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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, 14 Dec 1959

Dr J R Hunter
Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas
Turrialba Costa Rica

Dear Bob:

I guess I will just have to give up for the moment. I have been trying to write that paper for the Proceedings, but (1) I am getting too old to pound the typewriter more than a couple of hours a day, and (2) I keep on getting letters from guys in Venezuela and Chile and Israel who want to know what kind of avocados to plant and they want to know right now because it is the planting season, and (3) I can't afford to hire a secretary and if I could afford it there isn't one in Antigua.

So go ahead and get out the Proceedings. My paper would have no immediate value anyway. I shall use the material in connection with my "Manual Práctico de Fruticultura Tropical" which will probably be my swan song and which I think will really have some permanent value though I certainly won't say that the Proceedings of the ASHS, Caribbean Region, won't have permanent value. I am very proud of the way Ernesto is pushing ahead with the Caribbean Region and also want to congratulate you again on the excellent job you did on us at San José. Those jobs are not easy; I know from experience.

I am happy that we raked in a little money this year and I am particularly happy that you were able to take over the publication of the Proceedings. I am sure we can keep going; and I particularly want to say that we must continue publication of the Proceedings..

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 3 May 1960

Dr J R Hunter
Turrialba, Costa Rica.

Dear Bob:

Just read the Proceedings of the VII annual meeting. Hombre, what a swell job you have done! The only trouble is, you have set a standard for us which we have got to keep, and now we have to find out how to keep it. But I like to see standards set; just like the lad that put a goose egg in the hen's nest and a notice arriba "Keep youreeye on this and do your best".

But seriously, and looking back: The Caribbean Region is really getting ahead! When Bill Cowgill started it, I dont think either he nor su seguro servidor hoped to see it go ahead the way it has gone. We skipped a couple of annual meetings; then we got into our stride, and let's keep the stride. I have the profound conviction that an annual meeting is the thing that we will need to keep us growing and growing. And still more important, the publication of the Proceedings. I believe we all realise that we cannot expect the parent society with their high printing costs and (to them) the relative importance of the tropical work, to publish many of our papers. But what great importance our published Proceedings can attain in Tropical America!

We have a grand field in which to work. I am trying to get the American Pomological Society to set up, once more (after a long hiatus) a Committee on Tropical Fruits. Maybe they dont have enough interest in this part of the world. But we, the Caribbean Region ASHS do, and I would like to see us give a lot of attention to vegetative propagation, varieties, and now, in the near future, adaptation of temperate zone fruit varieties to tropical America. I have written Ernest about this; we have some good experimental data here in Guatemala - and they some in Mexico. And in Ecuador and Colombia.

With warmest regards always,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popence

cc Dr E H Casseres

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 March 1961

Dr J R Hunter
Turrialba, Costa Rica.

Dear Bob:

Just a note to thank you again for your great kindness to me when I got the sad news from Guatemala. I got home in plenty of time to take charge of the funeral. That was luck, because AVIATECA only flies three times a week and if I had come on PanAm I could not have reached here until evening, which would have been too late.

I am going over to Honduras on Saturday 8th. Bill Paddock has asked me to come, and I am glad to do so. His troubles seem to be financial, and staff. I don't worry about finances. I am sure we can get money - in fact I feel pretty sure United Fruit will stand behind the school if expenses are held down to the really necessary. As to personnel, I do not know just what to think, and it is along this line that I believe I can help Bill. The school must go on. I am sure it will go on. We may have to develop a little more slowly than we have in the past three years.

Mario Jalil has come back enthusiastic about the next meeting of the Caribbean Region/ That's a good sign.

Ever yours,



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE
CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS

TURRIALBA, COSTA RICA

May 10, 1961

El Instituto es un Organismo especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Fue establecido por los Gobiernos de las Repúblicas Americanas para promover el adelanto de las ciencias agrícolas por medio de la investigación, la educación y el desarrollo de servicios regionales.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

I hear that you are back in Antigua after your trip to Zamorano. I trust that you had a successful trip and that you and Bill were able to get things worked out.

I have just spoken to Eddie Echandi, who, as you know was elected to be Vice-Chairman of the Pathologists for this coming year. He and I had a long talk about the Meetings in Florida and about all of the ins and outs of the Horticulturists-Pathologists business. He is anxious to try and work things out to everyone's satisfaction and since Fred Wellman has apparently chucked over everything he had to do with the Pathologists, Eddie is left to carry the ball. He wants to know what the feeling will be about our meeting together next year in Antigua and if there are facilities enough for a combined meeting. He told me that in order to get everything straightened out to everyone's satisfaction he would even come up to Guatemala to work out the details with Mario and yourself.

