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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
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Telephone: 412-268-2434
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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.

July 11, 1957

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I was very glad to meet you at the Mexico City meeting and will be looking forward to seeing you there at Escuela Agricola Panamericana about July 21 or 22 depending on the length of time that I stay at the United Fruit Co. banana plantations. According to present plans I will leave New Orleans by United Fruit Co. S/S the Carrillo on Monday P. M. and will arrive at Puerto Cortes Friday 6 A. M. (July 19). The New Orleans office will contact Mr. Cloward, Mgr. of the Tela Railroad Co., La Lima, Honduras to arrange accommodations and to meet me. After spending a few days at La Lima I will fly to Tegucigalpa and there according to Dr. Popenoe I will be met by someone from the Escuela who will drive me on out there. All this has been arranged by Dr. Popenoe, but am not sure whether he has already left for Spain or whether he is still in Antigua.

I thought I would write you about this although I am quite sure that Dr. Popenoe has informed you about my coming, etc. I am having some colored slides sent there for me at the Escuela and in care of you, so thought I better write you, so that you would know that I had them sent to me by Hayes-Sammons Chemical Co. Will be hoping to see you real soon and will contact you or someone else there at the school when I am at La Lima the last of next week.

CC: Dr. Wilson Popenoe ✓
Antigua, Guatamala

Sincerely yours,

J. B. Corns
Prof. of Horticulture

PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE
EDINBURG, TEXAS

Oct. 2, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

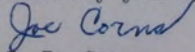
I am inclosing a copy of the letter which I wrote to Pres. Redmond expressing my appreciation for the many courtesies extended to me by the many members of the United Fruit Co. and particularly to you for making the arrangements for this trip.

I sincerely thank you for the many favors extended me on this trip by you and your friends with the Company and at the School. I have never been treated better and I want you and others to know that I appreciated it very much. Am only sorry that I did not get to see you longer, but was very thankful to have seen you there at your home on the Sunday afternoon. You have a wonderful home and I am sure that you are proud of it. While there in Guatemala City I bought the book, "Guatemala From Where the Rainbow Takes Its Colors" by Joaquin Munoz. Was interested to read about the "Casa Popenoe".

I enjoyed very much my visit to the Escuela Agricola Panamericana and in meeting and talking with the boys. You seem to have done an outstanding piece of work there in developing this school where the leaders of agriculture in Mexico, Central America, and South America are being trained. The work and study plan seems to work out very well giving them both practice and theory. I would rather like to go down there and work there in the School for a month or so some summer, if the opportunity ever should arise. I can speak Spanish fluently and read and write it which would of course help.

I hope you have a very pleasant time on your visit in Spain and in Europe. No doubt you will be busying yourself in subtropical horticultural pursuits there in Spain the same as you have done in Central America. Thanks again for everything.

Sincerely yours,



J. B. Corns
Prof. of Horticulture

1 CC:

PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE

WHERE TWO CULTURES BLEND

EDINBURG, TEXAS

September 30, 1957

Mr. Kenneth H. Redmond, President
United Fruit Company
80 Federal Street
Boston 10, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Redmond:

I am very grateful to Dr. Wilson Popenoe for corresponding with you on or about March 26 as to securing complimentary passage for me from New Orleans to Honduras on one of the United Fruit ships. I want to thank you personally for your letter of March 29th authorizing these arrangements to be made.

This trip made it possible for me to study and observe banana production and handling. I am collecting material for a book on, "Handling of Fruits and Vegetables", so the material on handling of bananas will be used in this book. I shall give your Company due recognition.

I thoroughly enjoyed and profited much by my stay at the Tela Railroad Company at La Lima, Honduras, with Mr. Cloward. Mr. Cloward and his staff, and particularly Mr. Hamilton, were most helpful in every way in showing me around and explaining the details of production and handling of bananas. I cannot say too much for the fine manner in which I was cared for at La Lima and want all concerned to know that I appreciated it very much.

I spent some time at the Research Laboratory at La Lima with Dr. Thornton and his associates. I was very much impressed by the physical equipment and by the personnel of this laboratory. With this staff and equipment they will no doubt come up with a cure for the Panama Disease, which will mean much for the Company.

It was a privilege to spend several days at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana. It is a model school of its kind set under the direction of Dr. Popenoe and has much to offer to our system of higher education in the United States. Your school and our college have certain things in common, so it was a real pleasure to discuss these matters with the members of the staff. Since I speak Spanish fluently, I had the pleasure of talking with a number of the boys and learning of some of their problems. I was thankful for the opportunity of talking to the student body during my stay there.

September 30, 1957

In the interest of fostering Panamericanism, I have brought back to this country a number of names of the boys attending Escuela Agricola Panamericana who are interested in corresponding with the boys here at Pan American College. I believe this will be at least one step in the fostering of a better understanding between the Latin American countries and our own country.

