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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.

GORDON P. SMITH.

GUATEMALA.
C. A.

GUATEMALA,

Finca Mocá
Guatemala.

18th December, 1939.

Dr Wilson Popenoe.
Casa Popenoe.
Antigua.

Dear Popenoe,

I have been anxious to see you after completing your tour with Perkins and having talked the whole Cinchona business over with him.

My wife tells me she ran into you both in Guatemala and that there was a real hope of seeing you both here soon. We are tied up over Christmas and have the house absolutely full, would it be possible for you and Mrs Popenoe to come to us on Saturday December 30th and stay a whole week. We could see the New Year in, perhaps spend a couple of days together in Panajachel and generally straighten out this rotten old world. Lucy returned from Guatemala yesterday and asks me to cordially extend this invitation from her to Mrs Popenoe. We might try and round up the Trinidad Student over the New Year, if he hasnt other engagements, he would enjoy seeing you again and picking your brain.

The Von Spree incident has restored our confidence somewhat and we are anxiously awaiting another one of a similar nature.

I am enclosing, for your information, some copies of correspondence with Morrison on Cinchona.

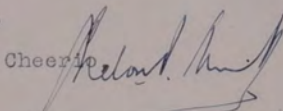
Merry Christmas to you both from us all and we are looking forward to seeing you immensely.

If the dates that I have mentioned dont suit please let me know as soon as possible when you can both come, and we will fit it in somehow. We might by the way also include a trip to Helvetia and Patzulin, during the week.

I had a charming Christmas letter from Kempton two or three days ago.

All the best,

Cheerio



(Gordon P. Smith)

Antigua, 23 Dec 1939

Dear Gordon,

Many thanks for yours of the 18th which I found here on my return from Tiquisate. We told Lucy we would plan to spend New Year's Eve with you, and have been making our plans accordingly. I promised Perkins I would go over the Cinchona situation once more before I left Guatemala, and since it seems likely that I shall have to scoot for Costa Rica very soon after January 1, I think I may try to cover some of the ground next week, between Xmas and New Year's. I must spend a day at Zapote; then I want to drop in with Benitez at Panama and look things over; then I want to spend another day or two at Naranjo. So it is probable that we may be coming down to your neighborhood around the middle of the week. If we do, we'll drop in to confirm our further plans and then go on up to Chicacao.

Thanks for the correspondence; I'll bring it back with me. I must visit Helvetia and will talk with you before doing so; it would be better if we can do it together. And do try to have the Trinidad graduate on hand for the New Year's Eve occasion; I want to see him again and talk with him.

I've been reading up on the Cinchona business, and thinking it over, and I feel definitely hopeful about the future in Guatemala. What we need now is action and plenty of it.

Ever yours

[1959]

FINCA MOCA,
GUATALÓN,
GUATEMALA.

Thursday.

Dear Popovoe.

Now that I know rumour to be a fact let me hasten to congratulate you from us both. We look forward with the keenest pleasure to meeting Mr Popovoe in let us hope the not too distant future.

Perkins who came in again yesterday afternoon brought the news. I am hoping, nay praying, that you may be able to come to some arrangement with them. I will admit the reasons may be largely selfish, with the prospects

of working and cooperating with you,
in a cultivation of some considerable
interest to say nothing of more frequent
contact over so much of mutual interest.
You have probably gathered Perkins may
have mentioned it, but I am the arch
conspirator. I make no apologies and
only hope for the best.

Lucy and a bunch of ladies of
various ages, nationalities, sizes, and shapes,
is going to Panajachel and Tierra Firme
next week. I expect to be in town on the
3rd and following day, it would be nice
to see you if you happen to be around,
Armstrong will always know my
whereabouts.

QUARTERLY
QUARTERLY
QUARTERLY

11

Here's hoping you cannot resist the
temptation of becoming a permanent
resident of Guatemala.

Our best wishes and congratulations
to you both, here to our next merry
meeting,

Sincerely,

Gordon P. Smith

[Gordon P. Smith]

OWEN SMITH & CO.

CABLES:
WESMIT-PANAN

FINCA "PANAMÁ"
GUATALÓN
GUATEMALA, C. A.

TELEGRAMAS:
SAN RAFAEL PANAN

June 22, 1940.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Finca El Zapote,
Escuintla.

