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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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INVESTIGATIONS
BOX 144 WESLACO, TEXAS

March 7, 1958

AIR MAIL

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I am long overdue on writing you a letter. I misplaced your last letter giving your present address, so I have decided to just try Antigua.

I judge that we will soon be getting word on the next Carribean Region meeting of ASHS at Havana, Cuba, or have Sr. Castro's rebels inhibited the horticulturists? I probably won't be able to make it this year anyway, but one never knows.

I am wondering if you have started proceedings on a possible revision of your book on tropical fruits. As you know, there are a lot of people that are interested in having you tackle such a project.

Here in the Rio Grande Valley things are rolling along in fine shape. For some reason we find ourselves in a wet cycle, and people are crying for it to dry off. There are 2,200,000 acre feet of water behind Falcon Dam, and enough water in the soil to mature a cotton crop. The avocados and citrus look fine.

It now appears that many of the avocado selections from the Arsola grove at Ilera, Mexico, carry a virus. It causes a rough bark condition on the rootstock when the variety carrying the virus is grafted to West Indian rootstock; later the trees become stunted and may die. Seedlings that carry the virus usually show no symptoms. Dr. Olson has screened all the varieties we have around here and finds it in some of the Atlixco selections but not in others. Those that carry it are 14382, 14383, 14384--all from Villa Guerro, Mexico. Other selections from Atlixco, itself, (14366, 14369, 14375) do not carry it. The Lula and many of our local selections do not carry it.

The picture on this particular disease is further confused by Art Schroeder finding that many of the Arsola selections from Ilera carry sunblotch. Dr. J. M. Wallace from the Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside, California, was here this year for our annual Hort. Institute, and he has got Dr. Olson started on a program of untangling the virus status of these Mexican selections. There will be two papers on this in our next proceedings.

Sincerely,

Bill
WILLIAM C. COOPER
Physiologist

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INVESTIGATIONS
BOX 144 WESLACO, TEXAS

April 16, 1958

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Finca California
Almunecar
Providence of Granada
Spain

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I have recently returned from a two-week trip to Florida to look over the freeze damage to citrus and avocados.

While at Cocoanut Grove, I had a chance to visit with John Popenoe. He gave me your present address. I just wanted to check with you and advise you that I wrote a nice long letter to you to Guatemala. If you never received it, let me know and I'll write you again. I want to keep track of you.

While in Florida, I also talked with the boys at the University of Miami. Some were planning to go to the meeting in Havana and some were not. I doubt if there will be a very big meeting this year. Maybe we can all get together in Costa Rica next year.

Best regards,

Bill
William C. Cooper
Physiologist

WCC:js

Rancho California, Almuñecar (Granada) Spain
1 May 1958

Dr William C Cooper,
Box 144, Weslaco, Texas, EE UU de A.

Dear Bill:

You may be somewhat surprised to receive this letter from me with a Spanish postmark, but you will get used to it in time. I think you know that I retired last June; went over to Salvador to line up a fruit improvement program (I believe I sent you a copy of my report); then to Antigua where Helen and I have established ourselves for the future - with exception of such jobs as the present one. For some time I have been in contact with a German who lives in Chile and who has the place we are now staying - this neat little Rancho California about half a mile from the Mediterranean, in a valley which is more nearly frost free than any spot I know in Florida or California. The job is to introduce good avocados and a few other subtropicals: we particularly have in mind lychees and macadamias and the Mexican lime and some of those big guavas from Florida. There are a few avocados on this coast - we have seen at least 100 trees up to now, most of which are Mexican seedlings, but the strange part is that Cuban seedlings are also doing well, and there is one Guatemalan, a grafted tree probably my Benik, which is 20 years old and is bearing fine crops of excellent fruit. The only place I know where all three races seem to do well.

Toward midsummer we propose to visit Israel to see what the boys over there are doing, and perhaps get some propagating material; then the Canaries and Madeira for similar reasons. I doubt that we get back to Antigua before the end of this year, at the earliest.

