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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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

August 8, 1957

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
21 Doble Via, San Salvador
El Salvador, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was glad to have your letter of July 30, and will get the lychee material off to you via air mail as soon as I can collect it. Both the Centro at Santa Tecla and Chico de Sola have a plant of the Groff variety of lychee in case you are interested in that variety.

I don't know of any book on pineapple varieties from Hawaii. They grow only the smooth Cayenne (Kew) pineapple over here, and other varieties are not of any particular importance. The latest yearbook issued by the Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico deals entirely with pineapple culture and has a section on varieties. It covers the subject pretty well and in addition, is printed in Spanish. I suggest you write to the Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico for a copy, if you have not already received a copy. It might be just what you are looking for.

Did you locate my guava propagation manuscript and send it off to Hacienda to see about publishing it? I think the subject is still fairly pertinent and up to date, so if you agree, I would surely appreciate it if you can send it along to Hacienda with whatever comments or recommendations you might care to make.

Your assignment in El Salvador sounds interesting and with the backing of Chico de Sola, the plant propagation angle should make some headway. At the time I was at the Centro, we had plenty of personnel on the payroll, but no budget or facilities to speak of, so it was pretty hard to keep the ball rolling. I understand there is still a good lot of a hundred or more selected macadamia seedlings left at the Centro from some good stock I brought in from Hawaii. If these are still around, someone in the country should make use of them. Maybe you could make use of them some way in your program.

Please give my best regards to Mario Lewy, Chico de Sola, and Bob Armour. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

R. A. Hamilton

R. A. Hamilton

RAH:mt

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
26 August 1957

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station, Honolulu/

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for your letter of the 8th, and the literature on lychee which has arrived safely. I am delighted to have this. I am going to see if we can't push the lychee business - perhaps especially in Guatemala where I believe conditions may be better than here, in general. Jorge Benitez and I were looking at the trees in Antigua the other day; one is in bad shape but one is healthy and we can make a fine lot of air layers on it. I am of course interested in the Groff but it will be quite a while before any propagations can be done from the two here. I wish we had that variety at Zamorano.

We are trying to get the nurseries going; Mortensen has been put in charge and they plan to station Castillo on the nursery in Izalco and Portillo at Santa Cruz Porrillo, with the understanding they will only remain if they make good progress. Getting things done is the problem, as you know better than I.

Thanks for the information re pineapple varieties. I am writing PR. I spoke to Chicode Sola about the Macadamias wh are still at Sta Tecla; he is not greatly interested because they are seedlings, but in my opinion they are definitely worth planting somewhere here. I think he should use them and probably he will - if he can get them.

I am going back to Guatemala next week. but shall try to drop in here for a few days before the end of the year, to see how things are going. It will be fun to drive over in our little Volkswagen and have a look at things.

Ever yours,



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

December 10, 1957

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I have just finished meeting Eddie Fukunaga on his return from Central America, and he told me something about your recent nursery development work in El Salvador. I hope that the nursery and propagation work is going well there and that you are able to accomplish the work you set out to do. They especially need improved varieties of fruits in the Oriente, as there has been very little plant propagation and plant improvement work done in that section of El Salvador.

I hope this letter reaches you with the somewhat sketchy address which I have. No doubt you are back home in Antigua by now, but unfortunately, I do not have your street address. However, knowing Central America, I am sure the postmaster will know how to handle Dr. Popenoe's mail.

I recently heard from Paul Allen and understand that a Dr. Paddock was appointed in charge there. I know several Dr. Paddocks engaged in horticultural work, notably one from Iowa State College and another from Kansas State. Could it be either one of these?

I am working largely on macadamia nuts at the present time. There is considerable interest in planting this year since coffee prices are not encouraging. As a matter of fact, there is a shortage of grafted macadamia trees because of the unexpected demand for planting macadamias in the coffee growing section.

I hope that you are in the best of health and please give our best regards to Mrs. Popenoe. We hope you have a very pleasant Christmas.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick

R. A. Hamilton
Associate Horticulturist

RAH:mt

Antigua Guatemala, 16 Dec 1957

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station
Honolulu, T H

Dear Dick:

Mighty good to have news of you, and to hear that Eddie Fukunaga (a really grand guy, and no dumbell, believe me) has reached home and told you all the news from Salvador. I think you are right about the Paddock family; the one who has taken over Zamorano is Bill P, from Iowa State College; he was here in Guatemala for several years, first on the Iowa State corn project, then with ICA. He and wife were here last week for a brief visit. I am doing all I can to help him carry on at Zamorano; you know how it is, no matter how bad the last administration was, it takes time to get used to a new one.