Dear Dr. Popenoe ;

I am sure you will appreciate that it is with reluctance that I bring to your attention the substance of this letter. It deals with the question of Hans Franke.

I do not think I need go into details of what his political opinions are. It must be admitted that he makes no bones about his Nazi sympathies. Unfortunately, under current conditions, this is sufficient for me to ask you to arrange that he does not visit Panama, in connection with Merck's work. In this matter I act purely from general principles; the times are exceptional and in many cases steps are called for which are likewise out of the ordinary.

I recall that on your first visit here after Mr Lukens departure you mentioned that you considered it unnecessary for Franke to visit Los Andes and that Benitez could very well look after the work. If the matter could definitely be arranged in this manner it would be very satisfactory.

This matter has, of course, been discussed by me with nobody, except my Father with whom I have consulted.

I realise, by the way, that it will quite definitely be necessary for Franke to pay one more visit to Los Andes with Fritz Roseng-

arten . . .

Dr Wilson Popenoe.

June 22, 1940.

Rosengarten to study the question of the plantation plan, which has to be straightened out.

I have hesitated considerably before bringing this matter to your notice as there are so many other questions to occupy your attention, but I trust that you will appreciate my motives.

Yours very sincerely,

Oben Smith

P.S. I am enclosing a spare signed copy of this letter for New York and may I ask you to kindly forward it, if you think fit.

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 June 1940

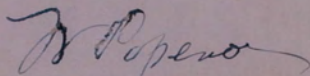
Owen Smith Esq.,
Finca Panamá,
Guatemala.

Dear Owen:

This is in reply to yours of the 22nd instant regarding Hans Franke. Naturally we wish to respect your feelings in this matter, and we shall therefore see that Franke does not visit Panamá except on the one occasion mentioned by you, viz., when he comes with Mr. Rosengarten to assist the latter in preparing a complete map of the experimental planting.

I am sending a copy of your letter to Mr. Lukens as suggested.

Yours sincerely,



Wilson Popenoe

cc Mr R P Lukens

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 June 1940

Owen Smith Esq.,
Finca Panamá,
Guatemala.

Dear Owen:

This is in reply to yours of the 22nd instant regarding Hans Franke. Naturally we wish to respect your feelings in this matter, and we shall therefore see that Franke does not visit Panamá except on the one occasion mentioned by you, viz., when he comes with Mr. Rosengarten to assist the latter in preparing a complete map of the experimental planting.

I am sending a copy of your letter to Mr. Lukens as suggested.

Yours sincerely,



Wilson Popencoe

cc Mr R P Lukens

Finca Mocá,
Guatalón,

July 11th 1940.

Dear Dr Popenoe,

I enclose herewith the original, one copy in white and one ordinary copy for Mr Lukens, of a letter about the Panamá grafts. If you are in agreement would you please sign and return the copy in white for our files,

I hope you got through without any trouble today and that you have got Jorge on the road to recovery.

My kindest regards to Mrs Popenoe and the family,

yours very sincerely,

John G. Smith.

Chalet Hochstetler.

2^a Calle Santa Clara,

Guatemala.

FINCA MOCA,

GUATACÓN,

GUATEMALA.

August 31st. 1940.

Dear Mr. Popson.

When you were last in Moín
a week or two ago, you most kindly
volunteered to buy and bring down a
watch for Lucie. I feel it is a great
imposition as your time is so short,
and should it prove to be too much
of a nuisance please don't trouble.

The child has decided on

EVALYN. Hamilton as per
enclosed advertisement. She wants
the black cord wristlet as shown,
and an extra cord as well.
The watch is priced at \$45. I am
enclosing cheque to your order for
\$50. and hope it will prove
sufficient. I reiterate that I hate
to trouble you

unfortunately I cannot give you any direct news of your husband as I have not seen him. Fritz who came in for tea yesterday reports they had a successful trip to Coban, and Wilson left for Naranjo the next day after their return which will sound very familiar to you. Some rumour of his returning to Antigua today. The weather here has continued really wonderful, too dry I fear for Agriculturists. Did you have a pleasant trip up with the children? I see for a change you may have struck a cold wave. Kind regards from all the family and with apologies.

