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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.

INSTITUTO CUBANO DE INVESTIGACIONES TECNOLÓGICAS

I C I T
HABANA, CUBA

EDIFICIO "ENE"
CALLE N, NO. 266

3 de Junio de 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza #2
Antigua
Guatemala

Mi querido doctor Popenoe:

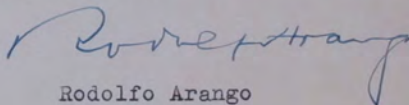
Gracias por su tarjeta (reproducción de un cuadro de mi viejo amigo H. Garavito) con la noticia de que, a partir del 1º. de Junio pasará usted a ser Director Emeritus de la "Escuela Agrícola Panamericana", de la cual ha sido usted alma desde su fundación.

Esto es, aparentemente, el retiro de sus actividades; pero yo sé que ese gran trabajador y esa fértil imaginación que es usted, en definitiva, aprovechará el ambiente apacible y evocador de su famosa casa en La Antigua, para realizar más reposadamente su obra de escritor técnico, a través de la cual el mundo lo conoce y lo admira.

Su condecoración del Mérito Agrícola, según me informa el secretario de la Orden, ha sido aprobada y solo falta que el señor Presidente de la República ponga su visto bueno a los expedientes que, como el suyo, ya han alcanzado el voto favorable de los comisionados.

Mis recuerdos muy afectuosos a su admirable Elena.

Le abraza y felicita,



Rodolfo Arango

RA:la

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
7 July 1957

Sr Ing. Rodolfo Arango
ICIT
Calle N, num 266, Habana, Cuba.

Dear Rodolfo:

Many thanks for your letter of 3 June. While my jubilación at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana represents the "retire de mis actividades" at that institution, I have plenty of other work in mind, as for example the present job: I am here on a two or three months assignment to help the government of El Salvador put on feet a good program of fruit improvement. But as you say, I shall probably stay in Antigua a good part of my time, after I finish this job, as I have in mind to write about my work in tropical America, which extends back over a period of 45 years.

Thanks for the news about the condecoración. When the señor Presidente has put his v.b. on it, please send it over to me at Antigua or in care of the Cuban Embassy in Guatemala City - I believe you have an embassy there but I am not sure. It would probably be safest to send it to the Embassy where I could call for it.

You probably knew that at the meeting of the tropical section of the American Society for Horticultural Science in Mexico City last April it was voted to hold the next meeting at Habana in June 1958, probably about the 10th to 15th of June. Filiberte Laze was elected Chairman for this meeting and Frank Venning Vice-Chairman. Ernesto Casseres of Costa Rica is Secretary of our group and will be making arrangements for the meeting. If I am in this part of the world at the time I hope to bring Elena over and have the usual delightful time eating cangrejos moros and calde gallego.

Best regards always,

Sincerely,

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INSTITUTO CUBANO DE INVESTIGACIONES TECNOLÓGICAS

ICIT
HABANA, CUBA

EDIFICIO "ENE"
CALLE N, No. 266

Septiembre 3 de 1957

Dr. Wilson Popence,
Calle de la Nobleza # 2,
Antigua,
Guatemala.

Mi querido doctor Popence:

He tenido hoy el gusto de recibir un telefonema del doctor José Enrique Perdomo, Secretario de la Orden del Mérito Agrícola Industrial de Cuba, participándome que el expediente promovido por mí en favor de usted a los efectos de que se le otorgara la condecoración de esa Orden ha sido definitivamente aprobado y firmado por el Señor Presidente de la República.

La entrega de la condecoración se hará el día 10 de Octubre, fecha histórica para nuestro país.

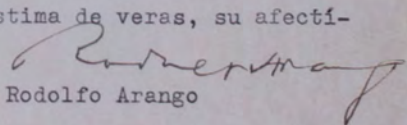
Con seguridad usted recibirá el comunicado oficial correspondiente.

