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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.

HUGH CRAGGS
APARTADO 388
GUATEMALA, C. A.
17th March 1959

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

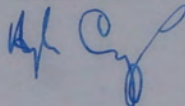
This note will introduce to you a very old friend of ours - Earle Brown - and two friends of his Mr. & Mrs Sternbergh of York, Penn. Brownie and I were together in the Pacific on a small schooner many years ago and since we have associated in business and various enterprises and trips.

He visited your house in 1940 and would like very much to see it again so if you can spare them a moment shall be grateful.

We heard a few days ago that you were back and have been hoping that you might have time to visit us so please do that as soon as you can. Our inside road is pretty dusty mostly because we're cobbling it and then shovelling dirt to fill the crevices but as soon as the rains come and we can clean off we'll have a good all year round track.

I want to get your opinion on irrigation. Our chief obstacle is that it would appear we'll have to bring the water in some two miles - nearly 12,000 feet of 3" pipe - quite expensive. Mr. Sternbergh who has had some experience of well drilling thinks we should take a chance on drilling several wells. I don't know the answer and would like to talk it over with you.

We hope to see you soon.
Sincerely,



Antigua, Saturday 21 marzo 1959

Dear Hugh:

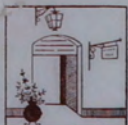
What fine people you send our way! Our only regret was that you folks could not have come along with them.

We may be able to catch you in town before Easter Sunday. Shortly after that we have to fly down to Venezuela - so easy, just like that! - where I have promised to help plan a fruit improvement program. I dont shout it from the house tops, but I might get old Elias Gonzales Lugo to let go of a few labiata forms, and bring them back with me (I dont go along with the splitters who call them *C. mossiasca* and *C. gigas* et id genus omne). Paul Allen and wife are coming over here from Los Dias Grandes - he is a reall authority on orchids, you know, author of the Orchids of Panama, and if possible we might run down and take a look at yours, but I wont make it definite because (1) you say the road isnt too hot, and (2) we are not going to let you interfere with any other plans. In any case it will just be a look-see.

We are gradually getting our garden here into decent growing condition, thanks to 18 carretadas of good manure, the 18th of which arrived this morning. Things were pretty forlorn. This is the week to get things done in Antigua. My friends will deliver manure at any hour of the day or night if they can get money to buy those purple nightgowns to march in the processions next week. I guess they dont sell those nightgowns on credit. They havent heard of Sears Roebuck in Antigua.

Helen joins in warm regards to all of you.

Sincerely,



EL PATIO

11 CALLE PONIENTE No. 3-49 - GUATEMALA, C. A.

TELEPHONE 3019

FINE GIFTS FROM THE FAR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

RESTAURANT, BAR & COCKTAIL LOUNGE

21st June 1960

Dear Wilson:

You told me some time ago that you had a set of Bailey (3 volumes) to dispose of. Today there was a person enquiring for a set and he is willing to pay up to Q30.- for a set in first class condition.

It by the way is still available new thru MacMillan in New York and is included in their current lists - I mention this as you were I believe of the idea that it was out of print.

Should you be interested in disposing of the set you can send in to me or drop a note to:

Mr. R. J. Noble
%Guatemala Biltomore Hotel.

Sincerely,

H. L.
Hugh/Craggs

at \$2.50

Antigua, 23 June 1960

Hugh Craggs, Esq.
El Patio, Guatemala City.

Dear Hugh:

Replying to your note of the 21st instant, I did have a copy of Bailey's Cyclopedia which I did not need, but I have turned this and a lot of my other books over to my son Hugh, who is getting into the field of tropical agriculture and horticulture, along with his cousin John, son of my brother Paul, who is now Horticulturist at the Subtropical Experiment Station in Homestead, Florida.

