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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.

Compañía Bananera de Costa Rica - Division de Quepos

Office of Agriculture  
Quepos - September 27th, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,  
Calle de La Nobleza N°2  
Antigua,  
Republica de Guatemala.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

It is a very long time since our paths have crossed but I hope you have not forgotten me.

You have doubtless heard of the critical time the Company is passing through and it has got so bad that cacao costs are being cut to the bone.

I was at home in Scotland on vacation when I received a letter regretting that my services would have to terminate at the end of October, and that I should come back alone to wind up my affairs.

As you can imagine, this was quite a blow after 24 years up and down the American Tropics and I am writing to ask if you know of anything I could do. It is hard to contemplate wasting my knowledge of tropical plants and horticulture - and the Spanish language - in a park or suchlike in Scotland.

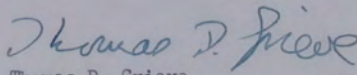
I do not know if you are in Guatemala at present, so that any reply you care to make may be delayed. As mentioned, I shall be in Quepos until the end of October and, after that, my address will be:

3 Hillview Terrace,  
Blackhall,  
Edinburgh,  
Scotland.

I am now 52 years old and have a wife and three children one of whom is at school in Scotland.

With best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
Thomas D. Grieve.

Antigua, Guatemala, 30 Sept 1960

Mr Thomas D Grieve  
Cia Bananera de Costa Rica, Quepos.

Dear Tommy:

Your letter of the 27th has just come. As you say, this is quite a blow. But one cannot take it too personally when one sees so many good ~~many~~ who have been with the Company 25 to 35 years, being dropped. It looks ~~as~~ though the Company's operations are going to be re-oriented completely.

We are short of horticulturists in tropical America. As you know, I have been (and still am) in pretty close touch with the field, and our main problem has been to find competent men to do the work. I therefore feel that you can and should get placed in this part of the world and not go back to Scotland where there are plenty of other men who know how to plant conifers. I was very sorry to see Bob Armour and his nice wife leave here; Bob did a good job in El Salvador.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been short of horticulturists. Two years ago, at my recommendation, they employed Mario Jalil, one of the graduates of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, who later was sent to Florida and earned an M.Sc.; and he is now here in Guatemala, in charge of school garden work throughout Central America for the FAO. I think there might be a chance of your getting into one of the FAO programs.

Since Bob Armour left, I know that Don Francisco de Sola has been looking for someone to take his place. I have written "Don Chico" today telling him I have just heard from you, and that you will have to look for other work after October. You probably know quite a bit about the work Bob was doing in Salvador. If you don't, I can tell you.

I think there is also a possibility in Venezuela. This is under consideration right now. It is based on a program I outlined for them two years ago. Since that time I have outlined a similar program for Nicaragua, and am staying behind it. And it seems to me that it might be quite possible for you, with your long experience in tropical American horticulture and your knowledge of Spanish, to get into Escuela Agrícola Panamericana as a teacher of horticulture; or the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura in El Salvador; or one of the several other schools in this part of the world.

Keep in touch with me, but try Francisco de Sola first.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Cia. Bananera de Costa Rica  
Quepos - October 17, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe.  
Calle de la Nobleza #2,  
Antigua,  
Guatemala.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Very many thanks indeed for your encouraging letter.

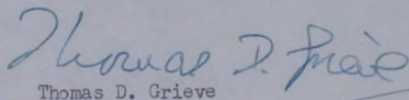
I have written to Sr. de Sola - in fact, I did so right away and told him all the details which I thought he ought to know. Such as having children and being 52 years old.

Have had word from others, such as Harry Hutchings who was in Haiti but he says that they just cannot get enough good banana land there and he has retired altogether. John Taylor in the Cameroons says that next June will be independence year for his area and he is not sure if Elders & Fyffes will even be in business.

Whatever transpires, I shall certainly keep in touch and may I say that I appreciate the interest you are taking in my case?

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely.,

  
Thomas D. Grieve



Antigua, Guatemala, 23 Oct 1960

Mr Thomas D Grieve  
Cia Bananera de Costa Rica

Dear Tommy:

In the same mail with your letter of the 17th came one from Don Francisco de Sola saying that the situation in El Salvador is such that he can not see any hope for you there at this time.

I guess that's the whole trouble at this moment, everywhere "the situation is such". For 25 years I spent a lot of time trying to find horticulturists to fill attractive jobs in tropical America, and now I have to find jobs for attractive horticulturists.

