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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

LINDA VISTA LTDA.

Claude Hope, Gerente

APARTADO 100  
CARTAGO, COSTA RICA

5 July 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua  
Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Both your letter and the envelope of amaryllis seeds came in good time. I am sorry that I haven't had time to acknowledge them sooner.

We planted the seeds at once, but it is a little too early to say if they are going to germinate well. There will surely be some colors among them that we don't have. Our color range is very limited. I am going to make an effort next year to get a collection of the named Dutch varieties. I believe that there are possibilities in them as a commercial crop. Incidentally, you can call them amaryllis without a guilty feeling now. The botanists ruled out Hippeastrum a few years ago. The old Amaryllis Belladonna is now Brunsvigia Belladonna

Speaking of the commercial possibilities, I saw an advertisement in the Florists' Review of a Dutch firm of seeds at \$3.25 a hundred. When one capsule has up to 500 seeds, that looks like good money to me. Of course, one would have to establish the quality of his seeds, first.

Your suggestion of camellias is a good one. I had already thought of doing something about them and had written for a catalogue. The plants grow fairly well here, but they don't flower very freely and the flowers are very easily spotted by botrytis. It is very rare to see any variety other than a pure white one.

It will be worthwhile to look into the possibilities of the graduates of your school, but I will insist on one thing: he should have to work for a living. Your new entrance requirements make it a little hard for the boy from a working family to get in. To whom could I write for a really good appraisal of a candidate that I now have? Dr. Feister? He is the one who stopped us on the road that afternoon. You said that you couldn't remember him.

I hope that the geraniums are rooting well for you. One of these days when I get a little time, I am going to get an import permit for cuttings of your frangi-panis. We have only the creamy pink one from Turrialba and the cuttings that you gave us when you were here.

Sincerely,

Antihua, Guatemala, 16 July 1959

Capt. Claude Hope,  
Apartado 100, Cartago, Costa Rica.

Dear Claude:

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th. Your geranium cuttings look as though practically all of them are "striking" and at least 20 of the gloxinias are coming along well. I sure appreciate this fine material. And it is such fun to have time, at last, to play with some of these things!

I brought back a batch of swell carnations from Mexico. The markets up there were full of carnations and gladiolus, all from Kochimilco I believe. It was a real sight; almost as good as the flower market at Almeer in Holland, which is perhaps just about the finest in the world. But the Mexican carnations are grown in that Kochimilco soil which is practically pure muck and the calices split terribly. They tie the petals together under the split calyx and you dont see the tie and go home happy.

Last time I saw Dr Hume at Gainesville he told me there are a number of camerillia varieties which should do well with us, and a lot more that shouldnt. This jibes with my experience with the lot I brought from New Orleans 20 years ago. We have about five here which have been quite successful on this ripio of ours; our garden is on decomposed mortar which has accumulated since 1541. The pH is about 7.5. I wonder what the pH is at San José? I didnt think to make any tests this time, though I had Soiltex with me. I am goind to write Dr Hume and ask him for a list of recommended varieties for our climate and soils.

After I got my collection of 10 frangi panis from Hawaii I got another set for Chico de Sola over at San Salvador. Because of the warmer climate his are growing faster than mine, and he sent me cuttings two months ago; I gave them to Hugh Craggs, the orchid man (and a swell one) down at Palin, about 3000 feet against our 5000. I expect to go over to Salvador within a few months and will see if I cant get cuttings for you. These frangipanis mutate I got a beautiful pink form from a branch of a white one in Salvador two years ago. But that one from Venezuela is the best I have ever seen. I am not sure the two cuttings I brought home are going to grow; they were rotting at the base when I got here. I think we should do more with frangipanis in this part of the world; it is their native home, you know! Get that import permit for cuttings and I am sure we can get the Hawaiian set from Chico de Sola.

Theodore Payne of Los Angeles is going to send me a batch of hybrid Watsonias; says there is no interest in them up there. They are a popular cut flower here - grown at about 6000 feet, near Antigua. If and when I get the bulbs, do you want some of them?

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 21 Oct 1959

Capt Claude Hope  
Aptdo 100, Cartago C R

Dear Claude:

The gloxinias you gave me are in bloom, and what gloxinias! I thought maybe yours were so much better than mine because you know more about growing gloxinias than I do (which you do) but hombre, I have never seen gloxinias of this size. Twice as big as the ones we got from Belgium six or seven years ago.