I had a letter from our mutual friend Goodale Moir, saying you had been with him in Hawaii. I have recently been in Nicaragua doing a little job for the Instituto de Fomento Nacional, but am now trying to stick pretty close to home and work on the manual of tropical fruit culture which I have promised to Salvat Editores in Barcelona; and speaking of that house, they have put out a beautiful catalog of the "Colección Agrícola Salvat" which you ought to have; perhaps you would want to handle a few of their works. But in any case, I suggest you write don Aniceto León Garre, Salvat Editores S. A., Barcelona, asking him for the catalog.

Helen joins in affectionate regards to all of you,

Sincerely,

HUGH CRAGGS
APARTADO 339
GUATEMALA, C. A.

20th September 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua.

Dear Wilson:

I have a problem and believe you may be able to advise me.

For some years at La Providencia and elsewhere have been seeking varieties of coffee that have a large bean of good cup and bear freely. As you know the type Maragogype, the standard large bean bears very poorly - probably 8 ounces oro per tree is about the average from what I have been able to find out. Ours at La P. didn't even give that much so I took them out.

A year ago I ran across what may turn out to be what I have been seeking. A tree with a bean comparable with Marag. but a good bearer. After discovery collected all the seed I could and have some 3,000 odd plants to go out into the field in '61. Two 'volunteers' that I collected beneath the tree being now of some size have developed the very large convex leaf characteristic of the parent. The 3,000 seedlings are still too small to show altho many showed precocity with 4, 5 and even 6 cotyledons following up with the same number of true leaves. A few have developed a second vertical at the first or second true leaf. Whether the parent is a hybrid or a mutation it is yet impossible to decide.

Well to cut a long story shorter when I was in Hawaii I mentioned the find and now have received a letter from there asking for some seed which they want sent to Beltsville for growing on, etc., I am quite ready to let them have some seed when it comes in this crop but in case I do have something of value I wish to protect myself and wonder if I may supply with the condition that it is for experimental purposes only and that they may not release it by sale or gift to anyone without my prior consent or for a certain number of years.

I am sure such a problem has arisen many times and if you can give me some pointers shall be grateful.

The price of Maragogype today is approximately double that of the regular.

Will you please keep the contents of this letter confidential as I do not want to be bothered with enquiries and also I wish to make sure that the seedlings are going to come true.

One of the twelve Vanda sdlgs you left with me passed out, another hovered for a while but is now growing altho small and the remaining ten plants are of good size. One of them bloomed when I was in Hawaii and if it shows signs of repeating the performance will drop you a line. If you are ever in town on Tuesdays or Thursdays perhaps you'd drop in and have lunch with us at El Patio. It is a long time

since we've been in contact. Our regards to you both.

Sincerely,
Hugh Craggs

Antigua G, 28 Sept 1960

Dear Hugh:

Replying to your letter of the 20th, I had hoped we might get in to see you ere this, but Helen has been suffering from a broken ligament in her right ankle and a plaster cast on the leg from the knee down; which we hope is going to come off now in a day or two, and then we most certainly will accept your invitation to have lunch with you on Tuesday or a Thursday, because there are many things to talk about.

Of course the main thing is that new coffee variety. And what I say here will be just about what I shall tell you when I see you. I grew up in the nursery business. My father and I spent \$5000 introducing the Fuerte avocado which now represents about 75 percent of the world's commercial aguacate production, and we made nothing out of it. Once a variety is out of your hands, you just have to get your satisfaction out of having made a contribution to horticulture. After our time, they passed the Plant Patent law in the United States. Now you can patent a new variety - roses are the common cases - and no nurseryman who sells plants of that variety can do so without paying a royalty to the holder of the patent. But if Señor Fulano buys a plant from Armstrong, let us say, he can give buds to his friends. The patent holds for seven years.

Now, you may have something extremely valuable and you may not. Is it a mutation - which is almost certain to come true? Or is it a hybrid which you have to propagate vegetatively? Hang onto it for the time being. Tell them you will not release the variety until you have had time to see results from the seedlings you are growing. If these seedlings turn out to be more or less uniform in production - if you have something as good as Maraogipe and about twice as productive, then I think you should work up good stocks of seed and throw them on the market. Once the trees grown from this seed are in bearing, which I assume will be three or four years, you haven't the slightest protection. No law, no promises, will protect you. The responsible people who have your trees may say they will not give out any seed, but once a variety shows up as promising, anybody can slip a few seeds in his pocket. That was done many times with Vuelta Abajo tobacco in Cuba, but Vuelta Abajo tobacco is not a matter of variety, it is a matter of a combination of soil and climate which we have not been able to find anywhere else.

