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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.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS:
Sub-Tropical Experiment Station
Route 1, Box 560
Homestead, Florida

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

SUB-TROPICAL EXPERIMENT STATION

ROUTE 2, BOX 508
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

January 29, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
c/o American Embassy
Madrid, Spain.

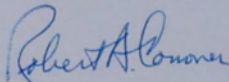
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Last November I wrote that we would send you two copies of Doctor Ruehle's avocado bulletin. These are enclosed. We are also sending two copies of the bulletin to Ing. don Francisco Rueda F.

Doctor Ruehle is still under the weather. He has cataracts and due to a combination of circumstances has been unable to have them removed. We are hopeful that this can be done in the near future.

If we can be of further service to you, please advise us.

Sincerely yours,



ROBERT A. CONOVER,
Plant Pathologist
In Charge.

RAC/eh

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

Sub-Tropical Experiment Station
Route 1, Box 560
Homestead, Florida

January 29, 1959

C
Ing. don Francisco Rueda F.
Bidasoa 9
Madrid, Spain.

Dear Sr. Rueda:

O
Last November Dr. Wilson Popenoe asked Dr. George Ruehle to send you certain information about the avocado. Due to illness, Dr. Ruehle has been unable to do this. However, his avocado bulletin has just been printed and I am sending you two copies. I hope this bulletin provides the information you seek.

Sincerely yours,

P
ROBERT A. CONOVER
Plant Pathologist
In Charge

Y
RAC/eh

Antigua, Guatemala, 19 March 1959

Dr George D Ruehle, In Charge,
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Doctor Ruehle:

As you know, I spent all of last year working on tropical fruits in Spain, Israel and the Canary Islands - mostly Spain. I think we made some progress, especially in Spain. Those lads in Israel dont need much help; Doctor Oppenheimer has been on the job 25 years and has all the material assembled. I think I was able to help them a bit with their bananas - they have more than 4500 acres of Cavendish. The Canary Islands were interesting. They need no help on bananas, they run rings around us, but they can do more with avocados and mangos. Which brings me to the point:

I have just received a letter from Antonio Fernandez Cuevas, of the Servicio de Extension Agricola, at Gúimar, Tenerife, Islas Canarias, ESPAÑA (though those boys dont like to be called Spaniards much better than Florida crackers like to be called yankees); they are asking for information, and I wonder if you would be good enough to send to Antonio Fernandez Cuevas a copy of that recent bulletin 602 of yours on avocados, and a copy of the one you got out a year or two ago on mangos. These publications would be very useful over there. Shortly after I left the Canaries I got some Haden budwood sent over from Honduras and they now have six trees established. They can grow mangos and avocados like nobody's business but they have been slow on the uptake. Only about 2000 to 3000 avocado trees on Tenerife, practically all Cuban seedlings; a few young plantings of Fuerte and one or two others. The job is to make Spaniards eat avocados; they could have 10,000 acres on the south coast of Spain if somebody would buy the product. W at few they have they sell to Latin American diplomats in Madrid at about 70 cents U.S. a kilo; the grower gets 40 cents on the tree, - sorry, I dont mean per kilo, I mean per pound.

I wrote you some months ago, asking if you could send some illustrations of avocado varieties to Ing. José Maria Rueda, Bidasoa 6, Madrid, Spain. This lad is one of the few avocado enthusiasts in that part of the world. If you have not been able to send him any, can you send the new bulletin? This will answer his needs very adequately. He has a place at Almeria where they can grow everything from Pollock to Mexicola. Wonderful climate, that of the Mediterranean coast of Spain.

I hope you are coming to the meeting of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, at San José de Costa Rica in June. I was in Mexico City and talked with Ernest Casseres a month ago; looks like we are going to have a fine meeting. Best regards to all of you,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

SUB-TROPICAL EXPERIMENT STATION

ROUTE 2, BOX 508
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

April 2, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

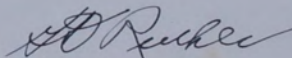
I enjoyed reading your interesting letter of March 19. It was among the first that I was able to read, all by myself, after a double cataract operation. My left eye was operated on February 25 and the right one eight days later. After being practically blind for several months, it was quite a thrill to be able to see again.

While I was in the hospital, Doctor Conover sent a copy of the avocado bulletin to Sr. Rueda. We are sending copies of the avocado and mango bulletin to Sr. Cuevas, in the Canary Islands. I hope they find them useful. I sometimes feel that most of the local growers don't even bother to open their copies, much less read them.