I have received a letter from Ernest Casseres in which he indicated that he would be pleased to work with the Pathologists and wrote Fred Wellman a letter saying that he hopes that they can meet with us in Guatemala. I think this is wonderful and feel that it will make the Caribbean Region of the ASHS stronger than ever.

Let me know how you feel about this so that I can tell Eddie in order that he can start to make preparations. As you know it seems like a long way off and then all of a sudden the whole thing is on one and they wish they had more time to make plans.

Sincerely,

J. Robert Hunter
Physiologist
Cacao Center

June 5, 1961.

Dr. J. Robert Hunte:
Cacao Center
I.I.A.S.
Turrialba, COSTA RICA

Dear Bob:

On rereading my letter to you of May 19, may I apologize if my second paragraph sounded stuffy? There is now a general agreement, at least between Mario Jalil, yours truly and Bill Krome, on the fact that the cooperation we shall tend to the pathologists will be mainly our invitation for them to join us in our meeting, with the understanding that they shall make all their own arrangements. It is true that I have not heard directly from Owen Smith, but I assume that he will go along with this idea.

The dates for the 1962 meeting have been set for the week of June 17 to 23, but this should not be considered as final until I receive word from Dr. Popenoe that he has confirmed the arrangement with the hotel he and I contacted in Antigua last July. Soon after the Miami meeting Ben Waite wrote me about his interest in making arrangements for the 1962 meeting, but at that time I did not have the list of persons who attended nor have the dates been set. It would seem to me that Eddie Echandi would do well to communicate with Ben. I still do not understand the situation concerning Wellman.

Bill Krome promised to have the list of persons attending the Miami meeting available very soon. He is expecting to send out a supplementary Newsletter reporting on the Miami meeting and I will delay the Newsletter I was preparing until July, at which time I will start drumming up business for the Guatemala meeting.

Concerning the Proceedings, here are my comments on the letter Gaskins wrote you on May 31.

- 1.- The pathologists should pay for the cost of their papers, based on the number of pages and actual cost.
- 2.- While it would be wonderful to publish a complete volume with all the papers, I do not think it is correct to go over the size of the last two Proceedings which you and I edited and which represent the level at which we should keep our annual volumes. The meetings in 1962 and 63 may not produce many papers and it would be very bad to have to publish only a thin volume, in comparison to a thick 1961 issue.

- 3.- The edited transcript of the Symposium should take precedence over some of the pathologists papers and I wish we could

encourage Murray to work on this, since it was of such great importance. We had the opportunity of making the Symposium at our annual meeting and outstanding feature and we should not omit it this year. In addition, Louis Gattoni has just sent me a documented report on the field trips, in Spanish, about 6 pages long single spaced. He submits some photos, too. I am in favor of publishing this even if it has to be condensed, in the Spanish version, for he sends a copy in English, too! I will send it to you for consideration.

I am sending copy of this letter to many persons because we are all interested in this subject, and hope they will accept it in view of a personal letter on the same matter.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ernest H. Casseres,
Secretary-Treasurer
Caribbean Region, A.S.H.S.

c.c. Murray H. Gaskins
Bill Krome
Owen Smith
→ Wilson Popence

EHC/mss.

Antigua, Guatemala
July 29, 1961

Dr. J. Robert Hunter
IICA
Turrialba, Costa Rica

Dear Bob,

Referring to your letter of 10 May which I am slow in answering because I have been under the weather for six weeks or more, I take pleasure in giving you the following information:

As for Fred Wellman's stepping into the background, I do not know the whole story but Fred wrote me recently that he would be experiencing a change in status one of these days. He didn't say whether he was leaving Rio Piedras but he did say he had in his present situation too much administrative work. And I have a hunch that perhaps he does not feel that he will be given travel expenses for a trip to Guatemala next summer. In any case his letter to me which is a somewhat lengthy one does not sound as though he is sore at anybody or anything.

Now as to what Eddie Echandi needs to know. In the first place I think everybody is now agreed that it is perfectly all right for the phytopathologists to meet with the horticulturists here in Antigua. As for facilities, I consider them excellent. Ernie Casseres and I chose the Hosada Belem as the best place for about fifty people. It is in a beautiful old monastery, the rooms nicely modernized, and the price would be eight dollars per person per day with two in a room. This includes meals which are good. Us poor devils who can't afford eight dollars a day can get good accommodations at the Aurora for about five dollars, including meals, and the lads on Point Four Expense Account, if they prefer the Hotel Antigua where the majority of tourists go, can be well housed and cared for at nine or ten dollars a day, two in a room. Summing up the Belem which is our choice can handle fifty, the Antigua fifty, and the Aurora twenty five. We won't need more. We cannot make definite arrangements until a month or two before the meeting because one of the biggest hotels in the city and one here in Antigua have recently gone busted due to lack of sufficient tourists. As for meeting places, our house will be available and there will be plenty of room in one of the hotels with perhaps an important opening and closing session in the Colonial Assembly room of the Cabildo.

