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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.

Camara de Agricultura  
Calle Escobedo 1214  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
July 22, 1941

Dr. Wilson Popovse  
Bogota, Colombia

Dear Doctor Popovse:

I thought I would let you know that we received a letter from Dr. Rufus Moore last week informing us he is to be married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> which happens to be today. He of course is the person you were interested in about whom you asked us for the Honduras school. Well, he plans to spend 2 weeks in the Virgin Islands for a honeymoon before settling down to married life. Since he is not going to be in Puerto Rico and since he will be honeymooning, I thought it best to write and tell you about his plans so that you could decide on the trip you anticipated to see him. I understand from Mr. Goodell that you plan to leave for Central America on the first of August. If you want to see Dr. Moore you can probably get his address in the Virgin islands by cabling Mr. Wallace Bailey, Acting Director. Mr. Lee stated in his last letter that he was leaving immediately for Santo Domingo for a stay of from 6 to 8 weeks.

I have established office at the Camara de Agricultura and shall probably remain here until the station is ready for us. As yet however, we do not have the grounds so you can judge when we will move there. We fortunately have found a very nice small apartment with a garden, in a good neighborhood and it is inexpensive as well. We plan to move into it tomorrow. Mrs. Kevorkian is a lovely satisfied and is full of plans, which

I suspect, will not do my pocketbook any good. However, now that the financial crisis has passed (I hope) we owe it to ourselves to fix up a comfortable home while we are in Ecuador.

I received word from Dr. Bressman that the plan of work and budget were accepted with only a minor change. Mr. Lee and Bressman felt that the plan was too inclusive and should be restricted to work on Cacao, Rubber, Quinine, Hemp and Barbasco. If time and funds should permit then other fiber plants, medicinal, spice, & oil producing plants could be taken into consideration. Their criticism is just I believe. The all inclusive plan naturally would narrow itself down to a few products with time, but would be time consuming in the meantime.

We finally did not buy the Fruit Co. launch. It was discussed again after you left Quito and the minister of Agriculture overruled us and said we ought to have it. However, Mr. Goodell informed me the day after my arrival in Guayaquil that he had received a telegram to the contrary and had sold it.

The American minister, Mr. Long just got back last Monday. I only saw him for about an hour but will probably go to Quito shortly in order to confer with him. Apparently he knows as much about this project as anyone. That will start things going if anything will.

Mrs. Kevorkian joins me in being remembered to you and Mrs. Popova.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur G. Kevorkian

Bogotá, Colombia, 25 July 1941

Dr Arthur G Kevorkian,  
Camara de Agricultura, Calle Escobedo 1214,  
Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Dear Arturo:

Your letter of the 22nd came in just as I was on the point of sitting down to write you one myself. We are leaving tomorrow morning for the Gulf of Urabá, thence Panama, thence Honduras, and I want to tell you about a few things I have seen here in Colombia. But before starting on this I must thank you for all the information contained in your letter. I don't believe I will do anything on the Rufus Moore matter until after I have been to Honduras. A good deal will now depend on whether or not his wife would care to live in the back country of Honduras. We won't be making our final decision on the matter of a director for the school for two or three months yet, in any case.

Helen and I are glad to know you are fixed up comfortably in Guayaquil. It is particularly desirable in view of the fact that it will almost certainly be quite a while before you are fixed up at the new station.

Now about cacao: After we got back to Bogotá I made a long trip through the Cauca valley, Caldas and Antioquia. There is some perfectly beautiful stuff in the upper end of the Cauca valley, that is, above Cali, around Puerto Tejada, at an elevation of about 3500 feet. Lots of it. The type is not pure Criollo as the cotyledons are pale lavender instead of white, but it is a very good and above all a very uniform type. Large, long pods with a sharp point, and plump seeds. Much like your Nacional as far as the seeds are concerned but the shape of the pod is not the same. And as for productiveness: some of the plantations are almost incredible. No escoba de bruja, and I saw no Monilia, though the local sabios say it is scattered over this country. Nor did I see any Phytophthora pod rot. Of course it has been pretty dry in the Cauca valley for about seven months and fungi haven't been thriving.

It seems to me there would be a magnificent opportunity to do some selection work in this region, and build up some good clones. This seems to be a type which has been cultivated here for a long time and well stabilised, just like Nacional of Ecuador; but as in the Guayaquil area, there has been much forastero and esalillo planted in recent years and the old stock will soon be hopelessly mixed up. I think it would still be possible to get some fairly clean seed out of some of the plantings such as that of Alfredo Echeverri near Palmira, where there are solid stands of this so-called "cacao comun" of many acres in extent. If you come over here at any time - and by all means you should - don't fail to see the farm of Alfredo Echeverri. I wish you and Ernesto Molestina and Miguel Aspiazu could come over together and take a look at the upper end of the Cauca. It is really worth seeing, and it wouldn't take you long.