I would like to attend the meeting at San Jose in June but it seems doubtful now that I will make it. My daughter will graduate at Gainesville in June and attendance at that event is a must. Doctor Ledin also will miss the meeting this year. June is not a good month for me to be away, because it is the last month of our fiscal biennium and is the time for annual reports. Gainesville is as far away from home as I will accomplish this June.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



G. D. RUEHLE
Vice-Director in Charge

GDR:AM

air mail

Antigua, Guatemala, 12 April 1959

Dr George D Ruehle, In Charge,
Subtropical Experiment Station,
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Doctor Ruehle:

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd instant. What a tough time you had with those eyes! I was awfully sorry to learn of it, but am relieved to know that you are again able to see. I hope you will have no more trouble.

I appreciate your sending the avocado bulletin to Sr Rueda in Madrid, as mentioned in Dr Conover's letter to me of 29 January; and both the mango and avocado bulletins to Sr Cuevas in the Canary Islands. I have today written Dr Chanan Oppenheimer at 24 Ruppinstreet, Rehovot, Israel, with whom we stayed several days last summer. I am sure you have been in touch with him - for some 25 years he has been the leader in the introduction and testing of subtropicals in Israel. I told him if he had not yet received a copy of your new avocado bulletin, by all means write for one. Rather strangely, they have been slow in trying Florida avocados in Israel - perhaps because of their closer contact with California (because of their numerous students who have gone to Davis and UCLA). As you know, they grow Cavendish bananas on a commercial scale (4500 acres at present) so I see no reason to assume that avocado varieties grown in Florida will not stand their cool weather.

Incidentally, I wish you would look up the 1921 Yearbook of the Calif Avocado Society and glance at the illustrations of avocados from the Chota Valley, Ecuador, of which I sent budwood to Washington. It seems to me I have recently seen mention of these, as being in the collection at Chapman Field. They have dropped out of sight almost everywhere - I wonder if you have any of them at Homestead. At the time I got them I described them as Mexicans, but now I am sure they are Mexican x West Indian hybrids. I began to think about this when the boys from the Rio Grande Valley went down into northern Mexico and found a lot of Mexican x West Indian hybrids. As you will see from my illustrations, those Chota fruits are fine looking things - good size, excellent proportion of flesh to seed, and the quality was good. They have the disadvantage, commercially, of thin skins, almost like Gottfried. I wonder if you have ever figured out whether or not Gottfried is pure Mex or a hybrid! I am inclined to think pure Mex.

By the way, if you can conveniently do so, it would be worth while to send a copy of the new avocado bulletin to Sr. Luis Sarasola, Rancho California, Almuñecar (Granada) Spain. He is the man with whom I worked over there, helping him introduce and establish about 24 avocado varieties from California, Florida and the Canary Islands. And another interesting man, the greatest enthusiast in Spain (and one of the very few) is Professor Ramon Sala Roqueta, Balaguer (Lerida) Spain. He would greatly appreciate a copy of the bulletin. He took me all around Cataluna and showed me a lot of trees including what I believe is the only bearing Fuerte in the country, a tree 37 years old, from Armstrong.

With cordial regards and all good wishes,
Sincerely,

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SUB-TROPICAL EXPERIMENT STATION

ROUTE 1, BOX 560
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

May 22, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

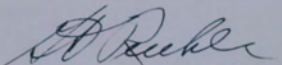
Dear Doctor Popenoe:

I finally am getting around to answering your letter of April 12. I have been busy trying to hire a suitable replacement for our Soils Chemist, who resigned in March to work for the ICA in El Salvador. Since the University of Florida insists that all staff candidates must be interviewed, it is now quite a chore to hire a new staff member. We finally located our man in Wisconsin.

I was unable to locate any of the Chota Valley avocados in Homestead. Dr. Murray Gaskins, the new man in charge of the USDA Plant Introduction Station, states that they have at least one each of Tamayo (S.P.I. 54270) and Egas (S.P.I. 54271). I intend to visit these trees when the normal June drop season is over. If they look favorable then I will get some scions and try to establish these varieties in our collection.

We have always considered the Gottfried as pure Mexican. It has always been one of the neglected varieties. The horticulturists in Florida have shown little interest in studying avocado varieties and the avocado industry here is way behind California in this respect.

