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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.

KINGSTON,

February 29th 1940

Mr. C.H. Lankester  
Las Concavas  
Canal Zone

My dear Lankester,

Your good letter of February 9th followed me over here. I was glad to have your further comments regarding possibilities on the Atlantic Coast. I realise that we are up against a tough proposition. The main problem in my estimation is a psychological one created by the passing of an industry which has meant relatively easy money for the small farmer, and relatively high wages for the labourer. I have not the faintest hope of our finding another crop which will satisfy those Costa Ricans who have been in the banana business.

Ideally we should aim at planting up a permanent agriculture in that area. My feeling is that rubber offers the best hope of doing this, but whenever I talk rubber with agriculturists they throw up their hands and say it is too slow.

I like your idea of forest reserves, even though they won't assist us much in solving the Atlantic Coast problem. I think it would be very much worth while to include them in a programme which may ultimately be put up for formal consideration. We will discuss this more at length when I go back there again, which I feel will be within a few months.

We have two or three fruiting jaboticaba trees at Lancetilla, and I saw several at the Canal Zone Experiment Gardens when I passed through there two weeks ago. I feel sure we can send Juan Bolinaga some seeds towards the middle of the year. Incidentally, I am interested to learn that he is still alive. When I was a youngster in California, writing letters to anybody who would take the trouble to reply, I carried on quite a correspondence with him and exchanged seeds.

Helen and I still talk of our delightful visits at your home and of your kindness to us in many ways. All this makes me perfectly furious with myself for having missed you all these years. I first visited Costa Rica in 1919 when Oton and I spent much time together and he spoke often of you. I am not clear regarding my failure to meet you at that time - whether I simply lacked the nerve or whether you were in England. Oton and I had many interesting trips together and I acquired a respect for his botanical knowledge which I have never lost.

Helen joins in cordial regards to all of you,

Sincerely yours,

Las Concepcion  
Cartago C.R.  
Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1940.

Dear Pop,

Sure I did, quite a long time ago too; but it generally takes me a month or two to answer a letter, anyhow thanks for letters or the pamphlet book or all enjoyed.

We often wonder if you are enclosed or installed or whatever, in your marvellous house at Antigua, & I wonder if any of the Agave's are going to flower this time, when they get going good you'll have something.

Also if you're going to be there long enough at any time to let me send you some seeds, or anything else our back yard holds if of use to you.

Well, sis, you did something to our Peziza, it actually has some prints & some guide in hitting her to see what, so whether any will ripen enough to let us know seems doubtful; however there is no doubt it is due to something you said or looked, at that old tree, so next time you come there's a tree with spines I want you to talk to, it never has worked yet.

I struck in two almost full from Syntherisma Wunderlicke yesterday, they came up from Cochi, one in flower, the seeds were sent from Wyanda in 1921, my location may be on the cool side,

Did you meet Skutch, he has got some sort of capturing job in Ecuador & points N. S. E. x W. Can you test it & I bet you he emit him a single plant.

Solanum

it has a taste like guaiacum (Acuminatus) so seemed to  
a good medicinal herb; here are a few seeds of  
a variety of Dichrois, a sort of thing good to  
grow in an abandoned back yard, the masses  
leaves have a lovely violet tomentum & the  
plants have a period of considerable dormancy  
before they attain their eventual air of  
squalid weediness. The seeds, came here from  
Peru, but I seem to remember the plant in  
Suvaucato, will give not obliged to grow them.

This has been a very dry wet season (quite  
Anglais) & the corn has scarcely got tall  
enough to wear trousers & it looks as though  
our clothes will have to come from an cloth shop,  
the beans are OK so we can still give you those  
if you turn up.

The Old Country - the U.S.A seem to be  
getting quite nasty, & a good thing too, we  
certainly need sympathy & backing at this  
time & it must be grand for our folks over  
there everytime they get correct expression  
of this. Our wasps seem to be a pretty good kind  
over there & we are certainly backed at the way  
they have sting back.

Hope all is pines & dandy with you,

The gang salute you both.

Yours etc

Orlando Kentel.

C. H. LANKESTER  
"LAS CÓNCAVAS"  
CARTAGO, C. R.

TELEGRAMAS A:  
DULCE NOMBRE

Nov 6. 1941.

Dr Wilson Popeye,  
Isla RR Co.  
Honduras.

Dear Popeye.

The above address would presuppose you live  
in Honduras but I think I'll make the envelope conform  
more to your probable site, at home.

Well, wasn't that nice of you, & the stamps <sup>on the letter</sup> were  
worth all the money, my very warmest thanks, when you  
next come to CR I shall hope to introduce the two good  
friends who are the recipients of the seeds.

