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The Truth about Jimmie Angel And Angel Falls

Why the World's Tallest Waterfall Is Named
Angel Falls

The Phelps Venezuela Expedition
Years of Exploration 1937-1938

by Karen Angel

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Why is the world's tallest waterfall named Angel Falls? It could be because the name is descriptive of the giant white wing of water that falls from the heavenly clouds hovering over Auyántepeui, its mountain home. In fact, the waterfall is named for Jimmie Angel, an earthy North American aviator-explorer born in 1899 in the Cedar Valley region of the Midwest state of Missouri¹

Why the waterfall came to be known to most of the world as Angel Falls in honor of Jimmie Angel, I believe, is largely due to the vivid writings of E. Thomas Gilliard (1912-1965), a young ornithologist from the American Museum of Natural History who explored Auyántepeui in 1937-1938 as a member of the Phelps Venezuela Expedition.²

According to legend, Jimmie Angel's first trip to Venezuela was in the early 1920s with an American mining geologist from Colorado named McCracken (or Williamson). The two met in a bar in Panama and agreed that McCracken would pay Angel \$5,000 to fly him to a secret location. At McCracken's direction, Angel landed his airplane on a mysterious tepui in the Gran Sabana region of Southeastern Venezuela. Together, they removed many pounds of gold from a river on top of the tepui. After McCracken died a few years later in the United States, Angel spent the balance of his life looking for the river of gold.

The Gran Sabana is home to the tepuis which were described by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his 1912 novel *The Lost World*; a place he never visited but had learned about when he attended a lecture by British botanist Sir Everard Im Thurn who had scaled and explored Roraima, one of the tallest tepuis, in 1884.³

Referred to as "islands in time," by Venezuelan Charles Brewer-Carias, tepuis are towering ancient Cambrian sandstone structures which are believed to be remnants from

the vast continent of Gondwana which broke apart about 135 million years ago to form the continents of Africa and South America. Each tepuis rises from the Gran Sabana as an isolated island with its own unique botanical world.⁴

In his search for the lost river of gold, Angel became obsessed with Auyántepeui; a 348 square mile heart shaped tepui in the Gran Sabana not shown on official maps prior to his explorations of the region.⁵ He believed that it was the home of the lost river of gold. During a solo flight on 18 November 1933, he discovered a vertical river, the world's tallest waterfall.⁶

Perhaps plants, animals and geological features are never discovered. Instead, the knowledge of their existence gains recognition by a larger, more diverse audience. The existence of the waterfall may not have been known by the indigenous Pemón; they did not explore Auyántepeui because they believed evil spirits inhabited it and the waterfall is in a location remote from the closest village. The waterfall may have been reported in the journals of early non indigenous explorers, but their reports and maps remain the subject of study and debate. One thing is certain about the discovery of Angel Falls; its existence became known to the world because of Jimmie Angel's explorations.⁷

In 1937, William H. Phelps, Sr., a wealthy American businessman and scientist (ornithologist) living in Caracas, had been hearing for many months fantastic stories from the bush about Jimmie Angel's new "Lost World" of Auyántepeui and a mile high waterfall he had discovered.⁸ He wrote to his fellow ornithologist and friend Frank Chapman, Curator of the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History and offered his sponsorship of an expedition to Auyántepeui and the participation of himself and his son William "Billy" H. Phelps, Jr. who was also an ornithologist.⁹

The American Museum of Natural History had explored tepuis Roraima and Duida a decade before and had discovered many previously unknown plants and birds.¹⁰ Located northwest of Roraima with Duida to the southwest, with hundreds of miles separating them, Chapman believed Auyántepeui to be the missing link in the Museum's exploration of the tepuis.¹¹ He enthusiastically responded to Phelps and his invitation as, "the kind of a letter of which dreams both geographic and zoologic come true."¹²

Eager to move forward with preparations for the expedition, Chapman selected twenty-six year old ornithologist Tom Gilliard and called upon George H. H. Tate, who had led the Roraima and Duida expeditions and was now assistant curator of South American mammals, to accept the mantle of leadership for the expedition.¹³

Gilliard had arrived at the Museum as a twenty-year-old volunteer trainee in 1932 fresh from two years at Deep Springs College in the remote high desert east of southern California's Owens Valley.¹⁴ Then, as now, Deep Springs College was a working cattle ranch that attracts the nation's brightest students who are required to do the hard physical labor of ranch hands, engage in self-governance, and maintain the highest academic standards.¹⁵ Gilliard's willingness to take on daily hours of hard physical tasks while maintaining high scientific standards served the expedition in unanticipated ways on Auyántepeui.

