

CORRESPONDENCE

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THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MISS BERTHA LUTZ, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE PROFESSOR ADOLPHO LUTZ, IS REPRINTED IN PART WITH THE PERMISSION OF MR. PERRY BURGESS.

Museu Nacional
Quinta da Bôa Vista
São Christovam
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
August 18, 1942.

Mr. Perry Burgess,
Leonard Wood Memorial,
Metropolitan Tower,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Burgess:

"Your letter to my father, Professor Adolpho Lutz, has just been sent me by the Director of the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz. It is in deep sorrow that I have to tell you that my father died on October 6, 1940, less than six weeks short of his 85th birthday. I am now engaged in putting his medical and zoological files, which date back to 1879 and are the record of 61 years of scientific activity, in final order, and his collections as well. There have been published a number of articles about him, including one by Professor Horace W. Stunkard in the Journal of Parasitology and one in the Journal of Tropical Medicine in England. I hope, some day, to be able to get out a complete edition of his works, a catalogue of his collections, and to publish a biographical record of his times and his influence as a pioneer in Tropical Medicine, Medical Zoology and Bacteriology in Brazil and as one of the early workers in some branches of these fields.

Leprosy was one of the subjects he was most deeply interested in. This interest he maintained throughout his life, so much so that his very last publication, in 1939, was on leprosy. As you may know, much of Professor Lutz' work on leprosy was written in defence of the theory of its transmission by mosquitoes, acting as intermediary hosts. While practicing medicine in the interior of São Paulo he studied the mosquitoes and other bloodsucking diptera.

At the end of the same year, Professor Lutz went to Hawaii to work on leprosy on the recommendation of Prof. Unna of Hamburg. He was much interested to find the same mosquitoes as in S. Paulo, that is *Stegomyia* and *Culex quinque fasciatus*. He stud-

led their introduction and that of leprosy. He realized the magnificent habitat offered to the introduced *Culex* by the rice and taro plantations and computed that the natives unprotected by mosquito nets were bitten several dozen times per 24 hours. He found the initial lesions generally on the parts of the body generally exposed. Some of his patients had not known other lepers.

I have read your letter to my father carefully. In it you ask for suggestions on material for publication. Professor Lutz would have welcomed the opportunity offered him, to do so. Since this is unfortunately no longer possible, I take the liberty of forwarding you the enclosed list of the material available in the files on Leprosy of the Adolpho Lutz Archives. Considering present circumstances, both scientific and international, I venture to suggest that you might use some of it, either as a contribution to the history of leprosy or by opening your publication for the statement of a minority point of view and one that has never had a fair opportunity of statement.

Should you be willing to do so, I place myself at your entire disposal to prepare and send you any of the material available. Personally, I am the senior naturalist of the National Museum of Brazil. My brother is Professor at the School of Medicine of the Federal University of Brazil and can glance through what I may translate, write or prepare for you. In late years I was privileged to be Prof. Lutz' amanuensis.

BERTHA LUTZ

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