How lovely for the Fairchild's to be with you.  
They must appreciate to the full the charm of such  
surroundings & hosts, I suppose the 'travels' are  
flowering now & you probably have many varied forms  
of that enchanting flower, against which some people  
object its stiffness, but its beautiful curves & lovely  
jagged of pink down to deep crimson reds, any  
defects it may have of form; and the strike me!

Well send to you - Mrs Pop

Yours aff

C. H. Lankester.

If I am allowed - my homage to Dr & Mrs Fairchild, as an appreciation  
reader of 'The tropic was my Garden'!

Ok. Remembe better, I hope, & in these circumstances I can ask you for?

Las Conchas  
Catalpa.

August 22. 1941.

Dr Wilson Popehoe.  
Antigua.  
Guatemala.

My dear Popehoe.

I have been asked to write to you & to enquire if through your good offices my friends can obtain some, any or well a few, seeds of *Scorimnia*, the region for which this trial is desired is about Santa Dominga de Stereida, excellent soil, elevation about 1250 meters. Coffee is being abandoned as hopeless in view of complete failure to combat *ojo de gallo*.

The area is small, some 70 manzanas but if successful would larger plantings would follow. Financial & dissectional factors are adequate to ensure fair trial.

Say, is it raining here? yes it is the wet season, I don't know any news that might interest or annoy you, Olin has given up his business in Catalpa, much to my disgust, why I actually had to return his copy of Britton & Rose, Cactaceae, still anyone is quite right to leave Catalpa, in fact it would be much better to do this before going there.

I hope everything is fine with you & that the *Cymbidium* are behaving, they promise simply devastating success in California, a wonderful garden feature is opening to a wide development of hybridization in this genus

promises returns of fantastic beauty & prompt, not that I  
shall ever see it; this is prompted by an article with excellent  
photos in the August Bulletin of the Amer. Orchid Soc.,  
Are you a member, will you reply to it, it is a well produced  
monthly and with interesting photos as well.

Once its coming,

If you see Jimmy Vink, tell him how from  
me, & our best to you two.

Yours very sincerely

Chas. L. ...

When, if ever, do you crop this seed, in it I find, do the seasons  
conside, as it may be too late now to do anything about it,  
is Spathodea villosa, commonly planted in Guatemala or  
would you like some seed.

I didn't ~~plant~~ <sup>see</sup> the enclosed as I have had a plant for some  
years. They are nearly a year old, so ?? it's a straggling shrub  
with pretty blue flowers.

C. H. LANKESTER  
"LAS CÓNCAVAS"  
CARTAGO, C. R.

TELEGRAMAS A:  
DULCE NOMBRE

Oct 19. 1941.

J<sup>r</sup> Wilson Popenoe.

San José.

My dear Popenoe.

I had the pleasure to see in *La Tribuna*  
a graphic record of your arrival in this country.  
I hope your stay may be long enough to give us the  
privilege to see you here.

I presume you may be one of the commission  
spoken of today as investigating sites for the possible  
Experimental Station, it is unlikely this would be  
confined to one spot alone; this would be a good place  
to experiment at, if you could make anything grow on  
parts of beachside you would be doing something, at the  
same time it has lots of points & occasional good shrub  
stands.

Do you mean you can read my writing?

Believe me,

Yours very

C. H. Lankester.



C. H. LANKESTER

"LAS CÓNCAVAS"

CARTAGO, C. R.

TELEGRAMAS A:  
DULCE NOMBRE

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 41.

My dear Popenco.

We hope to hear news that you arrived safely last night, it looked as though the Juricalta road was being mullen, & it was disappointing not to see you, it is only too likely that your appointments, & our work, will prevent our meeting this time.

I had a letter from Anita Hill on Sunday asking if it would be possible to get seeds of the Enicostema from Neanthella bella, which Hunt tells me is a small Chamaedorea ally, here is your chance.

I hope you'll enjoy giving this Lactia Culeya Horn to your wife whom it was a delightful surprise to see yesterday, you will notice they keep building these flowers a little larger, perhaps there should be a law against this.

Warmest greetings & good wishes

Yours sincerely

C. H. Lankester

San José, Costa Rica  
September 23, 1941

Mr. C. H. Lankester  
"Las Cóncavas"  
Cartago

Dear Lankester:

Yes, we got stuck in the mud last night at Quebrada Honda, and then found the car which was awaiting us, had a flat tire and no gata, so we got in here too late to see you, which fairly breaks my heart.

That magnificent basket of flowers arrived this morning and is being immensely enjoyed by Helen and myself, but you have got me into an awful jam. Helen wants to know why I cannot grow orchids like that.

Many times I have collected seeds of *Neanthe bella* in Northern Guatemala and I think I can do so again. I will try and get hold of some for Dr. Hill.

As regards *Cinchona* requested in your letter of 22nd August, I can fix you up very nicely when I get back to Guatemala. We have some stock there which I think is just about as good as anything you could get in Java. I will send you down a few thousand seeds and you can let me know if you want more.