Months of preparation followed Phelps' invitation before the expedition was ready to depart from New York with Gilliard and Tate assembling "the million and one things" that would be needed "from costume jewelry to dentist's forceps."¹⁶ During this period, Gilliard made frequent entries in his field diary. He recorded in his good-natured manner

that Chapman has “been impressing upon me the dangers ... horrors of green hell have graced my ears, - insect insanity, diseases, and snake bite...”¹⁷

On 14 October 1937, the same day that Gilliard departed from New York City by steamship to make advance preparations for the expedition’s arrival in Venezuela, Phelps wrote to Chapman that Jimmie Angel, who had been employed to work as a pilot guide for the expedition, had landed his airplane on the top of Auyántepeui in search of gold. With Angel were his wife Marie, expert Venezuelan outdoorsman Gustavo Heny, and Miguel Angel Delgado. With no radio communications from them for over four days, Phelps expressed great concern because “If Angel has cracked in taking off it is bad for us because we need his plane during our stay at the mountain.”¹⁸

The landing party, which had been given up for lost or dead, left behind the disabled airplane. Led by Heny, they made their way back to camp from the top of Auyántepeui after eleven days of scrambling over crevasses, climbing rock walls, fording rivers and hacking their way through jungle.¹⁹

With their safe return, Phelps wrote to Chapman, “The loss of the Angel plane, although fatal to his hopes of gold I think has been a wind-fall for our expedition ... the expedition will have an elegant clubhouse on top right in the middle of the mountain: lounge chairs, warm room and a radio ... for I presume that Angel’s plane will never leave its resting place on top.”²⁰

Without an airplane to fly in support of the expedition, Jimmie and Marie Angel left Auyántepeui for the United States prior to the arrival of the Phelps Venezuela Expedition.²¹

On 20 November 1937, Jimmie Angel appeared in Chapman's New York office with a perplexing request for a loan of money from the Museum. Chapman immediately reported Angel's visit in a letter to Phelps, "... I thought that my connection with the expedition would be for the moment quiescent but Jimmy Angel came in this morning in a very disturbed mental condition. It appears that he lost his father and a brother, an aviator in China, and that Mrs. Angel has lost her mother. Just how that should affect his financial condition, I do not know, but he wanted a loan of \$200 which I gave him in the belief that it would hasten his departure from America and make him possible for the uses of the expedition at an early date."²²

When I discovered Chapman's letter to Phelps in the Department of Ornithology's Archive, I was bemused by the fantastic story Chapman related about Jimmie Angel's visit to the museum because Angel's father, my grandfather Glenn Davis Angel, was alive and well in Southern California and each of his four brothers were thriving. The story did not completely surprise me because Jimmie Angel was given to embellishing the events of his life to achieve his goals. It could also be that Chapman's memory of Angel's reasons for needing a loan was not completely accurate. Angel's mother, Margaret Belle Marshall Angel, died on 11 November 1937, ten days before his meeting with Chapman. She was very close to her five sons, but especially with her oldest son Jimmie, which may explain his "disturbed mental condition."

A \$200 promissory note, dated 20 November 1937, in Angel's handwriting on Museum letterhead was also in the file.²³ I am almost certain that the loan remains an unpaid account at the Museum.

On 1 December 1937²⁴ when the expedition composed of ornithologists Gilliard,

Phelps Sr. and Jr., William F. Coultas and mammalogists James A. Dillon and Tate had finally assembled in Ciudad Bolivar on the Orinoco River, the four flights required to transport the expedition to the foot of Auyántepeui were accomplished smoothly.²⁵

Unfortunately, difficulties were encountered as soon as they reached Auyántepeui. My impression from reading Gilliard's field diary is that their guide Captain Felix Cardona was responsible for many of the expedition's unanticipated problems.²⁶

A native of Barcelona, Spain and former officer in the Spanish Merchant Marine, Cardona had explored the Auyántepeui region on foot, primarily in search of plants. On Phelps' recommendation, Cardona had been hired as guide, camp manager, and radioman.²⁷

