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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.

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 July 1959

Dr Thomas E Furman,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Doctor Furman:

Vol. 8 No. 2 of CEIBA has just come to hand and I am very glad to see it. The cover is very attractive. Bob Hunter's "A New Guide to Land Use Planning in Tropical Areas" is highly interesting and valuable, though I still think for the small farmer we had best avoid such terms as "Lower Montane Formation" and use language he easily understands, such as "tierra caliente", "tierra templada" and "tierra fria" complemented by terms such as "wet", "semi arid" and "arid". For technical workers Hunter's classification is excellent. And maybe I am wrong about the small farmer.

On the inside covers you state "Ceiba has been published in both Spanish and English since 1942". I have here bound sets of the first three volumes and Volume 1 Number 1, according to these, was published January 23 1950. This jibes with memory and should be correct.

I am glad you have eliminated the requirement of United Nations coupons in payment of copies. These coupons are so much bother for people in Central America and elsewhere that not many would get them. The philosophy behind CEIBA was and I believe still is this: Escuela Agrícola Panamericana is out to increase knowledge of tropical American agriculture and Natural History, and to educate young Latin Americans in the agricultural sciences and good citizenship. We always felt we were justified in spending a small part of our funds in a publication for the increase of technical knowledge; and in addition we figured it would be more trouble than it is worth, if we tried to charge for subscriptions and carry all the bookkeeping connected therewith. And we would cut down the usefulness of the journal because many people who should have it would not bother to send in their subscriptions.

Perhaps it will be worth while to take up the policy of Ceiba at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. I for one will argue strongly in favor of continuing its publication, and making it as easy as possible for institutions and individuals who should have it, receive it regularly.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe



July 22, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popence
Calle de la Nobleza No. 2
Antigua, Guatemala
Centro América

Dear Dr. Popence:

Enclosed please find the abstract of Fonseca's article which you requested for "Hacienda". I think the idea of reprinting in journals intended for Latin America abstracts of articles appearing in other journals is a fine idea, and should be supported. Often workers in this area have very limited reference facilities, and any means of broadening their contact with current literature in their fields of investigation is worth encouraging.

Thanks for your comments of 17 July on "Ceiba" in general. I had some strong qualms about Hunter's article, based as it is on a system of classifying all the climates of the world which I feel has been improved on by more than a century of work in this field; however, my job is to edit, not to censor, and too heavy a hand directing "Ceiba" in its present state might well result in no journal at all. Effort continues to be necessary in building it back up to its vigor of a few years ago. Articles from authors with a good background in the whole region which "Ceiba" serves are still needed. In this connection, I may mention that Vol. 8 No. 3 still has space for another article.....

My ideas about the subscription experiment now agree with yours exactly, after my having returned their coupons to many persons with notes to the effect that these were proving far more bother, both to the recipients and to me, than they were worth. My original idea in this was to cull from the mailing list those persons who continued to receive "Ceiba" when they were not really interested. Perhaps at some time in the future, when the journal is strongly on its feet, I may send out a card to be returned if the recipient wants his subscription continued; not right away, however.

Circulation is now 732, as a result of my having offered exchanges with a number of journals of interest to our Library. More offers will go out with the next issue. "Ceiba" is well worth its existence, if only as a subsidy to the Library; I feel it has other strong justifications besides.

Sincerely,

Thomas Furman
Thomas Furman
Editor

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

May 20, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza N° 2
Antigua, Guatemala
Centro América

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

Your letter concerning the extra copies of the "Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society" has been forwarded to me.

All three copies were received here. I have returned the two extras. The first has been stamped by our Library. I could mail this to you, if you wish, but of course would very much prefer to keep it for our library. Concurrently I am arranging to obtain back numbers of this journal to make a complete file, and to set up an exchange for "Ceiba" to assure that the Library will continue to receive future issues. I have informed the Society of your present address, so that you may expect to receive future issues directly in the future.

I have just returned from a very pleasant three weeks in the three West Coast States of the U. S., and find myself already up to the ears in work, with first semester still two weeks away! Ah, the placid life of Zamorano (where is it?)!

Sincerely,

Tom Furman
Thomas Furman
Editor

P. S.: Still much interested in that Horticulture symposium in P. R..

re: 60-2707 + Ceiba, 197-2965

{ Grace Prescott? } - Please keep that copy for the library because he wants you to have as complete a publication. I do not need one here.

Antigua Guatemala, 7 de Junio 1960

Dr. Thomas E. Furman,
Escuela Agricola Panamericana,
Apartado 93,
Tegucigalpa, D. C. Honduras, A. C.

Estimado Tom:

Muchas gracias por su carta del 20 de Mayo.
Le ruego guardar mi copia del "Proceedings of the Florida
State Horticultural Society" para el uso de la biblioteca
de la Escuela Agricola Panamericana. Yo no la necesito
aquí y entiendo que allá Uds. tienen una colección de
esta serie.