I dont know just where to turn. Venezuela is talking about putting on a man in the horticultural field, but nothing definite as yet. And as I think I have mentioned, I believe there might be something in FAO.

If I were you, I would try to get an inexpensive place to live for a month or so, and explore all the possibilities. I am selfish about the matter in one way; I dont want to see tropical America lose a good horticulturist. Keep in touch with me and let me know how things are progressing, and I will keep you in mind at this end. Possibly there might be something in Florida; one of the big nurseries there has just taken on our Zamorano boy, Simon Malo, and I think perhaps there are less problems right now in Florida than here in Latin America.

Sincerely,

Cia. Bananera de Costa Rica  
Quepos - October 27, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,  
Calle de la Nobleza #2,  
Antigua,  
Republica de Guatemala,

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Today I received a letter from Sr. de Sola in which he regrets that he has no post available at this time but that he will keep my address in mind in case something does come up.

We have had a "temporal" lasting six days and all papers and mail services were held up. Today there was a let-up but, tonight, the rains have started all over again.

I had contacted the Institute at Turrialba but they also say that there is nothing in sight.

I am due to leave here by air on November 3rd for Scotland but, naturally, if you think that I should stay for a while, I will gladly do so. There are one or two points of family importance in Scotland to close out but they could wait for a while.

If you think it worth while to stay, would you be so good as to send a radio to the Company in San José? I hate to impose on your kindness but I am sure you understand.

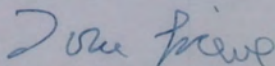
Otherwise, my address will be -

3 Hillview Terrace,  
Blackhall,  
Edinburgh, Scotland.

I enclose a clipping from today's paper which may interest you. Things look very dark and everyone is pessimistic.

With best personal wishes for your well being,

Yours sincerely.,



Thomas D. Grieve.

Apartado 4141, San Jose, Costa Rica.  
November 20th 1960.

Dear Dr Popenoe;

I have been up in San Jose now for the better part of the month but have had no immediate luck so far.

I am staying with Red and George Bowman at the above P.O. Box number (4141) and have contacted all sorts of people.

Have contacted Dr Robb who is chief of the FAO here in San Jose and he has asked for all my particulars. Also, Dr Havard, who is in charge of the Turrialba Institute, under the new director, has taken a big interest and has undertaken to write to five people whom he knows are (or were) on the lookout for employees with long experience. He says he would prefer, for my sake, to contact these men himself as he feels the new arrangement of the Institute in helping the forward push of horticulture would benefit by keeping fresh contacts.

Also, I have been in correspondence with Blue Brothers of Nicaragua who have invited me to come visit them. They have ambitious plans for cacao and banana plantings on the Atlantic Coast and they say that they will definitely need an experienced man early in 1961. I suppose they would like to see me before making an offer, and, of course, this is only right.

For myself, I've been in correspondence with people in Trinidad, Jamaica and the Philippines as well as Africa. It seems that all the African countries are holding their breathing for the time being.

As I seem to be a little bit pessimistic, it is only to be expected as the Company really seems to be in the doldrums. Almost all of the people here are just waiting their call and, although new planting is to start in Golfito, this is just to keep up the exports. Two years ago, Golfito was shipping 200,000 stems per week and they are now down to 90,000 and by the time the new acres come into bearing, the weekly cut will be well down. The big trouble is Moka which takes shelter in the wild host plant *Heliconia*. To control the *Heliconia* is well nigh impossible and the machetes carry the Moka all around.

I plan to leave here on the 22nd and stop over in Managua and go down to the Blue Brothers plantation. There is a man in London who would like to see me, and it is now over two months since I've been away from my family. So, I think it better that I get an outside look at my problems. I have a re-entry permit to Costa Rica and can come back at the drop of a hat. It is depressing to be out of work after 24 years of constructive progress with the Company but perhaps it is best to be away from Quepos, at least. The new program for the cacao will only lead to lower crops. No pruning on clonal cacao is just silly as these trees are so vigorous that self suffocation must follow. African Oil Palm trees in Quepos have now grown so tall that imminent danger of lowered instead of increased production is well in sight. In spite of this, an over optimistic estimate for 1961 has been submitted. This just cannot be met, or, if it is approached, will only be at the cost of greatly increased harvesting expense. The people are just plain scared to climb these tall trees and also, many of them have rotten leaf bases which cannot support a man even if he wanted to climb anyway, while inadequate provision for new plantings has been the rule for some time. For Quepos, a 500 acre new planting should have been started, at least two years ago, for maintaining 10,000 acres in full production. There are at present more than 1000 acres of plants which are useless - more, they take up food and especially moisture which could support bearing trees. 500 acres a year would just do nicely in an



attempt to keep top production for the new customers which have appeared in this country. Sooner or later, the commitments will not be met and a store of disappointment will be built up.

