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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.

Agricultural Research Station Rehovot, Israel

322/6398

November 10, 1958

Racho California Almunecar (Granda) Spain

My dear friends,

I have returned to Israel a few days ago and have naturally found plenty of work waiting for me-and not a few difficulties.

I do not know whether you are still in Almunecar but as I have no news from you I shall write to you under that address.

have seen much in Spain in the month since we parted an have ad interesting discussions with colleagues in Madrid and Zaragoza on fruit growing and breeding and plant breeding in general.

Please let me thank you once more for the fine trip you arranged for me-the cherimoya budwood-the avocado from Montril has been received here in good condition and we hope to get the varieties established.

If you have been able to find out additional information about the value and use of date fruits in Elche I should be very glad to get it, in addition to any report you will write about subtropical horticulture in the Mediterranean region and in the Canary Islands.

My wife, daughters and grandchildren are well and send their good wishes.

Please write to me soon and let me know where you are and where you intend to spend the winter and all the important news about your family.

May I express the hope that I shall have the good fortune to meet you again at some future date-which will probably not be before 1961, as new duties will make it impossible for me to leave Israel during the next two or three years.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Chanan O tenheimed Head, Division of Subtropical Horticulture

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Dear Mrs and Mr. Popence

Thank you very much for your letter of Dec.18 and as it is xmas today and the New Year very close I have decided to send you my-our greetings immediately to your home in Antigua.

The information about the dates has been very interesting and came just in time-as tomorrow I have to give a talk on the orchards of Spain.

As to avocado- we have still very much to do, but I hope that we shall be able to do it. This year the yields are very high, which naturally meant that prices have fallen in the local market-but we have had some very good results from experexport to Europe. We have so far picked from about 50 Fuerte trees (two thirds of our grove) nearly 8 000 lb of fruit. The USDA has asked for reserved plans to be financed from counterpart founds-and we have decided to participate in the lottery (there will be over hundred plans and only 3-4 will get through) with a project to investigate the basic mechanisms related to the difference between tolerancexand susceptibility in avocado and citrus rootstocks. This would be a very interesting work-but thm it needs rather large funds.

I think that I shall be able to understand enough spanish to enjoy your book after it has been published; as to a new book in english-I still feel that it should be written—and may decide to try my hand in a few years time. We are awaiting your report. If you have a copy to spare I should be glad to have it soon; till we get the new Yearbook it will take rather a long time.

My wife and daughter join me in wishing you and your family a happy New Year.

Chlinary

Yours very sincerely.

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Dr Chanan Oppenheimer Rehovot, Israel.

Dear Doctor Oppenheimer:

Sorry to be so slow in answering your letter of 24 December last. As soon as we got home we went up to Caldfornia for a month, whence we returned only a week agd. I had not been in California for eight years. I had a fine opportunity to see what they have done with avocados - not too much progress because of the ravages of the root-rot. They are going strong now for Rincon and Bacon and Zutano; Fuerte losing ground in certain areas, holding up well in others; Hass gaining ground in general. Tremendous Fuerte crop right now (this is about the main season). Helen's aunt came in one day and said There is an advertisement in the paper; Fuertees three for twenty five cents; isnt that fine?" And I replied No, I am terribly sorry to hear that news. No horticulturist can make money out of Fuertes at three for a quarter". Doctor Coit took us to see the new packing house near Fahlbrook; he said "I will give you, the man who grafted the first Fuerte, a thrill" and it did. Two carloads (and you know the American cars are large) going East every day, but the growers are only getting eight cents a pound, There is another packing house of Calavo Growers in Los Angeles.

I am having trouble getting started on the manual of tropical fruit culture in Spanish, but I hope to finish it by the end of the year. I have just agreed to go to Venezuela on April first, to help organise a fruit improvement program; and I have promised to go to Mexico in early July and give a series of lectures on tropical fruits. And speaking of lectures, the day we left California, Dr Schroeder made me talk to the students in horticulture at the College of Agriculture in Los Angades (Univ of Calif) and I asked him what to talk about; and he said "Mostly, your experiences of last year around the Mediterranean" so I did, with special attention to what I saw in Israel; and when I finished he said "Probably you didn't know that there were five boys from Israel in that class, and they were much interested in what you had to say about the fine work being done by Dr Oppenheimer and others with tropical fruits".