And the geraniums all pegged, and are just coming into bloom. It has not been good geranium weather - too much rain but I guess the season is winding up now - today is the seventh without sunshine.

We have here a lily which I take to be Lilium philippinense var. formosanum, because the book says L. philippinense only grows to 6 ins which formosanum grows to 7 ft which is what ours does. Flowers as large as the common Easter lily, perhaps a trifle larger; not quite so white, occasionally a little purple on the outside, but mighty fine and they come at a season when we don't have many Easter lilies - they are in bloom right now. We have hand-pollinated some flowers and if we get some seed do you want some, or do you already have it? Seems to me it might be a fine cut flower for the San José markets. Our plants came into bloom at about 16 months from seed. We had it at Zamorano and it did well there, too; at 2500 feet against 5000 here.

I hope all goes well with you.

Ever yrs

LINDA VISTA LTDA.

Claude Hope, Gerente

APARTADO 100  
CARTAGO, COSTA RICA  
30 October 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe:  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for your letter of October 21. It is gratifying to know that you are pleased with the gloxinias. It is a very good strain. I am also glad to hear that the geraniums came through well.

It has been a very busy season with me and I have hardly had time to sit down. Our long siege of dry weather has complicated matters somewhat. The worst of it is that it continues. Our rainy season for October was very brief and didn't bring nearly enough rain to restore underground reserves. It was over in scarcely more than a week. We did get our pond full, but the dam, which is of clay, dried out so much that an alarming amount of water is escaping. I wonder if we will make it through to the next rainy season.

Yes, we have the lily that you describe, and we grew it for a while. It is very productive, but the market here rather spurns it because of the purple color. I have bought seeds of a supposedly pure white strain, but they have ~~xxxixad~~ seldom germinated. Those that did proved to be too weak to grow. I do now have some that are growing quite well. There really isn't much of a market for lilies here. They seem to be used for First Communion, mainly, and that is not a very satisfactory market. We had some very nice Croft lilies for a time, but they didn't pay. So I have given them up. My chief interest in the pure white formosanum is in the possibility of making a seed crop out of it.

I haven't really had time to get going on some of the things that you offered to send. We'll have to get an import permit first of all, even though it is simply a formality. You know pretty well what we have. Could you suggest things that might be useful, that could be sent now as cuttings? I am interested in the frangi-pani. I don't know whether it would be worthwhile to send camelia cuttings. We seem to have poor success with the material cut here. I am not at all sure of the reason. I didn't use to think that it was so very difficult. If you have any good hibiscus or bourgainvillea, they would be nice. In the latter, we have yellow, orange, ruby red, magenta, ~~and~~ white, and a sort of pink. It is a fairly good start, but there are a number of others that are very nice.

Incidentally, your amaryllis seed germinated well.

Sincerely,

*Claude*

Antigua, Guatemala, 2 Nov 1959

Capt Claude Hope,  
Cartago, C R.

Dear Claude:

Mighty glad to have your letter of 30 p.p. ppdo. But about that lily: I have both strains here; one with purple on the outside of the corolla which I suppose prevents it being used by the little tots in pure white when they go to the 1st communion, and the other with no purple. You know both. We have hand-pollinated quite a few flowers of the pure white form. If we get a batch of seed I am going to send you some. Por si acaso. The flowers are longer and more slender than the popular Easter Lily, but as you know, they come at a different time of year. Our plants are not weak growers; we have them in half-shade and they reach 6 to 7 ft in height before flowering. Now, why don't you start a campaign to have First Communions at a time of year when the Easter Lily is not in bloom? Very simple.

