



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.

Rio de Janeiro, 4th Sept 1957

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Ever so many thanks for your kind and interesting letter of August 28th. Really it was very kind of you indeed taking the trouble of writing me so extensively. - I have taken your advice to heart and done all what you have recommended.

For many years I have been planting "avocados" Guatamala type. - The local avocado trees, a kind of antillano, gives fruit in the months of February and March. - My avocado trees Guatamala type has been giving fruit the remainder of the year, the last being Taylor and Wagner. - However many trees have either died or remained underdeveloped, for a great part owing to the reason outlined in your article, which gave me the impulse of writing you. But here nobody could inform me the reasons and the cause of the illness. - Only a short time ago, an old Italian, having been in charge of a avocado-plantation, which after he left had gone to pot, told me his experience, where to plant the trees and where not.

I do hope to obtain more favourable results in future and therefore I am greatly indebted to you for your valuable assistance.

It is very kind of you to try to send

Rio, 4^a '57
me a copy of your
Fenticultura (centroamericana), which I greatly
appreciate. - May I ask you to send the copy
to the address mentioned at the foot of this
letter, to be more certain that it will not get
lost with the post.

Should I be able to reciprocate your
kindness in some way or other, please let me know.

With thanks, remain

Sincerely yours

M. de la Fontaine Verwey

H. W. J. de la Fontaine Verwey
% Banco Holandés Unido
Caixa Postal 1242
Rio de Janeiro

[January 11]

ESCUELA AGRICOLA, PANAMERICANA January 1960

APARTADO 83
Ing. don Tomas Vilanova M, Director General,
ISIC, Sta Tecla El Salvador.

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Dear Tommy:

Some days ago I received No 7 of your Boletin Informativo. Only today have I gone over it carefully.

I think you realise that I am not a coffee expert, and furthermore, that I do not usually echar many flores - coffee or otherwise. I think you also know that I have been in this part of the world about as long as you have been in the world at all, and that I am extremely interested in the development of tropical American agriculture and horticulture - and coffee is a horticultural crop. I therefore ask you and your colleague Ing. Fernando Suarez Castro to accept to accept my warmest congratulations on this little Boletin num/ 7.

It seems to me this bulletin is remarkably sound and practical. It makes it clear to the cafetalero that he can not expect you fellows to pull any rabbits out of the hat. But that if he will go along with you, results will accumulate, and in the meantime let him pay great attention to your counsel on such matters as protection of his soil, cultural practices (pruning and shade are the tough ones, arent they!) and the profitable use of fertilizers based on local experiments.

Ever since I wprhd on Cinchona back in the 1930s, and saw wild Cinchona in the Andes, I got the idea that the rubiaceous plants are surface-feeders, and Pedro Cofino and I worked out a program on his fina "La Retana" here in Antigua which gave splendid results (maybe it wouldnt everywhere!). We quit moving the soil back and forth with hoes, cutting off all those nice little feeding roots which were in the first two inches below the surface, where they were so happy, Then we added more organic matter on top so they would be happier.

Warmest regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

Antigua, Guatemala, 11 January 1960
ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Ing. don Tomas Vilanova M., Director General,
ISIC, Sta Tecla, El Salvador.

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Dear Tommy:

Some days ago I received No. 7 of your Boletin Informativo. Only today have I gone over it carefully - and twice!

I am sure you know ~~very~~ well that I am not a coffee expert, and I do not echar many flores, not even flores de cafe! But this little bulletin is so sound, so practical, I cannot resist the temptation to congratulate you and your colleague Ing. Fernando Suarez Castro.

This bulletin should make it clear to the cafetalero that he cannot expect you to pull any rabbits out of a hat. But at the same time, if he will go along with you, experimental results will accumulate, and in the meantime you can help him a lot if he will pay attention to your counsel (based on our present knowledge which is not despreciable) regarding such matters as protection of his soils, cultural practices (shade and pruning are tough ones, aren't they!) and the profitable use of fertilizers based on local experiments. I think we can make a lot of money by using fertilizers, and I think we can waste some money, also, if we dont know what we need.

Ever since I worked on Cinchona here in Guatemala, and later saw wild Cinchona in the Andes, I have been impressed by the fact that the rubiaceaceous plants feed themselves pretty close to the surface. About 1940 Pedro Gofino and I worked out a program at his finca Retana here in Antigua. We stopped scraping away the soil (and all the feeding rootlets) from around the plants. Those little feeding rootlets were so happy in that topsoil! Then we added more organic matter to the topsoil and made them happier. The results were excellent.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

INSTITUTO SALVADOREÑO DE INVESTIGACIONES DEL CAFE

Santa Tecla, EL SALVADOR, C. A.

E-8

No. _____

Teléfonos:

Dirección 113

Administración 115

January 15, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Don Wilson:

Many thanks for your letter of January 11th. I'm hurrying on answering it, otherwise I may take too long a time to send you a few lines.

I have passed on to Suárez de Castro your most sincere and enthusiastic congratulations, we both are very proud of your opinions and concept of our Boletín Informativo. We are always striving to keep the Boletín within its original character of... ir al grano sin andar con muchas carambadas...so far we hope to have made it.

I am including herewith copies of our Boletín Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 that you may not have. We had them reprinted recently, also you will find our last No. 8. With these you have a collection up to date; we will sure keep sending you all our new publications besides the Boletines. Have a new manual (illustrated in black and white) on diseases and pests of coffee coming out soon. I enclose also an almanac for 1960, we collaborated with the calendario agrícola and had nothing to do with the rest.

Since the last number, we have taken the Sección Técnica of the bimonthly "El Café de El Salvador". It sure is another good responsibility, but as long as we improve it and be of some help to local coffee growers with it, we are happy.

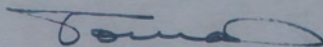
About 6 months ago we started digging out coffee trees under different conditions in order to determine root concentration and distribution, we are doing now the same with shade trees (big ones) and you can imagine what big holes we end up with, only shame is that yet we have not been working on an archeological area, have to find a good excuse to justify digging very deep in those coffee plantations next to Tazumal ruins, As you may have guessed my interest on Indian relics is still an ever-growing one.

Hope you can spare some time to come over, also I wish I could go to Antigua and shoot the bull with you, learning from you so many useful and wonderful experiences.

Guess I could keep on writing more, as it is a very quiet afternoon today at the ISIC (no visitors or salesmen yet) but this may be too long then. When you can, please write, I will be most glad to be in touch with you.

Most sincerely,

INSTITUTO SALVADOREÑO DE
INVESTIGACIONES DEL CAFE



Ing. Agr. Tomás Vilanova M.
Director General



TVM/mrc

COPY OF FADED CORRESPONDENCE

*[original tossed due to
high acid content]*

Subsecretario de Agricultura y Ganaderia
Particular

San Salvador, June 25, 1963

Mr. Louis W. Ziegler
Agricultural Experiment Stations
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Ziegler:

Just received your letter and I'm very happy that you're coming to see this volcanoed and thick populated country of mine.

Please advise from Honduras exact date and flight number of your arrival to El Salvador; will make necessary reservations and schedule once I know how many days you'll be here.

Don't worry about shortage of spanish, will see that you'll be accompanied by someone that speaks enough english.

Looking forward to your visit that will try to make it as --- complete and pleasing as possible, I am, very truly your.

Tomás Vilanova M.



Con atento saludo del
Subsecretario de Agricultura y Ganaderia.