



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

המנדט

טב

Wilson Pepence

JUL 24 1957

Zwi Shachar
Kibutz Gaash
POB 2706,
Tel Aviv - Isra el.

15th July 1957.

Mr. Wilson Pepence,
Apartado 93,
Escuela Agricola Panamericana,
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras.

Dear Sir:

With great interest I have read your wonderful work on Tropical and Subtropical Fruits which for so many years has been a spring of knowledge to thousands of people.

I would like to explain that I am in charge of the Subtropical Fruit Growing branch of this communal settlement. Our orchards consist apart from Citrus fruits of Avocado and Mangos mainly, but we are planning to plant several other subtropical fruits.

I would therefore be greatly indebted to you and your school if you would find it possible to send us your Publication "Fruticultura Centroamericana" especially Vol. 3 No.4. Febrero 28, 1953.

If you could include us in our mailing list of this journal, so that we could receive it permanently we would thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I may point out that I myself have spent about 3 years in Mexico thus am able to speak and understand the Spanish Language.

Thanking you in anticipation

With great esteem

Yours faithfully

Zwi Shachar
Zwi Shachar

San Salvador, 30 July 1967

Mr Zvi Shachar
Kibutz Gaash
POB 2706
Tel Aviv, Israel

Dear Mr Shachar:

Replying to your letter of 15th July, which has been sent to me from Honduras, I am asking the new Director, Dr Wm C Paddock, to send you a copy of my "Central American Fruit Culture". I am told the Spanish edition is exhausted but they still have left a few copies of the English edition. I am also asking that you be sent a copy of a more recent issue of Ceiba which contains an excellent paper on vegetative propagation of tropical fruits.

I retired from the school and am now Director Emeritus, with headquarters at No 2, Calle de la Nobleza, Antigua, Guatemala, C.A. At the moment I am here in Salvador, doing a small job for the government of this country, but I return to Antigua the first of September, and shall be glad to help you in any way I can from that angle.

I am sorry to say that publication of the scientific journal "Ceiba" has been discontinued, at least for the time being. It will therefore be impossible to put you on the mailing list.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr Wm C Paddock

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 January 1959

Mr Zwi Schachar
Kibutz Gaash, P O Box 2706,
Tel Aviv, Israel.

My dear friend:

It was a great pleasure to receive a few days ago, your letter of 29 December last. I would like to keep in touch with several of you people in Israel who are interested in avocados and other subtropical fruits. You are doing such marvelous work that I am sure we can learn much from you - and if we can help you, once in a while, so much the better.

Based upon the extraordinary growth and fine appearance of your trees, I would be inclined to agree that you can well afford to plant increased acreage. I think the rootstock problem is really a problem but I do not think you can go far wrong. On the Mediterranean coast of Spain I became pretty well convinced that the West Indian is the best rootstock. As you know, this is practically the only rootstock used in Florida. On the other hand, the Mexican is practically the only root used in California. I would not dare say which race will prove best in Israel, but on the basis of our experience in this part of the world I would avocado rootstocks of pure Guatemalan blood - but if you use Nabal roots, how do you know that they are of pure Guatemalan, instead of hybrid blood? We used some seedlings in southern Spain which came from a grafted tree of the Guatemalan race, Mayapan, but we had no idea regarding the pollen parent. Dr Oppenheimer saw some of the young trees at Almuñecar which we thought to be of hybrid blood, and they were the best seedlings we had; but we could not be sure of their genetic constitution. They used to think, in California, that Fuerte seedlings would be fine rootstocks; but if I am correctly informed, they have come to feel that they can not depend on Fuerte seedlings; there is too much variation. So my advice to you would be (and I hate to give advice!) stick to Mexican rootstocks for the present (though I will bet that your Mexican rootstocks may show influence of pollination from others unless you take seeds from trees which are almost completely isolated.)

Now as to the new varieties you are going to plan on a small scale. This is a fine idea. You will lose money on some of the varieties but somebody has to do the experimenting, and if I were you, I would do as much of it as I felt I could economically afford to do. I am going to make a few comments on the varieties you mention. Bacon: By all means give this a good trial. Aztec: Go easy. This is one of my varieties, as you perhaps know. It is subject to anthracnose, and in California they think the quality is inferior. Give it a trial. You can never tell what will happen. They don't think much of my Itzamna in California, but it is showing up very well in Hawaii. Itzamna: As mentioned. I think it might be promising for your conditions. Bonita: I do not know this variety, personally. Rincon: By all means give it a chance. DeBard and Waisl Fuertes, I don't know anything about them. I have been a bit skeptical about Fuerte strains; I have suspected that in many instances it has been a matter of climatic conditions rather than strains. Hall is a Guatemalan x West Indian from Florida; I would certainly give it a chance, for if I must criticize at all, and really it is not criticism, I think you people in Israel have depended too much on California varieties. You ought to give the best commercial sorts from Florida more attention. Lula would be the first; then Hall and the Booth numbers (and Seat least) and a few others. I think

the Florida varieties will prove to be sufficiently frost-resistant for your needs, and may give you a wider range in ripening season than you are now getting. Dr Oppenheimer knows more about this than I do; ask him. Wurz: I do not know this variety.