Sincerely yours,
Gordon P. Smith

Please have this engraved. [Gordon P. Smith]

L. G. S.
Aug. 5th 1940.

OWEN SMITH & CO.

FINCA "PANAMÁ"

CORREO: GUATOLON

TELEGRAFO: SAN RAFAEL PANAN

"Panamá", 4 de Septiembre de 1940.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua.

Dear Dr. Popenoe ;

Many thanks for your telegram and yesterday Franke brought the additional bandages to finish all the grafting. I expect that the work will be finished on Saturday, probably in time for Alfonso to return to Chicacao by the afternoon camioneta. Sorry to hear that Benitez is ill.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Smith

Finca Panama,
Guatalon.

October 22, 1940.

Dear Dr. Popenoe ;

Many thanks for your letter of the 16th and for the seeds. I have sent on to Mr. Bianchi the ones you left here for him.

I note what you say about the planting. I am very interested to have these seeds and you may remember that I asked you about Tung Oil after I had returned from a trip to Coban, when I had the opportunity of seeing Helmrichs trees. Judging by the size of those we should use a planting distance here of about 12 yards.

I wonder if you remember that I have some Oil Palms planted here from seed that you gave Mr. Armstrong (J.P.) The seed did not germinate very well and I only got about 70 plants out of about 50 lbs. of seed. These are now growing very well and must be about three feet high, they seem to like it here. I should be glad to obtain more of this seed, if at any time there is any available

sincerely,

Looking forward to seeing you here shortly, yours

Ben Smith

OWEN SMITH & Co.

FINCA "PANAMÁ"

CORREO: GUATOLON

TELEGRAFO: SAN RAFAEL PANAN

"Panamá", November 24th. de 1940.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua.

Dear Dr. Popenoe ;

We were sorry not to see you at the American Legation for Thanksgiving. We were sure that we should see you and John was hoping to say good-bye to you.

The Tung Oil has begun to germinate and at the present 75 have come up out of 185 planted. This is much better than the rubber, which can only show 95 out of 517 planted.

How about Cacao? Since you mentioned it to me several months ago I have been looking around for some decent seed. John says that you really should have a white centred "Criollo" type; as being the best. All the seed I have seen is purple. I was even prepared to pinch some of the exhibits at the feria, but they also all had purple centres, but they were probably fermented anyway. I see that in Java they plant Cacao under Kapok shade and if it would suit here I can set out some trees under the Kapok that I have coming along anyway. Would you suggest me writing to "Sandy" in Costa Rica ?

Yours sincerely,

Owen Smith

COPY.

Finca Panama.
January 13, 1941.

Mr. Fritz Rosengarten Jr.
Finca El Naranjo,
Chicacao.

Dear Fritz;

This letter confirms our verbal arrangement of a few days ago in regard to the collection of "Pito Seed". You have offered to us the whole two tons to collect at a price of 20 cents a pound until March 1st 1941, and 15 cents thereafter. We accept the whole two tons and trust that we shall be able to collect everything within five months. We take the ton mentioned to be a long ton and hence the total amount is 4480 pounds. The price is placed railroad station with bag.

Since I saw you we have made experimental collections in Moca, Los Tarrales and Panama. In Moca and Panama together we have not collected more than 15 pounds, due to the fact that at the present moment the trees are flowering. Within a month or six weeks there should be a good crop. In Tarrales the situation is probably the same. In fact right down to the railroad line (500-700 ft.) all the "pitos" are only in flower. You will understand therefore that it will be impossible to deliver anything for another six weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

Owen Smith.

Finca Panama.

Plantings made April 30, 1941.

Tung Oil. (Aleurtes Montana) Seeds planted October 25th, 1940.

Los Andes.	3,800 feet	63 trees.	
La Bolsa.	3,150 feet	45 trees.	
Panama.	2,400 feet	<u>29 trees.</u>	<u>Total planted in field 137.</u>

(Planting distance 8 yards.)

Seeds originally sown 185.

Para Rubber. (Hevea Brasilea) Seeds planted October 24th, 1940.