I am sending you a copy of my report on the Salvador program for fruit improvement. You know the situation over there better than I do. The opportunities are grand. What we need is a couple of good nurserymen like Jorge Benitez and Mario Jalil. Mortensen is allright; he knows horticulture. But he is ICA and he can not just step out and say Do this or you are fired, any more than you could. I am trying to get a couple of their local lads trained to do good nursery work, and why is it, Dick, thatt we dont have any good nurserymen in Central America? For 30 yrs I have been trying to train some and I have barely gotten to 1st base - Mario Jalio is now first baseman. Jorge Benitez over here in Guatemala is pitcher but I trained him 30 years ago. Incidentally, I hear that the local ICA program contemplates sending Jorge Benitez over to Hawaii in the spring, to become an expert Macadamiajist. Fine, but I want to see him get more out of the trip than just Macadamias. You folks may take over the madadamia business just like you have taken over the pineapple canning industry. I have had a tough time in Salvador and here, trying to tell people that I am not too confident that they can beat you on growing and canning pines. As for coffee, talk to Eddie; I'll bet he will feel as I do, that those glorious days are about over. Recently we had the jefe of the Great A and P with us, and he said he expected to sell good coffee over the counter at 50 cents one of these days (dont put that in the Honolulu papers) and I told him I thought we could still grow coffee and make money, when we learn how to grow coffee the way Eddie would do it.

Helen and I are planning to leave here about February first to go to Spain for a job I have over theye; may go on to Israel to see Bob Ticho and might even go to India for the mango season. If we get that far, we might come back via Hawaii to see you. Solo Dios sabe. I am not as young as I was 50 years ago.

All good wishes for the New Year, and keep the flag flying.

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station
Honolulu

Dear Dick:

This is just a personal note of introduction. Jorge Benitez, who has worked with me off and on for the past 35 years or more, is being sent to Hawaii by SCIDA here in Guatemala, primarily - I believe - to study Macadamia propagation and cultivation, but he will want to see everything else he can. Jorge is a keen horticulturist and probably the best plant propagator in Central America, with lots of experience in Cinchona, Citrus and tropical fruits in general. You will enjoy knowing him and anything you do for him will be for the good of Central American horticulture in general.

Best regards always,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Mr W W Goodale Moir
Honolulu, T.H.

Dear Goodale:

This will introduce Jorge Benitez, who has worked with me off and on everysince I found him in Ecuador and started him on his horticultural career. He is now being sent to Hawaii by SCIDA here in Guatemala, primarily to study Macadamia propagation and culture, but he will want to see everything else he can, and he is very much interested in orchads and other ornamentals. I am sure you will enjoy meeting him.

Best regards to you and the señora - and thanks for the recent issue of Paradise of the Pacific.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Prof. Knowles A. Ryerson,
Dean, College of Agriculture
University of California
15 Arlmonte Drive, Berkeley, California.

Dear Knowles:

This will introduce Jorge Benitez, who joined me in Ecuador when I was collecting plants for the USDA back in 1919 and has worked closely with me ever since. Jorge is now horticulturist for SCIDA here in Guatemala and is being sent to Hawaii to learn what he can about Macadamia culture, and he will stop in California either going or coming. If you are at home, I know you will be glad to help him line up his stay in our States and perhaps suggest a few things he ought to see around the Bay. He is a keen plantsman, the best propagator in Central America, and he will particularly want to see avocados and other subtropicals down Los Angeles way. I am giving him a letter to Art Schroeder of course.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Prof. C.A.Schroeder
University of California at Los Angeles
California.

Dear Art:

This will introduce Jorge Benitez, who has worked with me off and on since 1919 when he joined me in Ecuador. He came to Lancetilla and later worked on Cinchona here in Guatemala and Costa Rica, and on tropical fruits. He is probably the best propagator in Central America and a keen plantsman.

Jorge goes to Hawaii to study Macadamia culture, sent by SCIDA here in Guatemala; and he will want to see as much as he can of other plants as well, - including ornamentals. I am counting on you to like him up for southern California. It will be a real service to our Central American horticulture.