Incidentally, I am going to California this week, to see what has happened up there since I last visited my Home State eight years ago. If I learn anything of interest I will be glad to pass it along to Dr Oppenheimer and yourself and my other good friends in Israel.

You ask about pollinators. Here you will not get much help from me, for in the first place I do not feel that the problem of pollination is of great importance, in connection with the present-day commercial avocados, and in the second place I do not have much first-hand experience with pollinators. Here in Central America we do not attach any importance to the pollination problem, and as far as I can learn, they are no longer doing it in California, or in Florida except perhaps in cases such as Collinson. When I come back from the States I may know more about this business, and if anyone convinces me that I am wrong, I will write you about it. I think the real problem is this: the Guatemalans are by nature alternate bearers. Nabal gives you a great big crop one year, and little fruit the next. As far as studies in California have shown, pollination is not the answer. They have not found the answer, so they are dropping Nabal (the finest of all Guatemalan avocados, and the parent tree grew a few hundred yards from where I write these lines) and going over to Hass because it does not show such a strong tendency to alternate bearing, nor does Anaheim or MacArthur. I don't like the quality of these two; I do like the quality of Hass, even though the fruit is small.

My friends in California have been growing avocados for 50 years. I budded the first Fuerte trees in November of 1911. We still are not satisfied with our varieties. We get together and condemn Fuerte; it does not bear big crops regularly. Then we go home and plant more Fuertes! Though I must admit that in the last few years many Fuertes have been top-worked to other varieties, mainly Hass I believe. It is going to take you a long time to determine just which are the best varieties for Israel - and they will vary from region to region. Just why I don't know, but it didn't take us long to settle down, in California to the Washington and Valencia oranges. I guess we were lucky, that's all. We are not so lucky in avocado growing.

I am preparing a report on my observations around the Mediterranean, which will probably be published in the next Yearbook of the California Avocado Society. I am taking it up to California with me this week, and if I can find somebody up there who will have it multigraphed I will send copies, in advance, to Dr Oppenheimer and yourself and a few others. But I don't think there will be much in it that I have not already told you in this letter. In any event, I will get some separates when the report appears in print, and send a number of them over to Israel. You fellows are doing such a fine job, at such great personal sacrifice, that I would like to help you if it is in my power to do so.

Sincerely,

Zwi Shachar
Kibutz Gaash
P.O. Box 2706
Tel Aviv, ISRAEL.

Gaash 1. March 1961.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I hope this letter will find you and Mrs. Popenoe in the best of health. Also I would like to send you both my best wishes for a happy New Year although somewhat belatedly.

I have read your remarks about our avocado orchard and myself in the 1960 Year Book and would like to thank you. I am quite proud of the fact of having had some lines written about our orchard in such an important publication and by yourself.

To day I am writing to you to ask you some favours and hope you may be able to help me in this.

In connection with my election to the Subtropical Fruits Committee of the Israel Fruit Growers Organisation and my continued work in our orchard which as you know is one of the biggest in Israel I shall be effecting a study tour of approximately 5 months during the autumn and winter of 1961. Most of the time at my disposal I will spend in California and Florida on one side and Mexico on the other, but I have the opportunity, my fare being paid by a friend, to spend several days in Guatemala and Honduras and it is mainly in this connection that I am writing you.

As far as Guatemala is concerned I have received, through the kind intervention of Señor Leopoldo R. Sandoval, Director de la S.F.D.I. of Guatemala City, who spent some time in Israel and in Gaash, an invitation through the

Instituto Agropecuario Nacional
of Guatemala

in which apart from promising to take care of me in Guatemala during my visit (I am intending to stay 5 days) they will assign me a technician who specializes in fruit culture to show me the things of interest to me. Apart from that Señor Sandoval writes "El Dr. Popenoe está viviendo permanentemente en Guatemala,, de manera que procuraré que en su programa se incluya una entrevista con él y una visita a la región frutícola en que él habita."