According to Gilliard's diary, Cardona failed to manage the camp helpers because of his "conquistador" attitude. He also had difficulty maintaining radio communications. All but one of the helpers and porters fled under Cardona's management or perhaps indirectly due to his lack of explanation about the endless demands of camp work and the extreme difficulty of supply portage over unexplored and dangerous mountain routes. On one of the rare occasions when the radio was working, Cardona received word that his son had died. He abandoned the expedition on 18 December 1937 to return to Caracas.²⁸

The expedition struggled on for almost three months in various camps on the slopes and plateau of Auyántepeui without support. All the members did triple duty as field scientists, porters and camp helpers with much of the extra work taken on by Gilliard who, loyal to his Deep Springs College tradition, willingly accepted the extra duties.²⁹

In a long 8 January 1938 letter to his mentor Chapman from a camp high on Auyántepeui, Gilliard began with a positive report about their successful bird collecting but

quickly descended into news of the expedition's desperate condition. "I want to tell you a bit more about the camp situation, as it precariously stands today ... we are all very well except perhaps Mr. Phelps Sr. who some time ago cut his knee with a machete and Bill Phelps (Jr.) who took two nasty falls while up here" Gilliard went on to say that "all of the Indians had quit and spread to the four winds except one and he is expected to leave at any time ...Captain Cardona ... has long since left and his radio is functioning but weakly ... (and) is expected to peter out any day and as none of know 'beans' about such machines, to stay that way." He continued that in addition to his collecting duties, he was "chief cook and bottle washer" for the camp, food was running low, and finally Gilliard wrote, "the situation is so bad that we possibly will have to collect as long as we can and then cache all of our equipment and carry out the specimens only."³⁰

In March 1938, having never obtained Phelps' dreamed about comforts of Angel's abandoned airplane on the tepui's plateau, Gilliard wrote in his diary, "... after three months and sixteen days on Auyan-tepui ... we are today turning back. ... It has been a real test and all of us have stood it well – all are the best of friends and truthfully, all, I believe, are glad to be on our way off this raft of rocks known now to be an awfully dangerous and desolate uncharted 8,100 foot (2,471 meters) mountain in the Guiana Highlands."³¹

On his way home, Gilliard wrote to Chapman from Port-of Spain, Trinidad, "In retrospect we were very fortunate in our exodus from Auyan-tepui. A combination of rare flying conditions and fast work enable Dr. Tate, Billy Phelps and Jim Dillon to reach Caracas, and Bill Coultas and myself to take our leave of Mr. Phelps and board the S.S. Trinidad within 24 hours of departing from Auyan-Tepui."³²

Upon returning to New York, Gilliard wrote his first popular magazine article titled “Unchallenged Champion” which appeared in the December 1940 issue of *Natural History, The Magazine of the American Museum of Natural History*. In it Gilliard proclaimed, “The fact that a great Lost World really existed, falls or no falls, was sufficient to put the zoological world on its toes. Scientists in all branches who were acquainted with the strange flora and fauna of the two other Lost Worlds (Roraima and Duida) joined in acclaiming Mr. James Angel’s discoveries.”³³

The Museum’s official accession record for the Phelps Venezuela Expedition on Auyántepeui lists that 2039 bird skins, 1 nest, 507 mammals, 243 fish, 150 insects and spiders, 22 shells and assorted other materials were received by the American Museum of Natural History.³⁴ Gilliard’s first major scientific paper, about the birds that were collected during the expedition was published in 1940³⁵

Gilliard’s widely read article in the *Saturday Evening Post* titled “The Eighth Wonder of the World” was published in July 1941. He concluded in the *Post* article, “I believe that Jimmie Angel has discovered the eighth wonder of the world. And this is not the age of faith, but I still dare to hope that he may someday find his creek of gold.”³⁶

When reading Gilliard’s lengthy popular magazine articles I am struck by the fact that he wrote as many words about the adventures of Jimmie Angel, a man he never met, as he did about the Phelps Venezuela Expedition.³⁷ Perhaps he did not realize that it would be his and his colleagues’ purposeful scientific work that would validate the adventures of Jimmie Angel for a North American audience. Or perhaps Gilliard intuitively knew that his written words would provide the generous gift of acknowledgement that would cause Angel to be remembered in history.

