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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.

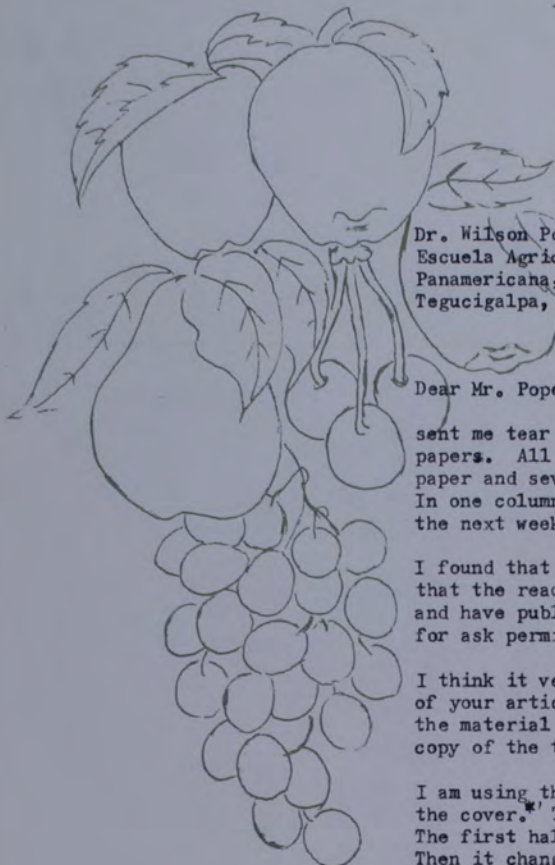
The North American Pomona

Quarterly of

The North American Fruit Explorers

Portland, Ore.

June 16, 1972.



Dr. Wilson Popence,
Escuela Agricola
Panamericana,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Mr. Popence:

Mr. Major C. Collins of Tifton, Ga. sent me tear sheets from a number of his home town papers. All contained the column he writes for that paper and several other papers around the state. In one column a letter from you was started and in the next week's column finished.

I found that letter very interesting, and believe that the readers of a quarterly, I gather, edit and have published, would enjoy seeing it. I therefore ask permission to publish it in our journal.

I think it very likely MR. Collins sent you tearsheets of your article, but just to be certain you know the material I refer to, I'm sending along a photocopy of the tear sheets received from Collins.

I am using the current edition of our journal as the cover.* This edition is not quite typical. The first half of the "book" is pretty much standard. Then it changes into a "tidbit edition" presenting extracts from mail --mostly mine but that of several others-- that I thought should be shared with the readers. Other editions I've had a page or two of the like, under the heading of "Sample Slices" and used such material as "fillers" that I might give the next article the dignity of a top of the page beginning.

*1 When I got to
the P.O. I found
it cost almost twice
as much to send both
as one as separately
so separated them.
Both going air mail

Horticordially,

Spilo Gibson

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 July 1972

Mr Milo D. Gibson
210 SE 108 Ave
Portland Oregon 97216

Dear Mr Gibson:

I am sure you are not the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo, so I can understand how it almost broke the bank to send me the North American Pomona and other items. It would cost you half a buck to send me a registered airmail letter, minimum weight, but I can send you one from Guatemala for 14 centaves.

As far as I am concerned, you are more than welcome to use the material which Major Collins published. I would like to go further, and prepare something along a different line for your Pomona, if you would care to have it. For example, something about apple, peach and pear varieties for warm climates, like ours. I am working actively in this field, since being retired from Escuela Agricola Panamericana some 14 years ago.

Don't you think I ought to belong to North American Fruit Explorers? Good Lord, I have been one for nigh only 60 years. No, a little more than that. "Agricultural Explorer" for the U.S. Dept of Agr culture 1913-1925, and since then with United Fruit Company, though officially retired in 1958. Now working on my own, here in Central America with my base in Antigua, Guatemala, in an old colonial mansion which was built in 1632, ruined in 1773, and restored by us in 1930-36. Visited by more than 4000 tourists from all over the world last year.

How much should I send you for Pomona, to come airmail?