In this connection I would like to ask you personally to agree to such a meeting which would be ~~invaluable~~ of great value to me taking into account the tremendous experience you have in this field and the intricate knowledge about Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. As I know you travel quite a bit I would like to ask first of all whether you will be in Guatemala during the time of my visit. I have the possibility to come to Guatemala and Honduras during the time from October 15, 1961 to November 31st, although personally I would prefer to be in Guatemala from the 1st of November to the 5th and in Honduras 4 or 5 days after that. These dates are of course approximate and there may be some small alterations. But if you will be in Guatemala during this time I would be much obliged to you if you will agree to receive me. In this connection I would be grateful also if you could suggest to me some points of interest which I should ask the IAN to include in my itinerary.

As far as Honduras is concerned I have absolutely no connection and do not know to whom to write, but remembering that you were the founder and director of many years of the Escuela Panameri-

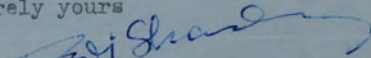
cana in Tegucigalpa I thought that may be you could arrange with somebody there to receive me and put me up for 4 - 5 days show me around the fruit growing in the vicinity and show me the work being done in the School itself, this would help me greatly. By the way I am just reading a very interesting book about exactly this school and Honduras High Jungles and Low by Archie Carr very interesting indeed. Please let me know Dr. Popenoe if there is such a possibility of your arranging this for me.

I haven't finished asking favours yet. Dr. Chana n Openheimer who has been giving me some very valuable advise and suggestions about this trip has suggested to ask you to say a good word or two on my behalf to the people concerned with Avocado and other sub-tropical fruit work in Florida (Miami and Homestead) which I will be visiting too. I heard from Dr. Oppenheimer, by the way he sends his best regards to you and Mrs. Popenoe, that you will be in Florida in April and if you could tell some of the people about me this may help me very much on my visit there.

I think this is all for to day I think it is even too much to ask, but anything you may be able to do for me in this connection I will appreciate ~~terribly~~ very much indeed. I am not asking you about California because of the simple reason that I will go there after seeing you and you could probably make your suggestions about what to see then.

Thanking you very much for anything you may be able to help me, and hoping again, that this letter finds both you and Mrs. Popenoe in the best of Health

I remain,
Very sincerely yours


Zwi Shachar

P.S. Please write to me and ask the people you contact on my behalf to let me know their suggestions too. Thank you

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

Antigua, Guatemala, 8 March 1961

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Mr Zwi Schachar
Box 2706, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Dear Mr Schachar:

Your letter of March has just come, and I am happy to see that you are planning to visit this part of the world toward the end of 1961. I expect to be here at that time and shall do all I can to assist you.

It seems to me you might do well to come via the southern route, visiting Honduras and Guatemala and Mexico before going on to Honduras and California. But this program may not be convenient for you. I am going to Florida next week and will speak with several friends you will want to see there, and later give you letters of introduction to them.

In Honduras the main objective is the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, close to Tegucigalpa. Here you will find quite a collection of tropical and subtropical fruits which I left there. If you want to see the more purely tropical things, then you must go down to the coast at Tela and visit Lancetilla Experiment Station, where I believe we have the best collection of economic plants in tropical America.

Here in Guatemala I shall probably be able to show you some avocados - though no orchards of considerable size - and number of other interesting things, mostly around houses and in gardens, for there is not much commercial fruit culture in orchard form, except for a few citrus groves and apples and plums in the highlands.

In Florida there is much to see. My nephew John Popenoe is horticulturist at the Subtropical Experiment Station near Homestead, not far from Miami. You will also want to visit William Krome, one of the best avocado men in that region; and others to whom I shall take pleasure in giving you letters.

As you say, we can plan your visit to California when you reach Guatemala. You will want to visit Dr C A Schroeder and several other fruit men in that State.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

THE ISRAEL FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION
SECTION FOR ~~EXOTIC~~ ORCHARDS
Subtropical

TEL-AVIV, 4, YEHUDA HALEVY ST.
TEL. 62699

TEL-AVIV 20th June 1961.
Zwi Shachar
Caash - Postbag
Tel Aviv, Israel.

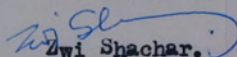
Dr. Wilson Pepensee,
Antigua,
Guatemala.

Dear Dr. Pepensee:

Only now have we heard with deep grieve of the passing away of Mrs. Pepensee, last March. I would like, through this letter, to express my deepfelt sympathy and condolences.