I have written a report on our work in Spain and Israel and the Canaries for the next Avocado Yearbook but I do not have an extra copy to send you, nor do I believe it would be of much value to you, since you already have my views, verbally. But we must keep in touch by mail and any notes of interest I may get, I will pass along to you. Have you seen W H Chandler's new edition of his "Evergreen Orchards"? It is good. I had a chat with the Doctor at Los Angeles. And have you Hume's new "Citrus Fruits" - a revision of the old edition. Also very good, but the prices for books published in the US are now almost prohibitive. Hume's book is only 450 pages, the price \$10.50 and I dont mean Israeli pounds eithet.

Helen joins me in affectionate regards to all of you. We have fond recollections of those happy days spent with you and we hope to

see all of you again.

Sincerely,

March 12 1959

Mrs.and Mr. W. Popence Antigua Guatemala

Dear Popences,

have been very glad to receive your letter of March 4 and to learn that you are well and full of plans.

We have had an extremely cold late winter and only today spring has started and we shall have to take the balance of the damage to out trees. In addition we do notyet know what the budget is going to be for next year and this -naturally-makes planning a little bit difficult. Besides the local problems we are awaiting an answer from USDA to which a project has been sent on the fundamental problems underlaying susceptibility and resistance of citrus and avocado types to, lime and alakali. Within two or three months we shall know whether they will give us the money; it would be for five years and not a small sum-so that one could really plan ahead. The difficulty with the short time budgets (like the one we had from the Fore Foundation) is kt that no real work with trees can be cone in two years

We have Rincon, Bacon and Zutano but I do not believe that one of the latter two is going to be important here-about Rincon it is difficult to have a clear opinion. Prices are bound to fall with the rise in production—the question is what yield one can get. It has been nice to hear that you spoke about us in Los Angeles, perhaps the students from Israel will believe you more than they would me. Till your report in the Yearbook wellarrive here it will take another year—but I shall be patient enough to wait. I have seen

both the books you mention.

My article on the mango will be published in India soon-and I shall send you a copy(they have found it necesary to "shorten" it without giving me previous information). A general article on bana nas in Israel is going to be published in Tropical Agriculture. It will be signed by Mr. Smirin from the Jordan Valley-but has been written by me(from his hebrew notes). I hope that some of our avocado material will be published here soon. May I be so bold as to remind you that we should be very grateful to get some of the banana publication, of United Fruit Co. we have been talking about during your visit here.

I have too much work-but am fine (besides a cold flu). All members of my staff as well as of my family send their best wishes to you and Mrs. Popence.

Dr. Chanan Oppenheiner

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Antigua, Guatemala, 12 April 1959

Dr Chanan Oppenheimer 24 Ruppinstreet, Rehovot, ISRAEL.

Dear Doctor Oppenheimer:

I have your letter of 12 March. It is always good to hear from you - we have so many interests in common. I really dont believe you will find much - in anything - in the report I expect publish in the Yeabook this summer which I have not already told you or written you. The report is mainly concerned with avocados in Spain and you saw these with Sarasola and myself. What I say about Israel I have already covered when with you, except for comments on bananas in he Canary Islands which I sent to Mr Rapaport, with a strong recomendation that a good banana man be sent to the Canaries to go over the ground carefully. I believe all of us still have some things to be learned from those fellows.

I wonder if you have seen Dr Ruehle's new avocado bulletin - "The Florida Avocado Industry" by George D. Ruehle, Bulletin 602 of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. I am sure you could get a copy by writing Dr Ruehle, who as you know is in charge of the Subtropical Experiment Station, R.F. No. 2, Box 508, Homestead Florida. If you write for one, and do not already have the recent bulletin on mangos by R. Bruce Ledin, ask for it at the ame time. These two bulletins bring the information on mangos and avocados in Florida right down to date.

As yet I have been unable to obtain any of those old Research bulletins of United Fruit. These we got out way back in the 1920s and there are node left in Boston. As I travel around I will see if I can pick up copies of any of them in the banana divisions. I do not feel too hopeful/ Some of these bulletins contained a lot of information, brought together at considerable expense, but they all refer to the culture of Gros Michel under tropical conditions and therefore would not be altogether useful in Israel. I know they would be interesting to you, however. Right now the Company is devoting a tremendous lot of attention to diseame and pest control; they have seven PhD's in the laboratory at La Lima, Honduras.