Having stood on several occasions beneath the towering cascading wing of water that forms Angel Falls, Gilliard's lyrically descriptive prose capture its magic for me: "You've walked a mile, but did you ever see a mile of water stood on end, and slowly falling, falling through eternity? Not breaking into spray because there is so much of it, and seeming slow because it falls so far – unbroken by so much as one cascade. It makes you realize the scale on which the world is built, and it belongs just where it is, where time itself is slowed, foreshortened by its own immeasurable reach."³⁸

Epilogue

From his first position with the Museum in 1932 as a twenty-year-old volunteer trainee, Gilliard advanced through the ranks to become a curator in the Department of Ornithology. He was an internationally known ornithologist, explorer, and authority on the birds of New Guinea specializing in the behavior of some of the most beautiful and exotic birds of the world, including the birds of paradise and bowerbirds of the South Pacific and the cock-of-the-rock of South America. He died suddenly 26 January 1965 at age 52 of a heart attack after attending a meeting at the Explorer's Club of New York.³⁹

When Gilliard and the other members of the Phelps Venezuela Expedition returned to New York City in the spring of 1938, Museum Director Roy Chapman Andrews was arranging for George Gaylord Simpson from the Department of Paleontology and his wife psychologist Anne Roe Simpson⁴⁰ to join an expedition organized by the Venezuelan Ministry of Development to Auyan-tepui and the Gran Sabana⁴¹ My next paper will explore the year 1939 and Jimmie Angel's relationships with the Simpsons and fellow expedition member Carlos Freeman, a Venezuelan mining engineer, who wrote an unpublished biography about Jimmie Angel.⁴²

Author's Note: My thanks to the American Museum of Natural History for allowing me to do research in the Archives and Manuscripts Collections in August 2002.

Special thanks to Mary LeCroy, Department of Ornithology, who upon meeting me by a chance introduction in the Museum and learning of my interest in E. Thomas Gilliard (1912-1965) invited me to investigate the Department of Ornithology Archives. It was there that many of the mysteries about Jimmie Angel's association with the American Museum of Natural History and ornithologist E. Thomas Gilliard's interest in him were resolved.

Mary LeCroy worked as E. Thomas Gilliard's assistant at the American Museum of Natural History from May 1959 until his death in January 1965. After that, she was Scientific Assistant and Senior Scientific Assistant in the Department of Ornithology until she retired in 1997. She is currently a Research Associate in the Department of Ornithology.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The author is the niece of James "Jimmie" Crawford Angel (1899-1956). Her father Clyde Marshall Angel (1917-1997) was Jimmie Angel's youngest brother.

The Jimmie Angel Historical Project (JAHP) was organized in 1996 in the State of California as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation, EIN 68-0372407. The purposes of the JAHP include providing accurate information about Jimmie Angel (1899-1956) and his associates, restoring and preserving his airplane "El Rio Caroni," and publishing articles about him and his era of exploration. The JAHP also maintains an archive that is shared by appointment with museum curators, journalists, filmmakers, writers, and educators.

As a boy, James Crawford Angel was called Crawford. As an adult, he wanted to be called "Jimmie." He was constantly correcting the spelling of his name from Jimmy to Jimmie. In this article, his name has been changed to "Jimmie Angel" when it appeared in documents as "Jimmy" or "Angell."

- 2 The Naming of Angel Falls:

North American Perspective:

Press Bulletin, "*Dr. E. Thomas Gilliard, Noted Ornithologist and Explorer, Dies at 52,*" (New York, 26 January 1965), 1. American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ornithology Archives.