Best regards always,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Dr Herbert Popenoe
640 Hillside Terrace
Pasadena, California

Dear Herb:

You have heard me speak, many times, of Jorge Benitez, who rode the Andes with me way back in 1919, and has worked with me in horticulture off and on ever since. He is now horticulturist of the Point Four program here and is being sent to Hawaii to study Macadamia culture and other things. I have urged him to stop as long as he can in southern California, so as to see subtropicals in that region. I hope he will be able to find you, for I know you will enjoy talking with him, and perhaps you can steer him a bit.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 January 1958

Dr Paul Popenoe
2503 North Marengo Avenue
Altadena, California, E U A

Dear Paul:

From your close contact with my travels of the past half century, ~~who~~ practically know Jorge Benitez, who joined me in Ecuador in ~~1938~~¹⁹¹⁹ and has worked with me off and on ever since. It is hardly necessary, therefore, to give him a letter of introduction to you. He is being sent to Hawaii by the Point Four people with whom he is now working here as horticulturist, and will spend a couple of weeks in southern California on his way home. Maybe you and Herb (to whom I am giving him a letter) can help line him up. I am counting on Art Schroeder of course to make his program in general for him.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

April 16, 1958

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Rancho California
Almunecar (Granada)
Spain

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Needless to say we were extremely happy to have your interesting letter from Spain. I hope you are not traveling so fast that this letter will not catch up with you. I have already sent the macadamia seeds via air mail and possibly Sr. Sarasola may have received them by now.

I am enclosing an article dealing with the germination of macadamia seed. Plain beach sand makes a good germination media and the seeds should be covered with about 1/2 inch of sand.

Your new location and travel itinerary sounds most interesting and I hope you will find time to write again so that we can keep in touch with your impressions of horticulture work in different countries.

I will be glad to see Jorge Benitez when he arrives. From what you say, he must be quite a person and we probably could learn a good deal from him, especially about nursery practices. I may be away from the Territory at the time, but if I am here, I will surely try to help him get around and see our macadamia work. If I am away at the time of his visit, I am sure Eddie Fukunaga will be able to give him the information needed.

I hope this letter finds you in good health. Please give my best regards to Mrs. Popenoe and we shall hope to hear from you again soon.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick
R. A. Hamilton
Associate Horticulturist

RAH:mt
Encl.

Rancho California, Almufecar (Granada)
26 April 1958

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Experiment Station
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Dear Dick:

You sure were prompt in complying with our request for Macadamia seeds, and they sure were prompt in getting here. They arrived nearly a week ago. We appreciate greatly your courtesy in this matter and hope that the shipment will result in getting this excellent nut established here in Spain, that is to say, southern Spain, where it seems to me conditions for its growth are extremely favorable.

Thanks also for the information you sent, which will give Don Luis Sarasola all the guidance he needs.

We expect to do quite a bit of avocado grafting here during May, then in June go down the coast, after spending a little time in Rome to talk with the FAO boys, and end up in Israel in July, for a good session with Dr Oppenheimer and Ticho and Spiegel and others. I am extremely anxious to see what those boys have accomplished without much soil and less water and a tough climate. They say it is a lot.

I hope Jorge Benitez is with you by this time. You will find him extremely interested in everything, and probably slipping seeds into his pocket every time you have your back turned. That's the kind of horticulturists we need! I have a letter from Mario Jalil, whom you may have met at Zamorano or in Salvador; I think you did. He is presently horticulturist at Zamorano but would like to step out into a broader field - he is trying to get tied up with FAO. Mario is one of the very best horticulturists in tropical America today, and has an M.Sc. from the University of Florida. I also have a letter from Johnny Lynch of Florida saying the boys are worried about the meeting of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort Sci, which is planned for Habana early in June. He thinks maybe the weather in Habana may not be very pleasant at that time.

Mario Lewy writes that our fruit improvement program is not getting ahead very rapidly in Salvador. Chico de Sola writes them same. We need two guys like Jorge Benitez, one at each end of the country. I wish you could see Jorge's nurseries in Guatemala.

With renewed thanks and warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

March 6, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle Nobleza Numero 2
Antiqua, Guatemala
C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had a good vacation in Spain. Did you do much traveling in other countries in Europe? I would certainly be interested in hearing of your observations and experiences in that part of the world.