I shall probably be going to Venezuela in two or three weeks, - I was going today but had to postpone the trip - and from there to Costa Rica to attend the annual meetings of the tropical group of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

Helen joins me in warmest regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popence

#### STATE OF ISRAEL

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

Rebovot, ISRAEL

All communications to be addressed to:
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION



מדינת ישראל

משרד החקלאות תחנה לחקר החקלאות רחובות

25, May 1959 322/1527

Mr.W.Pepence Calle de la Noblezza 2 Antigua Guatemala.

Dear Mr. Popence,

Thank you for your letter of May 8 and the manuscript of your article for the Avocado Yearbook. It is probably a little too long and I wonder whether they will be able to publish it in full.

I have found some of your remarks on additional avocado trees in Spain very interesting-especially on the Fuerte near Barcelona.

We had a three day refresher course for growers of subtropical fruits last week and thus I have been able to show to the people what you wrote about them and they all send their best wishes to you. In my concluding address I read some of your remarks to the young people in the audiance to show them the internationality of the family of subtropical fruit enthusiasts.

Our work is progressing satisfactorily and despite the cold winter we are going to have a very good mango harvest. Sometimes it looks as if a cold winter - by killing part of the growing points and bringing about axillary flowering -may even bring about a better harvest

than more "suitable" winter conditions.

I have six articles in print, but things are very slow. As soon as at least three or four are available I shall send you the reprints.

My endeavours to get a journey to Latin America for 1961 have so far been without success; some weeks ago I got a negative answer from the Rockfeller people. Iff you could find somebody willing to help me - there is still two years time for preparation-it would be fine to see you again and learn something new about "our" fruits.

With the kindest regards from my wife and me to your wife and to you,

Chanan Oppenheimer

I remain, yours very sincerely

#### Rehovot June lo 1960

Dear Mrs. Popence,

as the (more or less unpaid) secretary of the family it falls to me to answer your friendly letter of May 27. It is not clear whether this letter will still find you at Antigua-but if not I hope it will be sent to you wheteever you are.

We have been at home since we met in Spain but we inten -Maya and I together- to go to Europe in 1962 for a round trip including the Horticultural Congress in Brussel. I have been fairly busy in the meanwhile trying to do my own homework together with working for the development of the Institute of Horticulture. I am sending a few reprints by surface mail to Antigua.

FAO seems to plan a banana research conference for October 1960 to be held at Abidjan, Ivory Coast- and it is not altogether impossible that I may go there.
Our congratulation to the 9th grandcild -we still have

only two and are expecting a third.

My idea of visiting Latin America-and you at Antiguaseems very distant- some kind people tried to help me but none had anough cash(or cash-bearing friends).

I had a slightoperation on my knee four months ago and

am notyet absolutely as before-but things are improving.

We hope that you both are in good health as you must surely be to carry out so much travelling.

With the hope somehow, somewhere to meet you again

Yours dordially

Maya and Chanan Oppenheimer

Bash regards luaga



### Antigua Guatemala, 24 June 1960

Dr. Chanan Oppenheimer, 24 Rppinstreet, Rehovot, Israel.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

Helen and I were greatly pleased to have the letter from Maya and yourself dated 10 June. I shall be glad to have the reprints which you are sending. I'm sure they will be useful to me in connection with the Manual of tropical fruit culture on which I'm working and which is to be published in Spanish as you know.

Our tropical section of the American Society for Horticultural Science held its annual meeting in Puerto Rico last month. At that time it was voted to hold the next meeting in the general region of Miami, Florida. This will be in April. I greatly wish that you could find some way to come to this meeting, after which you could fly back here with us and spend a week or so in Guatemala, then return to Europe on KLM via Costa Rica (Turrialba) and Curazao. Let's see if we cannot find some way to work this out.

I have just sent to the California Avocado Society a translation of Luis Sarasola's excellent paper on Cherimoya culture in Spain, which I believe they will include in the Yearbook which will appear in August or September.

Here I'm still kept busy with all sorts of odd jobs. Two weeks ago I came back from Nicaragua where I was called by the government to help plan a program of commercial fruit culture. There is a growing interest right now in two subjects, one, the cultivation of temperate zone fruits in the tropical highlands, and the other commercial production of pilli nuts in Central America. We have a fine experimental planting of pili nut treessin Honduras. The job now is to select the best individual seedlings and propagate them by grafting, just as they have done and are doing with macadamias in Hawaii. We have the feeling that we can do more with Pilis than with macadamias. Greater production and a not fine quality.

I have just finished the chapter on avocados for my manual in Spanish. I hope you will like it. I have made particular mention of the attention being devoted to the cultivation of this fruit tree in Israel.

