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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 G, 6 marzo 1960

Dear Chris: [Hemmesstead]

I spoke to you about publications on coconut. Herewith several, which I think are worth your prayerful consideration - and I say prayerful because I suspect the first thing which bothers the cocos at Los Murcielagos might be the murcielagos themselves; they have eaten all the fruits in our garden here in Antigua with exception of the grapefruits, which the fruit flies reached first.

Ahora bien, vamos al grano: The little bulletin "Entomologia Economica Hondureña" has nothing to do with cocos, really, but I have an extra copy of it; I think it is a pretty good job, in a field on which we dont have too much information; and I dont suppose you have it. If you do, you can pass it on with your blessing.

The two bulletins by Gregoriá Bondar of Brazil. I have been in contact with this técnico for many years and I think he is pretty sound. You can judge for yourself. Dont worry about these bulletings being in Portuguese; just read through your nose instead of using the guttural R, and you will get the whole story. You will note that entre os insetos nocivos e molestias do Coqueiro, Bondar devotes some attention to the coccid Aspidiotus destructor which caused a lot of damage some yrs ago in the Cora Islands, I believe; I have never heard much about it here in Central America. And he mentions our friend Rhyacionus palmarum which I suspect is almost as universal as Pulex irritans, if you know what I mean. And he talks about "bud rot" and about Red Ring (Aphelenchus cocophilus; this completes the four most common and destructive enemies of the cocotero in this part of the world, but we didnt have Sigatoka in the 1920s and look what it has done to us.

I am also giving you a copy of the first edition of Chandler's "Evergreen Orchards". If you already have this you can give it to Hugh who probably has been loath to shell out the necessary shekels to buy one. The second edition of this work is really no more important from the standpoint of tropical crops; there have been ~~xx~~ new developments in Citrus and a few other subtropicals but I dont think many of them apply to jocotes in Guatemala.

Incidentally, refer to p. 51 of "O Coqueiro no Brasil", marked paragraph, where Bondar says "És frequente ver cocos de fecundacao incompleta, nos quais se desenvolve apenas o mesocarpo e nenhuma amendoa. Chamam-nos comumente de coco tamanco." Tell Don Tuto he has the wrong name; those nuts he showed us are not machos built cocos tamancos.

Antigua G, 6 March 1960

Christopher Hempstead Esq.
Guatemala.

Dear Chris:

This is a memorandum to put on record for generaciones por haber, as Don Quixote used to say, some of the things you and I saw and talked about up on the lake the other day. We could not see a large part of your 50 caballerias, but I think we got a fair idea of the general nature of the soils. In the main, near the lake at least, they are heavy and rather plastic clays, suitable mainly for crops of the grass family (if we can go on experience to date) and there are a few areas - we don't know how large these areas may be - which are fine sandy loams to fine sands (the flood plains) which would be suitable for a number of tree crops if not subjected to flash-floods of great depth too frequently. If we could be sure some of those fine sandy loams could be protected from flooding, they would make fine lands for citrus, and several other tropical fruit trees.

But let us go on: You and I agreed that the first and major objective is to get Hugh down here, turn him loose with a transit and a couple of macheteros, and let him cut a few lines on a one-kilometer grid, through all of the area which seems to have agricultural possibilities. Then let him take my soil sampler with a 3/4 inch bit, because the one he left you is built for men with strong backs but not Ph.D. minds, and let him make a reconnaissance soil map. With this in hand we can get somewhere.

I start as above because before you can plan a general program you have to know the soils with which you are going to work and how much of each.

Incidentally, you and I took a couple of samples for Ph tests (beg your pardon P_h ; I was thinkⁱⁿg of doctorados) and we thought they showed around 7.0 to 7.5 or perhaps higher. This strikes me as rather satisfactory, though I was somewhat surprised at the figures).

Now, when we have figures as to the areas of agricultural soils and the character of these, what do we do?

You and I got the impression that the best bet might be a combination of coconuts and beef cattle. You know all about this system in the West Indies. I have seen it also. You plant your coconut palms far apart; you plant pasrure grasses suited to local conditions down below. If some bug or other hits your coconut palms, you still have left your beef cattle, unless some bug or other hits them too. But you have at least, an anchor to windward. You could always move to sugar cane. You and I were a bit impressed by the sugar cane at Paraiso, not too far from your place. You have to think about the problem of market. You have to see how much good cane land might be available. But I think you and I felt that you would first think about (1) the problem of coconut diseases and pests. They will get us sooner or later, just like death and taxes, but if we are careful not to bring in pests and diseases (and I say this because we made a mistake in many banana developments by not being sufficiently careful or not knowing how to be careful) then we might get a good life out of the coconut palms. As we mentioned, the starter would be to get one or two good men, a pathologist and an entomologist, to study the situation here in Guatemala, and nearby or perhaps. Because coconuts have had so much trouble in Cuba and Jamaica and a few other regions, I think we ~~would~~^{ought} to protect ourselves as full as possible against introduction and control of diseases and pests.