After being in the Cauca, I went up into Caldas, where at the experiment station of the Federacion Nacional de Cafeteros in Chinchiná I made a Cinchona seed-bed and planted it with Ledgeriana from Guatemala, and some suscirubra for grafting stocks. At this place, elevation 4300 feet, there is a small but very healthy planting of good Forastero about 3 years old. Clean as a whistle - no fungus diseases in sight. Then we went up to Medellin, altitude 5000 feet, where at the agricultural school they also have a small planting of Forastero, also in fine condition and bearing well. I never before saw cacao at such high elevations and it gives me the impression that there may be a great field for expansion of cacao culture here. It looks as though they may be dodging diseases to a large degree by staying off the coast. You will know better about this than I do.

About escoba de bruja in Colombia: the local boys say it is abundant down on the coast near Tumaco, but they do not report it from the Cauca valley, Caldas, or Antioquia. And though they report Monilia as being here, certainly I did not see enough of it to catch my eye, which means that right now at least it cannot be bad. I do not even know that it is here. I do not feel sure the local boys have had enough field experience to be certain in identifying it.

They are making good money out of cacao over here. Colombia still has to

import large quantities, and the protection they give their home product makes cultivation profitable especially when you take into consideration the good crops they get in such places as the Cauca.

They have a small nursery of Hevea at Palmira (the experiment station of the national govt) in the Cauca, altitude 3500 feet. It looks pretty well but they plan to make their major nurseries over in the Gulf of Urabá, where I am going with the Director of Agriculture tomorrow to pick out a site. There is much interest in Hevea over here; also in Cinchona.

My address from now on will be care of Tela Railroad Co., La Lima, Honduras. I don't think I shall be leaving that part of the world again this year. Keep after our folks about that nursery at Tenguel of volunteer Hevea seedlings which otherwise will be of no use to anybody.

Helen joins in best regards to all of you. If you think well of it, pass on what I have written above about cacao to Ernesto and Don Miguel.

Sincerely yours,

# ARTHUR G. KEVORKIAN

CAMARA DE AGRICULTURA  
SEGUNDA ZONA

CALLE ESCOBEDO 1214

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

August 20, 1941.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,  
c/o Tela Railroad Co.,  
La Lima, Honduras.

Dear "Doc" Popenoe:

Thank you for your very informative letter of July 25. I have read and reread it and am certainly anxious to see the upper end of the Cauca Valley, especially with Molestina, who does not believe that cacao will grow and product at such an elevation. I am going to make an effort to get there when and if this mysterious loan ever gets here. I have already written Molestina and have spoken to Miguel Aspiazu about the details of your letter.

New developments have arisen in Ecuador because of the border dispute and now, since Friday, all the Ministers have resigned. The President was given dictatorial powers by the Congress for the duration of this session. New appointments of Ministers have now been announced and apparently Vela is getting the axe, for the new Minister of Agriculture is a man named Crespo, from Cuenca. According to this morning's paper Molestina has also resigned and has been asked by the new Minister to return, but has refused. Can't tell, of course, if he will change his mind. This change is unfortunate because Vela appeared to have sympathy with our plans.

Mr. Goodell called on us the other night and informs me that the voluntary Hevea seedlings have been planted. I believe he is in Tenguel at the moment and I expect to see him the latter part of this week and find out how much has been accomplished. In Dr. Brandes' absence Dr. Rands wrote me and stated that he hoped that we could get a better site for our nurseries since both of us had written him telling him the condition of the present nursery. Complications have set in there also and I had to pay the laborers out of my own pocket the first time that they were paid in six weeks, and then they quit; so now we only have one person there.

I hope that your plans for the school are developing as well as you expected. I presume that the red tape is not as complicated as that with the U.S.D.A.

I almost forgot to tell you that we were finally given a piece of land by the municipality of Vinces for the cacao station. These people are also interested in diversification of crops and I would therefore appreciate any planting material which you might send me under the arrangement which we agreed upon.

Helen joins me in best wishes to you both.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur G. Kevorkian*  
Arthur G. Kevorkian

Agricultural Adviser to  
the Government of Ecuador

September 3, 1941

Mr. Arthur G. Kevorkian  
Camara De Agricultura  
Segunda Zona  
Calle Escobedo 1214  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Sir:

We have examined the five samples of Cinchona Bark referred to in your letter of August 7, 1941, and list our results as follows:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Pata Gallinazo 1st    | No Quinine   |
| 2. Roja en Canito        | 3.2% Quinine Sulfate U.S.P. X<br>3.1% Cinchonidine Sulfate   |
| 3. Loja (Santa Rosa)     | No Quinine   |
| 4. Pata Gallinazo 2nd Q. | No Quinine   |
| 5. Roja en Rajas         | 3.1% Quinine Sulfate U. S. P. X<br>3.0% Cinchonidine Sulfate |

The samples are not of great interest as far as the commercial extraction of Quinine is concerned.

Yours very truly,

MERCK & CO. INC.

R. P. Lukens

RPL:CS

cc Mr. Perkins  
Dr. Popenoe ✓

Dr. Popenoe: Mr. Kevorkian claims that the above samples were sent to us at your suggestion. I gather from his letter that these are wild samples coming from the border between Peru and Ecuador



ARTHUR G. KEVORKIAN

CAMARA DE AGRICULTURA  
SEGUNDA ZONA

CALLE ESCOBEDO 1214

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Air Mail

October 15, 1941.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,  
Antigua, Guatemala.