Progress in cattle raising among the palms has not been too good as beef cannot be put on cattle when they graze on the herbs and thin grasses which are the rule under the palms. This area is all right for cows and their calves but beef is something else.

Whatever happens about my meeting with the Blue Brothers, I will let you know and will keep in touch. I appreciate very much the interest you have taken in my case as it is now almost 12 years since we met in the Tegucigalpa airport.

There are rumours that the Guatemala and the Colombian Divisions are to shut down, or at least, turn themselves into agencies. Ecuador has already turned to simple buying and have let the lands out to the nacionales. The Communists have now turned their activities to the Panama Divisions and they will likely go through the same dreary fighting as they had in Golfito. A thirteenth month of pay is now the rule in Costa Rica and it is only a question of time until all the other areas catch up with the idea, and this, of course, will lead to a more expensive bunch than ever. As a bunch is now around \$3.40 or even \$3.60 from a Company division it is easily seen why the Ecuadorians are having a fine time selling 50 million bunches a year at anything they can get over \$2.00 in Guayaquil.

My address in Scotland will be -

3 Hillview Terrace,  
Blackhall,  
Edinburgh, 4, SCOTLAND.

and, now that it is the off season, air travel will be quite cheap. If you happen to come across anything which you think would suit me, I will be very glad to take advantage of it.

Once again, thank you very much for your help in this bad time for me and I will keep you fully informed as to what goes on.

With best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Thomas D. Grieve*  
Thomas D. Grieve.

Dear Dr Popenoe;

I had left this open and, this morning (21st) I received yours of 18th November. I shall certainly write to Mr Davee this very day and I thank you for the advice. I had not thought of Alfred Butler but will write him at the same time. Your opinion of the touchy situation in Latin America is well supported here. There has been shooting in Puerto Armuelles and all the overseers, etc., have been brought in from the Line. This is something quite new for Panamá and it will take a long time to die down. I will pay a further visit to Dr Robb of the FAO here and confirm the fact that I'm still interested.

Once again, Doctor, my best thanks to you for your help and you may be sure that I won't let you down.

Yours sincerely,

*Thomas D. Grieve*  
Thomas D. Grieve.



3 Hillview Terrace, Blackhall,  
Edinburgh, 4, Scotland.  
December 7th 1960.

*got here Jan 5 - ordinary mail*

Dear Dr Popenoe;

As I wrote you from San Jose, I have sent off a letter to Dr Davee of the Unicef, and have renewed my application with Dr Robb of the same outfit in San Jose. So far, there has been no reply but others have shown interest.

I stopped off in Managua on my way north and saw the Blue Brothers and went down to their place on the Atlantic Coast - near Cukra. They have had a terrific loss with Panama Disease and, as they had planted cacao hybrid seedlings under the bananas, their cacao looks pretty grim, too. As fast as they can, they are planting Giant Cavendish and another type named Roi Coeur, which is a sport the Standard Fruit found among their Cavendish. This firm had been told that they could expect 1000 stems per hectare before the PD hit them really hard but they actually took only 100/125 stems per hectare off their plantings. Sigatoka has got away from them and they say this is because of the persistent winds interfering with their plane. They asked me to write them a report on my findings which I did and they say that when they have digested this, they will make up their minds but they are very unhappy about the situation as it is and want to make a change. If their offer is attractive enough (if they make me an offer) it would be a chance, but I have already told them that it will take four years for their cacao to show a profit. This surprised them but I pointed out the poor state the cacao was in and the fact that the Cavendish is far from the ideal banana and they will be troubled with "ripes". It will be a tough job. These Blue Brothers are a couple of youngsters who flew round Latin America in 1957 and were written up in "Life". They chose Nicaragua as the Somoza brothers showed an interest in them and the investment, so far, exceeds \$900,000.00, but it will be some time before they show a substantial profit.

I have had a letter, via Sierra Leone, from Hamburg, and German interests are on the point of starting banana work in Liberia in West Africa and have asked me to wait while they consider further.