Espero que usted en esa ocasión nos honre con su visita y, de no ser posible, escriba en su oportunidad al doctor Perdomo indicándole la persona que en ese caso recogería, en su nombre, el documento.

Le envío, con estas breves líneas mi más calurosa felicitación, que hago extensible a Elena, su distinguida esposa.

Sabe le estima de veras, su afectí-
simo amigo.

RA: bsl


Rodolfo Arango

Antigua, Guatemala, 12 September 1957

Sr Ing. don Rodolfo Arango
ICTE, Calle N, num. 266
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Rodolfo:

Your letter of the 12th instant brings the good news that the expediente conferring on este su humilde servidor the Orden de Mérito Agrícola Industrial has been signed by President Batista and will be given to me or my representative on the 10th of October. While I have not yet received the official notification, I take this opportunity to write that I fear it will be possible for me to be present in person; you know I am now one of those unfortunate jubilados who has to live on a pensión. Therefore, when I receive the notification from doctor José Enrique Perdomo, Secretario de la Orden, I am going to suggest that it would please me greatly if my good friend J.H. Marvín, Consul de los Estados Unidos in Habana, could do the honors for me. Mr. Marvín and I - and I must certainly include Helen too - have been good friends since that stay in Habana in 194- was it 1941? - when we spent some weeks, myself and the other gringos, recorriendo la Perla de las Antillas de Maysi a San Antón, with brief stops in la Habana to rempujar moros cancheros, that is, cancheros moros. I don't know much about moros cancheros.

If our good friend Mr Marvín cannot do the honors, then I shall ask Dr Frank Venning of UECOM, an agriculturist and a good friend of mine, presently Vice-Chairman of the Caribbean Region, American Society of Horticultural Science, who can be reached through the Embassy if he is in Cuba. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr Marvín, with the request that he will tell me whether or not he will be in La Habana on the 10th of October and will receive the decoration for me, and sending it over to Guatemala through the diplomatic pouch.

I cannot express to you my appreciation, Rodolfo, of your good offices in obtaining for me this undeserved decoration, which will always mean so much to me because of the long years I have known and loved Cuba and the many good friends I have there. Now that I have no obligations, except to pay my bills with painful regularity, we hope to drop in on you once in a while - especially because I have recently been in El Salvador for two months helping the government of that fine little country organize a program of fruit improvement, and I have told them that we are going to bring from Cuba some of the good things you have, such as the guanábanas and the zapotes.

Helen joins me in warmest regards and great appreciation of your friendship.

Sincerely,



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy
Habana, Cuba
September 18, 1957

Dear Doc:-

Yours of the 12th received - thanks very much for wishing me, if possible, to accept or receive your decoration to be given to you on October 10th. Unfortunately my movements are going to be somewhat uncertain around the 10th of October believe it would not be safe to depend on me to be present. In your letter to Rodolfo Arango you mention Dr. Venning as possible alternate - consequently saw Dr. Venning yesterday and took the liberty of showing him your letter. I explained my situation and he stated he would be more than glad to do the necessary. This clears any clouds away and you can write him here care the Embassy. As to sending the decoration to you there is no chance of using Diplomatic Pouch - my idea would be to use the good services of the United Fruit Co to take it to Barrios and send it on to Dana Condon in Guatemala City - suggest you speak to Dana.

It was nice hearing from you and Helen - I shall be on the lookout for your visit to Habana. This time next year will, no doubt, be approaching the retired list of the US State Dept. In all probabilities still keep my room at The Ambos Mundos.

My very best recuerdos to you both,

Sincerely,

John H. Marvin

PARTICULAR

INSTITUTO CUBANO DE INVESTIGACIONES TECNOLÓGICAS

I C I T

HABANA, CUBA

EDIFICIO "ENE"
CALLE N, No. 266

20 de Septiembre de 1957

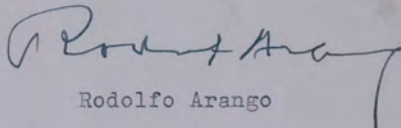
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
La Antigua
Guatemala

Mi querido doctor Popenoe:

Tuve el gusto de recibir su carta del 12 del actual, en la que me comunica no poder estar - aquí con sus amigos de Cuba para recibir en nuestra fecha patriótica del 10 de Octubre su muy merecida condecoración del Mérito Agrícola e Industrial, en el grado de Gran Oficial.