Now let's get down to business; We are expecting to get scions, this month, from Florida and California. From the former, Simmonds and Waldin and Choquette and Hall and Kampong and perhaps one or two others. From California, Bacon and Rincon and Zutano and perhaps one or two others, thru Art Schroeder and Dr Coit. Can you help us out with a few scions from the Valley? We are particularly interested in Guat x Mex hybrids and if any of the Atlixco numbers look promising we would like to have them; also good Mexicans if you have something superior to those which are available commonly in California. The rootstocks available here are Mexican seedlings planted in orchard form, and 3 to 6 or 8 ft high. We are using the veneer graft exclusively and as you can see, mostly on rather large wood. We use terminal scions only - they have given the best results here (Fuerte and Rass, from Chile and California, and the varieties already established here).

Stick a few scions each of a few good varieties in plastic with no moisture added, put them in a big manila envelop, and send them by first class air mail just like a letter, addr send to Sr don Luis Sarasola, Rancho California, Almuñecar (Granada) Spain. Dont mark the envelop in any special way; just let it come by first class air mail and we dont need any documents of any sort. I will be glad to reimburse you for the postage which may amount to several dollars. Send us some material as soon as you can as we are now ready for the grafting to be done. Many thanks in advance, Bill.

Ever yours,

Rancho California, Almuñecar (Granada) Spain
7 May 1958

Dr William C Cooper
Beslaco, Texas USA

Dear Bill:

Shortly after writing you, in reply to your letter sent to Antigua, I received yours of April 16. Might be glad to get in direct touch with you again. As regards the proposed Habana meeting of ASHS, I suppose by this time the boys have things figured out, but because some folks are touchy about going to tropical American countries where the political situation is shaky and bombs seem to be hidden in the movies and similar places now and then, I would be inclined to postpone the meeting until next year. It wouldn't matter very much; we did it once before.

About my book, I hesitate to attempt a revision in English because Professor Chandler's excellent "Evergreen Orchards" brings the information pretty well down to date, and also because I believe a work in Spanish might be more useful at this stage of the game. The best publishing firm in Spain, Salvat Editores of Barcelona, has been after me to prepare a text on tropical fruits for their agricultural series - a really excellent one - and if I can find time I would like to tackle this. It is a question of time, and I don't just see where I am going to find it; the job will take several months of concentrated effort.

Among the 100 or 150 avocado trees on this coast I have just run across one that really looks excellent; it must be a hybrid of Fuerte type, because of the season. Mexicans ripen here along about November and this is maturing now. The fruit is obovoid, about 6 to 8 ounces, with a skin like that of Fuerte, a seed smaller than in most Mexicans, and flesh of remarkably fine quality. We have just made some grafts on young stock here. There may be two or three other trees on this coast worth propagating.

We are just making arrangements to leave here on 10 June for Italy, Greece and Israel. Before I go I hope you will let us have a few scions as requested in my last letter - the sooner the better. If any of the Atlixco numbers look promising with you, they would be very interesting here; we seem to have got very little information about them out of the trees propagated in California, I just don't know exactly why. Guatemalan x Mexican hybrids are almost sure to do well here, and I want to avoid as far as possible the alternate bearing habit of the pure-blood Guatemalans. For that reason we are going to plant quite a few Hass trees here. I am a bit afraid of Fuerte, afraid it will not bear too well, and we want things which will, as far as possible, give good crops every year. And we have no Fuerte reputation in the market to combat here; people are not used to aguacates in general and will take whatever we supply if it is good.

With best regards always,

Sincerely,

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 Jan 1959

Dr Wm C Cooper,
Weslaco, Texas.

Dear Bill:

Just to let you know that we are once more in the New World, and to thank you once more for the cooperation you gave us on the job in southern Spain. We were able to establish more than 20 avocado varieties at Rancho California, but I am not sure that all of them will survive because of the trouble they are having with what I am convinced is a lime-induced iron chlorosis. The soils at Rancho California are very fine silt loams. They have a pH of about 8.4 and 8.5 due to Calcium carbonate (on the slopes of the valley you just have to put a little water with the decomposed rock and you have the finest mortar in the world.) When they irrigate the valley floor, where the avocados are planted, they dump on about 6 acre inches of water so as to get through in a hurry. In the low spots water stands as much as 24 to 36 hrs after an irrigation. I did my best to discourage over-irrigation of the avocado plantings, and I hope we will see some results. There is nothing wrong with the soil - analyses made in Florida established, that I believe - except that the texture is so fine and the soil so alkaline that the iron gets tied up and the trees go chlorotic and many of the very young ones, those in the nursery, just simply pass out. I am sure we can establish good avocado orchards in Almuñecar when we get those lads to understand that they must have more air and less water in their soils.

