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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.

June 9, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Hotel Costa Rica
San Jose
Costa Rica, C. A.

Dear Wilson:

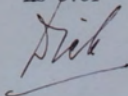
Moes Fairchild read me your nice letter. Thanks for your willingness to read my paper.

However, at the last minute ~~my co-author~~ Ing. Agr. Tomas Vilanova obtained instruction from his Board to attend the meeting.

Since he is Dir. General of the ISIC, it was decided that he would present the paper especially as the 1958/59 yield data still had to be added, which made timely sending of the revised manuscript to you impossible.

Thank you just the same for your kind cooperation Wilson. Hope to see you soon.

As ever



M.J. Dijkman
6767 SW 112 St.

Miami 56, Florida

COPY OF FADED LETTER

I am sending a copy of this to the University of Miami

Antigua Guatemala, 13 July 1959

Dr. M J Dijkman,
6767 SW 112th St Miami 56, Florida.

Dear Dick:

When I got word from Helen about the coffee paper you thought I might read or summarise at the San José meeting, I did not have your new house address with me and forgot that I might reach you at the University of Miami; so I wrote Mrs Fairchild, asking her to phone you that I would be glad to take care of the matter. I did not hear from you again and later saw Tommy Vilanova at San José. He read a paper of which you are one of the joint authors and I suppose this is what you had in mind.

The meetings were good, especially @ the field trips. After coming back from Costa Rica I went up to Mexico, whence we returned, Helen and I, yesterday. I gave six lectures and some field demonstrations to the students at the III Curso Internacional de Horticultura, which is sponsored by the Organization of American States. Now I hope to stay home a while and continue work on my manual of tropical fruit culture in Spanish, but I have just received an invitation, rather urgent, to attend the meeting of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society at Gainesville about December 1st, and I think likely I shall accept. So you might see us in Miami about that time.

Main reason for writing you right now is that within a week I shall receive here José Miguel Calabria, head of the agricultural department of the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza in Venezuela. These are the people for whom I worked down there, and a fine outfit. I suggested they send Calabria up here to see something of tropical fruit growing, and especially nursery work which is what they need most. I will show him around Guatemala for three or four days, and from here he plans to go to Miami. What he needs to see is nursery work and the mango and avocado orchards down toward Homestead. His problem is this: he does not speak any English. So I wonder if you would be willing to meet him when he arrives, send him to a hotel in Miami where they have someone who speaks Spanish (there must be plenty in Miami) and line him up to go down to the Homestead region. Bill Krome knows about all this and will be glad to help out at that end, and I feel sure Dr Ruehle and Bruce Ledin can handle him even tho they dont speak much Spanish. Bill Krome and Mrs Krome will I know be very helpful.

I will greatly appreciate it if you can help out in this connection and I think it will be worth your while as I have the feeling that the Fundación Mendoza might be interested in getting you down to Venezuela for a short time, whenever you are free. Drop me a line right away and let me know if you will help get Calabria lined up. If I dont hear from you I will send you a radiogram, anyway, saying when he is going to arrive at Miami. You will not need to give him much time and he will have plenty of money to cover all expenses.

July 15 - 57

Dear Wilson:

Just 2 days ago I received back the enclosed letter, in which you will find all about the coffee paper. (I am glad that Tomás Vilanova read it because I had a lot of work in it). Moes Fairchild read your message to me - reason that I sent the letter to the Hotel was that I thought that they would page you there during the conference.

I will be glad to get José Miguel Calabria from the airport to a hotel and will get in touch with Dr. Kuebler, Bill Krome and Mrs Krome and will bring José around - love to speak some Spanish again. Cable to me at once the Airline and Flight Number of plane with which José comes.

You will be shocked to know that Bruce Ledin passed away (had heart valve resulting from rheumatic fever as a child) I was at his services past Sunday. You also will be shocked to know that our South Campus Farm is closed and that the staff is gradually transferred to other branches or has to look for an other job. If Johnny signed was at the Costa Rica meetings then he will have told you all about it. The College for Tropical Agri. is automatically off also - what a shame.

If I ever would have a chance to work a summer for the Fundación Mendoza I would thank the Lord. How I would love to be back in Trop. Agri. - but not on the salaries that the UF cares to pay - I am worth far more - I can't sell myself apparently, maybe someday I will die in a gutter, I sometimes feel dead already in that respect. Well enough for these cynical self pitying things.

Do send me flight no. + airline name + date of arrival of José and also how long he will stay here and ~~for~~ where he goes from here. I very much appreciate your continued reference and support Wilson + I will do my utmost best to make his stay here profitable.

My kindest regards to Helen + yourself -

I thanked the Lord when I heard that Paul Allen has the Lauretilla job and is going out to the Far East - he deserves a talk future more than any body - also for brevity I hope this will mean a more restful existence - all needs it - out is a wonderful word.

