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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.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURE

J. G. HARRAR,
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N.Y.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL STUDIES

S. A. G.
E. J. WELLSHAUSEN, Director
Calle Landres 40
México 6, D. F., México

Dr P

June 6, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Wilson:

In line with your letter of June 3, I will forward membership applications for Frank Venning and Filiberto Lazo to Dr. Howlett as active members in the Society.

I have taken note of your change of address as of this week and certainly envy you living in Antigua.

I received a letter this morning from Ernie Casseres regarding funds for operation of Secretary of Caribbean Section and I am bringing this up with the Foundation at this time and try to obtain the funds that we need, at least for this coming year. I will keep you informed as to progress made in this regard.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Popenoe.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph

R. W. Richardson, Jr.
Assistant Director

Avenida Roosevelt num 21
San Salvador, El Salvador
5 July 1957

Dr Ralph W Richardson
Fundacion Rockefeller, Londres 40
Mexico D E

Dear Ralph:

Is it too late to obtain five thousand seeds of the Manila mango?

I am over here on a project of fruit improvement, fathered by Chico de Sala as you can well imagine, and one of the first things we would like to do is to introduce the Manila mango in this country on a reasonably large scale. If not too late, do you know someone down in the Cordoba region who could bring together five thousand seeds for us and ship them to San Salvador by air express? And what would the cost be?

I am afraid it is too late for this year, but perhaps not.

Best regards always.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

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S. A. G.
E. J. WALLINGRUSEN, *Director*
Calle Londres 40
México 6, D. F., México

July 17, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Avenida Roosevelt Num. 21
San Salvador, El Salvador

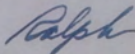
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

With regard to your letter of July 5th, we have contacted all local seedsmen and canning factories and have been unable to obtain seeds of Manila mango. It appears that we are about one month late or at least six weeks.

I suggest that next year we contact one of the canning factories to obtain these seeds at the best possible price and in the quantity which you request. If you wish, I can still obtain an estimate of prices on these seeds for future information. Sorry not to be able to help you with this matter.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



R. W. Richardson, Jr.

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL STUDIES

S. A. G.
E. J. WELLSHAUSEN, Director
Calle Londres 40
México 6, D. F., México

August 1, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popence
21 Avenida Roosevelt
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dear Wilson:

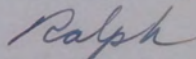
After receiving your recent letters of July 20 and 27, I have contacted Dr. W. E. Stone of the U.S.D.A. Entomological Laboratory here in Mexico City. He tells me that in their experience the *Anastrephas* do not attack the Manila mangos in the coastal areas to any extent. However, at higher elevations between 3,000 and 5,000 ft., these insects are a tremendous problem.

Dr. Stone says they have considerable information regarding life history and control of these insects and will be glad to furnish it to you if you will write him directly. I do not believe that any of it has been published as yet but I know you can count on their cooperation in this matter. If you would rather that I obtain the data for you that can be done also. However, Dr. Stone, I believe, would like to deal directly with you and learn more about the problem. His address is: Apartado Postal 28971, Mexico 17, D. F.

I don't know why there should be any difference in the ripening of mangos in El Salvador and in Mexico. However, this is not a factor of major importance although it may have something to do with the infestation of insects.

Hoping that Dr. Stone can assist you some in the problem and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



R. W. Richardson, Jr.

San Salvador, 26 August 1957

Dr W E Stone
Apartado 28971, Mexico 17, DF
MEXICO

Dear Dr Stone:

Our mutual friend Ralph Richardson has suggested that I get in touch with you about the *Anastrepha* problem in connection with mangos. I will give you a little background from our angle.

Over at Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Honduras, 25 miles from Tegucigalpa, elevation 2800 feet, we have been growing mangos - that is to say, we have fruited grafted varieties - for ten years. Annually the Badens develop fruit fly larvae, though mainly late in the season. The Philippine race of mangos (and I include in this race the Manila of Mexico, the Carabao which we got from Manila, and some of the kinds from farther south, mainly the Cambodiana) are the most subject to infestation; they are rarely harvested in condition for eating. The Julie mango is almost immune - at worst, highly resistant.