We are flying up to California this week, before we settle down here to write a Manual Práctico de Fruticultura Tropical for Salvat Editores of Barcelona. No more books on tropical fruits in English for me, you boys know so much more than I now do that I wouldn't dare step out; but I think a practical book for Latin America may be worth while so I am going to tackle it. It will cost me money; the pictures and the typing and even the paper will outweigh the price they are going to pay me per printed page, but that doesn't bother me. I would like to leave behind me a practical guide which will serve for about 25 years, here in tropical America.

Incidentally, veneer grafting is the thing for the tropics and subtropics. Almost fool proof. I believe all of the varieties of which you sent us budwood stuck alright, and most of them will survive if those lads will quit dumping those six acre inches of water on the land so they can hurry home and get some more bread dipped in olive oil. Six acre inches of water might not do any harm on Johnny Lynch's South Campus, but it simply ain't the thing for those tight soils of the Mediterranean coast. But Bill, what a climate for subtropics! They don't realize what they have. Let's go over there and buy about 50 margals of good haza (I guess I have got you, now) and grow avocados; they sell for the equivalent of a dollar a kilogram, right on the tree. Trouble is, there aren't many trees.

Ever yours,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INVESTIGATIONS
BOX ~~133~~ 267 WESLACO, TEXAS

February 6, 1959

AIR MAIL

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was glad to receive your newsy letter about Spain. The iron chlorosis on avocados in calcareous soils sounds like a good iron chelate problem. The next time you go to Spain, you should carry along some Sequestrene 138. 1/3 to 1/2 lb per tree should do the trick.

I just missed you in California, I imagine. I was there during the first two weeks in January. I spent most of my time in Riverside and UCLA, but I did find time to visit the Escondido and Vista area briefly. While there I stopped in and paid a call on Dr. Coit, and he gave me the latest on the Carribbean. I told him about sending you the avocado budwood and having the postmaster deliver it to you personally. He thought that was a good idea and wants me to send him by similar devious means some budwood from the avocado Sebinas Hidalgo.

The main purpose of this letter is to advise you that I am leaving the Rio Grande Valley for Orlando. The new job is set up now with the citrus work in Florida, Texas, and California as a full-fledged Section status, and someone in a weak moment appointed me as the head of this.

I hope to maintain the same enjoyable contact with you as a resident of Florida as I have had here in Texas. We still recall with a great deal of enjoyment and enthusiasm your visit here a couple of years ago. That blessing that you reeled off in Spanish at our home that night has been memorized by me.

Best regards,

William C. Cooper
Physiologist

P. S. My address until July 1 is still Weslaco, and after that it will be: U. S. Horticultural Station, 2120 Camden Road, Orlando, Fla.

WCC

Antigua Guatemala, 4 March 1959

Dr Wm C Cooper
Weslaco, Texas.

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for yours of 6 February, which I found awaiting me when we got back from California last week. Yes, we just missed each other in California, but I think we have a good chance of meeting at Orlando one of these days. I congratulate you on the new job. In a way I hate to see you leave Texas, for I don't know who will carry on the avocado experiments, but I guess someone will show up. I was amused at the situation in California; so many Puertes this year that the Supermarkets were offering them, at the Thursday sales, for as low as three for nineteen cents. My aunt in Pasadena came in with the morning paper, and said "Isn't that wonderful?" And I replied, "It's a darn shame" and when she didn't understand what I meant, avocado growers can't make any money selling avocados at 6 for 19 cents. When I was with Dr Coit, that grand old Dean of California horticulturists, he took me to the packing house and said "This is going to give you a thrill. When you budded the first Puertes at Altadena back in 1911 you never thought you would see anything like this". And I never did. And they have gotten away from the handwork; I never saw so many electric gadgets. Reminds me of the guy who went to my cousin the psychiatrist in San Francisco, and said "Doc, I am going nuts. You've simply got to help me" And my cousin said, "What's the matter?" And he said "So many decisions to make. All day long. I'm going crazy." And again a question, "Well what sort of decisions are they?" And the man replied "I work in the avocado packing house. I stand at the end of the chute and as the avocados come down I have to pick out the little ones and put them in a crate on one side and the big ones on the other side. All day long; decisions, decisions, decisions!"

