



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Operations Mission to Cuba
c/o American Embassy
Habana, Cuba

23 September 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua,
Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Mr. John Marvin of the U.S. Consulate showed me your recent letter stating that the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture wished to bestow a decoration on you, on October 10th. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, Mr. Marvin has an engagement on October 10th, and so, as per your letter to him, I'll be glad to receive the decoration for you in absentia, (I think it's a shame you won't be able to be present to receive it personally) and Mr. Marvin will arrange to have it sent to you in Antigua. I have talked to Rodolfo Arango; he too expresses his regrets that it is not possible for you to attend the ceremony.

It occurred to me that inasmuch as each person receiving a decoration at this ceremony will be expected to "say a few words" you might like to prepare for me a little note of acceptance, which I can then read in your name. I would think between a half a page to a page would suffice, and think it should be in Spanish, don't you? As you know, they like long and flowery speeches, so if you should be inclined to prepare a longer one, just fine. Since the time is rather short, this should be prepared and sent to me air mail without delay.

Again, congratulations.

With best regards,

Frank D. Venning

Frank D. Venning, Horticulture Advisor,
USOM-Cuba.

cc: Dr. D.L. Bush

Antigua, Guatemala, 28 Sept 1957

Dr Frank Venning,
USOM, American Embassy,
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Frank:

While writing you about receiving the decoration for me, it occurred that I might just as well mention another matter which I have had in mind to write you about. The program of fruit improvement recently set on foot over in Salvador calls for some pineapple work. They are only growing two varieties commercially, neither of which strikes me as tops in quality, altho the people in general are pretty well satisfied with one which they call azucarón because it is pretty sweet and the flavor is good; the flesh to my mind is too coarse. Since the objective is fruit for eating in the fresh state quality is the main factor.

While there seem to be a few plants of Red Spanish and Smooth Cayenne in the country, we are not too sure of their identity, and would like to get from Cuba 100 good suckers of Red Spanish and one or two other varieties, perhaps. Can you tell us where to get the Red Spanish, and can you recommend any others? We shall greatly appreciate any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

copy to Dr Mario Lewy van Severen
Centro Nacional de Agronomia
Santa Tecla, El Salvador.

Antigua, Guatemala, 29 Sept 1957

Dear Frank:

Not many hours after I had mailed you a copy of my letter to Rodolfo Arango, I received yours of the 23rd, reminding me of the fact that you would have to say something, in my name, when you accept the decoration. I have whipped up the enclosed and hope you will think it is allright. I agree that it should not be long.

I cannot do anything about the salutations because I dont know whom you will have to salutate. You will simply have to rise to the occasion. At our Zamorano graduations, some of the speakers take half their time with "Honorable señor Ministro de Educacion, Honorable Señor Ministro de Agricultura" and so on! I usually start out with "Damas y Caballeros" and nobody seems to get sore. I dont think the Cubans are very strong on the formalities anyway.

It is mighty good of you to take care of this matter for me. I hope I can reciprocate the favor some day - though I would, of course, rather/^{see}you on hand to receive your own decorations!

Cordially yours,

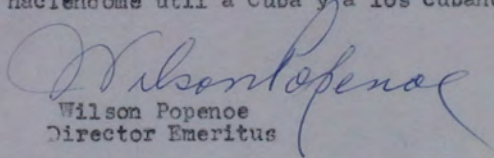
Wilson Popenoe

Señores:

En el verano de 1914 llegué por primera vez a esta Perla de las Antillas. Pasé dos meses, acompañado por el Ingeniero don Gonzalo Fortún, llevando a cabo, desde Maysí a San Antón, un estudio de los mangos. Regresé a la Florida, dejando atrás muchas amistades. Llevaba en mi corazón un cariño especial para Cuba y los cubanos.

Ahora, durante más de cuarenta años he tenido la buena suerte de hacer repetidas visitas a la República. Siempre he procurado ayudar a sus horticultores. Y hoy, por mis humildes labores, Ustedes me condecoran con la Orden del Mérito Agrícola e Industrial, en el grado de Gran Oficial. Siento muchísimo la imposibilidad de estar con Ustedes para recibirla personalmente, pero el Doctor Frank Venning, también horticultor y buen amigo de Cuba, la recibirá en mi nombre, y les expresará mis profundos y sinceros agradecimientos por tan inmerecido honor, y mi gratitud al Ingeniero don Rodolfo Arango, fiel y simpático amigo de muchos años.

Y para terminar, quiero manifestarles mi vivo deseo de merecer esta condecoración, haciéndome útil a Cuba y a los cubanos en el porvenir.


Wilson Popenoe
Director Emeritus

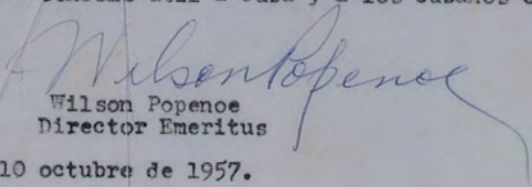
Antigua, Guatemala, 10 octubre de 1957.

Señores:

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Antigua, Guatemala, 10 octubre de 1957.