I shall not mention this matter to anybody. I shall be happy to watch results with you. And as said above, I don't think you should make a move until you have results, - except try to keep seeds of this variety from getting out of your hands. Let's talk about this. I have been in this field of horticulture so long that I have almost lost my faith in human nature. Before you are prepared to place your variety on the market, people are going to know about it and probably get some seeds clandestinely.

We want to see you soon. Helen joins in warmest regards to you both.

Sincerely,

HUGH CRAGGS
APARTADO 330
GUATEMALA, C. A.

7th October 1960

Dear Wilson:

Very many thanks for your letter and advice. We are very sorry indeed to hear of Helen's mishap and hope that she will soon be free of the cast and moving around freely once more. Gay some years ago had more or less the same bother and she felt like a prisoner with the plaster.

As looking forward very much to having you inspect our "M.I.", both parent and progeny and having your opinion. Naturally s'dlings/ have been hoping for a mutation but as the ~~seeds~~ become larger to my ignorant and inexperienced eyes there appears to be such a diversity among them that I fear a hybrid. Some years ago I was given a small handful of "Caturra" variety and grew some sixty odd to maturity. It is one of these but whereas Caturra is from Bourbon and the young leaves are green our MI has the copper colored young leaves characteristic of Arabigo. However in the seedlings we have both colors and some gradation in between.

Have put out a selection of some twenty odd seedlings of different or rather varying appearance, in a spot where we can water and give extra attention. By so doing I'm going to try and speed up their fruiting and perhaps gain a year.

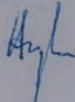
Incidentally one of our Litchi trees has a small crop on.

We had a very rough dry season with not one real rain. Consequently we never got a good bloom and we have not yet started to pick coffee but expect to start about the 15th of this month. Last year we started in August. Our crop will be a poor one.

How are your orchids doing?? Well I hope. Have had to build two new houses because the old ones were rotting and falling down. This time have used very little wood so hope they will last me out.

Whenever you have time please look us up, at the finca or in town as most convenient. Our regards and best wishes to you both and hopes that Helen will soon be about,

Sincerely,



HUGH CRAGGS
APARTADO 889
GUATEMALA, C. A.

Sunday, 4th December 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua.

Dear Wilson:

This note will introduce to you Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Englehardt of Finca Los Tarrales, Patulul.

They have a son who is very keen on getting into San Marano if it is possible during the next year. If you can assist or counsel in any way shall be grateful.

Mrs. Englehardt is the daughter of Seton Guthrie who had Finca Sta Adelaida for many years.

Was hoping you and Helen would be in El Patio this last week. Am leaving the 19th for a few days with the family but if you are in town before that date hope you will recollect that we have a luncheon date.

Sincerely,



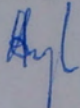
HUGH CRAGGS
APARTADO 339
GUATEMALA, C. A.

28th February 1961

Dear Wilson;

Have brought up to El Patio another of your Vandas in flower. It is in the store if you can call for it. At the same time if the others you have are rather past and you care to do so bring them in again and I'll take them back to the finca.

Trust you are both well and
proapering





Paito

11 CALLE NO. 3-49, ZONA 1
GUATEMALA CITY, C. A.

Box 339

May 20, 1962

Dear Wilson:

Your note to Hugh arrived yesterday, and I just want to advise you that he is, at present, in the States to attend the graduation of our son from Brown University. I am quite sure he will be back in plenty of time to check on your orchid plants for you before the convention in Antigua, but if not, I will ask him about it and see what I can do.