I am waiting for more news from Spain, to see what the line induced iron chlorosis does to all those young grafted trees. I may have to go over there again next year and re-introduce some of the good ones. Right now it looks as tho I must go to Venezuela next month, for a few weeks, to help line up a fruit improvement program; then I want to attend the ASHS meeting in Costa Rica, then I have promised Ernest Casseres to come to Mexico in July and give a week's lectures on tropical fruits at his short course for Latin American students. Great stuff, this retirement business. Only trouble is, no salary, and to make matters worse income tax on my salary in Honduras was payable to the Honduran govt and wasnt too high. Now I am on pension and have to pay income tax on the pension to the US govt and it is higher.

Maybe you will come to the ASHS meeting in Costa Rica in May or June? Casseres is keeping up interest in our group, bless his heart. Looks like he may be moving over to Cuba in August.

Always faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INVESTIGATIONS
BOX ~~144~~ 267 WESLACO, TEXAS

March 13, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I am glad to hear that you are back home in Antigua, and to receive your usual interesting letter.

I am sure that when I get to Orlando I can make things just as interesting there for you as here in Texas, so don't forget to come see me when you make your occasional visits to Gainesville.

The main object of this letter is to try to extract from you a good photograph of yourself. I am making a collection of pictures of some of my more distinguished horticultural cronies, which I will put in the library at Orlando. So I want a real good picture of you, and don't put me off on this.

With so much going on in regard to winding up activities here and moving to Orlando sometime in June and July, I will find it absolutely impossible to get to the ASHS meetings in Costa Rica. Maybe in another year things will quiet down for me so that I can resume contact with the meetings of the Carribbean section.

Best regards,

Bill
William C. Cooper
Physiologist

Antigua, Guatemala, 21st March 1959

Allright, Bill, here she is - that photograph you asked for, and to make it more official I am sending it in an envelop which I have just pulled out of a dusty drawer - one of those relics of the days when I was a respectable consultant for the presently none-existent Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. They should not abolish that Office, in my opinion, not because I miss dollar a year, but because I think it was the best set-up for assistance to foreign countries which our government has visualised up to present writing.

Incase anybody says, Oh of course I recognize Old Man Popenoe, but what is that hardware on his shirt front? You tell them that this photo was taken about three years ago when I became a Commander of the Order of Francisco Morazan. I dont take off my hat now to nobody who doesnt hold higher rank - at least a Lieutenant General.

To get serious for a moment, not longer. Seriousness fatigues me very promptly, these days. Looks like Helen and I will have to fly down to Venezuela right after Easter to spend a couple of weeks helping the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza line up their fruit improvement program. Only reason I am going is that I believe I might help along two lines, (1) best varieties of each fruit, and (2) best places to plant them. I am not very strong on making surveys and programs. Am having right now to throw out two filing cabinets full of them. Which reminds me, when they used to ask me in Honduras, What will you do if there is revolution, and the rebels come into the school? And I said that's just too, too simple. I will jump into the files, they will never find me there.

Always yours,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
CITRUS ROOTSTOCK INVESTIGATIONS
BOX ~~WXX~~267 WESLACO, TEXAS

March 30, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was delighted to receive the photograph which you send me. It is very distinguished looking with the Order of Francisco Morazan. I promise not to spill any bean soup on it.

Don't forget to come see me real soon at Orlando.

Sincerely,



William C. Cooper
Physiologist

WCC:js

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
2120 CAMDEN ROAD ORLANDO, FLORIDA

July 10, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

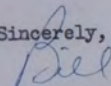
On a recent visit to the Plant Industry Station in Beltsville I became very interested in the length-of-day work being done by Dr. Borthwick's group on tropical and subtropical fruit plants. The man doing this work is a Dr. Pirringer. I will describe one of the things of interest to me that they have found out.