Unfortunately I have not been able to make arrangements to come to Guatemala by way of the southern route as you suggested and will therefore come after visiting Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Mexico but before going to California and Florida. This will postpone my visit slightly and I shall probably arrive during the second half of November. I hope you will be in Antigua then and I am looking forward to seeing you.

Very sincerely yours


Zwi Shachar.

THE ISRAEL FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

SECTION FOR SUBTROPICAL ORCHARDS

TEL-AVIV, 4, YEHUDA HALEVY ST.

TEL. 58595

TEL-AVIV, 2nd of June 1962.

Zvi Shachar
Gaash
Postbag Tel Aviv
Israel.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I returned to Israel about 2 months ago and simply couldn't find a spare minute to write to all the dear friends I met during my trip. I came back right in the planting season and as we decided to plant another 9 acres of Bananas and 8 acres of Avocados I hardly took a couple of days to rest before starting work. Since then between one thing and another, like lecturing on what I saw and learned on my trip, and actual work in the orchards as well as some fieldwork in Avocado Orchards in Israel I have been as busy as ever.

How are you Dr. Popenoe? I hope you are feeling well. I do not remember the exact date you were going to Guatemala, so I am sending a copy each of this letter to Gainesville and Antigua.

The main purpose of this letter is to thank you for all you did for me while I visited with you. It is very difficult for me to express in words my gratitude for all the time you gave me first in Gainesville and later in Homestead and Miami- and the wealth of information, advice and help which I received from you during my trip. Please give my regards to Jorge Benitez when you see him. I shall be writing to him next week. I am taking a short vacation and hope to be able to use part of it for getting my backlog of correspondence up to date.

As far as Avocados go there isn't really much news except maybe the very big crop we had this year. If you remember the orchard you saw in Gaash, it was then 15 months old, now 5 years (planted in April 1957), this year we had an extremely heavy crop and it may surprise you to hear that the Mabal trees yielded more than 8 tons of fruit per acre (even though only 2/3 of the trees were in their ON/year), and that at the age of 5 is extraordinary. By the way in our orchard this was the highest yielder this year. ./.

Dr. Oppenheimer has asked me to send you his best regards.

I will write to you again a little longer letter and more detailed only I don't want to hold this one any longer.

Again many thanks, and best regards,

Yours very sincerely

W. Shachar
W. Shachar

Dr. Wilson Eopence
Guatemala
Florida

.8

THE ISRAEL FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION
SECTION FOR SUBTROPICAL ORCHARDS

TEL-AVIV, 4, YEHUDA HALEVY ST.
TEL. 58595

TEL-AVIV, 2nd of June 1962.

Zvi Shachar
Gaash
Postbag Tel Aviv
Israel.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

I returned to Israel about 2 months ago and simply couldn't find a spare minute to write to all the dear friends I met during my trip. I came back right in the planting season and as we decided to plant another 9 acres of Bananas and 8 acres of Avocados I hardly took a couple of days to rest before starting work. Since then between one thing and another, like lecturing on what I saw and learned on my trip, and actual work in the orchards as well as some fieldwork in Avocado Orchards in Israel I have been as busy as ever.

How are you Dr. Popenoe? I hope you are feeling well. I do not remember the exact date you were going to Guatemala, so I am sending a copy each of this letter to Gainesville and Antigua.

The main purpose of this letter is to thank you for all you did for me while I visited with you. It is very difficult for me to express in words my gratitude for all the time you gave me first in Gainesville and later in Homestead and Miami- and the wealth of information, advice and help which I received from you during my trip. Please give my regards to Jorge Benitez when you see him. I shall be writing to him next week. I am taking a short vacation and hope to be able to use part of it for getting my backlog of correspondence up to date.

As far as Avocados go there isn't really much news except maybe the very big crop we had this year. If you remember the orchard you saw in Gaash, it was then 15 months old, now 5 years (planted in April 1957), this year we had an extremely heavy crop and it may surprise you to hear that the Nabal trees yielded more than 8 tons of fruit per acre (even though only 2/3 of the trees were in their full year), and that at the age of 5 is extraordinary. By the way in our orchard this was the highest yielder this year. /.

Dr. Oppenheimer has asked me to send you his best regards.

I will write to you again a little longer letter and more detailedx only I don't want to hold this one any longer.