I do hope you are feeling better now, and that you will pay us a real visit at the finca while you are here this time. You may be sure that Hugh will be getting in touch with you as soon as he returns.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,
Gay Craggs



Sunday 3rd June 62

Dear Wilson:

Jay arrived yesterday bringing your note. Glad you'll be back in Guata. for a spell & look forward to seeing much of you.

I doubt if any of your Venezuela cactuses will be in bloom since most if not all flowered March/April. There may be some of your Vandas. However regardless I shall be very happy to loan you some of our plants - both Cacti & Vandas to help gild the lily - Casa Pofence. I return to Guatemala June 14th & I will get these plants over to you Saturday June 16th. You can depend on this!!

Congratulations on securing Ouedo's

works. I envy you.

If you will drop me a line to
APARTADO 339,
Guatemala - City.

telling me how many plants you would like to have.
I'll fulfill.

Got a letter from Eddie Fukunaga
saying that Dick Hamilton from Hawaii
will be present at your meetings. Apparently
you'll have quite a turnout.

I shall be glad to get back to Guatemala
- this was not a very good time for me to leave.

You MOST OB! SI!

Hyl

Apartado Postal 138,
Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico
22nd July 1972

Dear Wilson:

Have been meaning to write to you for some time. As you may have heard we have finally settled in Mexico and are living near Lake Chapala, which is near Guadalajara -50km.

We are here as 'rentistas' which has enabled us to bring in the items we shipped North from Guatemala. Because of the number of books I had some delay in getting permission to bring those into the country but finally we have them here.

I find I have the following which may be of interest to you:
The House in Antigua 1937 1st edit
do do 1937 4th edit
do do n/d 7th edit. d/w.
Stgo de los Caballeros de Guate. 1933

All are in good condition especially Stgo de los Caballeros.

Perhaps you have something you might care to exchange for them? Books of course.

In any event shall be glad to have a line from you. Since you may not be in Guate at the moment wish to add that Gay and I will be making a trip North to the U.S. around September 3rd - about 25 days. Trust you and all the family are well.

Sincerely,

Hugh (Cryg)

[Diseased leaf removed]

Apartado Postal 138,
Chapala, Jalisco,
M E X I C O.
3rd September 1972

Dear Wilson:

Glad to hear from you and envy you your visit to ~~San~~ San Marano - have always remembered my brief visit there with great pleasure.

Since you would like to have Santiago de los Caballeros we're mailing it to you tomorrow with our very best wishes - doubtless will take several weeks to arrive but shall send registered mail so it will eventually.

Did I tell you that I picked up a very nice copy of 'Plantarum Animalium Mineralium Mexicanorum Historia ex Francisci Hernandez, Romae mdcxxxxxi' Was quite expensive but I'm most happy to have it and only wish that earlier I acquired a few more such items. At the same time obtained five parts of Theodore de Bry also in grand condition - these were very reasonable so much so that the seller - a rare book dealer - wrote me that he had made a sad mistake in his figuring.

The only way to obtain such items is when travelling - from a catalog today items are always sold. Have been trying for years to get Martin Fernandez de Navarrete 5 vols. Madrid 1825-37 and Oviedo 4 vols. Madrid 1851 plus various others but they are extremely scarce altho I recollect that you were fortunate enough to pick up Oviedo in New York.

We're leaving the day after tomorrow for the border Eagle Pass, Texas, and shall fly from there and visit our three children and their families only briefly.

We're now inmigrante with limited time allowed out of the country and I used up 60 days going to Cocos Island - off Costa Rica - and a month in England.

I was at Cocos in 1923 and the island has always stayed in my memory as the tropical isle par excellence but our trip there was a complete fracaso - thanks to the captain of the boat we had arranged our trip with. He reneged on every arrangement we had made with him and I would still like to hang him on the highest tree on the island. Captain Cristian Knohr of the vessel Stella Maris.

Stay away from him.

Our best regards to your wife and goodself.

Wilson - after I had sealed this a neighbor came over to ask me how to deal with the bug that infests so many avocado trees here - herewith an infested leaf. Have never worked with avocados so perhaps when you have time you'd drop me a note - thanks,

Apartado Postal 138,
Chapala, Jalisco,
Mexico
16th October 1972

Dear Wilson:

Received your letter today acknowledging receipt of Santiago de los Caballeros.