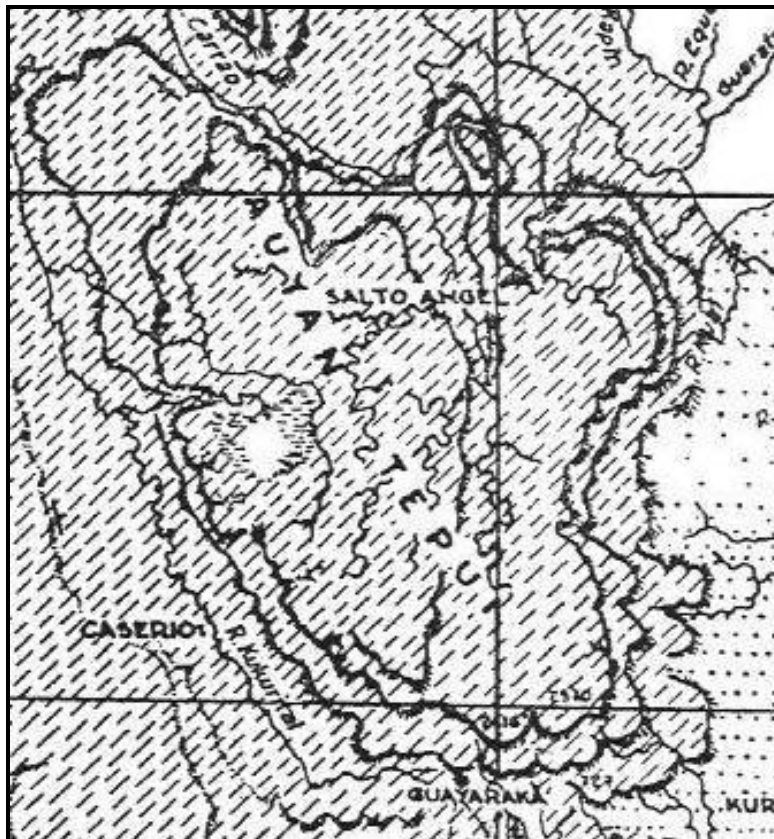
Venezuelan's Perspective:

Enrique Lucca (interview with the author, 29 February 1996, Caracas). "The name Angel Falls came about during a reunion of Jimmie Angel, Shorty Martin and Gustavo Heny in Caracas in 1937. They were talking about the waterfall and when Martin and Angel did not have a name for it; Heny suggested

the name Angel, using Jimmie’s last name because it was he who had made it known to the world.”

Jorge M. González Ph.D., Department of Entomology Texas A & M University and Charles Brewer Carías Venezuelan Naturalist and Explorer (personal communication with the author 14 April 2010). “Salto Angel” was the Name Officially Adopted by the Government of Venezuela in 1939:

“The president of Venezuela, Eleazar López Contreras, emitted a presidential order (Decreto) 17 December 1937, to explore the Gran Sabana region. As a result, several appointed researchers started exploring the region and produced several works including one titled *“Exploración de la Gran Sabana.”* In this work, published in December 1939, there is a detailed map which accompanied the commission’s report. Because of the fact that the report originated from a presidential order and the Revista de Fomento was an official/governmental journal, the map is considered an official document, thus the name “Salto Angel” was officially accepted by the Venezuelan Government on that date. In 1953, the report and the maps were reproduced by the *Revista de Ministerio de Hidrocarburos y Minas* and a caption on a photo of Angel Falls taken by Carlos A. Freeman from Jimmie Angel’s airplane on 1 May 1939 bears the following text: “Salto Angel, bautizado así en honor de su descubridor, James Angel.”



The above map section was presented by the Exploring Commission of the Gran Sabana which was appointed by President Eleazar López Contreras. The map contains the name Salto Angel for the first time ever and appeared in December, 1939. Since this was part of an official report, the name Salto Angel was officially adopted by the Venezuelan Government. Map provided by the Venezuelan Naturalist and Explorer Charles Brewer Carías.

Pemón Perspective:

According to Venezuelan Isabel Barton, a filmmaker who is producing a cultural documentary with the Pemón people, the elders state that their name for Angel Falls is Churún-Vená. Vená means waterfall. The water, after it collects in the pool at the base of the waterfall and then cascades over the rocks is called Churn-Merú. Merú means rapids or cascade, in other words, water flowing over rocks. The Churun part of the name comes from the fact that it is the largest waterfall flowing into the Churun Canyon which is a very important place in their culture. The word Churun is a sound in their language with no particular meaning. (personal communication with the author, 26 July 2005).

3 Rosamund Dalziell, “The Curious Case of Sir Everard Im Thurn and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Exploration & the Imperial Adventure Novel, *The Lost World*,” *English Literature in Transition 1880-1920*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (2002), 131.