Ben Waite has been showing an active interest in the matter. All of us assume that the phytopathologists may want to have two or three meetings by themselves but join with the horticulturists in two or three others. Mario Jalil will be back from Ecuador in a week or two now and will get busy on arrangements including lining up papers. I am moving up to Gainesville, Florida next week to spend the first semester doing a little lecturing and perhaps taking a hand in a few seminars. My address there will be: 1722-A NW 2nd Ave., Gainesville, Florida.

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

CENTRAL AMERICAN FIELD PROGRAM

APARTADO 2732

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

March 2, 1971

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Casa Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

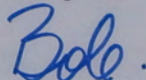
Dear Wilson:

I did promise to either go back to the Pensi6n Canada or to "pegarle un telefonazo" about the arrival of George Zentmeyer. When I finally found out that George was arriving you had already departed the pensi6n which was too bad as I would have liked to have gotten together with the two of you. I hope that he stopped in to see you on his way north.

I have been receiving some inquiries recently about the possibilities of growing grapes in Costa Rica. I have tended to discourage people but they keep insisting that if they do well in Cali, Columbia, they should do well somewhere in Costa Rica.

On a number of occasions I have heard you talk about this continual attempt to work with such things as grapes and olives, but wondered if you had any further information about new varieties. If you grow good grapes in Cali, I still think California or some place similar is the place to grow them.

Best regards,



J. Robert Hunter

Antigua, Guatemala 8 March 1971

Dr J. Robert Hunter
Apartado 2732 San José de Costa Rica.

Dear Bob:

Yrs of 2nd instant rec'd and contents noted. I have been in touch with George Zentmyer who says he expects to be down this way again within a couple of months and will foregather with me to do a little programming re avocados which might be *Phytophthora* resistant. We cant do anything these days with programming you know. In fact, I am thinking of applying for a job as program officer. Of course, after we get ourselves adequately programmed, George and I might get out on the highways and the byways and look for promising material.

Now as to this grape business. We havent made much progress in the past half century, so far as viniferas are concerned. Every time I have gone around Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador I have been hustled out to see young vineyards - small of course. Mostly Muscat of Alexandria. When I passed over the same regions five years or ten years later I found the vineyards gone, but I was hustled out to see some new ones. Get the point? It is always new ones that you see.

There is probably no better viticulturist anywhere than H.P. Olmo of California. In late summer of 1968 he did a brief "survey" in Venezuela. You know there are many Italians in that country. Quite a few of them have gone in for vinifera grapes. Dr Olmo saw some nice young vineyards. In his excellent report I dont notice that he mentions many vineyards ten years old or more. In summing things up, he says "It is not the relative temperatures available which determine the lack of success in growing the vinifera grapes, but the lack of seasonal periodicity."

I have tried to keep in touch with grape growing in the Cauca valley of Colombia ever since 1920. There have been many small plantings of Muscat of Alexandria and a few other varieties. With skillful pruning and lots of spraying some of these small plantings have been kept in profitable productions for some years, but has been no major development of the industry. On the other hand, the labrusca hybrid, Isabella, has been grown in the Cauca on quite a scale - as much as 50 acres or more, and the plants have remained in good production for many years, relatively speaking. I have had this grape in my garden here in Antigua for 15 years. As you know, it is widely grown in the American tropics, on a small scale, and at elevations from sealevel to 7000 feet. It is highly disease resistant, and you prune twice a year and get two crops. We have experimented considerably with other American bunch grapes, none of which has up to now been quite as satisfactory as Isabella.

Dr Olmo ends his report by saying "The only enduring grape culture (he is speaking of Venezuela but it applies elsewhere) must rest on the production by breeding new and improved varieties adapted to the tropical climate that are long-lived, productive and disease resistant."

If I were in your shoes, I would advise my friends not to put much money into commercial grape growing until we have varieties which are fully successful in the tropics. In the meantime, I would tell them to plant on the Pacific side of Costa Rica, at fairly low elevations, 100 Isabella vines, 25 Golden Muscats, and 25 Catawbas. Do a lot of rearing about grape growing in general, and get information from men in tropical America who have had more than 10 years experience with grapes. Then, if they succeed in getting the Isabellas into good production, see how and where they are going to sell the fruit.

And while you are waiting for results, grow lots of corn, beans and sorghum.