As for coconut varieties, there appear to be just two problems: (1) What about the dwarf coconuts? They seem to be recommended for areas subject to strong winds, which Isabel is not. Eliminating this factor, are they as productive as the standard forms, and are they subject to less diseases and insects? These points require some investigation.

Now as pastures. This is not going to be a tough problem but will take two or three years to work out. You and I discussed the possibilities of Pangola, Jaraguá, and perhaps Guinea. These and others should be tested. My guess would be that Jaraguá might wind up as the most resistant to hard situations; but certainly small trials of perhaps half a dozen grasses would be in the program.

As to livestock breeds, no use worrying about this right now. It will not be a major problem. We did pretty well in Tela with Red Polled crossed with Zebu. Everybody now thinks of Santa Gertrudis though in Florida they have their fine strains of Zebu.

Now as to sugar cane. You and I were rather impressed by what Don Tuto had at Paraiso. His man said the plantation was seven years old. It was not well attended. Only about half of the ground was occupied. We do not know whether or not he had the varieties best adapted to that area. But those heavy black soils are sugar cane lands and I would keep in mind the possibility that some day you might want to put in 50 to 100 manzanas of cane and a good trapiche. I would not give it serious consideration quite yet.

So we boil down so far to a combination of coconuts and pasture, with a possibility of sugar cane. What about other crops? You and I agreed that this is good rice land but we are not enthusiastic about rice. To play safe you would have to be prepared to irrigate at

where people have planted rice, counting on rainfall, they have lost their shirts. I saw it happen in Honduras and in Nicaragua. If I could irrigate on your land, and if I was assured of a good market, I would give consideration to the possibility of rice production.

As for the fruit trees, I do not see much hope. We did not see a single mature avocado tree around the lake shore. Even if avocados grew well there, I cannot see much money in avocados for local consumption. Mango trees will grow well on heavy wet soils, but the fine mangos will not produce much fruit. The Zacapa valley is the place for fine mangos; the Pacific coast next. I think the soils on your property are too heavy and too wet (at times) for commercial citrus production. I would not risk oranges or limes on a large scale. As for bananas, you and I saw nothing which gave us any encouragement. There are small plantings of the bujuco or majoneho, the banana which is grown all over the Central American countries for local use. This variety, which withstands more adverse conditions than any other grown in this part of the world, did not look too happy. Black plastic clays with poor drainage are not banana soils, and even if a variety is eventually developed which is resistant to Panama disease and Sigatoka I do not believe your land will prove to be banana land.

I would by all means try a number of new and little-known crops on a small scale. Pili nuts have done very well at Lancetilla on heavy wet soils. I would try to get grafted trees of some of the best selections from Lancetilla and plant about 5 manzanas as a starter. I don't think I would go in for rubber; most of your soils are too heavy in the first place and the future of rubber here in Guatemala seems to me rather uncertain. World competition might get us down.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 6 March 1961

Dear Chris: [Homestead?]

The more I think about it, the more I feel that it might be a mistake for me to tackle that tepescuintle problem. I am going to arrive at Miami in the evening after all the veterinarians are off duty. My nephew John may not be there; and even if he is, he will have to take the tepes down to Homestead and bring them back on a working day to dispatch to Gainesville - and neither Saturday nor Sunday is a working day in the government service up in that part of the world.

So just leave that expectant mother up there in her natural habitat until Hugh comes down again; or turn her loose and have the boys collect some tepescuintles who are not so expectant later on.

Ever yours,

9^a Calle No.1-50
Guatemala, Zona 10

22 May 1962

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Thank you for your letter received today. Called don Jorge Benitez and he came by here and says he will stay in town on the 29th. so as to meet you.

✓ Regarding any plant material, don Jorge recommends bringing it in his name care of IAN and he can take care of it officially. Also that the plants should come with no soil to avoid fumigation. The three plants John gave us in Homestead were free of soil, wrapped in damp moss and we had no trouble bringing them in and they are doing well. Am very pleased to hear John is sending us more and hope you will not have too much trouble transporting them.

✓ As I wrote Hugh, I will meet your plane and be very happy to drive you to Antigua unless you have other plans. In case I cannot be here on the 29th., will make arrangements for somebody to drive you home in your car or mine should you need the extra room.