Jorge Benitez was here for about a month, and Eddie Fukunaga and I did our best to help him take the proper contacts and get the plant material he wanted. I hope he was successful in grafting several of the good macadamia varieties he took back to Guatemala. As you said, he is a very good person and we enjoyed having a chance to meet him.

Do you still have information on the location of producing trees, and is there any chance that you might be able to arrange to get us about a dozen seeds of Bielschmiedea anay? I am anxious to try this as a rootstock for avocado. I think it should have possibilities, as the large-fruited lauraceae seem to be more inclined to be graft compatible with avocados, than are the small-fruited types.

Dr. Kamemoto and I are going to Southeast Asia for 4 months this summer on a plant hunting expedition. This should be an interesting trip. Do you know of any exotic fruit varieties from that area that we should make a special effort to secure? Any suggestions and advice you might care to give us on this would certainly be appreciated.

Best personal regards, and please greet Mrs. Popenoe from us. Horace Clay sends his best regards and says he was sorry that you and Mrs. Popenoe were not in Guatemala when he visited there last summer.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick

R. A. Hamilton, Horticulturist

RAH:et

Antigua, Guatemala, 10 April 1959

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station, Honolulu

Dear Dick:

Pardon my tardy reply to your good letter of 6 March. Yes, we did plenty of travelling in the Mediterranean region. Horticulturally considered it was Spain and Israel, but we also took in Italy and Greece. And again, horticulturally speaking, the Canary Islands. I have prepared a rather lengthy report which I imagine may be published in the next Yearbook of the California Avocado Society. I think I may have told you that the macadamia seeds you sent us germinated very well and I left a good number of seedlings established at Almuñecar. Also some 20 varieties of avocados and a few lychees from Florida and the Mexican lime and Puerto Rico sweet potatoes and a few other things. It was all very much worth while and very enjoyable but cost me a pretty penny as I had no subsidies anywhere. Incidentally, those boys in Israel are doing a wonderful job on avocados and bananas and several other fruits. And it is the only place I have ever visited - and as you know, I have travelled around a bit - where you can drive down the road and 25 feet away on one side see a fine plantation of Cavendish and 25 feet away on the other side a fine commercial apple orchard loaded down with fruit. Ask Eddie Fukunaga to explain that for me.

Yes, Jorge (who comes in here every week or so) saved a lot of macadamia grafts - two of them here in Antigua, and he says it is perhaps the best variety. And he has a big batch of seedlings. He got a lot out of his trip to Hawaii, as well as California and Florida. Jorge is a darned useful citizen and dont you forget it.

About the Anay: I only know of one place here in Guatemala where there are bearing trees - Mazatenango - and Art Schroeder is after seeds also; and I am planning to go down and get some in August which is the season. If I succeed I will send you some. I dont want to discourage you but ten years or more ago I tried to graft the anay on the avocado, not vice versa, and I couldnt make it stick. Maybe my bad technique. One think about the anay: I left a good tree growing at the school in Honduras, in my back yard, on soil so wet and heavy that avocados died out. It was planted in 1944 and was still in good condition though its growth had been very slow.

I am delighted to hear that you are going to southeast Asia. I havent many suggestions. I dont think much of the mangos from that region, so far as I know them. The 5 varieties which we introduced from Java are wash-outs. Otto Reinking sent us from Amboina about 1927 a lychee from Amboina which is unique; at Lancetilla it bears every year in that wet climate, which no self-respecting lychee will do; and I have been swearing that it must be a rambutan-lychee hybrid. The fruit has more nearly the flavor - or lack of flavor - of a rambutan than that of a lychee. We have a lot of them growing at Lancetilla now.

I hope to get over to Salvador before long, to see what they are doing with the fruit improvement program. It hasnt gone ahead by leaps and bounds, I hear. Best regards to all of you.

Sincerely,



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

May 14, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for your letter of April 10. Your horticultural and travel observations from Europe, the Near East and the Canary Islands are certainly very interesting. I hope to hear more about your trip the next time I see you.

I am glad to hear that Jorge Benitez was able to save some grafts of our macadamia varieties. I am enclosing a couple of copies of the new macadamia bulletin which Eddie Fukunaga and I wrote. Please keep one copy, if you like, and turn the other over to Jorge. I have also enclosed a list of plants at Lancetilla which he loaned me. Could you please give this to him also and thank him for letting me use it.

