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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.



AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
UNITED STATES A. I. D. MISSION TO GUATEMALA  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, C. A.

January 27, 1967

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua Guatemala

Dear Doc:

I received your letter after I returned from Quezaltenango last week. I saw Pete and visited his farm. I could hardly agree more with your advice to him. He did not show me your letter, but said afterwards that my recommendations were essentially the same as yours.

His trees looked bad to me. Many, if not all, of the peaches and plums we gave him had died, and the young apple trees were very dry too. His well has been out of operation while he is having a windmill installed, so even the nursery is not being watered. I am fairly sure that with the sandy nature of his soil and the high moisture requirement of the wheat crop that the trees simply died for lack of moisture. His older trees look fairly well, but then I feel that some moisture seeps out of under the mountain for their use.

Further more, I don't think he could possibly get 5,000 Winter Banana trees in the U.S. on such short notice for this year's planting.

I am not as certain about the future of Malling Merton here as I was at first, and a boy at the University is working on better ways to root Criolla stocks. It should prove interesting. He proposes to do it on the South Coast and we may also try some Malling Merton cuttings there to see if the higher temperature will speed up the rate of rooting.

My wife and I are still waiting for you to come to have dinner with us, so let us know your plans for the next month or so and perhaps we can arrange it. I would like to visit the KERN'S orchard with you some day.

As ever,

Yours sincerely,

Ralph M. Vorhies  
Horticultural Advisor



AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
UNITED STATES A. I. D. MISSION TO GUATEMALA  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, C. A.

March 6, 1967

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for sending me the letter from Mr. Kemp and your reply. I was especially interested in his remarks about the Winter Banana. In California we grow it near sea level and it is certainly a different apple than I have seen here.

Also was very interested in the information about Chemical Control of woolly apple aphids. I hope we can start some test at Labor Ovale on this.

I hope you will soon be back in Guatemala and that we can get out together again before I leave about June 20th. I am sending Mr. Kemp's letter back, but made copies for myself and for the Department here. I trust you don't mind.

Sincerely yours,

*Ralph M. Vorhies*  
Ralph M. Vorhies  
Horticultural Advisor



AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
UNITED STATES A. I. D. MISSION TO GUATEMALA  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, C. A.

May 12, 1967

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua Guatemala

Dear Doc:

Since telephoning you is a bit difficult, I will write you of a suggested trip that is being planned for May 23, 24, and 25th thru the highland area and to ask if you would care to go along. It may be our only chance since my time is running out and there seems to be many things that need to be attended to.


We, (Chuck Atlee and I) along with some other people, are planning to visit a couple of places on the way to Quezaltenango where there are nurseries that you and I could look at, and then spend the rest of the first day in Quezaltenango. We will plan on staying at the Modelo (you should bring your own soap). The second day we will be in the Huehuetenango area where we could see the experimental planting at the Maryknoll farm and we will stay all night in Huehuetenango. Then return to Guatemala City by way of Aguacatán, Sacapulas, Quiché and Chichicastenango where we might look at some apple orchards, etc. Then we could drop you off at Antigua.

If this sounds like a trip you would like to make, please let me know. We could pick you up on Tuesday morning about 8 or 8:30 at your house.

I hope you can make it.

Your friend,

Ralph M. Vorhies  
Horticulture Advisor



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC  
COLLEGE

San Luis Obispo, California

September 27, 1968

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua,  
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Bill Troutner recently returned to our Department from his 2-year duty with the Marketing Service and brought back a copy of your new booklet Fruticultura Centroamericana put out by the Instituto Tecnico De Agricultura. It seemed like an excellent publication and I would like to get a copy for my own use. Could you please supply it or should I write to the institute? Also, I am interested to know if it has been published in English; and if so, how could we secure a few copies for my new Tropical Fruit class? We have 13 students in this class and it appears that it may be quite a success. However, only two or three are from tropical America and the rest, of course, do not read Spanish. This is causing me a bit of trouble since so much of my printed information is in Spanish.

I understand that you are back in the teaching game at Barcenas. How does it feel to be back in the harness, even part way? I also understand there is a chance that Chuck Atlee may also join the staff for vegetable crops. Between the two of you, the instruction in horticulture can go no way except up. I have also heard there is a possibility that quite a large group of Barcenas students may visit us here in California for a look see at our agricultural program. We are looking forward to hosting the group and hope that it can be accomplished.

I have heard good results of Eduardo and his work with the Highland Fruit Program. I am delighted to know that he is helping upgrade the Guatemala fruit production program. Please give him my regards.

Two of the Ovalle brothers surprised me by stopping to see our orchard last summer. Unfortunately, I was away the day they came; and as a result, I only got to spend a few hours talking to them. They report that their peach development program is going "great guns." I failed to inquire just where they were planting all of these new peach trees. I think you and I agreed that Quezaltenango is too high for the best peach production. Have you seen their selection that they are propagating? Naturally, they believe it to be very outstanding, but I would like someone else's opinion too.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
September 27, 1968  
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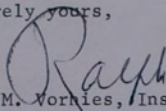
We have an excellent crop of apples here at Cal Poly this year, but then we are having a bit of trouble with Bitter Pit. This is our next job to try to figure out how to reduce the losses which are running 25 percent in the Delicious variety.