Sincerely yours,



G. D. RUEHLE
Vice-Director in Charge

GDR:jfe

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 July 1959

Dr George D Ruehle,
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Doctor Ruehle:

Many thanks for your letter of 22 May which I found here when I returned from Mexico last week. I am glad you are going to keep an eye on those Chota Valley avocados from Ecuador, which might prove interesting in Florida. I am afraid they have been overlooked; though maybe not, because of their Mexican skins. And as for Gottfried I have never seen anything in it to suggest other than Mexican blood. I believe it may turn out to be one of the best Mexicans, in my part of the world (tropical America) but it will never get to first base in the United States. Which reminds me to day once more that George B. Cellon told me Lula (and he said, I named it for my wife, and she is Lula, not Lulu) is a Taft seedling, by an unknown pollen parent.

I am reading over the old books, with a view to working up my Manual of Tropical Fruit Culture in Spanish. Today the Proceedings of the American Pomological Society for 1917 - the last Proceedings I have, and pretty interesting. There is no excuse for my going further, in this letter, but I am going to do it, just for fun. The Code of Nomenclature seems to have been forgotten. It shouldn't be. Why should we talk about Booth 1, 7 and 8? Can't you get No 8, which they tell me is the best, established simply as "Booth"?

Running over the 1917 Proceedings I find a lot of things which take me back to "those dear dead days beyond recall". Parker Earle's obituary was published that year. You know what he did for strawberries. I knew him well in his last years at Pasadena - when

I was a kid and had just budded the first Fuerte avocados. The "Necrology says " His best effort and achievement was in the field of fruit marketing and transportation", And in that same issue of the Proceedings we have Nathan W. Blanchard who did so much for citrus culture in California, A. V. Steubenrach whom I knew well in my first years in Washington, and Byron D. Halstead, uncle of David Fairchild.

In this same issue of the Proceedings, I find I was Chairman of the Tropical Fruit Committee. George C. Roeding was Vice President for California; Charles Dearing for the District of Columbia; H.H.Hume for Florida; C.P.Close for Maryland; P.J.Wester for the Philippines; H.E. Hansen for South Dakota; and so on. J.E.Higgins of Hawaii had a paper on that issue of the Proceedings on the Litchi in Hawaii. That grand horticulturist U.P.Hedrick one on European Grapes in Eastern America; I had one on the Natural Groups of Mangos Cultivated in Florida (I dont like some of the modern classifications based on sizes; they do not mean much); and Wester had one on the Vegetative Propagation of Tropical Fruits. The more I think about it, the more I think we ought to put a monument to Wester in southern Florida. He and Ed Simmonds at Miami budded more species than we are budding today - isnt that right? And J.M.Patterson of Georgia says :I predict for the development of pecans a great future, for fundamental reasons. The first is that the Creator decreed that the fruit of the tree should be meat for man, and the second is that we are a nut-eating rather than a nut-producing country." Mighty interesting.

There is no reason why I should write you all these things, except that you are a horticulturist and therefore interested in the history and development of American horticulture. And maybe you have a copy of the 1917 Proceedings, which to me is a real classic.

When I attended the annual meeting of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort

Sci, in Costa Rica a few weeks ago, I realised and said that I have to take a back seat; I am still in the horse and buggy days of American horticulture and the back seat is my place!@

Dick ~~Edelman~~ has just written me that Bruce Ledin is dead. This is very sad news indeed. He was doing fine work in our field of tropical horticulture, and there are far too few men in this field. And every year it seems harder to attract newcomers.

Bob Allison tells me I simply must be in Gainesville about the end of November to attend the meeting of the Florida Crop and Soil Science Society. I pulled a fast one on Bob. When I was realized two years ago he said I had promised to remain a member of the Society until I was 90 years old, so I sent him a check for payment of my dues up to 1985. This got him down, especially because they have just raised the dues from \$1 to \$3 per annum and I got in at the old rate.

So maybe I shall see you in December. I hope so.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

blind copy to Dr H H Hume, just to remind you of some of your old friends. What grand horticulturists they were!@

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 August 1959

Dr George D Ruehle, In Charge
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Florida

Dear Doctor Ruehle:

I take pleasure in introducing my friend and colleague Sr José Miguel Calabria, chief of the department of agriculture of the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza in Venezuela. By invitation of the latter institution I went to Venezuela a few months ago, and on finishing my work there, I urged that Sr Calabria be sent to Florida to learn as much as he can, in a few days, regarding tropical fruit varieties and tropical fruit propagation.

I know your people will be glad to assist Sr Calabria in every way possible and I thank you in advance for any attention he may receive at your hands.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe