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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.

Antigua, Guatemala, 14 July 1959

Dr A E Waller
210 Stanbery Ave,
Columbus 9, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Waller:

Many thanks for your letter, which I found upon my return from Mexico yesterday. I went up there to give a series of lectures and demonstrations in connection with the III International Course on Horticulture under the auspices of the Organization of American States.

It was indeed pleasant to see you even for such a short time and I hope you will come again. Incidentally, there is some talk of making Lancetilla a modest center for botanical work in Central America. I rather believe this will eventuate. I doubt that there is a more interesting collection of tropical plants anywhere in this hemisphere, since the decline of most of the grand botanical gardens in the West Indies.

You mention irises. I would be delighted to have some seeds. When I went to live in Guatemala City about 1928 an old colleague of mine at Washington sent me rhizomes of more than 50 varieties, all of which grew well but few of which blossomed. We had to settle down to about four, all whites and pale blues or lavender. Maybe if I grew a few hundred seedlings some good things might come out of them. Right now I am working mainly on geraniums and gloxinias, with some gladiolus and cannas thrown in - and of course the orchids.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NOVICE G. FAWCETT, *President*

COLUMBUS 10

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
and
OHIO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
L. L. RUMMELL, *Dean and Director*

BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY
B. S. MEYER, *Chairman*
BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY BUILDING
1735 NEIL AVENUE

July 27, 1959

Doctor Wilson Popenoe
Casa Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

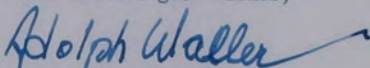
It is good to hear of your lectures and demonstrations in the Horticultural group. I suppose you were in Mexico City and saw my friend Dr. Niederhauser. If as much can be done with fruit crops as with maize and wheat Mexico can look to the future with confidence.

Please express my thanks to Mr. Moscoso for his attentions while we were at Tola. Unfortunately for me during the time there the light was not sufficient for Kodachrome pictures in the Lancetilla Garden. As I talk about this garden from time to time in my course in Economic Botany I would like to obtain some good slides of the flowers, foliage and fruits of some of the valuable plants. Incidentally a young man, a complete stranger just back from service in the Philippines came to see me about marketing more mangoes in the Columbus area. They are still expensive. I would like to see and get acquainted with the mangosteen.

In my garden iris capsules are beginning to ripen and I shall send some fresh seed later. I have on hand some unplanted seeds of last year and am enclosing them herewith but cannot promise ready germination. However directions say "use well cured seeds" so these are well cured. They were stored in the garage all winter and probably need no more chilling. Later on I shall be able to send several species as well as some of the tall bearded varieties should you like to try several kinds.

You are kind to hope that I may come again to see Antigua. Let me assure you that such a prospect is most pleasant and it is my hope that it may some day be realized.

With cordial good wishes,



Adolph Waller

AW:cap

Aug 27 1959

A. E. WALLER
210 Stanbery Avenue
Columbus 9, Ohio

Dear Dr Popenov;-
Just a week ago we were sitting
in cool comfort or strolling around your gardens in
Cudigua free from the heat and the humidity of
a Columbus summer. Jim Fossen and I enjoyed immensely
our conversation with you and came away feeling that a
trip with a number of excellent features had a new high
point. That Maria also again seemed to remember
two other visits amazes me - I have somewhere a small
Kodachrome of Maria with Mrs Waller taken in 1955. When
I come across it in a number of somewhat personal and
unclassified slides I will send it along.

I have written Mr Shaanon at Tela to tell him
why I was more interested in Tela than La Reina - A number
of our boys being technically trained may see causes of troubles
in microscopes and test tubes without having seen what
a plant that is growing well looks like. It seems as important
to try to form a view of a plant growing well as to see
only the sickly specimens - Mr Mascoso was most kind
and helpful.

I am only just home but see some iris seed
pods which I should like to share with you when they ripen
so I hope to write later.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NOVICE G. FAWCETT, *President*

COLUMBUS 10

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
and
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BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY
B. S. MEYER, *Chairman*
BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY BUILDING
1735 NEIL AVENUE

September 4, 1959

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

There is a package of iris seeds being sent under separate cover. About 3 weeks ago I sent a letter containing seeds. I am not sure that this was the proper way. The seeds rattled inside the manilla envelope. This time the envelopes of seeds are firmly packed.