At the time I mailed it to you I sent you an airmail letter advising its despatch and also enclosing an avocado leaf honeycombed with channels of some pest asking what you considered the best way of dealing with said pest. Presumably you did not receive the letter???

In the morning shall see if I can locate another leaf as a specimen and shall enclose if successful.

Gay and I returned a few days ago from the U. S. where we visited with our children and their children. A fairly strenuous trip leavened here and there with bookhunting. I did succeed in finding another copy of Santiago which since it bears your illustrious signature I shall hold onto.

/sell
Incidentally too I received a booklist from Clarks of Calif. in which they ask \$12.00 for a first edition of "House in Antigua". I do not know what they/it for to you but I run across it not unfrequently and if you are prepared to pay \$6.- for good copies - not necessarily first edition - I'll send along to you by registered mail as I come across copies.

As I remember Ed S. told me he sold his library for US\$150,000.00 hope he can repeat it and I should like to do the same.

We do have quite a colony of gringos of many nationalities here. At least one Frutera man - Bev. Converse - if you remember him - he does you!

Best wishes excuse haste.

Sincerely,

P. S. Trust Hugh is long since completely recovered from his accident??

Hugh Craggs

Calle del Independencia 123
Chula Vista, Chapala,
Jalisco, Mexico.

Apartado Postal 133

Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico.
6th November 1972

Dear Wilson:

Thanks for your letter of October 23rd
and advice re the avocado leaf miner.

Our garden is very small indeed and we
have but one avocado which I recently planted. How-
ever I have seen a number of trees with the leaves
honeycombed by the hundred quite disfiguring the trees.

There is not much coffee growing around this
area but those plants I have run across are literally
full of leaf miner. No one seems to be much perturb-
ed about the pests.

Am today mailing you the last three (3)
copies of 'The House in Antigua' by registered mail
and trust they reach you safely. I shall not be
going North again until the Spring but should you
want any more copies by then please let me know so that
I'll keep my eyes open for them - also Stgo de los
Caballeros and what you are prepared to pay for it.
When you remit for the 3 copies please do so by check on
the U.S. I no longer have an account in Guatemala.

In May this year I fulfilled a long dreamt
wish - to return to Cocos Island. It was my first
Pacific Island and I fell in love with it on my first
visit there in 1923. In '71 during a brief visit to
Costa Rica I made a tentative arrangement with Captain
Christian Knohr of the 'Stella Maris' to take us out this
year. It was a mess from beginning to end. Knohr said
he would be ready but when we arrived at Punta Arenas the
vessel was out of the water - the keel had fallen off and
a concrete one was to be installed. Knohr had no money
and we ended up by paying 50% more than the agreed charter.
He carried practically no food for himself and crew, apart
from our wristwatches there was not a timepiece on board,
no lifebelts or lifebuoys. The only boat was made of
sheetmetal - no flotation tanks. We had hired a cook but
when we reached the island after interminable delays he
landed us at Wafer Bay and then shoved off with our cook
and most of our supplies to Chatham Bay. He returned three
days later and so the whole trip went. I had bad luck

getting both ankles badly infected with some strange
poison or bug.

So practically none of the things we had
planned to do were we able to execute.

Don't know if you have ever seen the island
but it is a fascinating and rather mysterious spot. Rugged
as the devil, constant rains, flies quite a nuisance in
some areas. We anticipated shooting some pig but they
have become so tame - wandering into our camp - that we
didn't have the heart.

On my first visit I was enthralled with the
bird life - checking my diary I confirmed my memory that
a full hour from the anchorage they came out by the score
settling in the rigging, flying so low over our heads that
we ducked involuntarily, but on this visit I don't think we
saw more than 20 assorted birds at any one time and our
arrival was certainly no cause for any welcome by the birds.

Our best wishes to you and hope you make
your visit to San Marano - please give my regards to Hugh
when next writing him.

Sincerely,