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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.

Lancetilla, Honduras.

November 28, 1940.

Dear Dr. Poponce:

It was thought that you were traveling, but I now learn that you are still in Guatemala. I would certainly have written you sooner had I known you could be reached there.

Everything points to a very comfortable arrangement for us here. Mrs. Stanwood and Tommy do like the place very much and I can say that I have never seen a more ideal place to live.

I cannot but feel that a commercial nursery here, growing for export trade would be an ideal set-up. It is possible that at the end of our three year program I will be without a job, or perhaps interested in a change. If such is the case I would seriously consider leasing some land here and attempting to reach an agreement with the Fruit Co. whereby propagating material could be secured from existing plantings. It has been my experience that a great demand for good ornamental and economic stock exists throughout Central America and Northern South America. I feel sure that the demand would warrant such a commercial enterprise. It is hoped that this subject can be discussed at our next meeting.

Mrs. Stanwood and myself are looking forward to your next visit to Honduras, and we hope that Mrs. Poponce and yourself we will make your headquarters with us here. I assure Mrs. Poponce that the house is now as clean as Ivory Soap is pure. I am sure she would need some reassurance on this subject.

Dr. Rands and Dr. Brandes are deeply appreciative of your interest in the program and your many aids to me, the Survey Party and the program in general. I am sure that you have received personal letters from them by this time.

With personal regards to Mrs. Poponce and yourself.

Sincerely,

E. T. Stanwood.

Hotel Palace,
Guatemala,
October 10, 1941.

Dear Dr. Popenov,

I would indeed like to see you very much before I leave but it is necessary to leave on the train this date for San Gerardo, from there to Santo Tomas, Saldañega, Panama, Chitalon, Strigonte, San Sebastian and two co-operators near Davis, from there to Ajitla where I meet Stadelman and secure seed. I saw them planning to work any way back to the city, distributing the seed enroute and insuring myself that the plantings are properly made.

I am certain that you can sense my impatience to return to Lauretilla. I am rather worried about the work, notwithstanding the very favorable reports I have had on the progress of the work there.

It does not seem possible to me to be able to return here, prior to November 1st. This, of course is a far later date than I had hoped for. As you know the

original plan was to return on October 1st after budding the material at Chitson & planting out *Lauectilla* seed, then the availability of the Mexican seed made it necessary to remain. This seed not being available until October 17 at Ajitla, naturally retards my progress somewhat.

To a large extent my selection of co-operators has been influenced greatly by having little choice, but to select those evidently interested. In some cases, the elevations are not all that the Party last year selected, but I feel certain that in those instances where the dry period is rather long, that irrigation will permit good growth. No co-operator has been selected unless plenty of water is available. I feel badly that I am not acquainted with the background to a greater extent of ^{which} the findings of the Party of last year.

I am making no apologies for the program we are undertaking here as under the circumstances, it has been necessary to act and act quickly and I can not see how any arrangements could have been made differently. I must say again, you have no idea how *Lauectilla* is growing.

I am sure that you feel that had I the opportunity, I would have been very pleased to have discussed the program with you to greater lengths. I would have particularly appreciated your comments. My only reason for mentioning this, is to have to know how much your opinion would have meant to me and, I know to the Washington Office.

I do appreciate your hospitality of Sunday last, and look forward to seeing you and Mrs. Popenov in Lancelotta in the near future.

Will you please give Mrs. Popenov my regards.

Sincerely yours.
Ed.

P.S. - If you find time, you make a little prayer for a satis fastening outcome of my rather nerve wracking stay here. Ed.

Palace Hotel
Guatemala
October 16, 1941.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Your kind letter received this evening. I can fully realize how your time is taken up and I do appreciate your willingness to give me part of it.