Some of the seeds are marked F. McC. These are from a friend of mine Forrest McCord of Muncie, Indiana. Particularly interesting are the members of the beardless iris group that he is sending. There are also from him a few crosses of tall bearded iris. The rest are from my own garden but as I expected to be away this year I made very few crosses.

If these arrive and germinate as per schedule we can always follow them with others.

Trusting this finds you and Mrs. Popenoe well,

With sincere regards,

Adolph Waller

Adolph Waller

Department of Botany and Plant Pathology

AW:cap

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 Sept 1959

Dr Adolf Waller,
Ohio State University,
Columbus.

Dear Doctor Waller:

Accept my cordial thanks for your letters of 27 July and 4 September, and the two lots of iris seeds. The ones sent in your letter of 27 July were planted at once but have not germinated. I expect better results with these fresh ones.

I am very much interested in this genus, but up to now - as I may have told you - have not been able to do much with the usual run of bearded varieties at this elevation in Central America, and even less at lower elevations. When I moved to Guatemala City about 1928 I got some 75 varieties from my old colleague Homer Skeels in Washington; of these only Madame Chereau and one other lavender variety blossomed - the rest grew well but never showed a flower. We now have only the common purple and the common white and that lavender one.

I have suspected that we might do better with the Louisiana irises. I got about 15 varieties and tried to grow them at Zamorano in Honduras, but very few of them flowered and they all died out in a couple of years. I think I shall try some more of them here.

You speak about slides of plants at Lancetilla. I am happy to advise that Paul Allen, who was with me at Zamorano and previously had spent some 20 years in Panama and Costa Rica, has recently been put in charge of Lancetilla - a splendid thing for the future of that beautiful garden. He is a good and active photographer and I suspect might be able to get you some good pictures. His address is Paul H. Allen, Tela Railroad Company, Tela, Honduras.

I think and hope some interesting things may come out of these seeds you have sent. I will let you know if I get any results.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

NOVICE G. FAWCETT, *President*

COLUMBUS 10

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
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1735 NEIL AVENUE

October 14, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Casa Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Wilson Popenoe:

Your letter of September 17, stated that you are much interested "in the Genus Iris." We hold this interest in common, and I have a few species and have had others which I wish to share with you. For this year, unfortunately, knowing that I was to visit Guatemala and Honduras, no provision for obtaining a seed supply in my absence was made, therefore, what I have already sent, and what is herewith supplied, is all I have for this season. If you find germination is successful, we can be ready to supply more next year.

My method of germinating most seeds is to put them into tin cans with holes punched in the can drainage, and use light soil and let them stay outdoors during the winter months. If any attempt here is made with immediate germination, greenhouse space must be given seedlings during the winter. As this has seldom been available, I have not tried to hurry germination. For your climatic conditions, it might be necessary to store the seeds in a refrigerator for about 40-50 days.

I am enclosing seeds of:

1. Iris ensata which grows well, and is particularly attractive to honey-bees; whereas bearded iris are not.
2. Iris graminea, which can tolerate a slightly shaded part of your patio. The slow ripening of these seeds, since I have them in the shade has delayed this letter.
3. Iris brevicaulis, (formerly Foleosa) from Ottowa County, Ohio. This species, along with Iris fulva, are the parents of D. K. Williamson seeds of which you have already received.

There are also a few seeds of a form of the regal lily
from Jan de Graff in Oregon.

Not long ago, I saw a "Catalogo de la Flora Dominicana,"
by R. M. Moscoso. Is this your friend? When it grew dark
and started to rain in the hancetilla garden, I failed in our
good-byes to obtain his full name. I want to write him sometime.

Trusting this finds you in good health.

Sincerely,

Adolph

Adolph Waller
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology
1735 Neil Avenue
Columbus 10, Ohio

AW:smk

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 Oct 1959

Dr Adolf Waller,
Ohio State University, Columbus 10.

Dear Doctor Waller:

You are extremely good to keep in mind my horticultural interests. Your letter of the 14th with more seeds came yesterday. You tell me how you grow Iris seeds. Item 1, you put them in tin cans. We have these. Item 2, you punch holes in the bottom; ours are already fully of holes. Item 3, you use light soil. We have this. Item 4, you let them stay outside during the winter months. THAT is the catch. And I don't even trust the refrigerator business, because at Zamorano we tried to chill Prunus seeds by keeping them in our cold storage for 6 weeks to 3 months, and no results. And recently I bedded down a batch of narcissus bulbs in our refrigerator here - and as a matter of fact, forgot about them when I went to Venezuela and Mexico for about 3 months. They froze solid. I planted them and they are growing beautifully, but nary a flower.