Dear Doc:

I pondered over what you told me on the way to Quito on your last visit and after my interview with the Minister of Agriculture decided to take Boyd's and your advice and stick it out, hell or no hell. Leave of absence did not mean much to me and now I see it from a new angle. The project is still where it was except that I did get 3,000 sucres to look after some rubber seeds that are arriving Sunday.

The Minister apparently had a reason for changing the clause in my contract which had to do with soliciting all expenditure of funds, agricultural contracts, etc., from his office. We settled all the rest of the difficulties on a compromise basis, but he insisted on that clause remaining as is. He assured me that there was no ill feeling or delay involved in this change; however, in the next breath he said that we could not accept the property at "Conducta" without his seeing the site first! When I reminded him of the fact that that was the first delay, his answer was, "I am a man who does not want to control things from my office in Quito; therefore I want to see it personally and I shall be down in the next 10 days to look over the site." Furthermore, I have found out that money is to be doled out to me piecemeal. Ernesto was here last week to welcome the new Agricultural Mission, and we went over a planillo for 10,000 sucres. The reason he did not want to make it out for the whole \$5,000 was the fact that he felt 10,000 sucres at a time was the maximum that I could ask for. When I left Quito everything was arranged so that I was to receive my contract and sign it within the next few days. 3 weeks have gone by and I have just received another request to fly to Quito concerning my contract. So life goes on.

You have undoubtedly seen Bill Pennock by this time and also he has probably received my request for both Cinchona succirubra and ledgeriana seeds. On your first visit I stated that Mallinckrodt people were interested in quinine possibilities in Ecuador, but since then I have received word that they are not going into any plantation ventures as long as Merck and Co. have already done so. With this information at hand, you can be assured that any help that you and Merck will give us will not be converted to the use of any other company.

The new Mission consists of Schreiber and an interpreter-secretary by the name of Lerner. Schreiber is the organizer and will carry on until Holt and the rest of the Mission arrive within the next two months. I understood from Schreiber that Bressman has shifted over from the Department to Nelson Rockefeller's organization. That is unfortunate for the Department of Agriculture, in my opinion. Apparently the new Mission expects to make its headquarters in Quito and will probably be less handicapped by red tape than I am for that reason.

I am going to Manabí next week and plan to carry out a program with the help of the Consorcio there. They apparently are the only people in Ecuador who are anxious to carry out an agricultural diversification program and apparently are serious about it.

Best regards from Helen and me to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

*Kevorkian*

Arthur G. Kevorkian  
Agricultural Adviser  
to the Government of Ecuador

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 Nov. 1941.

Dear Arturo:

Yours of Oct 15th arrived duly. Dr and Mrs Fairchild have been with us for three weeks so I haven't had much time to write. They left day before yesterday for Miami.

I am mighty glad that you have decided to stay with the job until some tangible results can be left behind. I believe it is the only thing to do, not only from the standpoint of the Ecuadorean govt but from that of your own future reputation. You will have to put up with many delays and disappointments, and you won't be able to accomplish all you want to accomplish, but I believe you will in the long run be much better satisfied if you stick it out.

When our man Thomas Grieve gets down there and starts to work on cacao propagation, do give him any help you can. If we can make a good start with that work - if he masters propagation by cuttings - he can help you secure continuity by seeing that some of your selections are propagated and planted on a scale sufficient to give them a commercial test.

Now about Cinchona: I have a nice batch of seeds laid by and will send them on down if you are ready for them. I do not have succirubra, but have some good Ledgers and some calisaya - the stuff we are depending on here. I can get you succirubra if you can not get it locally. And by the way, we want some succirubra seed from Ecuador to compare with local stock. When you get a chance at seed from the Cuenca or Loja regions, please let us have a little to try out up here. If possible, we would like to have seed from individual trees segregated. We think we may be able to find a strain of this species which will make a better rootstock than the average.

I have mailed you a batch of separates, thinking some of them might be of interest to you. I included the bulletin on Ecuadorean Fruits which I promised you.

As you may have heard more directly, Bill Pemock has resigned and is returning to Puerto Rico. From what he told me, I gather he does not have a definite job in sight over there but is sure he can land one. I hear that Atherton Lee is moving to Washington to join Bressman who has now gone over to Nelson Rockefeller's office.

I understand our man Ben Birdsall has been loaned to the U S govt for rubber work in Ecuador. What is he going to do down there? With Ben and the new U S agr'l mission you folks ought to have plenty of gringos down there now. I haven't heard much from Boyd and Allee since they left us, though Allee has just sent me a copy of our report as finally turned in at Washington.

Let me know if you are ready for the Cinchona seeds and tell me how I had best forward them; I suppose air mail or air express, since they are light in weight. I sent a few to Molestina and a few to Aspiazu in a letter the other day just to whet their interest a bit. I suppose these seeds will end up in your hands, but there are not a great many and I don't want you all you need.

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Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
My best regards to both of you. Ever yours