I will be interested to hear from you after your trip to El Salvador to look over the fruit improvement situation there. I hear from Bob Armour from time to time and I understand that Paul Allen is making progress on his botanical survey of the country.

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Popenoe.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick
R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist

RAH:mt
Enclosures

Antigua, Guatemala, 16 July 1959

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station
Honolulu 14, Hawaii.

Dear Dick:

Your letter of 14 May has been here for some time, during which time I have spent three weeks in Venezuela doing a study of fruit culture possibilities; two weeks in Costa Rica attending the meetings of the Caribbean Region ASHs; and two weeks in Mexico giving a series of lectures to the members of the Curso Internacional de Horticultura under the auspices of the Organización de Estados Americanos. This is what they call "retirement".

I gave Jorge the copy of the macadamia bulletin you sent for him. It is a good one. Also the list of Lancetilla plants. Speaking of Lancetilla, it looks as though Paul Allen will take over that almost unique collection of tropical economics. I think he is finishing his contract in Salvador this month. If he goes to Lancetilla it will be a grand thing for all of us - and for tropical horticulture. I don't know anything new about Bob Armour's plans; last I heard was that he intended to go back to live in Scotland at the end of this year. I hope to get over to Salvador in a month or two and check up. Tommy Vilanova, who attended the Costa Rica meetings of ASHE, told me the fruit improvement program is "coming along".

Latest news here is that the Minister of Agriculture intends to liquidate SCIDA and the Point Four program as of 31 August. If so, Jorge Benitez may be out of a job but he has done such excellent work here that I think he will be kept on, even tho the experimental work which has been handled by SCIDA is turned over to the Facultad de Agronomia as the papers said last night. If not, we won't have any trouble in getting Jorge placed where he can be useful - which is almost anywhere. He is one of the two best nurserymen in Central America today. He was over here yesterday; one of his principal concerns is to protect the macadamia material he brought from Hawaii.

I hope my report on the work in Europe (Spain), Israel and the Canary Islands will come out in this year's Yearbook of the California Avocado Society. I sent it to them in pretty complete form and believe it has historical value but printing costs are now so high I am not sure what they will do.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

September 21, 1959

HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was glad to find your letter of July 17 on my desk when I returned to Hawaii last Tuesday. The four-month tour of horticulture areas in establishments in ten Southeast Asian countries was a fabulous experience and would require more than just a letter to discuss. Among other things, we sent back about 200 accessions of interesting horticultural plants for testing in Hawaii. About half of this was clonal material of which about 2/3 survived fumigation and quarantine. Almost all of the seed material came through in viable condition.

I am surely happy to hear that Paul Allen has been placed at Lancetilla. This will be good for him as well as for the future of the Lancetilla plantings.

The news that SCIDA and the Point Four Program may be liquidated in Guatemala is interesting. Does this mean that Guatemala has the personnel and organization to carry on the program alone without assistance? I hope so, but I wonder.

While I think of it, I wonder if you could arrange to have Jorge Benitez or someone get me a few scions of a couple of good types of Persea schiediana and 8 or 10 seeds of Anay (Belschmiedia anay)? I am very anxious to work with these in our avocado improvement program. These could be sent air mail in plastic bag, using the enclosed plant quarantine tag. There are some P. schiediana trees growing in Hawaii but the fruit type is not so good. I believe, Jorge Benitez knows the location of some superior types.

It sounds like you are keeping quite busy in your so-called "retirement"! There is plenty of work to be done in horticulture in Central America and I am certainly glad to hear that you are keeping an active hand in it.

Best personal regards and please greet Mrs. Popenoe and Jorge Benitez from me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dick

R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist

RAH:mt
Encls.

Antigua, Guatemala, 25 Sept 1959

Dr R A Hamilton,
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station
Honolulu4, USA

Dear Dick:

Yours of the 21st came in this morning's mail. Pretty fast time. And before we go any further in this communication, let me tell you what infinite pleasure we find in addressing you as a State and not as T.H. Darn fine business, and I hope you appreciate it as much as I do.