✓ Enclosed your voided check for the license plates on your Volkswagon. I did not want to argue with Hugh at the time, but I think it only fair that I pay at least this for the use I am getting of the car. If I can find it, I have a Boleto de Ornato for you and will present you with same when you arrive so you can breathe freely in Guatemala!

If you see John and family, please remember us to them. We are looking forward to seeing you again and best wishes from us all in the meantime.

Chris [Homestead]

ELSON POPENOE
JGH POPENOE, SPECIAL

No. _____

April 5 10 62

15-55
511

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Christopher Hempstead

\$ 36.00

Thirty-six dollars and no cents

XXXXXX

AMERICAN SECURITY
& TRUST COMPANY

FIFTEENTH STREET & PENNS. AVE. N. W.
WASHINGTON 13, D.C.

VOID

*Hyattsville
(Special)*

⑆05⑆⑆⑆0055⑆: 600 54 400⑆

9ª Calle No.1-50
Guatemala, Zona 10

29 May 1962

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Herewith your license renewal which must be signed where indicated. The other information is on your expired license.

If you will mail this back to me, will be glad to see to it and it is no trouble as all I do is turn it over to an agent.

Should you have to come to town, the agent who already has your old license and one photograph is the Union Central de Pilotos Automovilistas on 7ª Avenida No.14-17, Zone 1.

It was good seeing you again today and we will try to get over to Antigua soon. Let us know if there is anything we can do for you here.

Best regards,



Chris [Hempstead]

9ª Calle No.1-50
Guatemala, Zona 10

17 Junio 1962

Señor don
Mariano Gomez
Salama, B. V.

Muy estimado don Mariano:

El Dr. Wilson Popenoe piensa ir a Coban por tierra la semana del 25 de Junio y tiene deseos de pasar un día en Salama - San Jeronimo reconociendo esas tierras. Junto con el Dr. Popenoe irán algunos horticultores que estan en Guatemala atendiendo el Décimo Congreso Anual de la American Society for Horticultural Science, Region del Caribe.

Ademas del deseo de estos señores de conocer la region de Salama y Coban, uno de los intereses principales del Dr. Popenoe es ver si hay viñas en ese distrito.

En vista de que la zona Salama - San Jeronimo ha producido buena uva, el Dr. Popenoe desea experimentar allí con nuevas variedades. Ojalá que a usted le interesen estos experimentos que naturalmente comenzarán en escala pequeña pero pudieran ser de mucho provecho para esa zona.

Me permiti informarle al Dr. Popenoe que usted es la persona con mas experiencia en horticultura en la Baja Verapaz y sería el unico que pudiera colaborar en las pruebas de variedades que el proyecta. Esto naturalmente sin ningún compromiso de parte suya.

Al saber la fecha del viaje a Salama, le telegrafiamos y ojalá le sea conveniente acompañarnos en Salama y San Jeronimo. Mientras tanto, lo saluda su afectisimo amigo,

C.N.
Gristobal Hempstead

Al Dr. Popenoe tambien le interesa ver las palmas de dátil en Salama.

Copia: Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua G.

20 March 1963

Dear Doctor Peperoc,

Thanks from both of us for your letter. We too enjoyed seeing you and wish we had had more time in Gainesville. That was probably the most interesting part of our entire trip. We enjoyed Sarasota but the weather was very poor and we only had about three full days on the beach.

We met Hugh on Saturday and then enjoyed a good meal in Antigua with him on Sunday. Now Tuesday both Chris and Hugh are off to Trabal to get some work done. We will be meeting you at the airport if I do not go to Coban. Per Hengstead style all of this is uncertain!

I am wondering if you would do us a tremendous favor and purchase some U.S. stamps. We

did not have sufficient time to do
same before we left and they
are so useful to us here.

~~100~~⁵⁰ - \$.08 Air mails

~~100~~⁵⁰ - \$.05 local

~~100~~⁵⁰ - \$.13 air mails.

I am enclosing a check for \$ 13.50
with many many thanks -

We look forward to seeing you.

Always affectionately,
Joan.

P. S. Our best to Ann and our thanks
again to her for Cynthia.

24 abril 1963

Mrs Christopher Hempstead,
9 Calle 1-50, Zona 10,
Ciudad de Guatemala,
Guatemala, A. C.

Recordada Joanie:

Hace días recibí su carta del 20 de Marzo la cual fué dirigida al cuidado de Nixon Smily en Miami y siento no haberla recibido mientras estaba en los Estados Unidos para cumplirle su pedido de estampillas. Le devuelvo el cheque en la cantidad de \$13.50.