Again many thanks, and best regards,

Yours very sincerely

W. Shachar
W. Shachar

Dr. Wilson Bopence
Guatemala
Florida

Dear Dr. Bopence:

I returned to Israel about 3 months ago and am simply couldn't find a spare minute to write to all the dear friends I met during my trip. I came back right in the planting season and as we decided to plant another 9 acres of bananas and 8 acres of avocados I hardly took a couple of days to rest before starting work. Since then between one thing and another, like lecturing on what I saw and learned on my trip, and actual work in the orchards as well as some fieldwork in Avocado orchards in Israel I have been as busy as ever.

How are you Dr. Bopence? I hope you are feeling well. I do not remember the exact date you were going to Guatemala, so I am sending a copy each of this letter to Gainesville and Antigua.

The main purpose of this letter is to thank you for all you did for me while I visited with you. It is very difficult for me to express in words my gratitude for all the time you gave me first in Gainesville and later in Homestead and Miami-- and the wealth of information, advice and help which I received from you during my trip. Please give my regards to George Benitez when you see him. I shall be writing to him next week. I am taking a short vacation and hope to be able to use part of it for getting my backlog of correspondence up to date.

As far as Avocados go there isn't really much news except maybe the very big crop we had this year. If you remember the orchard you saw in Gush, it was then 15 months old, now 5 years (planted in April 1957), this year we had an extremely heavy crop and it may surprise you to hear that the Nabal trees yielded more than 8 tons of fruit per acre (even though only 2/3 of the trees were in their 5th year), and that at the age of 5 is extraordinary. By the way in our orchard this was the highest yield this year.

בתשובה נא להזכיר

931/71

תל-אביב.

המועצה לייצור ולשיווק של פירות

תל-אביב, רח' החשמונאים 119 - טלפון 30711
FRUIT PRODUCTION AND MARKETING BOARD
119, CHASHMONAIM ST., TEL-AVIV - PHONE 30711



Tel Aviv 10. Mai 1971.

Dear Wilson:

Thank you very much for your letter and please excuse the very long delay in answering. The truth of the matter is that I have been looking for some way of solving the problem about the book and have not found any way of doing this. So I was already thinking of leaving the matter until we could meet again, when suddenly yesterday I received the book through the mail. It was sent to me by Mr. Wangenheim of the El Al Israel Airlines. Thank you both so very much . I will read it at once.

How have you been since we parted in Malaga last September ? I hope you and Alice are in good health and enjoying Antigua. I just wrote Luis a letter 2 weeks ago with some of the answers to his questions especially about the use of herbicides in Israel.

We have just terminated a relatively good season with our biggest crop. 7500 metric tons of Avocados. About 4500 tons were exported to Europe and the rest for local consumption. This was a Fuerte year and some orchards had crops as high as 2 ton per dunam (which is 17.000 lbs. per acre), as usual our Nabal crop was very good, although the fruit was a little on the large side, and that makes its sale in Europe very difficult . The price per fruit is prohibitive. For next year if there are no climatic surprises we should be up to 8500 - 9000 tons and out of this about 65-70 % will be exported.

By the way I maybe going to California in the beginning of next year and I will then use the opportunity to go to Mexico to see my brother. If I do and the trip come off , and if you are going to be in Antigua at the time I will certainly come down for a day or two to see you, if your invitation is still open. The fact is I am very much looking forward to seeing you again, and then of course we could prowl around a little.

Yours Sincerely and *Keepwell*
Your Zvi Shalva

Zvi Shachar

KIBUTZ GAASH, ISRAEL

Mexico 12th of March 1972

Dear Wilson,

Thank you so much for your letter from Dec. 12th. I am now in Mexico. I have had some problems and I must be back in Israel much earlier than expected, so I am unable to make it down to Antigua. I am terribly sorry as I have been looking forward to meeting you both very much, and of course to see again your beautiful house.

Sorry!

I was at a Directors Meeting of the Cal. Avocado Society on March 3rd and was asked by the Directors to convey their best wishes and greetings to you in the name of the Society, then I still thought I could do this personally, but now I have to do this by letter and of course I am adding my own best wishes for your health. By the way I told Jack Sheperd the story you told me, about trying to eat only Avocadoes & water for month, and the reaction of the lady who owned your Hotel. They would very much like to have you jot the story down on paper and send it to them. They probably would like to use it.



Zvi Shachar

KIBUTZ GAASH, ISRAEL

2

We are toying with the idea of having a 1st world Avocado Congress, the idea came from Don Gustafson. The place suggested is Mexico and I think it should be somewhere in 1975. - 1974 is the year of the next Horticultural Congress in Warsaw and you can't have two in a year. So if that comes off and I can go I will probably see you then.

Again I would like to say how sorry I am I can't come.

Best wishes to both of you

Your friend

Zvi Shachar