Faithfully yours, ✓

Wilson Popenoe, Director Emeritus

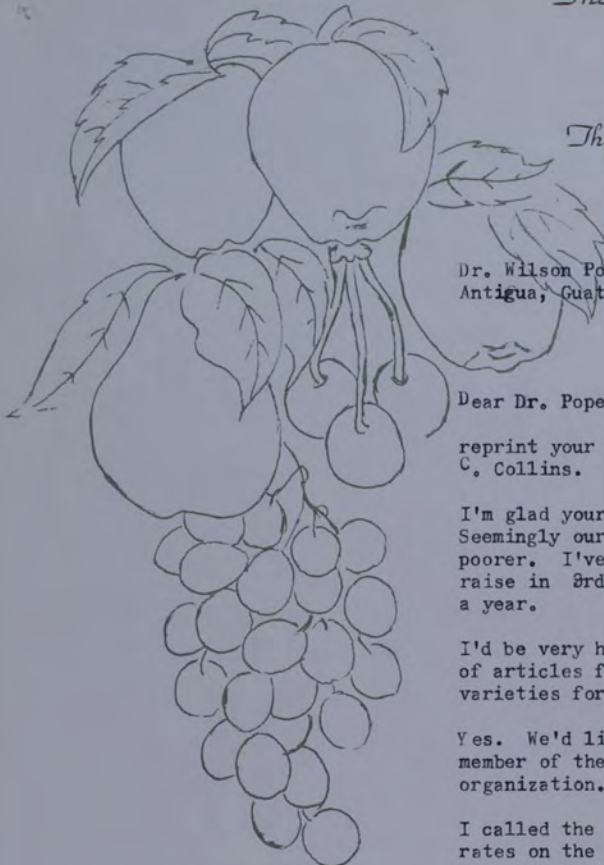
The North American Pomona

Quarterly of

The North American Fruit Explorers

Portland, Ore.

July 11, 1972.



Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua, Guatemala.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for permission to reprint your letter from the column of Mr. Major C. Collins. I appreciate it very much.

I'm glad your postage rate is so reasonable. Seemingly ours gets higher as the service gets poorer. I've just received notice of another raise in 3rd class rates, the second within a year.

I'd be very happy to have an article or a series of articles from you on apple, peach and pear varieties for warm climates. ~~Send you~~

Yes. We'd like very much to have you as a member of the North American Fruit Explorers organization.

I called the Post Office and asked airmail rates on the "Pomona" to you in Guatemala. It would be 50¢ a copy, which is high. But,

I hasten to point out, added to our present membership cost of \$3 your gross cost would be no greater than that of membership in the American Pomological Society to get their Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest --and we offer twice as much material. I'm not in a position to say ours is better, or even as good. They have the self trained hobbyist writing, occasionally, but feature the institutional pomologist; we have the professional appearing more often than they do the amateur, but a large percentage of our contributors do not have a formal education in horticulture. Even so, we have more members at the Geneva Experiment Station of Cornell U, than we have members receiving, in or out of any city in the U.S.

Thank you.

Horticordially,

Spilo Gibson

Antigua, Guatemala 18 Oct 1972

Mr Milo D Gibson
210 S E 108th Avenue,
Portland, Oregon 97216

Dear Mr Gibson:

Naturally, your letter of 11 July arrived some time ago and last week the copy of North American Penona with my letter to our worthy colleague Major Cellina, who writes that he has been very much under the weather but is back in the game.

That copy of North American Penona which you sent warmed the cockles of my heart. You have got a batch of real horticulturists on your list; they give us interesting facts, not just programs - Oh how tired I am of plans, programs and futures! First of, of course, because I aint got no future; it is behind me, but I am a bit like the Jamaican banana grower who came into the office of my old colleague Mr Kleffer of United Fruit Co, and remarked ~~how~~ me Geshshah, that sure was a blowdown; the farm flat, flat flat, but I am still cutting bananas!

I shant give up my almost lifelong association with the American Penological Society, - I was chairman and probably the only member of the tropical fruit committee back from 1913 to 15 or so, but I do want to receive your splendid little quarterly but I think we better forget the annual business. I enclose my check for ten dollars, which will probably bring it to me for as long as I am going to live. Gesh, how I loved to read these items in the copy you sent me, grapes which I have been trying to grow commercially and not yet successfully in Central America for fifty years. and these Tennessee pears that are doing so beautifully here - Ayers and others.

With all good wishes,

Antigua, Guatemala, 27 January 1974

Mr Milo D Gibson
210 SE 108th St
Portland, Oregon 97216

Dear Mr Gibson:

Just rec'd the Winter Edition of that always-interesting North American Pomona. I wish I weren't so counfoundedly old so I could take more part in the work. But when you recall that in 1913 I was head of the Tropical Fruit Committee of the American Pomological Society you will marvel that I am here at all.

Seven or eight years ago, in my work with pears here in the Central American highlands, I tumbled onto the fact that *Pyrus calleryana* is the rootstock for us. I got seed, two successive years, through Herb Borhers of Brewster, N.Y. but last year they told me there had been a copy failure and they could furnish none. I have been after them since last October and though they had some seed in Texas Herb's Bros didn't get us any. We would like to get two pounds if possible, but of course will jump at any we can get. I wonder if you can put us on the track of anyone from last year's crop? I realize it is pretty late.

Thanking you in advance for any help you can give us,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Address simply: Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, Central America