Hoy recibí recado del Dr. Frank D. Venning de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos, participándome que había recibido carta de usted en el sentido de - que lo represente en el acto de dicha entrega. Ha quedado en llamarme para ponernos de acuerdo oportunamente e ir - juntos a la ceremonia. El Dr. Venning, persona muy simpática, también es amigo mío, pues yo presido la junta que - coordina los trabajos de los técnicos centroamericanos y cubanos en el programa del Punto Cuatro.

Con mis mejores recuerdos para - Elena y con la esperanza de tenerlos aquí en Cuba, para una devastación de cangrejos y de camarones matanceros, quedo suyo afectísimo,



Rodolfo Arango

RA:la

Antigua, Guatemala,
28 September 1957

Sr. Ing. don Rodolfo Arango,
Instituto Cubano de Investigaciones Tecnológicas,
Habana, CUBA

Dear Rodolfo:

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th, advising that you have been in touch with our mutual friend Dr Frank Venning, who has kindly offered to receive in my name the Orden del Mérito Agrícola e Industrial, on the 10th of October. I shall ask Dr Venning to send this over to me through some mutual friend in Habana, or by registered air mail which I think would be quite safe.

Once more let me express to you my heartfelt appreciation of your good offices in getting this decoration for me. I hope I can extend my thanks personally before many months pass by. Elena joins me in warmest regards always.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr Frank Venning
Mr John H Marvin

Frank: Many thanks for offering to do this job. Tubby Marvin suggests you turn the decoration and diploma over to the agent of United Fruit in Habana with request that he send it over to the agent in Guatemala City, Dana Condon. If this is not the best way, I think registered air mail will be safe enough.-- I hope plans for the ASHS meeting of next June are coming on well. It is going to be a good one - so much of interest in Cuba. As you know, Ernest Casseres says some separate sessions (papers to be read) for ornamental horticulture have been suggested; I rather like the idea, dont you? He says all field trips would be shared by all members of the conference. Best regards.

Republica de Cuba
Ministerio de Agricultura

La Habana, 30 de septiembre de 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Escuela Panamericana de Agricultura
El Zamorano, Tegucigalpa,
Honduras.

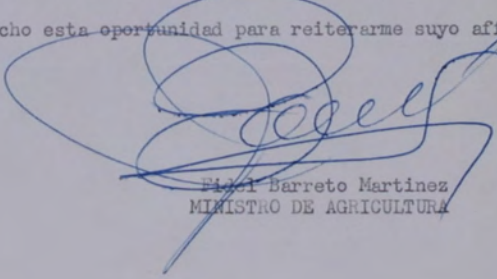
Mi distinguido amigo:

Constituye para mí una gran satisfacción comunicarle que el Consejo Supremo del Mérito Agrícola e Industrial del que soy Canciller Presidente, acordó conferirle a usted esa Orden en el grado de GRAN OFICIAL.

El Consejo al tomar tal acuerdo aquilató los méritos que en usted concurren para esta distinción que, como usted conoce, sólo se otorga a las personas que por el valor ético de sus actividades profesionales, su sentido del servicio social y el leal acatamiento de las leyes y disposiciones de la República y su Gobierno, son acreedores a ese reconocimiento oficial.

La ceremonia de la imposición de las insignias se verificará el próximo día 10 de octubre, a las 12 m. en el Salón de Actos de este Ministerio, con la asistencia del Primer Ministro del Gobierno.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para reiterarme suyo affmo. amigo
y s.s.,



Fidel Barreto Martinez
MINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy
Habana, Cuba
October 17, 1957.