With grapefruit nucellar buds on sour orange rootstock, he found that length growth was 3 or 4 times as great for plants grown on a 16-hour day than for plants grown in an 8-hour day. He tried other day lengths and the break between the short and long day was around 11½ hours. He has worked with many other plants, including coffee, and has found many interesting results both on affect of length-of-day on growth and on flowering.

Dr. Pirringer is anxious to attend and present a paper of his experiments at the next meeting of the Caribbean Region American Society for Horticultural Science. I know that you are not an officer of this Society at the moment, but you are, however, the "papacita" of the group and you are probably in contact with the officers. Would you please put Dr. Pirringer's name on the membership mailing list for this particular group and be sure that he receives an invitation to present a paper at the next meeting. I am almost certain he will attend regardless of where you hold the meeting. Incidentally, where will it be held this year?

As you can tell by the above address, I have now been moved here to Orlando, but I haven't been here long enough to become a full-fledged Floridian. I like it very much here, though, and I am glad to start in on the new work here. I am looking forward to your visiting us here some day.

Sincerely,


William C. Cooper
Plant Physiologist
In Charge

WCC:js

cc: Dr. Pirringer

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 July 1959

Dr William C. Cooper
U S Dept of Agriculture
2220 Camden Road, Orlando, Florida.

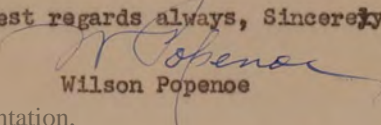
Dear Bill:

Mighty good to hear from you again - this referring to your letter of 10 July. You ask about the meeting of the Caribbean Region, ASHS. The 1959 meeting took place last month at San José de Costa Rica and was an exceedingly good one; you would have been particularly interested in the symposium on "Climate and Horticulture" which was led by Damon Boynton, with speeches by Prof. F. Hardy formerly of Trinidad (and now working at Turrialba); Prof Wolfe of Gainesville; and Dr Egbert Tai of Jamaica. I am sorry that this excellent material was not in written form and therefore will not appear in the forthcoming Proceedings. You probably do not know that Dr Ernesto Casseres, who took over from me as Secy-Treasurer of our group, has been able to get out an annual issue of Proceedings in which are put on record the more important papers read at our meetings. This is a fine thing, especially because many of our papers are so strictly tropical in character that the parent Society (because of the high cost of publication) cannot well include them in their Proceedings.

The next meeting of the Caribbean Region will be held in Puerto Rico sometime next summer, probably about July. I am sure a paper by Dr Pirringer of Beltsville on the effect of length of day on various tropical horticultural crops would be more than welcome. I assume he is a member of ASHS (he would be welcome at the meeting anyway) and I feel sure you are. All you have to do to receive the News Letters of the Caribbean Region, providing you are members of ASHS, is to write Dr Ernesto H Casseres, Estudios Especiales, Londres 40, Mexico D.F., Mexico, and ask him to be included in the membership list of the Caribbean Region. No extra charge, though there is a registration fee of \$2 if you attend a meeting. Since you do not give Dr Pirringer's full address, why dont you write him and tell him to get in touch with Dr Casseres?

Bob Allison is hounding me to attend the meeting of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society at Gainesville about December first. Since this coincides with the Caribbean Conference at the University I may decide to go, thus matando dos pajaros con una sola piedra. And if I get to Gainesville you can be sure I will run over to Orlando - unless I see you in Gainesville which will probably be the case. I am keeping busy, running around quite too much; recently three weeks in Venezuela, then two in Costa Rica, followed by two in Mexico to take part in the III Curso Internacional de Horticultura. What is getting me down is that wherever I go I see dead avocado trees. Whether I have been blind for fifty years or whether Phytophthora root rot is catching up with us I dont really know; I fear the latter is the case.

With warmest regards always, Sincerely yours


Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr E H Casseres

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH

July 21, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for your letter relative to the next meeting of the Caribbean Section of ASHS. I will certainly try to arrange to go to the next meeting, to be held in Puerto Rico.

I was interested in your note that you might attend the meeting of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society at Gainesville in December. Let me know a little ahead of time just what your schedule will be, as I was planning on a trip to Weslaco at about that time. I can rearrange the date to suit this occasion.