Antigua, Guatemala, 18 July 1959

Dear Dick:

Hombre, that's pretty sad news about Bruce Ledin. I am awfully sorry. And then the South Campus is being eliminated! I heard this at San José. but someone told me it is probable Johnny Lynch (who did not go to CR) will be kept on as a teacher, and Roy Nelson may start a nursery, commercially. I think we might find a job for Roy down here if he wanted it, which probably he doesn't. I don't suppose you have heard that they are going to liquidate SCIDA here in Guatemala. This might leave Jorge Benitez out of a job but I doubt it.

Mighty glad you will look after José Miguel Calabria. I will send you a radiogram when I know his plans; they haven't yet advised me as to when he will come here but I think it will be about the 20th which is pretty soon. I am sure it will be worth your while, in the long run, to help him get around southern Florida.-- Don't think you are the only guy who thanked the Lord when Paul agreed to take over Lancetilla. He and Dorothy can live ~~there~~ peacefully and happily and take care of that grand collection of tropical plants. I think Helen and I will drive over to Salvador for a few days in Sept. We are hoping Hugh will come down toward the end of August for 2 weeks. If he does I am telling him to drop in on you before flying to see if you can send me a few cuttings of those strap-leaved Vandas. They do beautifully here; just about the best orchids we have.

Cordial regards to all the family.

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 August 1959

Dr M J Dijkman
6767 SW 112th Street, Miami, Florida

Dear Dick:

This will introduce my good friend and colleague José Miguel Calabria of Venezuela, regarding whose visit I have written you. I certainly appreciate your offer to meet him at the airport and get him lined up. Try to put him in a not too expensive hotel where they have someone who speaks Spanish.

I think some such program as the following is about what he should have - his time is limited, only five or six days in Florida. Try to put him in touch with Dr Ruehle at the Subtropical Experiment Station. Bill Krome knows about the visit and I am sure will be glad to see Sr Calabria'. I have written Nixon Smiley also and I think he would like to have a chance to talk with Sr Calabria and show him the Fairchild Garden. Maybe Johnny Lynch would also be glad of a chance to show something of commercial methods of propagation of tropical fruit trees.

Sr Calabria goes to Florida at my suggestion to see the following things: Avocado and mango varieties, something of citrus, and more particularly nursery work. I shall appreciate most of all your assistance in these connections, because as you know I am interested in the work the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza is doing in Venezuela and I believe you will be, too, when you know more about it.

Ever yours,

Miami 56
September 14, 1959

Dear Wilson,

Finally I come to report to you on the trip of Jose Miquel Calabria. One day we went around with Mr. Llewellyn, ass. county agri. agent at Homestead seeing groves, Dr. Ruehli, and the collection at the Sub-Tropical Expt. Sta. Two days with Bill Crome, Bert Colburn (from Herald's Kendals outfit)

Further we arranged for a trip to Winterhaven and the Citrus Belt, which worked out well. I showed him around at the Univ. and the South Campus.

Calabria wanted to buy fantastically high numbers of budwood and we arranged that between Crome, Colburn and some of the specialized nurseries here and in the citrus area he will get lot-wise gradually what he needs. He is a nice fellow and knows his mangoes and avocados and their diseases quite good. So I hope that he has a good addition to his experience in what we offered him here. I gave him all the reprints that we could lay our hands on, which was quite a number. He stayed (with a week-end) exactly 10 days so quite a while.

I received a phonecall from Huey however it was late at night, and since our plants are just now showing recovery I did not cut your stapleave Vandas. Will do that as you come by here in fall.

I sure appreciated your thoughtfulness to get me into contact with Calabria. Any time you have another opportunity I hope you will remember me in your plans. It was so good to speak Spanish again.

Hope everything is ok with you and Hellen. J.J. left yesterday for the Far East and the banana hunt in New Guinea. I heard that Paul allan is going to be in the Philippines for the same purpose, nice for him.

Until fall than, as ever I remain your

Rich

Address of Univ of Miami is Coral Gables 46

Antigua, 20 Sept 1959

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for your good letter of the 14th. I had written you, a few days before receiving it, thanking you for your kindness to José Miguel Calabria. You are one of the few who appreciates an opportunity to help in a case like that; it really is worth a ~~lot~~ to those people in Venezuela, to have you show José Miguel around, explain things to him, and put him in touch with people who can help them in their laudable program of fruit development in Venezuela. I think I told you that I went down there with no salary or honorarium, just my travelling expenses, because I wanted to help get something done along the lines of better fruit in Venezuela.

Calabria does talk in big terms but that is typically Venezuelan. Those people have lots of money, and his boss Eugenio Mendoza is probably one of the richest, if not the richest Venezuelan, and a philanthropist besides. They will not hesitate to spend money on the fruit improvement program if they can see good possibilities.