El Corozo.	3,000 feet	25 trees.
Plan Rancheria	2,100 feet	<u>25 trees.</u>

(Planting distance 7 yards) 50 trees in field positions Panama.
40 trees to Finca Helvetia for planting in Dolores & Tambor.
7 trees in reserve (smaller)

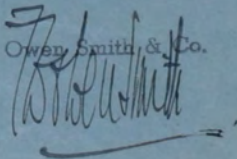
97 trees. Total.
517 seeds originally planted.

Sites made for field plantings in Panama were chosen by U.S. Rubber Party under Dr Manifold .

Finca Panama, April 30, 1941.

CC. File
Finca Moca.
Finca Helvetia,
Dr. Popenoe. ✓

p. p. Owen Smith & Co.



Finca El Naranjo.
August 29, 1941.

Mr. W. Owen Smith,
Finca Panamá, Guatatlón.

Dear Owen:

This is a formal note to call to your attention two matters.

(1) As I mentioned to you the other day, the Merck chemists are not interested in the Jacarattia trees in the particular work they are doing.

(2) Re. the experimental planting at an altitude of about 2000 ft.

We are very anxious to get the altitude experiments started in 1941, as, (1) We will be so terribly busy in 1942 with the tremendous task of transplanting the Krukoff seedlings to the field, & (2) The sooner we get these altitude experiments started the sooner we can get a line on the results.

It is our hope to bring 250 Krukoff seedlings over to both Mocá and Helvetia during the week of September 15-20. Would it be convenient for you to start your plot in the neighborhood of 2000 ft. at Panamá, with say 250-300 of the Krukoff #100 series from Los Andes at about the same time?

If during 1941 we can get these experiments going with Krukoff material at 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, and 7000 ft., by about 1945 (or possibly sooner), we should be able to make some extremely interesting comparisons.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

F. Rosengarten Jr.
F. Rosengarten Jr.

c. c. Mr. Gordon Smith.
Mr. R. P. Lukens.
Dr. W. Popenoe. ✓

John Smith

Tegucigalpa, 22 March 1956

Dear Johnny:

Yours of the 15th has just come as I was about to sit down and pen these lines, with the aid of Mr Remington, to tell you how things stand. Now that you say you are going to Panajachel for Semana Santa I am not sure the letter will reach you; but Helen is going over to Guatemala on Monday next and I shall send a copy along with her, and she can ponerle un telegrama at Panajachel saying "Recibiste carta del viejo? Saludos" or something like that.

Everybody is supposed to reach Antigua on Monday the 2nd. There will be more gente than you have dreamt of in your philosophy, Horatio. Probably Dr Coit and wife from California; Rafael Cintron from Texas; seven or eight people from Florida; the salvadoreños threaten to send a delegación of ten; there will be about 7 or 8 from Honduras; three from Mexico; I dont know about Nicaragua and Costa Rica. But I figger we shall have to deal with 30 to 40 técnicos in all. I have made a number of reservations at Hotel Antigua for the gente adinerada o con viáticos. I think some 12 will be staying there. We have told the señora who runs the Aurora that we will need all her space - this probably means some 15 or 18 people. The overflow can go to the Nimajay (if adinerado) or the Rojas or the Estrada or the Casa Real.

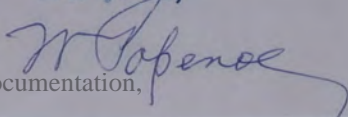
So much for that feature. It is planned to have the opening session (all meetings will be in the big sala at our house) on the morning of the 3rd, Tuesday. We have invited don Lezaro Chacón to make the speech of welcome. Dont know yet whether or not he can accept. It has been impossible, as usual, to get a list of papers which will be presented - but there will probably be plenty. I am for few and brief papers, plenty of lively discussions, and lots of walks and drives around the valley and elsewhere. You can read the

papers later, y con calma, in Ceiba or the Revue de Botanique Appliquee or Chacras e Quintaes. Those folks from Florida and elsewhere are going to want to see something of Guatemala. We are taking three cars from here, one station wagon, another station wagon, and a Pickup with seats in the back - capacity about 8 almas. The job will be to line up plenty of other cars. Dont you think we can wangle a few out of the Govt, or at least the Instituto Agropecuario? And what do you think of the idea of leaving Thursday morning for the lake and Chichicastenango, then going to sleep in Quezaltenango? We could doubtless get accomodations for everyone there - it would be materialmente impos ble elsewhere I am sure. Then we could spend the second day, Friday, on the south coast, your region, and work back to Antigua for late frijoles.