It was mighty good to hear from you again.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William C. Cooper
Plant Physiologist
In Charge

WCC:js

Antigua, Guatemala, 13 Oct 1959

Dr Wm C. Cooper
2120 Camden Rd, Orlando, Fla.

Dear Bill:

Ted's letter of 27 ultimo with your postscript recd. Also copy of the very handsome 1959 Journal of the Rio Grande Hort Soc. Really a mighty nice job; but what's the matter with those boys in the Valley? I cant find a word about aguacates in this volume. You fellows are so full of iron chelates and gibberalic acid that you cant think of aguacates any more - or did they all get froze last winter? End apeakng of lime-induced iron chlorosis, we had a heck of a time ^{with} it during my year in Spain. Our soils were fine sáll loams, pH 8.5, right out of limestone slopes, and we couldnt get our nurseries really going because the young seedlings just turned yellow and dárked up and died. My associate the manager of the little farm poured on the iron sulfate and the zinc and a duke's mixture of minor elements and at the same time kept on pouring on the water - applications of about six acre inches every couple of weeks; it would stand in the field ditches for 36 hours. I tried to get him to lay off but he wouldnt. Every time I went up to a bullfight in Granada he would flood the farm. After I left the poor fellow got brucellosis and couldnt irrigate for about 10 or 12 weeks and I hear chlorosis has disappeared. In fact, his boss Roger Magdahl of Chile who is there now says they only intend to irrigate 4 times a year now.

That medal around my neck in the picture is the Order of Francisco Morazán, the official decoration of Honduras, and it is in the rank of Comendador which is the highest you can get unless you are a President or a Minister of Foreign Affairs or something like that. Which reminds me of the time Tacho Zomosa called me down to Managua to receive the Order of Ruben Dario. After he hung it around my neck he said "You ^{know} this decoration has recently been established; you are third man to whom I have given it. The first two were Juan Perón and Generalissimo Trujillo." Which also reminds me of the time Burcke Hickenlooper's nephew came down to Zamarano for the supper. He arrived just at noon when we were having a big party, all the diplomats. I said "You got a break; you are going to meet some interesting people!" And I made the rounds with him. "This is the Minister of War, this is the British Ambassador, this is the President," and so on. when we got through he asked "What's that big bird President of?? And I replied "Honduras". "Oh my God" and he almost passed out.

Sorry to say it doesnt seem that I will be seeing you in Florida in December. Dont feel that I can afford it, and furthermore, ever since I supposedly retired I have been hearing at these meetings the following remark "Now boys, be kind to the old bastard. You know he used to be a good horticulturist".

Tell Ted I expect to on hand when his group arrives and will give them the works. I suppose they are all Hard-Shell Baptists so I wont suggest a cocktail; just the usual coke.

Ever yours,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
2120 CAMDEN ROAD ORLANDO, FLORIDA

September 27, 1959

AIR MAIL

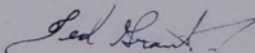
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Your letter and the enclosed card are certainly greatly appreciated. Both Bill Cooper and I were very glad to learn that you will be here in Orlando the end of November. We are looking forward to seeing you, and I am sure we will be glad to help in any way that we can.

Thank you again for your courtesy and consideration of the visitors.

Sincerely yours,



T. J. Grant
Plant Pathologist

cc-W. C. Cooper

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I will be here at the time of your visit and look forward to visiting with you. Incidentally I have your picture framed and hung in my office but I have forgotten the history of

your medal. Please let me
have that information again
Regards,
Bill

September 27, 1959

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Your letter and the enclosed card are certainly greatly ap-
preciated. Both Bill Cooper and I were very glad to learn that
you will be here in Orlando the end of November. We are look-
ing forward to seeing you, and I am sure we will be glad to
help in any way that we can.

Thank you again for your courtesy and consideration of the
visitors.