Estoy seguro que le interesará a Chris saber que en la reunión del Board of Trustees de la Escuela Agrícola Panamericana en New York, anteayer, nuestro mutuo amigo don Francisco de Sola fué electo Presidente y nombraron un Comité Ejecutivo compuesto del Dr. Harrar de la Rockefeller, Dr. Henry Allen Moe de la Guggenheim y Thomas D. Cabot de Boston. George Gardner, chairman del Board of Directors of the United Fruit Company fué nombrado chairman de nuestro Finance Committee. Nuestra situación no podría ser mejor.

Cuando fui a La Merced en la Antigua para presenciar la salida de la virgen en la procesión del sábado de gloria un sujeto desconocido me sacó la cartera de mi bolsillo de atrás y perdí \$ 56.00 más mi licencia de manejar mi Volkswagon. Debido a este último desastre no pude venir a Guatemala en el carro el día de mi salida para El Salvador para visitar a don Chico de Sola y tuve que dejarlo en el zaguán en Antigua. Mi propósito actualmente es permanecer aquí hasta mediados de Mayo y después pasar una semana en el Salvador con don Chico de Sola antes de regresar a la Guatemala Feliz. Ojalá tengan Uds. noticias del "Judío Errante", es decir, de nuestro Hugo quien no me ha mandado ni una sola tarjeta postal desde aquel día que le despachamos en el aeropuerto de La Aurora.

Con muchos recuerdos para todos, soy siempre su afectísimo amigo y servidor,

Wilson Popenoe

9a. Calle No.1-50
Guatemala, Zona 10

30 August 1963

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Three days ago we stopped by your home hoping to find you had returned from Honduras. A friend of ours who is an architect would have liked to ask you some questions on old Antigua houses.

You must know the pink house down the avenue from you - it belongs to doña Maria de Georgis. She presumes fifteen thousand quetzales for the property and I wonder if you know of a more realistic price or what you think the house and property is worth. Except for some of the walls, the house would have to be totally rebuilt.

Another house we did not see but understand is for sale is doña Arcilia de Soto's near the Santa Clara ruins and maybe you know something about this one. En fin, if you know anything about these houses or any other you consider worthwhile which might be for sale, we would appreciate your advice.

Had a letter from Hugh and he hopes to be able to get down here in October. Vamos a ver. Also a nice letter from Dr. Ziegler with interesting comments on citrus and asking for more information on the Rabinal orange. With so much of the citrus land in the States going to real estate, maybe we should be doing more about this down here.

Hope all goes well for you. Would appreciate it if you would have the administration advise me when and where exams will be held in Guatemala as I know of one or two boys who would like to take them. Don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do for you here.

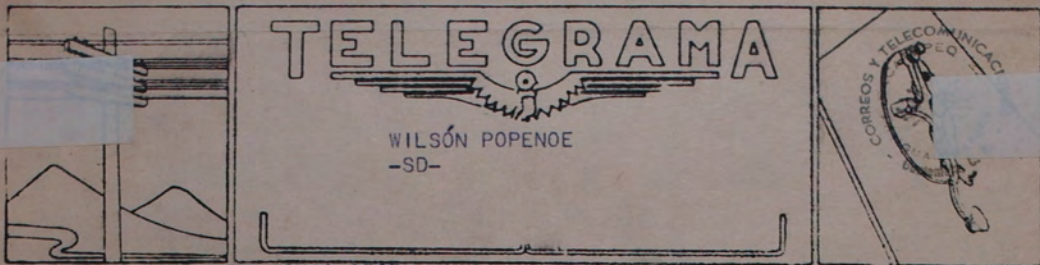
Joanie joins me in best regards,

Chris

Joya was very pleased with her hat!

Write Ginny too

TELECOMUNICACIONES NACIONALES GUATEMALA CENTRO AMERICA



2, MC RP 1545 10H20 1505

SUC, REFORMA, GUATE, 19 FEBRERO-64.

AGRADECERIALE AVISARME SI ESTARÁ ESA VIERNES 21 PARA ENTREVISTAR LUIS ALFREDO AGUILAR TRABAJOS MAIZ, SALUDOS.

CHRIS

TELECOMUNICACIONES NACIONALES GUATEMALA CENTRO AMERICA



1 MC RP 824 10H20 1515

SUC, REFORMA GUAT, 19 FEBRERO-64.

AL FIN MANDO CARTA NUESTRO ESTIMADO DOCTORCITO, CARIÑOS.-

JOANIE [Hempstead]

TELEGRAMA

Antigua G, 20 febrero de 1964

CRISTOBAL HEMPSTEAD

NOVENA CALLE 1-50, ZONA 10, GUATEMALA

GUSTOSAMENTE ENTREVISTARÉ AGUILAR AQUI MAÑANA VIERNES CONTENTÍSIMO
SABER ESTIMADO DOCTORCITO TODAVIA VIVE.

