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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.

97 Elm Avenue,
Takoma Park, Md.
Dec. 14, 1940

Dr. Wilson Popeal,
Somewhere in the Tropics,
of the United Fruit Co.,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Doc:

I've meant to write you before this, but I've been rather disturbed at a rather severe illness of my Father's and somehow your letter did not get answered when it should have been taken care of. Things are a little better now but Dad has had to quit work.

It is with some regret that I have to report that I'm not going to be able to go to Guatemala for the Cinchona business. The proposition looked good as well as interesting to me. You know how much I would have

engaged it. And while the time was short I feel certain that I could have made the period worth while and have helped a great deal.

Doctor Auchter was approached with the proposition by Boswell. (I went through Doolittle and he took it to Boswell.) Auchter's reaction was that the work I was engaged in here is too important to drop at this time; also he felt there was no great personal ^{for me} inducement ^{for me} attached to it. As presented in the letter from Mr. Lukens my salary and travelling expenses would have been paid.

I want you to know, however, that personally I would have welcomed the chance of helping on such an attractive defense program, and I feel that Merck and Co. would probably have done something more in the line of personal inducement if it had been suggested by Dr. Auchter. However, that is in the past. And Dr. Auchter was probably looking at it from angles that I did not see.

Mrs. Wellman and the young folks are well,
and we send our best to you and your family.
Sincerely, Frederick Wellman.

21 Avenida Roosevelt
San Salvador, Rep. de El Salvador
10 July 1957

Dr F L Wellman
Turrialba, Costa Rica

Dear Fritz:

Before we had even got fully unpacked at Antigua I came over here on a two months contract with the govt, to investigate and re port on the possibilities of fruit cultivation - mas fruta y mejor fruta - and I hope it wont stop with nothing but a report. Chice and I will try to plan some introduction work of new varieties and some rather extensive nursery operations - when I have found men who know how to produce good nursery stock and lots of it.

Yesterday Mario Lewy and I were down in the Santiago Nonualca region - we are spending a lot of time right now making a general survey of the situation. We saw a lot of orange trees with a sort of die back. The twigs and young branches are dead and they say the trees die eventually. I saw what I think is the same thing at the Bonilla orchard up at Los Planes here near town. Old man Bonilla says that trees which get it die next year. Daniel Amado Castillo who as you probably know is the horticulturist of the Centro says it is gemosis, but it certainly is not the gemosis I am used to, because it does not seem to attack the trunks of the trees around the base, but is limited to the young terminals and young branches. Castillo says it is gemosis aerea and is caused by *Diplodia natalensis*.

I have not been able yet to get hold of a copy of your bulletin on *Ehfermedades* but will do so and see if you talk about this thing. If you dont, then maybe you will drop me a line and tell me what you knew about it. It does not seem limited to old trees, as I thought at first, for I have seen plenty of it on young ones. My impression is that it may not be due to any pathogenic organism, just bad growing conditions, but you doubtless know the truth of the matter.

It is good to be out in the field again. I intend to spend quite a bit of time from now with my first love, Plant Introduction, in several of these countries, not necessarily officially. And I suspect Helen and I will do some travelling when we get around to it.

Ever yours,



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE
CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS

TURRIALBA, COSTA RICA

July 15, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
21 Avenida Roosevelt
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dear Wilson:

Your letter is like a warm grasp.

Look, Sir. That die back of citrus is something that I've seen quite a lot. I remember you starting my interest in it in Lancetilla! I took twigs down to Tela, and Red Manns and I got nothing. I think it was because I dug too far into the center of the pieces.

Later in El Salvador a boy by the name of Julio Bran and I made some investigations. As I recall the trees I sampled were out near Santa Ana. Julio obtained almost everything. You never saw such a list of things. The most consistent recovery was a white organism. Never had it identified, because I went on a months leave and when I returned a new director had been installed, Julio was transferred to engineering and I had been moved out of the laboratory. I was so mad that I couldn't believe it.

I went back to it again when I came to Costa Rica. But this work was sort of off the cuff. You know what I mean? I was a pathologist working on coffee mostly, and critical problems. Die back in citrus was like the things you never do, it was always waiting for you. I felt that all that I could do was spend a minimum of time.

My isolations never satisfied me. Practically everything had Diplodia in it. So did dead tips of most all the other more than 50 species of trees and bushes. Some of them not quite so much as others, but Diplodia of whatever species, you could call it any one of several species because of variations in spores and cultural characters. I also found just about as many isolations of Colletotrichum, and a Pestalozzia kept turning up. The bacteria I have not had much, down here in Turrialba. However, I did run onto occasional Fusarium, and even a Valsa-like fungus.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe

July 15, 1957

Without making a proper study I finally concluded that it could have been avoided, all the dieback, I saw at least, in El Salvador and here, by some fertility whether added or there to begin with. I was invariably looking at badly treated trees, some young and some older. None of them in the worst condition, none of them in the best. However, I never did do anything intensive on it. Sorry to say.

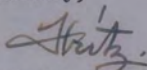
I am certain this is not much help. I wish some one could work on the fruit diseases of Central America. And in it I do not include the "grains" like coffee and cacao.