We have gone over the ground with a view to passing on sites which have been offered for the proposed Inter American Institute of Tropical Agriculture and are very favorably impressed. It would certainly be a great thing for Costa Rica and I may add, without meaning to flatter you, that it would be a fine thing for the institute if you are somewhere in its neighborhood.

I think it quite likely that we will be in Costa Rica again before long. Next time I don't want to miss seeing you.

With best regards to all of you.

Sincerely yours,

WILSON POPENOE

C. H. LANKESTER  
APART. 4 - TELEF. 281  
CARTAGO - COSTA RICA

13. Sept. 1960.

Dear POP,

I suppose you aren't there or on you, how's Spain?  
There is some in my right hip & I have to walk with a stick  
now - this added to my 87 years makes me want to realize my  
various properties & get them into good hands.

I had a visit from Ray Miller who has a lot to do with  
Disneyland - he has much trouble with my jade & archaeological  
bits & pieces, well this led to his writing to various well known  
people who might like to buy. I have taken advantage of his  
kindness to ask him to approach interested who might possibly  
foster my hopes & establish a small fund reserve & also  
to carry on my plant collection at Dulce Nombre -

Since his letter to you might I get some help from  
you, for instance could you be so kind yourself or write  
a letter to Ray Miller (who perhaps you know) at Disneyland  
Anaheim, Cal, suggesting that such a scheme at this present  
time would be a wonderful addition to the activities of the  
Instituto - to embrace forestry experiments & the  
Poncha scheme 475 Hect. & make park learning experiments in  
the tin study which takes there - in the properties embraced in  
the Cartago scheme there is room for demonstration of water  
reclamation as a pattern for local attention to the urgent  
need of Costa Rica.

If you think well of this, need further details, just let

me know & receive my warmest thanks & regards.

Don't say I am longing to visit Cragg's but would be happy to see you  
hope for better news

Antigua, Guatemala, 8 March 1961

Dear Lank:

Me da verguenza el no haber contestado su carta del año pasado, but the fact of the matter is I haven't been able to develop a single hopeful idea about the future of your orchid collection. The change in administration of Turrialba has brought some new ideas into the situation; and I now hear that they expect to get four million dollars or so from the U S government. Of course sometimes these rumors don't materialize, and sometimes the figures are enhanced by distance. I have discussed the possibilities with several people who are interested by no one has come up with a practical suggestion.

Perhaps by this time - for it is a long time - you have solved the problem and have something very satisfactory lined up. I hope so. The situation these days seems to be rather peculiar. There are a goodly number of big organizations who are passing out money in big chunks. I suppose usually to good projects. But it seems hard to get them to think in small figures. Just the other day Ernest Casseres was with me, and we talked about the need of \$500 per annum to publish the Proceedings of the Caribbean Region, American Society for Horticultural Science. I had thought it would be a simple matter to get a small grant for this purpose from the Rockefeller Foundation, for the work of our Society is right down their alley; but Ernest says they can't be bothered. Now our Escuela Agrícola Panamericana is putting on a drive for funds, since the United Fruit Company has announced that it is divorcing the school just as soon as possible. In fact they had announced this publicly, but were talked into tapering off their support until the school could get outside money which I fear is going to be very hard to do.

But let us return to our muttons. You better come up here and spend a week or two with us and with Hugh Craggs. That chap is doing a wonderful job with his orchids. He loves them so much he just cannot stop adding to his collection and he sells what plants he can, but really is no market here. I am ashamed of the few plants I have; this climate needs a glass roof over orchids in general and I no longer have the United Fruit Company to build one for me.

I am going up to Florida next week to attend the annual jamboree of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, then a mtg at the Fairchild Tropical Garden, then I think I shall go on to Gainesville to preach the gospel to the students in the College of Agriculture. I really keep pretty busy. Not hard to do when you don't ask for any money. I am becoming a very popular lecturer for three reasons, (1) I never talk more than 20 minutes, (2) I don't tell my audience anything but jokes, and (3) I don't ask for any fees.

With old time regards,

Ever yours

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

C. H. LANKESTER

CASA LA GUARIA

MORAVIA - TEL. 637

June 21, 1962.

Dear (POP),

Yes sir, I heard regrettably last week that there was to be a grand recognition just ahead or about about now, if this is so, I seem to me there might have been a local organized effort for folks like me who couldn't go to U.S.A. in person.

It has been wonderful for me to have met you - had some happy hours together, that day I Jalanga for Indiana was certainly a real letter one, & so on & so on. I think like your great David Fairchild you spread an aura of euphoric good will - infect all about you with happiness, besides your wonderful faculty of spreading knowledge.

I hope there are many years of fruitful service & humanity ahead of you, here's to you.

Yrs. aye,

Carlquist

We've moved over to San Vicente, house warmed last Saturday but had you some hot here.