None of the iris seeds you have so kindly sent me, first and second shipments, has germinated. Gonzalo my keen little Indian gardener, pulled a few out of the soil the other day, scratched off the seed coats, and they were in fine shape; but they do not germinate. I am leaving all the seeds you sent in the ground - they are in a large seed box of light soil, with a mixture of volcanic sand (this is so good they used to take it from Vesuvius the the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh) and I will leave them there until Hell freezes over, and when Hell freezes over it will probably be pretty cold here in Guatemala and maybe they will germinate.

Thanks also for the Liliun. I haven't much hope for most Liliuns here though I really haven't tried many. The common Easter lily is almost a weed with us - it grows and flowers beautifully. Recently I have fallen onto what I believe to be L. philippinense var. formosanum. It is a grand thing - a thing to say your prayers to. Right now in bloom - when there are no Easter lilies. Seven feet high, flowers almost larger than Easter lilies, and fully as handsome. We can grow it from seed and flower it in 18 months from the latter.

I am going to stick to my Iris, tho from experience I don't hope for too much. I am going to get some more of those Louisiana irises. I believe they will do better here than they did at Zamorano. And I have just received a magnificent collection of hybrid Watsonias from California. I feel sure they will do well here and they make good cut flowers.

No, the author of the Flora Dominicana is not our Moscoco. Incidentally, that excellent horticulturist and botanist Paul Allen, who was with me at Zamorano for a couple of years and has about 20 yrs behind him in Latin America, has taken over Lancetilla and I believe that beautiful place will stay beautiful. Some ultra-practical people can't see it; but we started the African oil palm there and it is now a crop of very considerable importance in Central America. We did a lot with rubber and abacá and bamboos and even bananas.

I forget for the moment oscoco's first name but with regard to Lancetilla you may now write to Paul H. Allen, Tela Railroad Co, Tela, Honduras.

Sincerely yours,



7/16/60

Dear Wilson Pappeo:- A son is at present in the graduate school at Stanford University so Mrs Waller and I have come for a short visit as well as some conferences in which I have been engaged. Among many attractive decorative plants I find that rather ordinary looking bearded iris are still in bloom or may even be re-blooming. Yesterday I was up over the "sky-line" drive and thought that the moisture temperature conditions were not too different from your beloved Antigua. This of course reminded me that you were experimenting with seeds. I have made some duplicate crosses in Columbus this past May and if you wish more seeds will be delighted to send some. Has your experience led to any inferences as to types best suited to your garden? The germination of seeds from lots similar to the ones you received from me was excellent this spring and I have several hundred young seedlings growing on now. Next spring the expectation is that around 70% will show flowers. Living as you do where winter never comes both day-length and temperature changes pose a number of variables. However, these are by no means the only ones to be

HOME OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Considered. I have a strain - a clone sent me by the originator -
on which he has tried - grafting him - "hundreds of times" to
set seeds. On this the third year it has bloomed in my garden
I find that as the result of a particular cross some seeds are
forming. The capsule is large but until it ripens I will
not know how many seeds may be in it nor what their
appearance may be. But it is quite likely that the
forming of this fruit depends more on heritables than on
environmental factors. So I am hoping that something
may break the barriers in your problems.

I shall be back in Columbus by July 27th and
perhaps I may look forward to a letter from you.

Best wishes to you and Mrs. Popeiro.

Cordially,
Adolph Waller

210 Stauber Ave
Berley, Columbus 9
Ohio

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 Oct 1960

Dear Doctor Waller:

Your letter was awaiting me when I returned from Peru a few weeks ago. This is to tell you that your iris seeds did not germinate any better than those I have tried in previous years. There were six plants to start with; two now look pretty promising, because they are six inches high; the others are beyond hope I am afraid.

I believe told you when you were down here that I received from a friend of mine in the USDA at Washington, about 1930, some 75 varieties of bearded irises. We planted these in two places, here and Guatemala City. ONE variety has behaved properly, and this past month we planted a row of it 50 feet long in our garden here. It is a pale lavender, a rather common variety I believe; we have lost the name. Aside from this variety, the only two which are to be seen in this region are the common purple and the common white. Many varieties grow well here but fail to blossom. As far as irises are concerned, I am pretty well whipped and am turning my attention to amaryllis and cannas and a few other things. Geraniums do beautifully until the wet season hits them; then they all rot and pass out. We pot the best varieties and keep them under cover during the rains.