Now as to your requests: This is the season for any and we have another request so I told Jorge Benitez to see if he could get some seeds from the only tree known to us which is at Mazatenango. This would be easier were it not for the recent cancellation of the SCIDA contract. The Guatemalan govt has taken over the work; they are keeping on six or eight North American technicians as "asesores técnicos". Some of the projects have been turned over to the Instituto Nacional de Agronomia - or more correctly, the Instituto Nacional Agropecuario; some to the Facultad de Agronomia; and I think some go directly under the Ministerio de Agricultura. Jorge Benitez is being kept on, up to this moment and I think maybe for some time to come. He will be under the Ministerio, I believe. The future is not too clear. He produced some 50,000 grafted fruit trees last year and can do it again; they were all sold at 40 cents each which paid the costs of production and perhaps something more. He hasn't been able to get his nurseries started for next year. It is probably going to be hard to get cash and I mean cash for these projects now. We shall just have to plod along and do our best.

Now as to Persea schiedeana. Jorge and I know the best trees in Guatemala and they are not many. I say we know the best trees; that is probably an over-statement. We know a few good ones. We will do our best to get some scions for you. I am not too optimistic. I am now able to get around more than Jorge; he does not have the freedom of action he used to have and I have a Volkswagen where I can go anywhere I want, at 50 cents a gallon and a gallon is goof for 30 miles. Bide with us, and we will do our best; and just remember that there is life in the old boy yet. And as long as the old boy has any life he is going to stay in this horticulture business. Read the forthcoming Yearbook of the California Avocado Society.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

October 8, 1959

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I was glad to have your interesting letter and to hear that there was some possibility of getting seeds of Bielschmiedia anay as well as some scions of an excellent type of Persea schiediana.

I appreciate that you are one of the very few people who know of the existence and location of good types of Persea schiediana and we are extremely anxious to establish one or two good clones. I think that this is a promising fruit for Hawaii, provided the superior clonal material which you know about can be established here. We have some mediocre types with stringy fruit growing well on avocado rootstocks so I feel that I can propagate scions successfully if you are able to send them. Incidentally, we are prepared to pay all air mail or air express charges on such material so please let me know the charges involved.

About the trouble with chlorotic macadamia seedlings in Spain and Guatemala: I suspect this may be a manifestation of iron deficiency. We frequently have iron deficiencies on young macadamia seedlings in Hawaii. Under our conditions, we have corrected this by a 1% foliar application of ferrous sulphate in water plus a wetting agent. The symptoms usually disappear on older plants. The pH ^{values} you mention are much higher than we encounter here, so it is possible that the chlorosis you mention may be due to other causes.

We are ready to receive the Anay seed or Persea schiediana seeds at any time you are able to send them. Rest assured that your valuable material will receive the best of care.

I am glad to hear that you are enjoying good health and staying active in Horticulture. Please greet Mrs. Popenoe from me and thank you again for your advice and cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick
R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

February 4, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle Nobleza
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Yesterday I received a parcel post package from Guatemala with no return address containing what I assume must have been Bielschmiedia anay seeds.

Unfortunately, however, the seeds were completely rotted and when I looked at the postmark, I found that they had been mailed from Guatemala City via surface mail on December 12, 1959.

I assume you must have been instrumental in having these seeds sent, and I am certainly grateful for your efforts in having the seeds mailed. Unfortunately, 52 days enroute via surface mail is just too long to keep seeds of this sort in viable condition. I suppose it is too late to get more seeds this year, but if they are by any chance available, I would be more than glad to send you the air-mail postage.

I hope you and Mrs. Popenoe are enjoying good health and please give my best regards to Jorge Benitez when you see him.

Very sincerely yours,

R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist

RAH:mt

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua Guatemala, 9 Feb 1960

Dr R A Hamilton
Hawaii Agrl Exp Station, Honolulu⁴, Hawaii

Dear Dick:

On returning from two weeks in South Florida I find your letter of the 4th - which came I guess the day I returned, yesterday. Jorge Benitez showed me the anay seeds which did not look too fresh and I told him to send them to you - because it is difficult to dispatch such things from here. It would have been too expensive by first class air mail; also by air express. I suppose he didnt know just what to do and sent them by parcel post which was hopeless from the start.

I doubt that he can get more this year but we know where to get them and if you want some more about August, how do you suggest we ship them? I would say air express if you are prepared to pay about \$15. There is a minimum charge I believe and he could probably send you 25 seeds as easily as 6. I think airmail postage would really be prohibitive. I got some Vandas from Mr Moir by air express and the cost didnt entirely clean out my bank account, but almost.

They sure are having trouble making their lychees bear in Florida. That Amboina lychee which aint a lychee at^{all} but looks like one and almost tastes like ^{one} may be the best bet.