Helen joins me in affectionate regards to Maya and yourself. We often speak of our happy stay with you at Rehovot.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popence

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Popence,

It has taken me a long time to answer your letter of June 24-and I do not know mehmer where you are now

but trust that this letter will reach you.

The reason for the long delay was a plan to go to Western Africa which has been under discussion for such a long time and has only now been finally decided. FAO is arranging a meeting of banana production problems in at Abidjan(Ivory Coast) between the in 12th and 19th of October and I am leaving here soon so as to visit Guinea and Ghana in addition to the meeting. It would be a very fine surprise to meet you there-is there any chance of you coming, or any one of your friends?— RITTER a letter could reach me c/o Chambre deagriculture, Abidjan.

Your idea about my participation at the Miami meeting is naturally extremely tempting. But there is no possible doubt that on Qur(or my) side there will no no money available, especially as I must go in August 1962 to the Hort. Congress in Belgium. Even if you could secure for me an invitation (by whom?) it would not be certain as it is not easy to see how I could leave my work so soon

after getting back from Africa. Inxadditionxtoxivorxxcoast

I hope that you have received my publications. Recently I have sent a paper on avocado nutrition to the Yearbook, anxiother on the relation between tree size and yield in mango and avocado to Horticultural Advance and a third on self-incompatibility of the loquat to the Indian J. of Horticulture. After my return I shall prepare a paper on the rooting of Macadamia cuttings for the Mac. Yearbook and probably one on zinc deficiency in mango-may be also for Hort. Advance. The work of my younger men on flowering of mango varieties and on alkaline tolerance in avocado are either complete or nearing completion. Our most important project seems to me now the study of frost tolerance in bananas and other species with a view to try to find a way to make plant less sensitive-but this will naturally take many years.

We have here the first two fruits of the Jete Cherimoya-they are by far smaller than those I have seen in Almunecar, but this may be due to the smallness of the tree. What you say about Pili-nuts is very interesting, I suppose the species is strictly tropical? We are having unnecessary trouble with avocados; some people high up in the Ministry, who do know nothing whatsoever of the real situation, have convinced themselves that there is no commercial future in the avocado industry and are doing us a lot of harm. There is even a danger that avocado research will remain with-

out budgets -and I am really worried.

Are you in Spain now; it is just two years sonce we met there and I am still very grateful for the fine trip I had with you.

hanange

Horping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Yours sincerely/



Antigua, Guatemala, 20 October 1960

Dear Doctor Oppenheimer:

Your letter of 25 September came a week or two ago and at about the same time the very interesting set of publications you were good enough to send me. What a lot of work you are turning out! And much of it in vew new fields; for example, why havent they done more with avocado rootstocks in California and with mango rootstocks in Florida? I do wish we could get you over to Florida for that meeting next April. I think the only hope would be to present to the Rockefeller Foundation the desirability of having you give a rather complete account of avocados and mangos in Israel.

We have not been back to Spain since we left at the end of 1958. Last year I did a job in Venezuela. This year I have done one in Nicaragua, and condinued my study of temperate zone fruits in the tropical highlands - here in Guatemala. We have organised projects to experiment with apples, pears, plums and peaches, as well as loquats and kakis and a few other fruits, in several countries, mainly Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Salvador.

I hear from Luis Sarasola frequently. At Rancho California they are still having trouble with chlorosis in the nursery, but not in the orchards. Mr Magdahl, owner of the Rancho, Is trying to arrange for a more extensive planting on the property of a friend near Malaga - perhaps you went there with us. It is called San Javier and there are two old aguacate trees there - both from Cuba, they say. Luis has asked me what varieties I would recommend for planting there and I have told him as follows: Fuerte, Hass and Nabal, and also that tree at Motril which I believe to be Mayapan. Then from Florida, Lula, Booth 8, and Choquette. And then put in a few of Gottfried and Duke because they would extend the season for local use at least. Luis is not satisfied with the way Fuerte is behaving at Rancho California.

I am not surprised that you have not found Jete cherimoya very promising. I did not think much of it in Almunecar. As for Pili nuts, we have grown them at the Escuela Agricola Panameficana for more than 15 years. The altitude is 2500 feet. I rather doubt that they will stand up to y ur climate but I would try them anywhere the mango can be grown successfully. I believe they are more promising than Macadamias. I believe it was just a matter of chance that Hawaii got the latter and did not get the Pili. We have trees in Honduras which are very productive and the nuts are of fine quality.