WILSON POPENOE

Fairchild Garden.

Chris would also like to know if you
still wants to use his services for
experimenting. If you want to
if Chris is available. I know he would
likewise. 9 Calle, NO.1-50, Zona 10.
Guatemala, Guatemala, C.A.
17 March, 1965

At this point I think Chris feels he
will never get off but I know he will
make it on time. I know he would
answer about the plane
quickly so that he can make the plane

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Happy St. Pats day to you. I don't
know if that means anything to you
but mother considered it the legal
day to get oiled. We were sorry to
miss you at the airport and I had
a good fight with Aviateca about
what hour they leave. I said to
the man at the desk there in the
Airport that Dr. Popenoe had told
me that the plane left at 8:30 A.M.
and it was only 8:15 A.M. so what
was the excuse this time. He gave
me one of those (poor agitated women)
looks and calmly said, "El Doctor
Popenoe esta muy equivocado señora",
I was about to go to your defense
when he pulled out your ticket which
in tiny but clear numbers stated,
Salida 8:15 A.M. Anyway I felt better
for having let steam off.

We had some bad news on the 15th that
Shelton had died in Lima with Pat. Flo
left last night for Miami and an uncertain
future for the kids. He was only 55.
I wonder what will happen to TAN now?

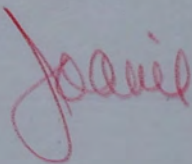
Chris has been wondering how Sam Snedaker
is and when he will be able to come down.
As of present plans we will be leaving
for the States on April 2nd. and will
be staying at the Columbus Hotel. We
may get in touch with Hugh while we are
there but for certain I am going to see

Fairchild Garden.

Chris would also like to know if Sam still wants to use his second growth experiment plot and if not does he mind if Chris includes this in pasture? Likewise with Hugh's main experiment.

At this point I think Chris feels he will never get off but I know we will make it on time. I know he would appreciate Hugh's answer about the above quickly so that he can make the proper arrangements.

All for now but hope to be talking to both of you from Miami and will send Hugh his pan pesado. Always affectionately,



17 March, 1961
Gustavala, Gu
9 Calle, No. 1

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Happy St. Pata day to know if that means but mother considered day to get oiled. We miss you at the airport a good night with what hour they leave the man at the desk Airport that Dr. Popenoe me that the plane left and it was only 8:15 was the excuse this poor me one of those (poor looks and calmly said Popenoe esta muy ent I was about to go to when he pulled out you in tiny but clear num Salida 8:15 A.M. Any for having let steam

We had some bad news Shelton had died in I left last night for M future for the kids. I wonder what will ha

Chris has been wonder is and when he will p As of present plans w for the States on Apr be staying at the Col may get in touch with there but for certain

HC # 4-38, 2.10
Cudaal
18 June, 1967

Dear Doctor Popeo,

I hate thank you
notes especially when it is
impossible to thank for a
thing. I have given this
one considerable thought.

It is a simply beautiful
piece, which I am most
delighted and proud to
have and which I will
wear with considerable
pleasure ~~pleasure~~ both
for myself and Chris.

I have already shown

it to Mrs. Hempstead
and Flo. Both were
astonished that this
was one of a pair of
earrings. Both thought
it was beautiful.

I trust your recent
trip was to your satis-
faction! Please let us
know when you return.

I hope to join Flo, who
leaves this week, for a
few days in Mexico City.

Always affectionately,
Jawil.

9 Calle No.1-50
Guatemala, Z.10

14 December 1970

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

When I know you are back in Antigua, will be happy to bring you the pacayallitos. Am sure you want to supervise their planting so await your aviso.

Trust you have more news from Hugh than I do. All I can tell you is that Bob Dori6n saw Hugh in Washington, D. C. and says that he was looking very well.

We had a very nice visit with John Popenoe and family. He has Fairchild Garden looking beautiful.

We will be here for Christmas. Mother says she is joining us, pero vamos a ver.

We look forward to seeing you and Alice but if you are avoiding the rat-race in the City these days, place me a telegram.

Love from all of us and best Christmas wishes.



Chris Hempstead

TELEGRAMA

Antigua G, 2 enero de 1971

CRISTOBAL HEMPSTEAD

Novena avenida 1-51 Zona 10

GUATEMALA

Feliz año nuevo para Ustedes está asegurado estamos contentísimos.

POPEÑOES