I was interested to hear that J J has gone to the Far East for UFCo. The Company has gone in head over heels for research and it may and probably will pull them out of the bad hole they are in right now. One of their leading men, Dr Radler, came thru here last week and spent the night. He told me there are 42 técnicos in the Research Dept and a total of 224 employees. They have a tremendous budget. They say they are going to give up Gros Michel and develop something which is wind and disease resistant. They are making good money out of African Oil Palms. I have the satisfaction of having started that project and kept it alive through many lean years when nobody was interested.

I have just had a lot of news from Almuñecar which was our headquarters in Spain. They have 23 varieties of avocados established, ones we introduced; have only lost two, MacArthur (which I don't care for anyway) and Nadir which I believe Billy Krome sent. They are much interested in lychees; Johnny Lynch sent over some air layers which arrived in good shape but the roots were very soft of course- they had just been cut from the parent trees, and you need mist sprays or something to get those tender things started. We lost most of them. They may save two or three. They want some more and should have them because I believe the lychee would go ahead if it got a chance in regions such as Sevilla - quite cool winters. Almuñecar is probably too uniform in climate, but would be a good place to propagate trees. We will probably be up there at the end of November, as I am more or less committed to attend the meeting of the Florida Cross and Soil Science Society at Gainesville. We will of course spend a few days in the Miami region if we come; and I wish you would check up in the meantime and see where I might buy about 10 established young lychees which I could ship to Spain while I am there. I shall write Johnny Lynch about this also, of course.

Best regards to all of you,

Ever yours,

Antigua, 15 Oct 1959

Dr M J Dijkman
6767 SW 112th St Miami, Florida

Dear Dick:

Some little time ago I wrote you that we expected to fly up to Miami toward the end of November, primarily to attend the mtg of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society at Gainesville. We have decided to give it up. We are spending a lot of money here, putting in two bathrooms, and besides, I ought to stay at home and work on my new book. I am not getting ahead with it fast enough; too many other jobs on hand.

We have not heard from Mrs Fairchild in many months. I am writing her today, but I doubt that she will answer promptly; I have the feeling that she does not do much letter writing these days. I wish you would drop me a line and tell me how things are going with her; and also what has happened at the South Campus. Are they going to keep the fruit variety collection alive? I have just had a letter from Johnny Lynch over at Osprey; what has become of Roy Nelson and Goldweber?

The 24 Cattleyas I brought from Venezuela have not done at all well; I am sure it is because they were moved at a bad season. They have made practically no root growth and several have died from too much water during our rainy season - or so I think. We have some gorgeous Gloxinias right now which Claude Hope gave me in Costa Rica.

Best regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

November 10, 1959

Dear Hellen and Wilson:

Thanks for your last letter acknowledging my letter concerning Calabrias visit. Since then I received a "thank you" letter from his boss, and also one from himself thanking me for the help. I felt it was fun and hope that they have benefitted by it. Wish some consultants trip may come out of it. I will do the job on the conditions of the Salvador project.

We just received a letter from Moes Fairchild. She is doing alright according to her. However she is more easily tired she writes and I can read it out of the way she writes. She will be back late apparently. The Mullers are in her house now, they will go to France in February or so. Their daughter Helene married to Pancoast expects a baby in January, and Barbara Muller has to be there for help. Our former cottage is rented to an interior decorator. Maybe that all this has delayed somewhat Moes' return. I doubt however that she can stand up against the cold in of that area. She has good help in the little Puerto Rican Cook Anna, and it appears that Nancy has been there also a great deal, further Gertie. Coconut Grove without Moes is very different.

We still have to work awfully hard on the house and the garden, especially the orchids which have been neglected for over three years now. Our days begin at 5 and end at 11 or 12 pm. It is too much (sorry) (the break, it is the lab machine of the University). I will have a couple of strap leaf vandas for you if those in the mean time do not succumb to Phytophthora. Because we have to curtail our activities we are clearing plants out that we do not want for exhibitions or breeding. Only the diseases worry us since we lose our studs regularly now.

Well if you hear of consultants jobs in trop. agri. that you do not want I would appreciate if you would recommend me.

All the best to you both, as ever yours

Wilson

6767 SW 112th St
Miami 56

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 16 Jan 1960

Dr M J Dijkman
6767 SW 112th St Miami, Fla.

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for your letter of last November, which I have not answered because there was not much to say. But now I have to announce that Hugh wants us to come up to Gainesville to see him get his doctorado on the 30th of this month, so we have decided to fly up to Florida for a few days. We made reservations yesterday to fly on AVIATECA (the Guatemalan line) which will reach Miami about noon on Wednesday the 27th of January. We plan to stay overnight in one of those guest houses just south of the river (seems to me the one we stayed in last time was called Sea Breeze) and we will go down in the late afternoon to visit a little hile with Mrs Fairchild; then the next day we will take the train to Gainesville (Waldo) and stay there over the week-end. Then we will come back down to Miami and spend a few days "talking shop" with yourself and John Popenoe and Billy Krome and all the rest. It will be very interesting; we cant stay away too long as we are very busy here but I would like to talk with you about some of the interesting things which are going on in this part of the world.

Ever yours,