4 Uwe George, “Venezuela’s Islands in Time,” *National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. 175, No. 5 (May 1989), 539.

5 The spelling “Auyántepeui” is used in this paper for the heart shaped table mountain located in Canaima National Park in the southeastern Gran Sabana region of Venezuela. The word “Auyán” has been associated with the devil in popular culture. Tepuy means house in the language of the Pemón people, hence the “Devil’s House” became a popular name given to Auyántepeui by many journalists and writers. Tepuy is the Pemón spelling; I have used Tepui which is the spelling used on most contemporary maps of the region.

According to Isabel Barton, the Pemón elders say the word “Auyán” is a sound in their language with no particular meaning.

Angel Falls, the world’s tallest waterfall at 3,312 feet (978 meters), flows from Auyántepeui.

Canaima National Park. Cartografía Nacional. CM-32-3229339. Indian Communities in Canaima National Park are ethnically Pemón, belonging to the Arekuna, Taurepane and Kamaracota families. The Pemón spelling is Kamarakoto.

6 Jimmie Angel, “*Pilot Flight Record and Log Book*”: Date: 18 November 1933. Aircraft License: NC431W. Aircraft Type: Travelair. Engine Type: J69. Remarks: “FOUND MYSELF A WATERFALL.” Photocopy of log book page. JAHP.

Marie Sanders Angel (circa 1904 -1987) declared 14 November 1933 the date of discovery (Jimmie Angel’s first sighting of the waterfall) in her unpublished book manuscript, *The Angel Falls*, 1978. In the early 1960s, Marie Angel loaned Jimmie Angel’s pilot log that recorded the 1933 flight to a man named Marvin Grigsby. Grigsby failed to return the pilot log, photographs and other documents loaned to him by Marie Angel. Writing from memory in 1978, she used the wrong date in her manuscript.

John A. de Coup-Crank, (interview with the author, 28 May 1997, Paradise, California). A retired detective with the Los Angeles Police Department, de Coup-Crank verified that Grigsby had possession of the missing materials during a police investigation in 1962.

Paul Eversole, who studied the Jimmie Angel story for over 30 years, reported to my father Clyde Marshall Angel in a 1990 interview in Chico, California that Grigsby showed him Jimmie Angel’s pilot log when Eversole interviewed Grigsby. According to Eversole, 16 November 1933 is the date of discovery.

7 E. Thomas Gilliard, “Unchallenged Champion,” *Natural History, The Magazine of the American Museum of Natural History*, Vol. XLVI, No. 5 (December 1940), 261.

8 Gilliard.

9 Phelps to Frank M. Chapman, Curator, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History (letter, 9 June 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.

10 American Museum of Natural History, “PHELPS VENEZUELAN EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, TO EXPLORE A NEW ‘LOST WORLD’ RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON AN ISOLATED TABLE-LAND IN ONE OF THE LEAST KNOWN SECTIONS OF SOUTH AMERICA,” Press Bulletin, 1 December 1937. Department of Ornithology Archives.

11 Gilliard (field diary, 6 August 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.

12 Chapman. to Phelps (letter, 16 June 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.

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- 13 Chapman to Phelps (letter, 15 July 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 14 American Museum of Natural History, "Dr. E. Thomas Gilliard, Noted Ornithologist and Explorer, Dies at 52," Press Bulletin, 26 January 1965. Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 15 Deep Springs College: <http://www.deep-springs-college.edu>. Retrieved 8 July 2005. Founded in 1817, Deep Springs college is a two-year all male college with twenty-six students on full scholarships. "The purpose of Deep Springs College is to prepare its students for a life of service." The institution's three pillars are academics, labor and self-governance.
- 16 Gilliard, "The Eighth Wonder of the World," *Saturday Evening Post*, (26 July 1941), 71.
- 17 Gilliard (field diary, 24 August 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 18 Phelps to Chapman (letter, 14 October 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 19 Phelps to Chapman (cable, 20 October 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 20 Phelps to Chapman (letter, 22 October 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.

Karen Angel, *The River of Gold, The Life of Jimmie Angel, Explorer-Aviator, Discover of Angel Falls* (unpublished manuscript, Arcata, California 2009), 64. JAHP.