On coming here to Salvador to do a little job for the government, and looking around for good mangos, my first idea was to see if the Manila mango is here. It is, but so scarce that its presence is known to only a few people. Many salvadoreños use the name Manila for a mango which is not even of the Philippine race. Down near La Union, at the Finca El Faro on the slopes of Conchagua, elevation about 1500 feet, there is the largest collection of grafted mangos I have seen here; quite a few East Indian varieties which probably came from Summit in Panama. There are also about 15 fine large Manila trees, some with lots of fruit when we were there a few weeks ago, others with none or little, as is customary with this race. The fruits which were on the ground were riddled with larvae, and a lot which we picked and brought home were later, when they had ripened, found to have at least a few larvae. The East Indian mangos were also infested; in fact that particular region is lousy with *Anastrepha*. They say it infests oranges, which I have not often seen here.

Now, I have eaten lots of Manila mangos purchased in Mexico City and Orizaba and I don't remember having run into many larvae. So I asked Ralph to inquire if the growers around Cordoba get away from trouble by picking the mangos rather green; or whether there just aren't many fruit flies in the mango-growing region of Veracruz, or what? He came back with the information that you said there were not Manila mangos attacked by fruit flies in the coastal region, but that the flies are bad higher up. Our mango regions here in Salvador lie mainly from sea level up to 2500 feet. There seem to be so-called "native" races of mango which are highly resistant to the attacks of *Anastrepha*. We have wondered if it is a matter of skin thickness. Julie has a thick skin; Carabao and Manila do not.

We will greatly appreciate all the information you can give us, and had best address me at Antigua, Guatemala, as I am returning home next week. I will pass along the information to a few people who are sufficiently interested to use it.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr Ralph W Richardson

Antigua, Guatemala, 16 Dec 1957

Dr Ralph W Richardson,
Fundación Rockefeller,
Londres 40, México DF.

Dear Ralph:

When Bob Armour returned to Salvador after his honeymoon in Mexico he told me that you are starting a fruit program. Fine business! It has occurred to me that you might be interested in reading the report I made regarding the work we have done in Salvador along this same line. A copy is therefore enclosed herewith - and if Ernest Casseres is with you (as I believe, from a recent letter of his, is the case) I will appreciate it if you will show it to him.

We spent two months looking over the material presently available in Salvador, to see just where we could get propagating material of what. After lining things up, we started to work on nurseries, and on the introduction of material not available in the country which on the basis of experience elsewhere we thought promising.

Three nurseries have been established, one at the experiment station near Izalco; another at the experiment station in San Andrés, right across the road from the new agricultural school; and another at the experiment station of Santa Cruz Porrillo - the idea being to have material conveniently available for all parts of the Republic. Ernest Mortensen, whom you may know (though I doubt it) has been placed in general charge of the work; he is the Point Four horticulturist who has taken the place of Dick Hamilton, and he not only comes from southern Texas but he has had five years experience in Jordan. He knows his horticulture, but his problem is to find men who know how to handle nursery work. We have canvassed the field pretty thoroughly in El Salvador, and in my opinion the only good nurseryman there is Bob Armour and of course he is not available. I have urged that they send one or two of the most likely local candidates over to Zamorano for training with Mario Jalil. We will not get to first base is we do not have good men in charge of the nurseries. Fortunately, the rest is easy; and both the Minister of Agriculture and the Subsecretary are enthusiastic about the program, which means that we can have the necessary financial support.

Having completed the work I undertook to do in Salvador, I am getting ready to return to Spain, where I have a friend with excellent land and quite a bit of money, in what I consider the most favorable location on the Mediterranean coast for subtropicals - the valley of Almuñecar, 15 kms west of Motril, toward Malaga. I am planning to spend several months there, helping to form a good nursery and introduce good avocados, perhaps a few of the best p aches and plums with low chilling requirements, perhaps a few interesting and little-known Citrus fruits, and so on. It will probably be Custer's last fight.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

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S. A. G.

R. W. RICHARDSON JR., *Director*
D. BARNES, *Assistant Director*
Calle Londres 40
Mexico 6, D. F., Mexico

September 15, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Wilson:

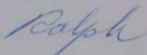
Unfortunately I was out of town when Jackson K. Dering III stopped in at the office to visit with me. I received your letter of introduction, however; also a letter which Mr. Dering left with me. I will be in touch with him by correspondence and will see what can be worked out in the future.

As you know, we have no positions presently open in the field of horticulture until we begin work with fruits which at the present time is dependent largely upon the Minister of Agriculture's wishes and financial support.

I attended the meetings of the A.I.B.S. at Pennsylvania State College and wish to inform you that they were some of the finest that I have ever had the pleasure of attending in my life, extremely well organized and included some excellent research papers this year. Many old friends send their kindest personal regards to you.

With kindest wishes to Mrs. Popenoe and yourself.

Sincerely yours,



R. W. Richardson, Jr.