Due to reasons beyond my ken, Ray is unable to secure the seed before October 15th. I rather feel it will be November 1st, this I learned upon arrival at "Finca Helvetia" as he had wired me there. As the co-operators were all lined up I felt it best to return and attempt to see you and discuss the situation to greater length. Upon arriving here I found mail from Lancetilla that rather made me feel that the rubber project was not materializing in quite the manner I had planned or expected - so wired Washington immediately for authority to return for a week or so. I am leaving the City Saturday morning, hope to check up on our program there and return to Guatemala about the 28th of October at which time we will plant all the seed or at least see that it is done in the best manner.

I agree with you that the West Coast Area, 2,000 to 3,000 feet is a fine area, perhaps I may even go further and say that I feel that there is some opportunity for rubber in certain localities at lower elevations, that is areas which are already irrigated, the cost of application is surprisingly small if the figures given me are correct. I remember the X Hevea at Summit as doing quite well under a DRY season of four months without irrigation, and you know what that red clay is there. I am naturally most reticent in making any claims as to the value of the lower areas here, but the interest in growers at this elevation is keener than that at the higher levels at this time and as I see it, it is of greater value at this time to get the program under way than to let the subject cause so much indecision on our part. In fact the one thing that has been brought to my attention during this trip is just that one thing! The inability of the persons interested to agree or to commit themselves. All understand that the lower plantings are more or less trial and are all willing to act anyway, such being the case I feel we should meet them at least half way. I have 500,000 seeds promised and nurseries are under construction. Considerable co-operators have been secured near the San Sebastian area. Mr. Davies has been most kind and co-operative. I sincerely feel that the program is really under way here and will prove to be one of the most progressive among independent planters.

I hope to see you and Mrs. Popenoe on my return, Bette and I will look forward to your arrival in Lancetilla, once this program is under way (as far as I am concerned)

Thanks so much for your interest and offer to see me.

Sincerely,

EL

While in Lancetilla I will attempt to have everything in good order for my child and yourself. I do wish that I had the opportunity of meeting him, it appears that the

AIR MAIL

Lancetilla, Honduras.
November 3 1941.

Dear Dr. Popence:

I am so sorry to have missed you while you were here last week. I arrived on the Ulua Sunday last, traveling with Mr. Lukens of Merck from the City. I had him out to dinner and he had a view of the plantings which he had been for years anxious to see. I did enjoy his company very much.

We will look forward to seeing here in the near future, as I understand you plan to get back this way soon.

Bette and Tom plan to return about the 15th. You can imagine how anxious ~~we~~ will be to see them.

I fear that some of our propagating work has not proceeded with the dispatch I had planned, but we will soon right that condition.

I will appreciate any comments on your inspection here last week, we hope to keep this place in the condition you like to see it and at the same time to propagate those things that interest you the most.

I am most pleased with Bawa and do appreciate your aid in obtaining him for me.

Please convey my kindest regards to Mrs. Popence, looking forward to the time that I will be able to discuss our work in Guatemala with you.

Sincerely yours,



Antigua, 15 Nov 1941

Dear Ed:

It was good to get your letter of the 3rd. Mighty glad to hear that Mr Lukens had an opportunity to see Lancetilla. He is a fine chap and it has been a pleasure to work with him.

I am planning to fly over to Taguágalpa about a week from today, to start work on our school site which is now purchased; 35 kms from Teguci at an elevation of 2500 feet. I shall get down to Lancetilla some time during December I feel sure. When I was there a few weeks ago things looked well; I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate your interest in that place. You are putting it on its feet again.

I hope you will see that the boys save all the seed of *Aleurites montana* which ripens this year. We have a number of requests for it.

I have heard numerous favorable comments on the work you did over here. Bellamy came by last week and said he was figuring on planting a hundred acres of rubber. Antonio Toruño came in and told me the Guatemalan govt is sending him over to Lancetilla to learn the business.

Burpee's man Jerry Kantor from Costa Rica is here and I am going out with him tomorrow to see if we can locate some good land for a seed garden. It is a great pleasure to see all these new developments taking place.

No doubt Bette and Tom will be with you when you receive this. Give them my best, please. I look forward to spending a day or two with you ere long.

Ever yours