



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.

ALMYR L. BUMP
CONSULTANT
APARTADO 1538 - GUATEMALA CITY

CABLE ADDRESS
BUMP-GUATEMALA

TELEPHONE 64960

July 28

Dear Nelson:

Mrs. Taillon was most pleased with your letter - as was I.

It has been a long time since 1925. I remember vividly the first time you came to the El Zapicho engineering camp to dig in "Playa de Los Muertos". I sent my gang with you and you came back with a number of pot handles etc but my foreman told me he knew a man with a very unusual "prekings" - half woman and half fish. After a lot of digging he brought it for me. It was white, a beautiful mermaid and marked on its bottom "Woods in Bermuda".

I am 73 and doubt if I will ever catch up with you. Matt Malapsky is 92 today.

Best wishes from us both
Al.

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES, 80 FEDERAL STREET

BOSTON 10, MASSACHUSETTS

ALMYR L. BUMP
VICE PRESIDENT

January 7, 1959

Via Air Mail

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza No. 2
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I take pleasure in enclosing herewith
1959/1960 United Fruit Company Annual Passes Nos.
155 and 156 issued in favor of yourself and Mrs.
Popenoe.

Kindly acknowledge receipt on attached
duplicate of this letter.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A. L. Bump

Enclosures

mention Enc Bump article

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
27 July 1957

Mr A L Bump,
United Fruit Co.,
Boston, mass.

Dear Mr Bump:

Referring to your letter of the 15th to Mr Taillon, regarding visitors to our house in Antigua, I wish to elaborate a bit, como sigue:

We do not want people to think that the Popenoes have crawled into a hole and pulled the hole in after them. But if we are going to get any work done in the future, while we are at home, we cannot undertake to let five or six carloads of tourists who really aren't interested anyway, walk through our house on a given day, forcing me to jump into my pants and come out and say hello. You can understand this.

But on the other hand, we want the Company to feel free to send over people who are really interested in colonial Antigua, and I have so written Mr Taillon. Anyone who comes with a letter from the Company will be welcomed, you can rest assured. What we are trying to avoid is gals like the one who was heard to remark, as she left the house a few years ago, "Just give me my little two rooms, kitchenette and bath". I am sure you folks understand. If you send us enough people, maybe some day I will make you send me a second-hand portable typewriter which will work better than this one which Victor M. Cutter authorized.

With best regards always,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Mr W L Taillon
Mr B S Whitman

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES, 80 FEDERAL STREET

BOSTON 10, MASSACHUSETTS

ALMYR L. BUMP
VICE PRESIDENT

August 8, 1957

Via Air Mail

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

Dear Pop:

Thanks for your note of July 27th.

As you can guess, my only interest in the matter is to protect you from intruders because I am sure you would be very embarrassed to have tourists crawling out from under your bed when not expected. You may be sure we will use discretion in sending you people.

I am undecided whether or not to use your remarks on the typewriter as a testimonial for you, Victor M. Cutter, or the typewriter, and I am sure that there is a new streamlined model around somewhere that would fit your purpose rather than the old Model "T" which you have -- or is it an Oliver??

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Copy to: Mr. W. L. Taillon
Mr. E. S. Whitman

80 Federal Street
Boston 10, Massachusetts
January 23, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza No. 2
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Doctor:

It was very nice to receive your letter of January 21st--
I didn't realize that you were back in this Hemisphere.

Since I went to school with Dinty Moore, I suppose that
his death affected me more than anyone else in the Company. I have
since received a note from Dell who seems to be carrying on fairly
well.


I assume that you have heard that Bill Penick died a week
or so ago, and I have just heard that Atwood is on the critical list.
Atwood has been having cardiac trouble for some time and three or
four days ago he had a heart attack and is currently in an oxygen
tent.

Also on the disabled list you will find Johnny McClintock
who fell sixteen feet off a stairway in the San Jose Airport and
ended up with a badly fractured skull. It was touch and go with
McClintock for some time but he now appears to be coming out of it.

On the more cheerful side of the news I am glad to report
that I am able to sit up and take nourishment and to say that I
had dinner with the Connelys a few days ago where I thoroughly
enjoyed looking at a number of their slides taken in Europe, in
some of which you occupied a prominent place.

Best regards to Helen and you.

Sincerely,


A. L. Bump

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 April 1959

Mr A L Bump, Vice-President,
United Fruit Co, Boston, Mass.

Dear Almyr:

Your letter of 23 January was greatly appreciated. I knew that you were probably the oldest and closest friend whom Dinty Moore had in the Company. His untimely end was a hard and sad blow to many of us.