Thanks to Mr. Robert Beasley, Acting Director of the School, for the many courtesies which he and his staff showed me during my visit there this summer. I have not had the pleasure of meeting your new Director, Dr. Paddock, but hope to do so at some future time.

Thanks to Mr. Dana Condon, of Guatemala City, and his staff for their assistance in arranging some of my transportation and for arranging with Mr. Holiday for me to stay at the United Fruit Guest House at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

Last, but not least, I want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the voyage on the Carrillo and the Leon, which were both very good ships. The accommodations and food were excellent and the service could not have been better. Personally, I would prefer such passage to that on a luxury passenger liner.

It might interest you to know that I have spoken before a number of service and civic clubs and have shown my series of colored slides on bananas. I have also spoken before a number of school and college groups and have given your Company due credit for the fine work you are doing in Central America.

Thanks again for everything, and I shall be forever grateful to you, to Dr. Popenoe, and the Company for making this trip possible. I hope that circumstances may be such that I may again visit this and other areas of Central America and to see some of the schools and experiment stations which I missed on this trip. I would welcome the opportunity to spend more time some summer at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana.

Sincerely yours,

J. B. Corns
Professor of Horticulture

cc: Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Mr. E. S. Whitman
Mr. D. J. Cloward
Mr. Dana Condon
Dr. N. C. Thornton
Dr. Paddock



PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE

WHERE TWO CULTURES BLEND

EDINBURG, TEXAS
June 24, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
C/O Office of Special Studies
The Rockefeller Foundation
Calle Londres 40
Mexico City 6, D. F., Mexico.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:


I presume that you are there in Mexico City at this time for I believe that Dr. Casseres said that you would be lecturing before the International Horticultural Course during the first two or three weeks. I am very sorry that I will not be there at the same time for there is so much that I could learn from sitting in on your lectures and in talking with you.

As you know I will get down to Mexico City on July 14 and will give lectures during the last 10 days of the course on the subject of, "Handling and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables." It is quite a task to get the material to give these lectures and especially since I will give them in Spanish. For the last month or six weeks I have been taking kodachrome pictures of the harvesting and handling operations of fruits and vegetables here in the Valley. In addition to these at shipping point I went up to San Antonio and took a number of terminal market pictures. In all I will likely bring at least 200 slides to use in presenting my lectures. I believe that this illustrated material will help greatly in presenting the lectures. I used a few of these older slides when I spoke to your students there at Escuela Agricola Panamericana two years ago.

I am looking forward to coming to Mexico City and meeting so many people from the various Pan American countries for I know that I can learn much from associating with them. It will also be very interesting to work with the several instructors and to learn more about their respective fields of work. I was somewhat disappointed that I would not be there at the same time you would be there, but things do not always work out that way.

I am wondering how you are coming along with the writing of the new textbook in Spanish. It looks as though there should be a ready sale for such a book. I used your text in my last course and enjoyed it very much. It was a real pleasure to visit Central America and especially Escuela Agricola Panamericana two years ago and I want to again express my appreciation to you for making this possible. It would be a real pleasure to make the trip again and to spend more time at the school.

Sincerely yours,
J. B. Corns
J. B. Corns - Prof. of Hort.



PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE

WHERE TWO CULTURES BLEND

EDINBURG, TEXAS

May 3, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Casa de Popenoe
Antigua, Guatamala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was sorry that I was not in Mexico City the same time as you were during the Third International Horticulture Course. I know that you must have had a very good time and from what the students said you brought them some very good material. I enjoyed very much the two weeks which I spent there giving some lectures on, "Grading, Marketing, and Handling of Fruits and Vegetables." Should I be called on again to assist in this course I will make certain changes in the material which I will give for one learns those things by experience.

Am wondering if you plan to attend the ASHS meetings to be held in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico May 29 to June 4. I imagine that you will for I believe that you have never missed such a meeting. I am going there and will present a paper on, "Breeding and Development of a Lettuce Variety for South Texas." Dr. Rafael CINTRON and I will be the only ones so far as I know going from the Valley. Dr. Bill Cooper who is now in Florida said that he would not be able to attend this year. I am planning on spending two days with Dr. Cooper in Orlando on my way to the meetings.

I am ordering some horticultural books for our College Library and would like to include the book which I believe you have recently published in Spanish. I shall appreciate it very much if you will send me the name of the book, the publishing company and the price so that I can put in the order within the next 3 weeks. Will appreciate very hearing from you relative to this matter.

Thanks again for your past favors and particularly for making possible my visit to Central America three years ago. The trip has mean't much to bettering my teaching horticulture and of increasing my scope of understanding of horticulture in other countries. Hope I will be able to see you in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Corns
J. B. Corns
Prof. of Horticulture

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 May 1960

Dr J B Corns
Pan American College,
Edinburg, Texas.

