Cherrie and I are both enjoying good health

and a prospect for lots of bird skins seems good.

I had hoped to write you a long letter but have taken no time for correspondence.

Believe me

Sincerely Yours

Geo. K. Cherris

P.S. I am told by the natives here that there is a bird collector, a German, at work now on the Cauca river, but I am inclined to think he is collecting plumes rather than birds for Museum purposes.

When you have looked over the bird skins will it be asking too much of you to send me a list of the species.