

Pedro Aponte-Vázquez
Dirección omitida en esta copia

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Dr. Susan Lederer
School of Medicine
Yale University
Boston, MA

Dear Dr. Lederer:

I have read your article with much interest and deep disappointment. I read it with much interest because I expected a fresh view of the events from a fellow citizen of Dr. Rhoads at the light of the present times. I was deeply disappointed because your view, as that of Mr. Douglas Starr, is tuned to the beginnings of the past century.

In a previous e-mail letter – which I don't know whether you received it or not -- I had proposed to begin our conversation on this theme with my letter to the editor of *Science*, of which I sent you a copy. I hope we can begin this time around with the following questions and comments:*

1. How did you become aware of the Rhoads case?
2. What made you decide to research the issue?
3. With what aim did you write about it?
4. How did you know about *¡Yo acuso! Y lo que pasó después?*
5. Do you read Spanish?
6. Have you read or do you know about *Crónica de un encubrimiento: Albizu Campos y el caso Rhoads?*
7. Did you have access to pertinent documents under the custody of the Puerto Rico National Archive, officially known as General Archive?
8. On the basis of what, do you consider Truman C. Clark and David McCullough to be reliable sources regarding the Rhoads case?
9. What evidence is there to support the statement that the Rockefeller Foundation undertook an investigation of Rhoads' confession of murder?
10. What evidence is there to support the statement that such investigation "uncovered no evidence that Rhoads had in fact 'exterminated' any Puerto Ricans"?

* Please be advised that I am in the process of writing a new book on this matter, this time in English, and might wish to quote you.

11. I know that "Ferdie" was Fred W. Stewart, but what is your source? When and where did Rhoads identify him according to your research?

12. Where did you find that Rhoads left Puerto Rico with the remaining members of the Commission?

13. How do you know that Rhoads "believed that all copies of the letter had been destroyed"?

14. How do you know that it was in January 1932 (a week after he resigned) that Baldoni gave Albizu a "copy of the letter"? Was it a copy, according to your source?

15. What was the nature and extent of the "inquiries" Dr. Galbreath conducted?

16. How could you tell that the "investigatory activity" was "intense"?

17. When did Quiñones receive testimony from Baldoni? Is this a reference to his sworn statement or to a different testimony? If so, what is your source?

18. I know that Baldoni made reference to ten "pesos", but did Rhoads offer him ten "pesos" or ten dollars? Why didn't you translate "pesos"? Within this context, why, you think, was Rhoads so generous toward Baldoni?

19. Do you really think that it was a "reprimand" what Baldoni thought Rhoads deserved?

20. Did you realize that (1) Rafael Arroyo Zeppendfedlt was not wholly of Puerto Rican extraction? Are you aware of the fact that, due to our colonial condition, there is hardly a family in Puerto Rico in which different status preferences are not present? Have you thought of the probable influence of colonialism in terms of how members of the same family react to the same political or ideological stimulus?

21. Do you have any idea of what could be the reason Galbreath, Castle, Payne and other physicians - both, foreign and native -- supported Rhoads?

22. Did you find it to be true that "the actual record of deaths did not match the number of deaths he claimed he had caused? Was it a "claim" or a "confession"?

23. Did he "cause" deaths or did he "kill off"? Why do you prefer one over the other when it was Rhoads himself who used the verb "to kill"?

24. Rhoads did not say when he killed off his victims. So, what is the relevance of stating that only one death (Salvador Montesinos) occurred in November?

25. Regarding Montesinos, where is the evidence in the Medical Report that Rhoads' "post mortem findings were independently corroborated" by the pathologist of the School of Tropical Medicine? Do you know his nationality?
26. Why are you sure that the events Rhoads claimed to have taken place during the party at Cidra actually took place and, furthermore, that they "precipitated the infamous letter"?
27. Why do you omit what de Kruif had written about the Rockefeller Institute and the reprisals it took against him?
28. Why did you choose the expression "juicy" scandal to refer to something so serious in an article that is not intended for the readers of *The Enquirer*?
29. Why should anyone expect *Time's* public relations piece to "appease" Puerto Ricans?
30. If Payne and others did not accept at the time "Rhoads' explanation of the letter as a joke or parody", why do you today and, "a la altura de estos tiempos"?
31. You say that Rhoads "did not intend that his personal fantasy become public; it was a private letter." Would anyone intend that a personal private letter in which he or she reveals committing multiple murders, or only one, for that matter, become public?
32. When referring to Garrido-Morales, you mention his friendship with Rhoads, but why do you omit the fact that it was him – and not the Prosecutor -- who actually conducted the interrogatories during the so-called investigation?
33. Didn't it occur to you that Baldoni's description of Rhoads responded to a legal requirement; that is, to a legal need to demonstrate that he indeed knew Dr. Rhoads – the person he was talking about?
34. Do you give more weight, as it seems, to Arroyo's emotive statement regarding Rhoads' procedures than to Baldoni's "graphic account"?
35. What's the complete bibliography of your essay?
36. McCullough does not mention in *Truman* that Oscar Collazo "had dedicated his life to the Nationalist Party after he had heard Albizu Campos speak about the Rhoads letter". Moreover, you describe him as a "New Yorker". What is your source? Please, note that the Nationalist Party considered itself – that means its members – to be at war with the United States. The Nationalists armed struggle was not criminal, for they were freedom fighters. Therefore, the attack on Truman was not an "assassination attempt".

37. Rhoads' opinion was that we are "lower", not "worse" than Italians.

38. Your reference to the reason for Baldoni to resign tends to suggest that the reader should not believe him or at least should doubt the sincerity of his statements, for Rhoads had already left more than 2 weeks before. Is that what you mean? Furthermore, you say that Baldoni kept a "copy" of the letter. What's your source? I met Baldoni around 1981 and visited him at his home. He gave me additional information regarding Rhoads' supposed "generosity" and told me of the reprisals he encountered for what was considered lack of loyalty on his part to his employer. As a result, for many years after 1932 it was very difficult for him -- who, let me add, was also a plastic artist -- to find a job or to keep one in his own country. Ironically, his wife died of cancer in the 1980s. Luis Baldoni-Martínez was a gentleman in every sense -- as was Collazo, whom I also met and often visited. Collazo's wife Rosa, also a member of the Nationalist Party, spent several years in U. S. federal prisons for being a Nationalist and, specially, for being his wife.

39. How well do you know Albizu? Do you know that the people of Puerto Rico erected a statue to his memory for his 100th birthday in the very lot of land where he was born -- something the people of the U. S. would never do for Rhoads?

Have you ever lived in a colony?

Cordially,

Pedro Aponte-Vázquez