There has been no word from the people whom Gordon Havord of Turrialba wrote to about me, but I guess everything takes time. A

No.2.

friend here in Scotland has written to say that Bob Armour has gone to the States and will go on to take up his old job in El Salvador. He just could not get the kind of sheep farm he wanted here and his wife didn't like the climate, with which I agree one hundred percent.

Dr Hardy, the soil man in Turrialba, put me on to a new idea which has shown good results. There is an organization in London who take applications for employment and advertise in certain "trade" papers and it seems that the employer, who takes one of the advertised men, has to pay the organization two weeks salary of the man hired. The man who is looking for employment pays nothing. I contacted this outfit and they asked me for all my particulars as they did not take on every applicant and I'm glad to say that they have accepted me and have taken up my case. I specified that I had a preference for Latin America but other places in the tropics were not excluded. So, let's see what comes of this.

I wrote Alfred Butler as you suggested but there has not yet been a reply. Nor from Louis Verteuil of Trinidad who, it appears, was in Europe when I wrote. He has been working for Point 4 on cacao.

I have not yet gone to London as the man is away but I expect word any day.

The weather here is bitterly cold and today there is fog and, altogether, it is a far away place from the lovely lands to the south but all things will work out, we are sure.

Our best wishes to you and hope you keep well.

The season's greetings and all best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

*Thomas D. Grieve*

Thomas D. Grieve.

Sender's name and address: T.D.Grieve

3 Hillview Terrace, Blackhall,  
Edinburgh, 4, SCOTLAND.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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Dr Wilson Popenoe,  
Calle de la Nobleza #2,  
Antigua,  
Republica de Guatemala,  
Central America.



3 Hillview Terrace, Blackhall,  
~~XXX~~ Edinburgh, 4, Scotland.

March 7th 1961.

Dear Dr Popenoe;

It has been some time since I wrote you but I've been waiting to hear from the U.N. in Rome. It took weeks for Dr Davee to reply to me and then he wrote to say he had sent my letter to Dr Pansiot in Rome. After some weeks I heard from Rome and they enclosed an application form which I filled in and returned. Three days ago a reply came to say that they thought my experience would be of use but there was nothing at the moment but that my application would be kept on file. There is a man coming this month from Uganda who will make a definite offer after he talks things over with me. He has all my data and a strong recommendation from an old friend of mine who is out there now. I wrote Butler as you advised but he has nothing except an address to which I'd already written. Also heard from Dr Imle of the American Cocoa Research in Washington and he has one or two contacts which he will meet personally soon. Have an offer from Blue Brothers whom I saw in Nicaragua on my way home. This will take a few weeks but I would say this is the best of all it it comes to a head.

We are all well and, after a bitter winter, are just entering into my first Springtime in 25 years and it is wonderful to see all the awakening of the early flowers and buds. The children are especially enjoying life which is as it should be.

We hope you and yours keep well and you may be sure that I'll keep you posted on what goes on. Thanking you for your help with the U.N. and with best personal good wishes,

Sincerely,

*Tom Brown*

[Grieve]

15 Sept 1962

Mr Thomas D. Grieve  
Bluefields, Vic.

Dear Tommy: We are badly in need of a head  
for our horticultural department here at F.A.P.  
The work involves plenty of propagation; vegetable  
crops; care of small orchard plantings of citrus mango  
and avocados, ~~and etc~~ The object is to train the  
students as well as produce fruits and vegetables for  
the school comedor. I think the job would be right  
down your alley - or in English, your cup of tea.  
The salary would be pretty good, plus a furnished  
house ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~offer~~ milk and products of the field and  
garden - Vacation 30 days a year, which can be  
accumulated for 2 yrs if desired, but no free  
transportation to England. The climate here is  
fine and living conditions very good.

If you would be interested, write me promptly  
at 1742 NW 2nd Ave, Gainesville. I cannot make  
any commitment as I am here only in an advisory  
capacity until we get a new Director. I shall  
have to go North in about 10 days to attend a mtg  
of our Board of Trustees in New York on 10 Oct  
but hope to stop in Gainesville before or after.

Best regards always. Sincerely

Wilson Popenoe

TROPICAL RADIO

TROPICAL RADIO

RECEIVED  
VIA TROPICAL RADIO  
TEGUCIGALPA, HOND.

CML-1326

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WRITING YOU GAINESVILLE

THOMAS GRIEVE

CFM AM GAINESVILLE GRIEVE

TROPICAL RADIO

TROPICAL RADIO