This is just an idea. We will work things out when we get over there. Except for Helen, who goes early to get the house in shape, our group plans to leave here on Wed 28th, sleep in Salvador, and reach Antigua on Jueves Santo. Dont know where we will sleep that night but we will find some place. I know how Antigua is in Semanan Santa.

We shall be sending a car or two over to Guatemala City on Monday to meet the 2 p m plane from Miami which brings several of the people from Florida. You better figure on being in Antigua on the afternoon of the 2nd, Monday to assist in rolling out the red carpet. This is going to be quite a job, Johnny, mostly because everybody likes the idea of coming to Guatemala. So tighten up your belt and practice saying Es freut mich sehr ihre bekanntschafft su machen.

Ever yours,



GORDON SMITH & CO., S. C.
FINCA "MOCÁ"
GUATMALÓN

17th June 1959

Dear Dr Fopanos:

I have looked through Tropical Agriculture from 1943 to 1953 for Cheesman's "Economic Botany of the Genus Musa" but with no success. The only thing I have found which remotely bears on the subject is in T.A. vol XXVI(1949) "Banana Research at I.C.T.A." by Cheesman.

This article has a bibliography which includes the following references but I do not know whether these will be of any help to you:-

"A New Classification of the genus Musa L." by Cheesman
Kew Bulletin 1947

"Notes on Species of Musa L" by Cheesman
Kew Bulletin 1948

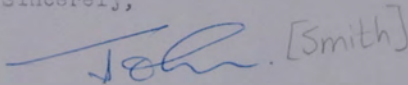
"Genetical & Cytological Studies of Musa L"

A series of articles by Cheesman &/or Dodds &/or Simmonds
Journal of Genetics various numbers from
1932 to 1946.

I have Tropical Agriculture vol XXVI if it is any use to you but do not have the Kew Bulletin or the Journal of Genetics.

It was good to see you at Turrialba and I hope that we shall see something of you while you are in residence at Antigua. Please let me know if there is any more I can do for you in connection with the banana article,

Sincerely,

 [Smith]

Antigua, Fall of the Bastille 1959

July 14

John Smith Esq.
Finca Mocá, Guatalón

Dear Johnny:

Just back from another of those 3-ring circuses or circi as I suppose you classicists would put it. Two weeks of lectures and demonstrations to the III Curso Internacional de Horticultura in Mexico. If those boys dont know how to graft avocados, now, it is no fault of mine.

Many thanks for yours of 17 June. You were good to look up the records. Prof Wolfe dug into the files in Florida and sent me just what I needed, not to mention that I met Dr Simmonds, from the ICTA, at Mexico City (he is on his way home, to work at the John Innes Inst) who told me ha has a book in press with everything in it, including the cultural end. This will be very interesting; I sure enjoyed meeting this man, one of the old-style thorough-going (English would cover everything) scientists. Too bad tropical America is losing him. But the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.

In a week or so I am expecting one of my Venezuelan colleaguas from the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza, José Miguel Calabria, whom I have promised to show around Guatemala, then send him on his way, rejoicing, to Miami. May bring down to your side for a hasty look-see, and if so will drop in on you if possible - also at Panama. Calabria, whose parents come from the region of Broccoli Calabrese, is a good man; serious and hard working, and my job is to help him get lined up on propagation and tropical fruit varieties. No rest for the wicked.

Talked to Jorge Benitez yesterday. He assumes he is going to be out of a job 31 pmo futuro. If this event eventuates, I think I can place him in Salvador, but I have a hunch they may keep him on, here in Guatemala, because he has done such good work. In my opinion, he is the best nurseryman in Central America today, though Mario Jalil sure is a runner-up.

I am trying to stop travelling and settle down to continue work on Das Buch, but just have a letter saying I simply must be in Gainesville, Fla., the first week in December. Hugh writes he may be down here for a short vacation in August. Says he is worried; thinks he is getting over-specialised. How can a man over-specialise in the management of tropical soils? Just like saying a man is over-specialised in religious philosophy. Or as the farmer said when he say the camel in the Zoo, "There aint so such animal".

Ever yours,