I had to give up the frangipanis here. Too high to get satisfactory growth though there are a few good old trees around Antigua, mostly - if not all - what we call Plumiera (I used to write, Plumeria, but those taxonomists have gotten me down) rubra; and I suppose old man Plumier, who gave his name to the genus had a right to say how it should be spelled. Though the Conde de Chinchón had an equal right to say how his name should be pronounced, because he spelled it Chinchón and there is a town in Spain not too far south of Madrid which is still Chinchón. But to return to our plants: I left you that excellent form from Venezuela. I have established the Hawaiian forms in Salvador with Francisco de Sola and here in Guatemala with Hugh Craggs; I can't do much with frangipanis here in Antigua. But let's keep after these lovely things. We can get cuttings of the Hawaiian varieties from Chico de Sola (for you) one of these days - almost any time. As for Camellias; these are tough customers. I want to consult Dr Hume in Florida again. We have here in our garden about four varieties which are taking a pH of 7.5 and blooming freely. This gives me hope. I believe we can develop - without any breeding business, just on the basis of what is now available - at least 10 varieties which will go well in Costa Rica; and what absolutely gorgeous things are these Camellias! I know that cuttings are awfully hard to strike, here at least. I would be in favor of bringing in hundreds of young plants from New Orleans or north Florida, as a beginning. Let's talk it over.

As for hibiscus and bougainvilleas, we don't have any of the latter which you will need. As for Hibiscus, there are so many fine things now, and we have so very few of them here, that I believe Florida is the best source. Paul Allen brought quite a few from the Fairchild Garden in Florida to Zamorano, but I don't know how things stand there right now. No criticism; you know as well as I know that real plantsmen are necessary where you want to get real plants. My Watsonia hybrids came from California; they are planted and breaking into growth. I realize that Watsonias have been run off the map by Gaidiplus but when these hybrids come into bloom we will see. If they are good cut flowers I will share them with you. I must say the common forms, the white and lavender, are pretty darn popular in the flower market here.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 9 Jan 1960

Capt. Claude Hope  
Apartado 100 Cartago, C R

Dear Claude:

You told me that you cannot sell Lilium philippinense var. formosanum because the flowers have purple stripes in them and the little gals when they go to their first communion must be immaculate. I told you we have been growing a form here which - in our garden - is as white as the driven snow. With us it flowers some time ahead of the common Easter lily - the latter is just coming into blossom in our garden while formosanum has ripened seed as you will note per enclosed packet.

I aint makin no promises, but I would advise that you give this seed a chance. Here the plants grow to 5 or 6 ft in height. Usually three to five flowers per stem. The plants from which this seed came are already coming back in good shape. Some of them at least. There seems to be less seasonal variation in growth and flowering than with the common Easter lily, which might be an advantage and it might now.

We are drying off your gloxinias after a wonderful show. Your garaniums are just coming into bloom. I have a collection of hybrid Watsonias from Theodore Payne of California which I ~~think~~ may prove very interesting here because the Watsonia is a cut flower of commercial importance - but we only have up to now the two common ones, white and lavender.

Ever yours

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 12 Feb 1960

Capt Claude Hope  
Apartado 100, Cartago, C R

Dear Claude:

Some weeks ago I sent you seeds of the white flowered *Lilium philippinense* var. *formosanum* (no purple midribs). Our mails have not been working too well of late and I am not sure you received these seeds, so I am enclosing some more, the last to be harvested this season. You said you had to provide a pure white lily for the little gals going to church; and here this one blooms much earlier than the common Easter lily, which may or may not be an advantage.

Just back from two weeks in South Florida, where I made the rounds of ~~our~~ sights and scenes and visited the old friends. Johnny Lynch has a good job at the Palmer Nurseries near Sarasota; you doubtless know that the work at South Campus, Univ of Miami, has been discontinued except for maintenance of the orchards, handled by Roy Nelson. My nephew John Popenoe has taken over the job of horticulturist at the Subtropical Experiment Station, Homestead, left vacant by the untimely and very regrettable death of Bruce Ledin. Dr Ruehle has been having a hard time with his health - didnt look too well to me. Ralph Robinson in pretty good shape; also Mrs Fairchild, and Mrs Krome (80 and 78 respectively). I go over to Honduras for a couple of weeks about 10 March, stopping in El Salvador.

Ever yours,



LINDA VISTA LTDA.

Claude Hepe, Gerente

APARTADO 100  
CARTAGO, COSTA RICA

26 February 1960

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your letters and the enclosed seeds of Lilium philippinense var. formosanum. I owe you an apology. Both letters and packages of seeds were received, but I have been so busy that I have put off thanking you. Your description of the lily makes it sound very good. We will surely give it a try.

I have been doing some traveling since I last wrote you, and have been entertaining our plant breeder here at the farm for the last few weeks. That, with riding herd of our gang, and trying to order new plant material before the winter slips by, (It is so easy to forget that the shipping season ends with March, usually) has kept me on the run.