And then you mention Bill Penick and Stanley Atwood. You may recall that I worked pretty closely with Stanley at Sevilla. A very good man, I always thought. Via the grapevine we have recently heard that Stanley has passed out. I hope this is not true but fear that it may be. I have also heard a rumor that Dr Cox has died very suddenly. I hope this is not true, but my goodness, how our old friends are dropping off like autumn leaves, and we have to sit back and think about ourselves (not in your case) and ask, How long, O Lord, how long?

You mentioned the accident which Fanny McClintock suffered in the airport at San José de Costa Rica. When we came through there in December I said to Helen, this stairway is terribly dangerous. You arrive here as a visiting fireman and a group of very simpático people meet you, and you go up this staircase trying to be polite to everybody, and Wham, you fall off and hit that tile floor. I'll bet this is just what happened to Johnny. I hope he is allright by now, and I hope they have put a hand rail along that staircase.

A few days ago some visitors came in; a lady said that she knows R K Thomas very well and that he was at that time in the Mass Genl Hospital. Because of his years this did not sound to us very hopeful. You know what a fine manager he was - you and I worked under him and admired and respected him. I still remember the day we were riding the Truxillo farms when Mr Thomas said to Mackinnon (Helen and I visited the village where he died in Spain to get a first-hand account of his end) "Mac, the plant population per acre is too low. Get some more mother plants in here". And Mac answered, Mr Thomas, if I put more plants in here we will get shaded fruit which is no good - and even more likely, the plants wont produce fruit. To which Mr Thomas answered, Allright Mac, but just go ahead and put more plants in here and I will hang the fruit on them.

I am maintaining contact with the lads over in Israel, and if you think the job of Vice President of UFCo is a tough one, I would like to have you tackle the job of Minister of Agriculture in Israel for a year - maybe even six months would do. As I wrote in my report of last year, of which I am sure there is a copy in Boston, those lads think they may be able to go up to 7500 acres of Cavendish. I have put it at 10,000, to play safe. They need food terribly and I cant see that they are going to export many bananas - though they told me they had sent 1500 tons to Cyprus and Yugoslavia and Greece I believe. But here is the point: they are anxious to have more information about banana culture and I told them I would ask Boston if you still have any of the old Research Bulletins left or anything else; and if you have, and want to send it to Dr Chanan Oppenheimer at Rehovot, Israel, and/or Dr Zalman Rapoport, Chief Pomologist and Viticulturist, Ministry of Agriculture, Tel-Aviv, Israel, they will sure be grateful. I feel sure you can send them something that will be useful to them.

I expect to leave for Venezuela 10 May, then go over to Costa Rica the first week in June to take part in the meetings of the Caribbean region. I see that for Botanical Documents that bananas for export will come up as part of the program, PA Venezuela but if they do I will let you know. Ever yours.

80 Federal Street
Boston 10, Massachusetts
May 4, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Doc:

Hearing from you is always like a voice from my more or less misspent youth and peeps me up a great deal.

To give the bad news first -- it is quite true that Stanley Atwood, who had a very severe case of hardening of the arteries and had to lose one leg (they were on the point of cutting off both hands) died of a heart attack.

Dr. Cox dropped dead in the office of the Norwood Laboratory. Since he was only forty-six years old, we can well say that he was taken off in the flower of his youth.

John McClintock has been gone for three weeks in one of the Great White Fleet ships which left New York and probably has already arrived in San Francisco. Johnny just managed to pull through; in fact, he was practically dead three or four times during the operations. The last operation removed a large section of his skull and he is facing another in which they will replace the skull with a metal plate.

They have not yet put in a handrail on the staircase from which he fell.

Things in the Company are both good and bad. The profits this year are lower than the same period last year when they were not good. The whole story is too much competition from Ecuador. Ecuador, incidentally, shipped 28,000,000 stems of fruit last year.

I am glad to report that we got oil on our first well in Colombia and now have a proven field of about 700 acres. The cattle business is booming and we are at last getting some action on banana puree. You probably heard that American Home Foods has taken over the distribution and have all sorts of ready-to-cook deals for sale in the Supermarkets to women who do not know how to cook unless they are ready-to-cook.

You know that we made a record last year in blowdowns with 20,000,000 stems, and this year we are ahead of last by something like 40%. Armuelles already has more blowdowns than it suffered in two normal years.


Our Research Department is going great guns, although some-

times I fear it is like the Russian Army — shoulder arms and march off in every direction. Frank Griffin, Superintendent of Agriculture in Armuelles, says that every time they hire a new doctor he knows he will have to produce 100,000 stems of bananas to pay for the new doctor and for combatting a new bug he discovers.

All joking aside, I am having a wonderful time — not making much money but having a lot of fun, and sometimes I think the fun is on the excruciating side.

With best wishes to you and your senora, and don't forget to write to me again.

Sincerely,


A. L. Bump