Well, this letter has wandered on quite far enough; but before closing, I want to express the hope that your son has recovered fully from his accident. I was very sorry to hear of it from Don Fiester.

Please give my regards to the Laus and other mutual friends. I was sorry to hear that Ray Staddlemen was no longer available to work in the rubber program. I am sure he will find his new job in the Far East a challenge.

Let us hear from you when you get a chance and best wishes for the holiday season; although, it seems a little early for that sort of thing.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph M. Vorhies, Instructor  
Crops Department

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 Oct 1968

Prof. Ralph H. Vorhies  
Calpoly, San Luis Obispo, California.

Dear Ralph:

It was good to have your letter of 27 September. They have just finished a second printing of "Fruticultura Centroamericana" and I am glad to enclose a copy. I am sorry there is no English edition. They are about to publish the booklet in Colombia, with anotaciones for use locally, but of course it will be in Spanish. I am sorry I could not make a more complete revision of the original publication - the major changes are in the lists of recommended varieties, especially the temperate zone fruits. These recommendations are in line with the publication which you have doubtless seen in the American Pomological Society's "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest" of last January.

Several of us have been pretty active on the temperate zone fruit job this summer - especially Eduardo Matheu, a Calpoly graduate, who is being given increased responsibilities in the Ministerio and is doing a fine job. We have been in correspondence with H.B. Tukey, the Grand Old Man in the field of Dwarfed Fruit Trees, mainly on the basis of his advice we are suggesting to planters here that they dont go over to Malling Mertons 100% as yet. stick to about half and half until we have more experience. I think you will agree with this.

They have found nematode damage on the Kern peach orchard up at Santo Tomas (on the road from here to Guatemala City) and everybody is now talking about nematode-resitant rootstocks. So we have ordered

100,000 units of Britaniseed D. from Georgia which are on the road right now.

There wont be a complete shift from local peach rootstocks, however, until we can get more nematode-resistant material. As for pears, which are attracting a great deal of attention, we are getting a lot of P. calleryana seed. We are not as clear about varieties yet, as we are about apples (we aint clear about nothing, as a matter of fact) but Eduardo and I have found, this season, that not all fruits called "pera larga" are the same thing, not "pera redonda" either.

I have been doing a little teaching, more or less in a seminar manner, at Barcena, and just love it. We are hoping that Eduardo Matheu may give some time to teaching the fruit course there after the first of the year - I have my hands too full to keep it up. If we could have Chuck Attlee and Eduardo Matheu there on the staff all the time that school would go to town, in the field of Horticulture.

The Ovalle brothers are sure going strong. The big drive on peaches right now is for canning clings, and everybody is planting local melocotones which will probably get by with the canners until we have time to select the best ones and propagate them. I think some fifty local seedlings are now being propagated. There is not much interest in peaches for dessert purposes - people in general are satisfied with the local seedlings, tho Arturo Falla is making money out of this small orchard of Flordawon and Flordahome, and is propagating a number of other varieties from Florida and southern California. I believe they will have a good future, but the Common Market is placing most of the emphasis on fruits for processing - juices and canned fruits.

I doubt that the Ovalles have any melocotones better than other folkses. Arturo Falla has some good ones. The Ovalles, by the way, have planted a lot of Mariposa plums and selling them well. They still insist that their apples are Red Astrachan but everybody else,



including myself, swears that their orchard is Winter Banana. Another apple problem: you remember the Juarez orchard in Chichicasteango. The owner says he has "Juarez", Red Delicious and Jonathan. Benitez propagated all these and they are in fruit at Quezaltenango. Nobody has been able to see any difference between "Juarez" (which as you know we are satisfied is Wealthy) and his Red Delicious and Jonathan. We find consolation in the fact that people who plant his Delicious and Jonathan are not going to be stuck, because Wealthy does better here than the two latter.

In short, the variety problem with apples and pears is still far from solved; all of us are now recommending Winter Banana, Wealthy and Gravenstein and with pears, the "larga" variety which we believe is Clapp Favorite, and two or three of the serotina hybrids, mainly Hood (which somebody here decided to call Kadman) and Baldwin. We will have to go easy on the fine French pears, but I believe we will be growing several of them eventually on a good scale. Anjou and Comice look pretty hopeful; probably some of the others will show up better in time. We believe calleryana rootstocks may help.

My son Hugh is still laid up; one leg is coming out all right, the other still in doubt - the bone was shattered just above the ankle and it is doubtful that it will ever be as good as new. But he has been able to carry on his work from the convalescent home in Gainesville and will probably get out on crutches in two or three months more. I have just heard from Milton that the Laus will be back here about the 24th of this month. We miss Milton here; I hope he will be allowed to stay another couple of years. We are trying to keep Ralph Attlee as long as we can. The only trouble with AID is that they shift the men around too fast. You need five years on the job to get the best results.

Best regards always,

Cordially