Last December, I was in Miami for a week, but so tied up with our corporation business that I didn't have a chance to visit any gardens or nurseries other than Albert & Merckels. It was a pity, and I wanted very much to do them all. I have been in the area only once before, but that was many years ago.

Then, in late January I went to Perú for a quick look. My people have been pestering me about a possible change to Perú, so I took their money and made the trip. Perú has great natural advantages, but I don't see where we would gain anything, otherwise. I doubt if the labor would be enough better than that here to compensate for the cost of moving, which would be very considerable.

One thing I saw, though, made an impression on me. You will remember, when you were here in June, that you had been impressed with the sight of apples and bananas growing side by side in Israel. Well, I saw the same thing in Perú and I have pictures to prove it! I was amazed by the crops that they grow side by side around Lima. You couldn't get them within four thousand vertical feet here, in some cases.

How are you coming with your Watsonias? I am getting around to the point of wanting to try them here. Do you have enough to share? If not, do you know someone who does have? I am in the process of ordering a lot of things that I have long wanted to try from Van Tubergen but they do not list watsonias. They have almost every thing else.

We have received about 800 new rose bushes and have about 800 more on the way. We will really be in the rose business with them.

Sincerely,

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 March 1960

Capt Claude Hope,  
Apartado 100, Cartago, C R

Dear Claude:

Mighty glad to have your letter of 26 Feb, and to know that the Liliun seeds got through. I believe this thing is really worth trying. --As for Watsonian, they have been slow in coming along. I do not think they will flower before midsummer. I got my bulbs from Tehodore Payne of Los Angeles, Calif, an old friend, who said he was not listing them any more but he had interated some bulbs from Mrs Bullard, I believe, and would let me have them as he isnt interested. I could not find Watsonias in any catalog, except the common forms, but now I have the new catalog of J.N.Giridlian's "Oakhurst Gardens", Box 444, Arcadia, California. He has taken out the Louisiana irisés (which I wanted) and put in 10 Watsonia "summer and fall delivery" at \$2.00 per dozen bulbs. Get his catalog. He says he wont ship out of the US but he will if he knows you and thinks he is protected against - all the contingencias.

Mighty interested in account of your trips. I too have seen those apples on the beach just south of Lima. Something queer about that Humboldt current climate, and it aint minimum temperatures. Probably what Ed Simmonds at Miami used to term an accumulation of 'eat units.

Helen and I leave this week-end for Salvador, then Honduras for a couple of weeks I am rrying to keep behind the development of the temperate-zone fruits in these highlands. I havent too much faith in

them as far as CR is concerned. I have you?

LINDA VISTA LTDA.

Claude Hope, Gerente

TELEFONO 51-83-77

APARTADO 100

CARTAGO, COSTA RICA

Cable: 'Linda Cartago'

23 November 1972

Dear Wilson:

As an old resident of Guatemala, I am appealing to you for advice and information. You may find the reason surprising. In fact, it may be only a dream on my part to think of such a move.

The situation, briefly, is this. The present government of Costa Rica has me very worried. The trend toward communism is alarming. This, coupled with a fiscal policy that seems to be patterned after Uruguay makes me very concerned about the future of my enterprise here. The rate of inflation is such, already, that I may either have to fold up or, practically the same thing, price ourselves out of the market.

There are some other centers of production developing that will be highly competitive with us, costwise. One of them, with which I am rather familiar, is in Guatemala. Mr. Frank Rodriguez is doing very well and is competing strongly with us now. On a large scale, he is not yet a threat to our work, but he is ambitious and may soon expand so that he will be a strong competitor. Then there is some production in India and some moves are being made to try it in Formosa.

Rough calculations show that we might come out ahead by making the move to Guatemala, especially since I can see no hope for a change in this government in the near future. The opposition is greatly fractured and seems unlikely to get together. In addition this government has made some astute demagogic moves that will assure them the votes of a large fraction of the poor.

There are two or three questions I would like to ask you. First of all what is your opinion of the political stability of the Guatemalan government? Are things calming down?

The others have to do more with some of the practical aspects. I was greatly impressed with the Antigua valley when I visited there some two years ago. How high is it? What is the pattern of rainfall? Do you know anything about subterranean water? Is land available?