We expect to stay here in Guatemala, now, until we go up to Florida in April to attend the hortimitural meeting, but you never can tell! We think and talk frequently of those interesting days in Israel, and the Mospitality of doma Maya and yourself. Helen joins in Vest regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Popence Antigua February 18th 1961

Dear friends,

thank you very much for your kind greetings of the beginning of december which we have received only a few days ago. As you know I would very much like to visit you and Latinamicabut it does not seem to be feasible, while some other trips are. I have been in October for 3 weeks to Ivory Coast and Guinea and have seen much of interest. Our work goes on quite successfully—we are beginning to understand something about avocado nutrition and radioactive substances help us to see why sodium does so much more—and so different—damage than chlorine. We have started to work on the non-moftening of Fuerte avocado fruits—but it will probably take a few years till we understand the position.

In 1962 I intend to go the Bruxelles for the Hort. Congress. Do you intend to be there? It is possible that I shall come with wife (and car) but not sure—as Maya has been more or less invited to go with some friends to Japan, and she cannot get both trips in one year.

All of us- including two daughters and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  grandchildrenare well.

Hoping to hear from you now and again and hoping to meet
you again at some not too distant date,

Dr. Chanan Oppenheimer

Yours sincerely



March 23rd 1963

Mr. W. Popence 1722 N W 2nd Ave Gainesville, Fla, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Popence,

My wife and I have been very glad to receive your letter of March 13.I had not heard about your accident and am very sorry about it- and hope that you will now be well again. As I am not sure where you are going to be in Guatemala ,I am sending this letter to Gainesville with the hope that it will be redirected to reach you. I have been in contact with Sarasola but

have not seen him since 1958.

we are making fairly good progress with our avocado work and exports have been growing from year to year. But, as you well know, the variety situation is far from satisfactory. None of the newer varieties from California has done really well here, our own Ettinger is not a very good shipper and has been planted to a much tochigh percentage already, Fuerte has done rather well during the last three seasons, but as you know so well, it is not a very reliable producer and may disappoint us again, Anaheim and Benik are not at all suitable for export and now we have also some trouble with Nabal- in some cases less than 25% of the (very high) yield has been fit for export-mainly due to too big fruit and many minor blemishes. Haass is being planted more and more and is a very good producer of fruit with high eating quality, but it is rather small here, alternating and with much sunburn in the on-year, and we cannot yet be sure that the market will become used to its color. I have had some fruit from the budwood we took at Motril-but this type does not look very promising here. Our main work is now on salt tolerance, which will become a mayor problem within two years with the high-alkaline water we are going to get from the Sea of Gallilee. It is possible that some more mangos will be planted 500n.

Personally we have been well, Maya has had a wonderful trip to Japan in 1961, and I have been two months to Europe (Congress at Brussels and afterwards some visits to breeding institxutes) in 1962. Dr Kadman of my department has been for six months to California with a visit to Florida where he has met your nephew, and has returned via Hawai, Japan, Formosa, Philippines and India. To my very great regret the Government of India has seen fit to "promote" their best research man, Dr. L.B. Singh, to an administrative post and I fear very much that this will mean the end of

the fine research work at Saharanpur.

It seems that C.A. Schroeder is going to visit us in 1964 and we hope some time to see R. Magdahl here. I am dreaming

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation / 66 and would like to go to central-Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

and South America-but do notyet see how it can be done. I should like to spend about eight months working and studying-and than go north in August 1966 for the Hort. Congress in U.S.A.

With the best wishes from my wife

Prof. Chanan uppenheimer 24 Ruppin Street Rehovot Israel



## המכון הלאומי והאוניברסיטאי לחקלאות THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE מכון וולקני לחקר החקלאות THE VOLCANI INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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November 25, 1966

Mr. Wilson Popenoe Escuela Agricola Panamericana Tegucigalpa Honduras.

Dear Mr. Popence,

It was a very great pleasure for me to meet you at Gainesville and to discuss the many ideas we have in common. Afterwards I heard from Schroeder in LA about the event which is going to take place in Tegucigalpa and I would have very much liked to be with you at that day - but it has not been possible.

Thus I am sending you this letter and I hope that it will reach you in time. I want to congratulate you on my behalf and that of all members of my division on your birthday and I want to share the expression of gratitude for the many achievements of your lifework.

We all want to tell you how grateful we are and how much we hope that you will still have a long period of further work before you.

Perhaps it will be my good fortune to meet you again.

Yours very sincerely

Head, Division of Subtrapical Horticulture