Have you had any chance to talk about your plant introduction program with Claud Horn? He would love to know. This letter of yours I am sharing with Ralph Allee. We would certainly like to have you take a dip down here and go over our library and see if it has anything you would like photocopies of. Also we would like to have you down here, period. Anytime. And bring Helen.

They certainly need some missionary work on fruits in Central America. I was reading Ochse the other day, fascinating and wonderful. Here we are in the most superb part of all the world and our main article in the line of fruits is oranges, and miserable seedling stuff at that. Aren't we as smart or as capable as those people in Africa and the South East Asia region. You know we are. But we sleep along talking about only those things that make us cash. Well, fruit will do that, but the fruit grower isn't in the same club as the cafetalero or the cacao producer. No good reason.

Come on down.

Sincerely,



Frederick L. Wellman,
Senior Plant Pathologist.

FLW/mila.-

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 Dec 1957

Dr F L Wellman
Turrialba, Costa Rica.

Dear Fritz:

Many thanks for your annotated Christmas card. You say you are leaving Turrialba, but say, Boy, where in Hell are you going? You simply must continue your work in Central America. We need you - I don't need to tell you that.

Jim Kempton was here the other day - on his way to retirement, damn it all. I talked to him about you. He said, Fred should get into ICA, to hang onto his pension plan; and he should come back to Central America, - Salvador or Guatemala, - to continue his work on coffee and other crops. And then, Raymond White was here yesterday with Dr C Y Shepherd of Trinidad, and White says you are no longer in the pension plan - that you have been on the Turrialba payroll. I don't know. But I do know one thing: we need you down here. And you know that Chico de Sola wanted to get you in Salvador again. They tell me Jaime Guiscafré-Arrillaga is likely to be transferred from there because of the new rule of only 4 yrs service in ICA in any given country. I talked with him a few weeks ago.

If I still have any influence left, anywhere (which is doubtful) I will fight for you, and hard - if you are willing to stay in this part of the world.

I enclose a copy of the report I made in Salvador about fruit culture. I hope you will approve in general. Some of us are wrong all of the time, some only part of the time. I hope I belong in the latter category. We will get something done in Salvador if we can find a couple of young guys who can really run nurseries like the

Estación Experimental Agrícola
Box 516
Río Piedras, Puerto Rico
May 25, 1961

Dear Wilson:

I've been numbed and found it hard to write to you about your wife's death; I just can't express myself on it, but I want you to know how very much I admired her, what a wonderful person she was, how much she meant I know not only to her family but to the effect she had on people of any nation. All this is not calculable. I was lucky to have known her.

Thank you very much for your letter dated 8 May. It came in day before yesterday and I've used it to write the other officers of the "Caribbean Division of the American Phytopathological Society" (so well abbreviated by you as patologos) and I've asked that they get into touch with you or Mario Jellil and start the plans on next James meeting. Personally I'd enjoy staying at the Hotel Aurora. I'd like to be there right now.

I surely agree with you about the esoteric societies, and at the moment I don't want to have a Philosophical Society or one on Sociology of Aborigine among the Caribbean Divisions. Good, straight forward societies on agricultural science subjects. And working together, each carrying its own load.

There is going to be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the patologos in a month or two, I think in Costa Rica. I won't be able to be there because I'm broke and there is nothing the Director here would turn down faster than a request by me for such a trip on station expenses. But Gene Schuber (Guatemala), Ben Waitt (Honduras), and Eddie Echandi (Costa Rica) will hold forth and do some things.

I was gratified at your reaction to the coffee bulletin from Puerto Rico. It was a hard job, in a way. Started in as a request for a "Manual", imagine. It got into jealousies between organizations and I don't know what all. I finally took ^{back} the manual manuscript, that

was almost accepted, because I felt strongly it was a popularization that had lost its original purpose. I rewrote it, it was chopped to pieces by the Director after which the Editor and I ^{reduced it} put it back together, including its scientific intent, and it came out as it should have come in the first place as a bulletin. Half the size, better.

This is the kind of a bulletin I wanted ICA to subsidize for ornamentals, for coffee, for cacao, for rubber, for kenaf, etc. But, as you may well have gathered, my ideas are not overly acceptable as they lean too much towards the research end, and ICA doesn't believe in that word. Which is the reason I couldn't continue with them. Why should I anyway?

I have surely been busy here, and I've enjoyed it. Sometimes I would like a little cooler weather, and I do not enjoy one phase of work here and that is the pure administration end. And one of these days I'm going to change that, as you'll learn about.

I have been working on parasitism of *Cuscuta* and *Cassytha* here, just as a hobby to keep sane. It has turned into something most fascinating. The one trouble being I can't spend as much time as it needs. But I'll publish on it anyway.

I am working up a rather careful paper on "Diseases of Ornamental Plants in Puerto Rico" and find that the Latino-American research here has contributed a lot that should be usable in all our tropics.

Well, I hope you can read this scribbling.

Thanks for listening, and for your letter.

Best to you always,

Fred Wellman

P. S. I am organizing and will take part in and be Chairman of a Symposium on Tropical Plant Pathology in December at the annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society. It's going to be fun to see some of the tropical tramps give the narrow minded specialists in the temperate zone something to think about.

Fred