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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.

Antigua, Guatemala, 16 April 1959

Dear Doctor Hume:

When I was in Spain last year, I let myself in for a job. The best publishing house in that country, so far as agricultural works are concerned, is Salvat Editores of Barcelona. They have what they call their "Colección Agrícola" which now numbers some 50 volumes, pretty good modern stuff, quite a number of the volumes being translations of first-class modern American works. They have signed me up to do a manual of "Fruticultura Tropical y Subtropical", in Spanish of course.

I would be afraid to attempt a revision of my "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits" in English. Those boys in Florida and California would shoot it so full of holes it would look like a sieve. I've got to write something they cant read. That's my only safeguard. And any way, we dont need any more literature in English on such things as the avocado, mango, lychee and so on. Maybe the white sapote could stand a better treatment than I gave it 40 years ago, but even so, now that David Fairchild is gone, nobody would eat it. (How well I remember one of the few times DF bawled me out; it was at Coconut Grove, because I wouldnt take a second helping of canistel - ti-es or eggfruit. I never did like hard boiled eggs)

"My editor" in Barcelona wants a chapter on Citrus - a short one. I told him there are some fine works on Citrus in English, but he thinks the book must be rounded out with a chapter on Citrus. Thank goodness you have just come out with your new book. It will save my life. But I want to know just what is the proper procedure. Of course I can not lift out whole pages or even paragraphs, but I assume it is proper to to about what I have done on the enclosed sheet - which is not for use, but has just been whipped together to give you an idea of what I have in mind. Now I would like to ask that you drop me just a line, to tell me whether or not I can proceed along this line.

I am going to do quite a chapter on bananas - we need it. There is almost nothing in print today which covers the general principles of banana horticulture. And of course I will go for the mangos and avocados, hard.

Helen and I spent all of last year on the other side - most of the time living in Spain, where we introduced and established 20 varieties of avocados, the best of those grown in Calif and Fla, as well as some other fruits, right on the Mediterranean coast, 50 miles East of Malaga. Then to Israel where we tried to help the boys grow bananas - they have 4500 acres of Cavendish, and 500 acres of avocados. Then to the Canaries, where we got the Hden mango started. And so on. Lots of fun; no salary, no obligations. I like to work that way.

With old-time regards and all good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Sour Orange. This is by far the most important rootstock in tropical America, and is much used in many other parts of the world. Where tristeza disease is not a problem, it is the best rootstock for heavy soils which are inclined to be wet. It is not resistant to tristeza, and has therefore been replaced in some regions with other rootstocks, Cleopatra mandarin for example. This rootstock is adapted to various soil conditions, and according to Hume it shows a satisfactory degree of congeniality with other ~~sorts~~ ^{sorts} of citrus, it develops a ~~satisfactory~~ ^{satisfactory} system, and trees grafted on it yield fruit of good quality. In tropical America, where it has not yet been used extensively, it seems very promising though its growth is slower than that of some other rootstocks. A rootstock resistant to gomosis or foot-rot is almost essential in many tropical American soils, and Cleopatra meets this need.

Grapefruit seemed promising many years ago, and was recommended especially in Cuba; but results have been disappointing and it is no longer used to any extent. Grapefruit and oranges grafted on it grow rapidly but have not been satisfactorily productive.

Rough lemon has for many years been use extensively on sandy lands in Florida; Hume says it is a good rootstock (on such soils) for oranges, grapefruit, mandrins, and limes, but not satisfactory for certain ~~varieties~~ ^{varieties} of the orange or for Satsumas. It is subject to certain forms of gomosis.

Sweet orange has been used extensively in South America, where it has replaced sour orange to a certain extent, due to its resistance to tristeza. It has the disadvantage of being subject to gomosis or foot rot, a serious ~~feature~~ ^{feature} in many regions. Trifoliate orange is used in regions subject to cold weather; it needs good heavy soils with plenty of moisture. Hume recommends it for Satsumas, Duncan grapefruit, and most varieties of sweet oranges.

Antigua, Guatemala, 29 April 1959

Dr H Harold Hume
1103 SW 2nd Ave,
Gainesville Fla.

Great and Good Friend, as the diplomats put it:

You have never let me down, and it is too late to start. Your letter of the 24th instant has just come and I appreciate it more than I can tell you. But I want to make two or three comments:

The "write-up" I sent was nothing more than an effort to get your approval, which I now have. At the same time, I am delighted to see you interested in proper usage of what perhaps we should call "technical" terms. One reason I have chosen Salvat Editores of Barcelona to get out my book - if strength holds out to finish the MS - is that those lads know how to use the Spanish language and are going to do it. For example, you mention "roostocks". They will probably use "patrones" which I like and which is good Spanish. The other possibility is "porta-injertos" which doesn't sound so well.

In local publications we often find the following used "Irrigación" for irrigation and "drenaje" for drainage. If you will look in the dictionary of the Academia Real you will find that "irrigación" is strictly a medical term; in agriculture it is verb "regar" to irrigate, "riego" irrigation, and "regadio" an irrigated piece of land. And you will find that "drenaje" is not accepted; it simply our English word "drainage". Which reminds me of the terminology we use down in Honduras. In Spanish a swamp is a "pantano" but in Honduras it is a "suampo", and when a piece of ground gets flooded in the wet season it is "suamposo", because it has been it has been subject to what we call "ensuanpar", the verb.

I am leaving in a week to try to help the lads in Venezuela grow two oranges where none has grown before, or something ~~of that sort~~ of that sort; then I have to go over to Costa Rica for a week to talk to the boys of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, on "Fifty Years with Tropical Fruits" (I think you are probably the only other man who could do this) and then I come back here to work on the book; but I have to take off a week in July to fly up to Mexico and talk to the Short Course on Tropical Crops, under the auspices of the Organization of American States. Time is running out; but I do hope I can get out a practical book on tropical fruit culture in Spanish before my strength is gone; and I will be most happy if I can say that you have read and revised the chapter on Citrus fruits, which, incidentally, will be aimed to help the small grower in tropical America more than anyone else. It must treat solely of general principles. It would take a large volume, or maybe several, to discuss the details of citrus culture in such diverse areas as Chile, Mexico, Palestine, South Africa, and so on. I would be the last man to tackle it. And you know as well as I do, or better than I do, that I had best limit myself to avocados and mangos!

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

H. HAROLD HUME 1103, S. W. 3rd Avenue
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA April 24/59.

Dear Fairbrother,

You are most welcome to use anything that I may have presented covering citrus, or anything else and when your mes is finished, send it on and I shall be pleased to comment. Of long ago, I learned something of citrus growing in Spain (1912) and had the temerity to present a report to the King of Spain. I have no doubt but that practices have changed since then, but fundamental are the same the world, the citrus world over. I am glad you ~~find~~ ^{are doing} ~~you~~ ^{fruticultura}.

We write up your new covers essentials well - copy is returned. I have stricken "root" in rootstock as it is a redundancy that has come into too wide use in recent years. Maybe in Spanish it is needed. "stock" has more than fifty meanings so we have to rely on context. Pardon my departure.

Dear Fairbrother believed that any fruit not detrimental to health, whether agreeable in taste and texture should be eaten. He was willing to try anything, an attitude that amused his friends.

So glad you are going and fancy free to wander where you will and write what you wish. Thought to you pen with all good wishes
Hume

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