Dear Doc:

"All's Well that Ends Well" - Dr. Venning did the deed and received your medal and scroll and handed both to me to do the rest. The Medal has been wrapped together with the scroll and placed in one of my Foreign Service Envelopes addressed to you at Antigua. Through the good offices of the United Fruit Co they are sending the parcel to their Guatemala City Office via S/S/ Maya which leaves Habana to-day for Barrios - probably by the end of the week or early next it should be on hand - so keep in touch with Guatemala City. The arrangement for representing you was perfect - Dr. Venning fitted the picture to the "T" - as I thought yours truly was not available.

Since writing you made a short visit to the US - Washington and 3 days at the Atlantic City Horse Races - weather turned cool and greatly helped my stay.

While in Washington found out definitely my retirement date would be July 31, 1958 - Civil Service Regulations provide a must when you reach the age of 70 - that's when I qualify. Probably will hang around Habana for awhile afterwards. Vamos a ver.

Best regards to you both,

Sincerely, *John H. Marvin*

John H. Marvin

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

October 18, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua,
Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Your letter of the 28th of September came yesterday; certainly it should be no problem to get for El Salvador 100 slips of Red Spanish Pineapple, but as you remember the flesh is somewhat coarse in this variety, too. One other under rather general cultivation here for the domestic market is known as La Piña Blanca; you probably remember this fruit - it is a tall cone-shaped pineapple, greenish-yellow on the outside when ripe, with a completely white flesh, no fiber at all (not even in the core), very sweet, only a little acid, much liked by the Cubans. You should have it for El Salvador, too. Cultivation is the same as for Red Spanish.

I would suggest that El Salvador request this material through the offices of U.S. Operations Mission to El Salvador, addressing an Airgram to U.S.O.M. Cuba, American Embassy, Havana, including appropriation numbers, etc. to cover the costs of obtaining the material and shipping it via air to El Salvador. These costs should be quite moderate.

Almost no Smooth Cayenne is grown here; but the Esmierlda variety is grown by Mr. Scott U. Stambaugh, Miami, and I believe slips can be purchased from him. A very good Smooth Cayenne is grown in Puerto Rico, and also in Martinique, and one of these countries should be able to provide El Salvador with 100 slips without any difficulty.

Sincerely,
Frank
Frank D. Venning

PS: Really too bad you weren't here for the Medal Pinning-On; ceremony at the Presidencial Palace, with medals handed out by President Batista. You received a great deal of applause when your name was read out. Mr. Marvin has arranged for the shipment of the Pergamino & Joyas via U.Fruit Co. to you. We hope to have a bang-up Hort. Meeting in June; re Ornamental Section, we like the idea too, but the people asking for it aren't the ones who will have papers to present; we don't know whether or not any papers about ornamentals will turn up or not. We have some good visits to Gardens, Nurseries, etc. planned.

FV

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Sr Ing. don Rodolfo Arango,
Instituto Cubano de Investigaciones Tecnológicas,
Habana.

Dear Rodolfo:

Before leaving for Washington and Spain next week, I want to thank you once more for getting me that handsome decoration, which I shall treasure always. It is a source of great satisfaction to me that Cuba, which has always been so close to my heart, should recognize in such a generous manner the little that I have been able to do for it.

I have just finished a short-time job in El Salvador, planning a fruit-improvement program and starting nurseries to implement it. Now I go to Spain to start something of the same sort - the introduction and propagation of subtropicals such as avocados and lichees and kakis and loquats and perhaps a few new citrus varieties. My base will be at Almuñecar, on the coast right south of Granada.

My only regret is that I shall not be able to attend the meetings of the American Society for Horticultural Science, Caribbean Region, at Habana in June; but perhaps we will come back to Guatemala from Spain via Cuba toward the end of the year and have the pleasure of a visit with you, y un parcito de cangrejos moros.

With warmest regards and renewed appreciation,

Sincerely,