Dear Joe:


Mighty good to hear from you again. I am sorry I will not see you in Puerto Rico next month, but I have my hands so full in this part of the world (I go to Nicaragua next week to help organize a program of fruit production) that I really feel I should not leave to attend a meeting where I can be of very little help.

I will expect to be with both yourself and Rafael - not to mention Bill Cooper - at the next meeting of our Caribbean Region. As for horticultural books, my Manual in Spanish will not be out before next year; but in the meantime I would strongly advise that you write Salvat Editores, S.A. , Barcelona, España, for their very handsome catalog of the "Coleccion Agricola Salvat", which I believe is by far the best lot of agricultural and horticultural works in Spanish (my book is to be issued by them). And I sure think you ought to have a good representation of their collection in your college library. Incidentally, if you order from them direct you will get a very favorable rate of exchange. I would say just about half the price books of the same size would cost in the States.

Best regards always.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe



PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE

WHERE TWO CULTURES BLEND

EDINBURG, TEXAS

February 27, 1964

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

It has been several years since I have seen you, but I think of you quite often and of all the work which you have done in Tropical Horticulture in the Pan American countries. Was sorry that you were unable to attend the meeting of the Caribbean Region of the ASHS there in Mexico City last June. We had an excellent meeting and particularly a very educational field trip over to the Vera Cruz area. I choose to take that particular field trip even though it was over much of the same area as we covered on a similar trip during the 1957 meeting. The high cost of transportation makes it rather prohibitive to attend the meetings which are so far from South Texas.

I just received the February Newsletter of the Caribbean Region and was shocked to learn of the death of our mutual friend, Paul Allen. I became rather well acquainted with him at the meeting in Mexico City in 1957 and then he was my principal host when I visited Escuela Agricola Panamericana later that same year. I was impressed by your appraisal of Paul as an excellent taxonomic botanist and horticulturist. I had not seen him since 1957, but understand that he had traveled around quite a bit since that time.

All seems to be going quite well here in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in spite of our all-to-frequent severe freezes. We have, however, been rather fortunate this year, although we did have one freeze which did only slight damage to citrus. We did have a severe one in 1961, but several million trees have been replanted since that time. Reports are that 800,000 trees were moved from the nurseries last year. I see your friend, Dr. Rafael Cintron, from time to time, but seldom see Dr. Wm. Cooper since he has been transferred to Florida.

Things are going very well here at Pan American College and we are gradually moving to the new West Campus where we have a number of new buildings. Effective Sept. 1, 1965, we become a fully state-supported college which will of course help in many ways. Our enrollment has been steadily increasing and we now have about 2225 students.

While attending the ASHS meeting in Mexico City last year, I was talking to Ing. Juan J. Leiva and Ing. Alfonso Torres of the faculty of Escuela Agricola Panamericana. We talked about the possibility of some arrangement whereby I might come down to the school for two or three weeks during the summer and work with them, since no doubt some of their work and

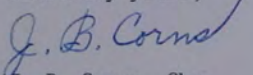
problems are very similar to those which we have at Pan American College. They were of the opinion that it might be a very good idea and that it would be of mutual advantage to both institutions. My work is primarily in horticulture, but I teach entomology, soils, and other related courses. I would be able to bring a considerable knowledge of these fields of horticulture and agriculture, along with a large number of colored slides of agricultural operations here in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

As you probably know I can read, write, and speak Spanish rather fluently. I certainly have had a great deal of experience in speaking the language and have read a good many scientific papers written in Spanish. As you may recall I was on the program of the Third International Horticultural Course in 1959 held in Mexico and gave some 7 or 8 lectures in Spanish on grading, handling, and marketing of fruits and vegetables. My Spanish is not perfect, and I certainly do not infer that I can speak as well as those who have spent many years in the Latin American countries.

I have been wondering if such an arrangement could again be made with the United Fruit Co. as you did in 1957, that is a complimentary ship passage be furnished along with room and board for such time as I might be at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana or at any of the guest houses of the Company. The plan to be that the trip made during late July or August and that if possible spend 2 days at La Lima to see the banana operations and experiment station, then 2 or 3 weeks at Escuela Agricola Panamericana working with the members of the staff and students.

I do not know the present Director of Escuela Agricola Panamericana, so for that reason am writing to you with the hopes that some suitable arrangements can be worked out. If you think best, you might pass on some of this pertinent information to the Director and then advise me of the next steps to follow. Thanks in advance for the assistance which you gave me in the past and I shall appreciate any assistance or suggestions which you may now make.

Sincerely yours,



J. B. Corns, Chm.
Agriculture Division
Pan American College

JBC:c