I am going over to Salvador and Honduras next month, about the 10th. I sure keep busy. Viva el ~~retiramiento!~~

Ever yours,



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
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HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

March 7, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for your letter of February 9 in regard to the Anay seeds. I was certainly disappointed at the condition in which they were received. However, I am quite hopeful that a shipment by air mail next fall would be successful. We have funds for this and I will send you cash to cover the approximate postage charges some time this summer. I am sorry that I neglected to do this before the other shipment, so it is really my fault that the seeds did not come through.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Please greet Mrs. Popenoe from me and thank Jorge Benitez for his kind assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick
R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist

RAH:mt

Antigua Guatemala 9 June 1960

Dr. R. A. Hamilton,
Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station,
Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

Dear Dick:

You will remember that some months ago Jorge Benítez sent you by mail a few anay seeds which he told me at the time were not in good condition and which you later reported were dead on arrival.

A month or so ago Jorge got some good seeds, packed them for you, and took them to the post-office to send by airmail. They told him it would cost about \$18.00 dollars which scared him half to death. He, therefore, had his wife take the package to the United States Embassy, asking them to send it through the pouch. They accepted the package and we hope it reached you. Jorge was over here yesterday and said he had not heard from you, so I told him I would write you as I wanted to do so anyway, and would ask you to let us know if you received these seeds and in what condition.

Jorge may have told you that quite a few of the macadamia grafts he made here with material from Hawaii are growing. Jorge is doing a wonderful job turning out citrus trees by the thousands and also plenty of mangos and avocados. There is a strong demand for these at fifty cents each. Our next job is to start pilli nut cultivation here in Guatemala as also in Salvador. Let us hear from you.

Always sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe



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HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

June 17, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Certainly good to hear from you again! Yes, the 6 Anay seeds arrived in good condition and I already have 6 healthy Anay seedlings about a foot high growing in the nursery.

There was no return address or letter accompanying the shipment, but I suspected that you and Jorge Benitez were behind this most welcome gift. In any case, thank you for arranging to have this valuable seed sent and please thank Jorge Benitez for his invaluable assistance in expediting the shipment through the Embassy. I will appreciate it greatly if you could give him this message, as I am not very good at writing letters in Spanish.

Glad to hear that things are going well with you and that Jorge's plant propagation projects are in good shape.

Thank you again for your advice and assistance and please let us know if there is anything we can do for you in return.

Very sincerely yours,

Rick
R. A. Hamilton
Horticulturist

RAH:mt

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 June 1960

Dr R A Hamilton,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Dick:

Yrs of 17th has just come! What luck! I had not dared hope that you would get 6 plants out of those anay seeds. Now, what I want you to tell me - later - can you get avocados to stick on those rootstocks. I could not at Zamorano, but it might have been my fault. If avocados dont stick, try to save the anay seedlings and keep at least three in your botanic garden. The ffuit isnt bad eating and as you know ~~the anay~~ is a very rare thing. You will probably never get it again.

I will pass the word to Jorge who will be happy. Here we are all pepped up over the possibilities of pili nuts in the lowlands and apples and plums in the highlands. We are going to declare war on you madademia guys - we think pilis will give us larger returns per acre than macadamias, if and when we get some good selections made from the trees we have - and others yet to come - and plant some grafted groves.

Seriously, the point is this: what you have done with macadamias is really something. We probably wont beat you, but when we get a thin-shelled pili, heavy yielder, proper proportion of male and female trees in the orchard, you guys better watch out. In the meantime I am struggling with the lychee. Just wish I could get 1000 good marcottes of your Groff of almost any other good variety. I suppose I will have to settle for Brewster.

Ever yours,



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HONOLULU 14, HAWAII

July 19, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for your letter of June 24. I am glad to report that ^{the} ~~any~~ seedlings are still growing nicely. We will take your advice and make every effort to get several trees of this rare species established in Hawaii.

It is interesting to hear that you are developing Pili nuts as a nut crop in Central America. We do not have very good specimens of this nut in Hawaii and this has probably kept us from showing much interest in it. In my opinion, Canarium ovatum from the Philippines is probably the best one to grow.

I hope that your work is going well and please greet Mrs. Popenoe from us. Best personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick

R. A. Hamilton, Head
Department of Horticulture

RAH:mt