When are you coming this way again? We expect to be here now, until next Easter when we go up to Florida for a meeting of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc for Hort Sci, after which I would like to go back to Spain and do some more work on avocados.

Faithfully yours,

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLUMBUS 10, OHIO

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
Resident Instruction—Research—Extension

BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY
BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY BUILDING
1735 NEIL AVENUE

April 27, 1964

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

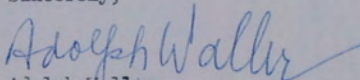
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I would like again to ask a favor of you. I am to visit several Central American countries and Mexico. Who are the botanists I ought to be seeing. This particular project is as a consultant for the Atomic Energy Commission and travel opportunity is possible.

Panama and Columbia are particularly objectives as this is in connection with a sea level canal. The information I am seeking is for vegetation studies.

I hope this finds you in reasonably good health and that I may be able to see you presently. Since my retirement last June, life has moved along at a fairly rapid clip.

Sincerely,



Adolph Waller
Professor Emeritus

AEW:j

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
Resident Instruction—Research—Extension

BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY
BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY BUILDING
1735 NEIL AVENUE

July 14, 1965

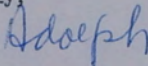
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Casa Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala,
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

What a treat you afforded to Web McBryde, Dick Davidson and me with our good talk. What a way to spend the 4th of July! Especially with fireworks and a procession right past your house.

Dr. McBryde is here now for a conference on the canal project to summarize what the recent trip to Panama and Colombia revealed. Both he and Dr. Davidson join in sending warmest regards to you and thanking you for the memo on Dr. Fairchild.

Sincerely,



Adolph Waller
Professor Emeritus

AW/cl

from the desk of

[Feb. 1967]

ADOLPH E. WALLER

For Spanish Colonial architecture and atmosphere — Antigua.

This is also the home of Dr Wilson Popeura. His house is a museum Spanish Colonial days. He may not be there now. Inquire. He is a good friend of mine and you may be able to get in.

[14 July 1971]

Dear Honored Friend Wilson: -

It was a genuine treat to have your letter which has several times been reread to remind me of you and our visits. The last one was with Dr. Robert Macbride and Dick Davidson. He gets everywhere these days and is at Aspen attending the Institute for Humanistic Studies in Colorado. This is an attempt to get United Nations folks interested in a world approach to environmental studies. So far, I'm afraid, not many of the members of the symposium have much ecological background, but they may be pleasant and effective speakers who can pass on ideas to the proper channels. Dick as you know perhaps sees you Hugh at the conference

3)

of cardiac and pulmonary inadequacies. The attacks of breathlessness seem to climax about 2 A.M. and were last to call the emergency squad to take me to the hospital in their ambulance. Since for reasons known only to themselves the squad arrives with the siren screeching and red top lights flashing the whole quiet neighborhood is awakened and disturbed by the upset. In the hospital I'm attached to oxygen tanks, a heart monitor and electro is put into a vein and the doctors prescribe pills and diet and rest and I lose weight and mental agility and take weeks to recover. It is altogether a silly situation, but without the help of Mike and Dorothy I would not have pulled through. As soon as I am allowed to go back to Columbus I expect to dispose of the house and find an apartment. In the garden I shall particularly miss

2)

led by Battelle Mem. Inst. an environmental studies. Dick was a student in my class some thirty years ago and upon my retirement from Ohio State Univ. asked if I cared to be a consultant. This has worked well and we now have prepared a large set of retrievable references on the tropical environment we feel is or when a new canal to replace the present Panama canal would be attempted. Again, in that case it is political and not geographic or environmental factors that will determine the operations. Battelle has nothing to do with the choice of sites. That was already set by Army Engineers who at least used the logic of the least distance between the oceans but with little knowledge of the terrain to be cut.

Since Easter I've been at the Alexandria Hospital and between times at the home of my son Michael with a combination

It has my nice & plump hybrids that have proved interesting as well as a number of nice species. There are also trees that once were seeds in my hand. But I shall look back to the "dear departed days", as you mentioned, with satisfaction.

Do keep in touch. It is a great pleasure to think of you. We met in 1938 when you called at the Barona Hotel in Hakigera chosen for no other reason than that Kellerman had stayed there in 1908. With me was Gerry Fenton and as you arrived the malaria bug was striking in full force. Your first words were "Come to my house when it is quiet." When I get to travel again we may meet. Most cordially yours

Adolph Waller

July 14-