I fear that Antigua is too high. Do you know other areas of good topography with possibilities of good water and soil at about 3,500 feet? There would need to be abundant labor in the areas.

I won't tire you with any more questions now but I would like to hear from you with regard to these. This would be a tremendous undertaking for me, but it might pay off, perhaps not to me, but to my associates.

Yours sincerely,

*Blanca*  
*I hope you still enjoy*

Antigua, Guatemala 10 Feb 1973

Dear Claude:

Sorry to be so slow in replying to your interesting letter of 23 November last. I have wanted to talk with several of my old friends such as Arturo Falla and Fritz Rosengarten and Ed Greenberg. Fritz is not very optimistic about the future. The others are not worried and I personally feel that I would think favorably of investing a business like yours here. We have had a good taste of Communism and I feel we can be hopeful that things will carry about as they are at present. Of course ~~now~~ one knows that the Communists have ways of putting things over, which we decent folk can't seem to handle. But there are so many sound agriculturists in this country, and such a small element of real communists, that I don't feel too much worried.

As to a location, I look back on the time -- back about 1940 I guess, when I got David Burpee interested in coming here: His idea was to grow his new Zinnias and Marigolds and a few other things at Lempec, harvest the seed, and instead of waiting till the following spring to plant again and multiply his stocks, bring the seed down here and take off a crop, thus doubling his stocks in one year. He chose a place in Costa Rica, down below Escasú it seems to me, but didn't find it satisfactory; he then bought a place near Lake Amatitlan here in Guatemala, at about 3500 feet, and gave that up after a very few years -- seems to me it was too windy. I seem to remember that he then moved up into central or northern Mexico. You probably know the story. From the start I had urged him to come to the Antigua valley 5100 feet. The old lake bottom here is beautiful soil. But land is hard to get and very expensive -- even was that time -- and he chose the Amatitlan region. There is not much wind here in our valley, the lowest temperature here in my patio is practically never

P.S. I forget to answer your question about candidates for jobs. I would start by getting from the Director of Escuela Agricola Panamericana a transcript of a boy's record at the school. This shows his classroom grades (which is not too important @from your standpoint) and his behavior - quite important. Unless the boy graduated in my time it would be hard to get a personal appraisal of his ability and industry. And even with such an appraisal, what he has done since graduation is far more important. In the case of any Costa Rican boy who has been out of our school for 2 or 3 years I would look to anybody who has been employing him since, and even then you cant count too much on what you hear. Several times when I have fired chaps at Zamorano they have told me "Allright, I am going; bbut now please give me a recommendation". I am afraid you will find it hard to pick up a good Costa Rican graduate. The good ones step into jobs right away and usually hold them. But our boys have been handicapped in CR because of the raking that they can not go higher in the govt service that Assistant Extension Agents because they do not have a degree from San Pedro Montes de Oca. I think these boys are your best bets. You can easily get a list of Zamoranos who are in govt service; then I would talk with some of them, figure out whether or not you can better their situations, and find out how they stand with the men among whom they have been working.

below 40 F. nor higher than 90 F. Land is very expensive but I assume you wouldn't need a large acreage. Our rainfall last year was the lowest I have ever known - 24 inches. Normally we get 35 to 40 inches, usually a good rain about the middle of October but the ground is so dry an inch of rain doesn't help much; then from the middle of May to November we usually have plenty of rain except for the canicula of a couple of weeks about August. On the valley floor we had ground water at 8 feet in the little experiment station I had here back in 1930-32. Up on some nice flat areas between here and the City, at 7000 feet or so, Jerhe Benitez is digging a well is down 84 meters and has water but pumps the well dry in two hours.

There should be areas on the Pacific side at 1000 to 1500 feet just below the coffee zone which I would think might be good but labor might be more of a problem. I would think seriously of land around San Antonio Suchitepequez and Chicacao and Mazatenango. Distribution of rainfall much like Antigua, but total is lower down near the coast. At 3000 or 3500 feet it would be more like Antigua but the same long dry season. Plenty of water in the streams which come down from the Volcanes. They are starting to go in for Macadamias in that part of the country - we think 2500 to 3500 may be good elevations.

I am sorry to say I have never seen Frank Rodrigues place and don't suppose he and others would welcome competition so you might not learn much from them. Better hop on SAHSA and fly up here for a week or so, before the first of May.

With old time regards,

Faithfully yours,