



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

f. C. C. CHESHIRE

APARTADO 298
GUATEMALA.
C. A.

Dec. 18th Jan. '59.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Popewe,

I hope you will not think too
badly of us for having just dropped in
on you.

Being in Antigua, the temperature was
too great, & we really did appreciate your
showing us round your delightful house.

I have written to my friend Mr. Ledy
Zunderlin of Alexandria, Egypt, & I have no
doubt that once he gives us more detail
that with your help these will be no
difficulty in getting other associated material
there.

Very many thanks again & a
"bon voyage" to California.

Yours sincerely,
f. c. c. cheshire

DAIRA DRANEHT

25, RUE TALAAT HARB

دائرة درانیت

٢٥ شارع طلعت حرب

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE : "DRANEHT" ALEXANDRIE

TÉLÉPHONE 21561 تلفون ٢١٥٦١ عمرة

B. P. 1277 صندوق بوسنة ١٢٧٧

Alexandrie, le 14th. February 1959.

EGYPTE

Doctor Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua
Guatemala.

Dear Doctor Popenoe,

A dear friend, Mrs. Cheshire wrote to me in Italy last month suggesting I contact you regarding our avocado growing problems here in Egypt.

It is with great pleasure I do so, your name is well known to us and your Manual of Tropical and Subtropical fruits is an old friend very often consulted in the last twenty years of fruit growing, mostly mangoes and vineyards.

Our fruit growing land, 200 acres south of Alexandria contains mostly mangoes (7000) of the finest grafted varieties, citrus, and in lesser quantities papaw, passion fruit, sapota, peaches, plums, pears, apricots, etc. and some 200 avocado mostly seedlings 20 years old but some Duke which give a crop in summer, and some Fuerte which are being picked now.

No other varieties of avocado are obtainable either from the Government Horticultural Gardens and Nurseries or from elsewhere. The few hundred trees and plants in the former' land were left to die unattended. You will gather from this that the avocado not only is not appreciated in the country but no one seems to understand its importance for future markets.

However we are going ahead with our program of propagation of Duke and Fuerte and this last year were able to graft 150 saplings, by in-arching, with the utmost success.

Unfortunately we are far from being able to compete with other Mediterranean countries who have forged ahead in quantities and numerous excellent varieties. I am exceedingly concerned about this as it will take up many years to close the gap. As you well know the avocado is becoming universally appreciated on most markets and Europe is not lagging behind.

As it is impossible to import any kind of plant with, even the tiniest particle of earth attached and that bringing grafted saplings has proved 100% unsuccessful, your suggestion to Mrs. Cheshire of sending cuttings seems the only one left with a reasonable chance of success.

Our land is on a plateau, well protected from the winds by large cauarina tree screening, there is no frost and I should imagine the climate to be similar to that of Florida but warmer than California. It is irrigated by the Nile waters and the drainage is good. Soil is chiefly sandy and well adapted to fruit trees in general; I imagine the Guatemalan and Mexican races the better indicated for this region.

Being more or less pioneering in this field I am quite willing to try all the varieties you might suggest in order to determine which are the most liable to succeed here in Egypt.

The following is a list of Guatemalan and I believe Honduras varieties suggested to me last year by Mrs. Cheshire of which the best were, Hass, Naval, Panchoy, Queen, Christina a new variety and Obregon but Nimelio, Winslowson, Boot 8, 13525 and 13526 were also indicated:

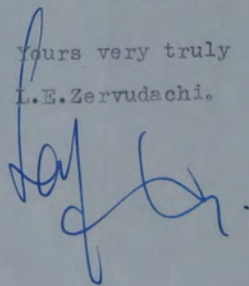
Aguacate Hass	Aguacate Catalina	Aguacate Boot 7
Naval	Blunose	Boot 8
Lula	Astec	Simonds
Choquette	Winslowson	13519
Toltec	Nimelio	13522
Hickson	Queen	13524
Sipsom	Panchoy	13525
Christina	Obregon	13526

Naturally, apart from the excellence of the fruit such considerations as heavy average yearly crops, resistance to diseases and the fly, and number of years before production are all important and I shall appreciate greatly your advice on all these questions.

I shall be very grateful to hear your views and advice on all these matters and would you please let me know when Mrs. Cheshire could begin sending me the cuttings and your suggestions about preparing the beds and caring for the cuttings. All this could be got ready in no time, we have a very efficient head'gärner who is well seconded in all the work. I am naturally very keen not to lose another year so that perhaps Mrs. Cheshire to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, could approach you as soon as you wish.

Trusting I have not taken up too much of your time and thanking you for your suggestion to Mrs. Cheshire to giving me a helping hand believe me

Yours very truly
L.E. Zervudachi.



C. C. CHESHIRE

APARTADO 298
GUATEMALA.

C. A.

26th Feb. '59.

Dear Mr. Popeye,

I imagine you must have just returned from your trip to California, and found a letter from our friend Mr. Cavendish.

I don't know whether you have written to him a what you propose doing about the avocado cuttings.

My husband & I are going to England & leave in April, therefore if at all possible I would like to send the cuttings before our departure.

If you think we should get together & chat about these cuttings, please let me know & I'd be delighted to come down to Antigua, - perhaps a Sunday when my husband can come with me. However, I leave that to you.

Many thanks for sending me the book on tropical fruit - most interesting. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Cheshire

Antigua, 2 March 1959

Dear Mrs Cheshire:

It was pleasant to receive your letter of 26th ultimo, and I suggest you come over next Sunday afternoon to arrange details regarding shipment of avocado scions to Mr Zervudachi (is that Greek, it doesnt sound Arabic to me unless like Popenoe, which used to be Papineau, it has been changed a bit). Mais tout cela ne fait rien; I want to help anybody who wants to grow avocados. Unfortunately, just over the river (so to speak) they have 45 of the world's best avocado varieties in Israel, but I would rather try to get myself out of Purgatory 24,000 years too soon than to get avocados out of Israel into Egypt. So what our friend must do is to get 500 to 1000 good young seedlings in nursery form, and then I believe we can send him scions of the best varieties. I cant imagine that climatic conditions are much different from those at Rehovot in Israel, and I know what they have and what is doing well. We will have to get scions sent from California and Florida, mainly; perhaps a few from here. I believe I can help.

When we were on the Mediterranean all last year I wanted very badly to see what they are doing in Egypt, especially with mangos, but I got the impress that a gringo is just about as popular in Egypt, as of the present moment, as a skunk at a Sunday school picnic.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

AIR MAIL

BOGOTA
Colombia

C. C. CHESHIRE

Apartado Aéreo No. 3439

Thursday 8th April, '60

Dear Mr. Popover,

I have just heard from Dr. Zevodachi who also sent me a copy of his letter to you dated 22nd March.

As you may know my husband & I spent last Summer in England & from there came straight to Bogota where we've been for the last seven months.

It appears that Mr. L. has been following your instructions since last year & is now ready for the scions.

Would you be kind enough, that is if you are able to send them to him, to let me know at the above address how much these scions cost, including postage & cable expenses.

Hope you & your wife are well & enjoying the Easter festivities.

Yours sincerely,

Freely Cheshire