"Jimmie Angel's airplane "El Rio Caroni" was declared a national monument by the government of Venezuela in 1964 (Venezuelan Official Gazette #27533, 3 September 1964). It remained on Auyantepui for over 30 years until it was removed by the Venezuelan Air Force in 1970 and taken to the Aviation Museum in Maracay for restoration. A partially restored airplane, which includes components of the original El Rio Caroni, was later moved to the airport at Ciudad Bolivar where it remains on the green in front of the passenger terminal.

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- 21 Angel. 63.
 Shortly after making their way off Auyántepeui, Jimmie and Marie Angel left Venezuela and travelled by ship to the United States to see family and business associates. While in the U.S., they purchased a Hamilton H-47 airplane registration number NC-854E, and returned to Venezuela in February 1939.
- 22 Chapman to Phelps (letter, 20 November 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 23 Jimmie Angel to Chapman (promissory note, 20 November 1937). Department of Ornithology Archive. "Received from Mr. Chapman as a loan the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) James C. Angel."
- 24 Gilliard, "Unchallenged Champion," 264.
- 25 Gilliard, "The Eighth Wonder of the World," 72.
- 26 Gilliard (field diary, 25 December 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 27 Phelps to Chapman (letter, 24 July 1937). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 28 Gilliard.
- 29 Gilliard.

 George H. H. Tate, Leader Phelps Venezuela Expedition to Harold E. Anthony, Chairman and Curator, Department of Mammals, American Museum Natural History (letter, Auyan-tepui, 1,850 meter camp, 6 January 1938). Central Archives; 1218.
- 30 Gilliard to Chapman (letter, 8 January 1938). Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 31 Gilliard (field diary, Auyán-tepui, 1850 meter camp, date not recorded, circa mid March 1938). Department of Ornithology Archives.

 Auyántepeui is used in the paper except when Auyán-tepui is a direct quote.
- 32 Gilliard to Chapman (letter, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, British West Indies, 21 March 1938). Department of Ornithology Archives.

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- 33 Gilliard, "Unchallenged Champion," 271.
- 34 Accession Record, 1 April & 22 April 1938. Department of Ornithology Archives.
- 35 Gilliard, "The Birds of Mt. Auyan-tepui, Venezuela." *Bulletin, American Museum of Natural History*, LXXVII - IX (1941).
- 36 Gilliard, "The Eighth Wonder of the World," 272
- 37 Mary LeCroy, Research Associate, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History (personal communication with the author, 29 June 2005), states, "Tom Gilliard had a lifelong interest in the stories of people who lived a life of adventure in out-of-the-way places. He was particularly intrigued and captivated by the stories about Jimmie Angel, coming as they did on the heels of the discovery of Angel's plane at the top of the falls, on one of his own early trips to an out-of-the-way place."
- 38 Gilliard, "The Eighth Wonder of the World," 272.
- 39 American Museum of Natural History "Dr. E. Thomas Gilliard, Noted Ornithologist and Explorer, Dies at 52."
- 40 Roy Chapman Andrews, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, to Diogenes Escalante, Venezuelan Legation, Washington, D.C. (letter, 20 July 1938). Central Archives; 1212.
- Author's Note: In my 2001 paper titled "The Truth about Jimmie Angel and Angel Falls," I incorrectly reported that E. Thomas Gilliard participated in the Venezuelan Ministry of Development's expedition with G. Gaylord Simpson. My reading of Gilliard's article "Unchallenged Champion" led me to this incorrect conclusion which was rectified with the 2002 reading of his Field Diary at the American Museum of Natural History.
- Karen Angel, "The Truth About Jimmie Angel and Angel Falls." Jorge L. Martinez, Editor, *Homage to Alexander von Humboldt. Travel Literature to and from Latin America XV through XXI Centuries* (Oaxaca: Humboldt State University and Universidad Autónoma "Benito Juárez" de Oaxaca, 2005), 534.
- 41 A map in the Venezuela government's publication contained the name Salto Angel for the first time ever and appeared in December, 1939. JAHP. S. E. Aguerrevere, Victor M. Lopez, C. Delgado O., and Carlos A. Freeman. "Exploración de la Gran Sabana," *Revista de Fomento* Vol. III, 19. Caracas: Ministry of Development, December 1939. 501-729.

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Barton, Isabel. (27 July 2005) Hudson, New York, E-mail to the author. JAHP.

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