Afmo amigo y servidor,

Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

June 11, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza No. 2
Antigua, Guatemala
Centro América

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for the manuscript of Margaret Mustard. I like it very well, and will write her about setting it up for the next edition of "Ceiba".

The "current" edition has hit a whirlpool, in the form of Dr. de Alba. I had to make a trip to Turrialba to get it straightened out, and now have hopes of being able to put that long-lamented issue in the mail before the end of this month. As I mentioned, the only way I can make the journal a quarterly, considering the nature of things here, is to have one issue ready to go to press on the day the previous one comes out. Let us, then, collaborate in accumulating manuscripts now, to make up a good edition for the near future.

Best wishes,

Tom Furman

*Fonseca's
Apdo 279
Panama, Panama*

Antigua Guatemala, 15 June 1960

Dr. Thomas E. Furman,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
Apartado 93, Tegucigalpa, D. C.
Honduras, A. C.

Dear Tom:

Many thanks for your note of 11 June. You do not need to write Margaret Mustard ("Mostacita" we used to call her⁶); she sent the paper with the idea that it might be published in CEIBA. Dr. Williams did not want it and I put it away and forgot it until I happened to find it in a big pile of undone work I have here. I am not sure where you could locate "Mostacita" now. She went to Ohio State to get her doctorate and she may still be there. When I was in Florida last February I did not hear of her, so I do not believe she is back in that area yet.

You talk about Dr. de Alba's whirlpool. I guess this started with my effort to organize a symposium on improvement of tropical dairy cattle last winter. I was working on this symposium because I am a member of the editorial Committee of "La Hacienda" in New York, and that magazine wanted it. I suggested, among other things, a paper on the results of 15 years of work at Zamorano, using imported bulls of Holstein, Jersey and Guernsey breeds. The editor of "La Hacienda" referred the matter to Dr. de Alba who told him this was the wrong approach toward improvement of dairy cattle in tropical America. He further said that Carlos Herrero had told him that our records at Zamorano are not accurate, hence any data we have should be ignored.

My understanding is that Dr. de Alba believes we should improve our tropical American dairy cattle by selection and not by bringing in European dairy blood. He might be right in this; I rather like the idea and in any case I do not argue. But the fact that so many hundreds of pure-bred bulls have been brought into tropical America and used for crossing with native cows, at least means - or so it seems to me - that it is worthwhile to bring together some figures regarding the results of these efforts. I suspect we have about as many accurate records at Zamorano as are available anywhere in tropical America and for this reason I was anxious, and still am anxious, to see Hernán Fonseca's paper published in "La Hacienda". Of course I shall be happy to see it appear first in CEIBA, but when it comes out in CEIBA I shall certainly see that it is reprinted in "La Hacienda".

As regards CEIBA, I definitely feel if we are to keep this journal alive (and I definitely feel this should be done) we must get out three numbers a year, and better four. And we must not let CEIBA become just another medium for material translated from English into Spanish, or from French, or even for reproducing material published elsewhere in Spanish. We did publish in the old days a few translations, but I am sure if you will go over the files, you will find that about 90% of our material was original.

It is going to be difficult for you to get enough original material to publish four interesting issues a year. But I believe it can be done, and I believe this mainly because costs of publication are so high in the U.S. that a good many people who have manuscripts of genuine interest to tropical America, but not of great interest to workers in the U.S., cannot get their material published up there. These are the boys we must go after, and I will help you to get after them in anyway I can.

CEIBA has been of real value to Latin American science. It has increased in a definite manner the importance and popularity of Escuela Agricola Panamericana. We published CEIBA because we felt that the purpose of Escuela Agricola Panamericana was to train young men in modern methods of tropical agriculture; to operate an experiment for new tropical crops and new varieties of standard tropical crops; and to develop all the information possible regarding the biological sciences, or perhaps I should say sciences in general as far as they were related to tropical America.

It is in this last-named respect that CEIBA has been of real value and can continue to be of real value. I feel quite sure our Board of Trustees will give CEIBA adequate support in the future if we can turn out sufficient material to justify this support.

I am very glad to know that you have abandoned the idea of receiving subscriptions or selling CEIBA issue by issue. Such a policy would probably reduce your circulation the present 700 to 200 or 250 copies. If you took in two or three hundred dollars annually in cash, it would probably not even pay for the book work involved. And after all, I look at Escuela Agricola Panamericana in this way: It is not a money-making institution. It was established to assist in the agricultural development of tropical America. A considerable amount of money is spent annually in furthering the objectives of the school, one of which is "the increase and diffusion of knowledge" as they say at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. CEIBA has played a part in this field, just as the Smithsonian Institution has done for so many years on a much larger scale of course.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

cc: Dr. Wm. C. Paddock
cb: Mr. Hernan Fonseca.