Sincerely yours,

T. J. Grant
Plant Pathologist

cc-W. C. Cooper

Dear Dr. Popenoe:
I have your lecture printed and have in my
office but I have forgotten the history of
forward to meeting with you. Incidentally
I will be here at the
time of your visit and look
forward to meeting with you.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH

May 27, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

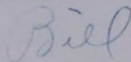
I was surprised to hear from Joe Corns that you do not plan to attend the A.S.H.S. meetings in Puerto Rico. However, since I do not expect to attend myself, I would not get to see you there anyway. Joe Corns visited with me briefly at Orlando on his way over there, and it does appear that they will have a nice meeting.

Recently Mr. John Fox, President of Minute-Maid Corporation, Orlando, has asked me whom he should contact for advice on bananas in Central America. I have referred him to you and told him briefly some of your history and background, specializing on the good points of your background. If Mr. Fox does write to you, I would greatly appreciate it if you would cooperate with him by giving him whatever information he desires.

I would also like to hear from you, particularly in regard to your new book in Spanish on tropical fruits.

I understand that while I was gone on a trip to California in January that you visited my office. I was sorry to have missed you, but I am sure that our paths will cross again somewhere soon.

Kindest personal regards,



William C. Cooper, Leader
Citrus Research Investigations

WCC:js

cc: John Fox

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 June 1960

Dr Wm C Cooper
U SDA, Orlando, Florida.

Dear Bill:

Glad to have yours of 27 May, which I found here on my return from Nicaragua a few days ago. I am giving much of my time these days to what that grand horticulturist A D Shamel used to call "expertin' around".

I didnt attempt the Puerto Rico mtg of ASES for two reasons: (1) mighty busy over here, and (2) I can no longer travel with an expense acct. Reason (2) is sufficient. I assume next yr the mtg will either be in the Homestead area of So Florida or in Guatemala, in either case I hope to be on hand if God grants me grace (again quoting A D Shamel).

I met Mr Fox of MinuteMaid in San Salvador a few months ago. He mentioned bananas but didnt get down to brass tacks. I had heard previously he had been offered 100,000 (one hundred thousand, no typographical error) of land in Nicaragua to plant oranges for Minute Maid orange juice. On looking all over Nicaragua these past two weeks I think there was a typographical error: one cipher or zero too many.

I am getting ahead with my Manual in Spanish but it wont be out for another year. I could get along faster if they didnt pull me off so frequently on this expertin business. Might see you up in Gainesville early in December at the Caribbean Conference.

With old time regards,

Ever yours

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
2120 CAMDEN ROAD
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32803

March 15, 1966

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
1722 N.W. 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Wilson:

Since your visit with us at Orlando-Winter Park I have dug into my literature on the avocado situation in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Perhaps the best summary of the situation is given in the accompanying reprint dated 1956 by W. C. Cooper and N. Maxwell titled "The Search for Avocados Adapted to the Rio Grande Valley."

The problem with the Atlixco selections was failure to set a crop of fruit.

The problem with the Mexican X West Indian selections from Victoria and Llera was Sun Blotch. I am enclosing an extra copy of the 1958 Proc. of the Rio Grande Valley Hort Society. There are three papers on Sun Blotch. One by Olson, Maxwell and Cooper called the disorder "Azteca" but there is no question now but that it is Sun Blotch. You will note on the table on page 78 that all of the Llera and Victoria selections show it; also, there is one West Indian (MacRill) from McAllen that has it and Rodilles No. 2 and the two selections that you made in Villa Guerro, Mexico.

The enclosed reprint on "Salt-tolerance and Cold-hardiness Tests on Avocado Trees" by Cooper et al. may be of interest to you. The Lula variety showed high salt tolerance but low cold hardiness. The Mexican selections (Castro and Pancho), on the other hand, showed low salt tolerance but high cold hardiness. A Mexican-West Indian hybrid had the best combined salt tolerance-cold hardiness ratings.

As of today, the only varieties that are being grown commercially (probably not more than 100 acres) are Lula, R₁ (Mexican) and Pancho (Mexican).

The Texas Avocado Society was originated in 1948 and was liquidated in 1954. In 1956 the Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society was organized. This had a Sub-tropical fruit section, much as the Florida Horticultural Society. I have scanned the Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society and find that there have been no avocado papers since 1958.

I believe this just about covers the avocado situation in Texas.

Again, it was a pleasure to see you last week, and I hope to return the visit some day.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William C. Cooper, Leader
Citrus Research Investigations

Enclosures