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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.

PLAZA VISTA HERMOSA

Imprentas Sur 146 - Tel. 46-45-40 - Dirección Caligráfica - "VMOBIA", México, D.F.

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Evelyn Smiley tells me that you're still undecided about whether to go to Spain or come up here for Xmas. I was going to wait until my house was finished to write you but decided that the emergency is great enough that you should be written to now. Why don't you come up here for Xmas? We would love to see you. I'll even take all the canistels down to the Cuban orphanage home so you won't have any inner conflicts over them. As you probably know my parents are going to be in Miami for several days beginning January 11.

They are working on the roof of my house now but we don't expect to be moving in before the first of February. Therefore you'll have to visit us in Homestead. They are building some newer and fancier motels there for you to stay in since Mac Krome won't let you stay in the Redland Hotel. - Incidentally Mrs Krome was asking about you yesterday. She says she hasn't heard from you in sometime.

I have been enjoying your notes on temperate fruits but now that I'm working in a more tropical area of Florida I'm a little more interested in tropical fruits. I got a lot of seeds of an *ilama* variety from Ometepe about a month ago and they have pegered. I'm very interested in the *ilama* and would like to do something with it. Here's no good reason why we can't grow it well here.

Siempre tu ofno sobrino
Q.B.S.M.

John



PLAZA VISTA HERMOSA
MEXICO, D.F.



HACIENDA VISTA HERMOSA
TEQUILA, QUINTANA ROO

Antigua, 12 March 1959

Dear Johnny:

Letter from your pappy says you have bought a copy of my Manual, as new, for three dollars. Boy, you got stuck. Hugh bought one in Rio de Janeiro for \$1.85. But on the other hand, I have just rec'd a letter from Ed Menninger of Stuart, Fla, whom you know at least by reputation, saying he has just picked up a copy which I can have for \$35 if I wont tell anybody about it; 'cause copies have been sold in that part of the world for as high as \$100. All of which makes me think the second-hand book market is not on a very solid basis, but I dont much care as long as they dont put my Manual out on a table in front of the store with a lot of other books and a placard above, "FIFTY CENTS EACH".

Now lets get down to business. When I was in California I had talks with Knowles and Bob Hodgson and Art Schroeder and others, in the course of which I asked if there was any possibility that the Univ of Calif might go in for more tropical research and teaching along those lines. Nothing doing. They told me the Univ is in a state of flux. Lots of the old timers leaving - Knowles and Bob among them, next yr, and they are somewhat fed up with the idea of so many campuses or I suppose you intelligentia would say campi, and en fin, they dont know right now whether are on foot or horseback, ad we would say in Guatemala. I had been hoping there might be a possibility of a nice little nucleus of tropical work at Davis or UCLA or Riverside but apparently there aint. Charles Fuller Baker tried it at Pomona fifty years ago -all of which I saw and part of which I was, if I may quote Saint Paul the Aposfle - and he didnt get away with it either.

So now to more imminent matters. Going to Calif and coming home, I talked with Ralph Richardson and Ernest Casseres in Mexico City. Ralph told me the Rockefeller has offered to organise a program of tropical fruit improvement (No Golden Delicious) and the govt is giving it consideration. If it gets going - and they have to find out whether the govt wants to handle it or wants the Foundation to handle it - they will be needing a few good tropical horticulturists. This might be the place for you - with GHQ in Mexico City a nice place to live and with good schools for the kiddies as they say in Shropshire. I plan to go up to Mexico City in July to give a series of lectures to Casseres' short course on tropical crops, Zona Norte Proyecto 39, OAS, and at that time I think we will know a little more but I dont believe anything definite will be done before the spring or summer of 1960. Ralph asked me if I would take part in planning the program and I told him yes, but no permanent job. I have a fine permanent job - Director Emeritus.

And here's another matter: They seem to be starting things in Venezuela. I have been asked to go down there for a couple of weeks to look things over for the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza, which has some money and wants to encourage fruit production; and Hugh now writes that that Thav of Fla may go in for some cooperation with the govt of Venezuela in agr and hort. All of which is fine. And all of which adds up to this simple statement: I feel you belong in tropical America and ultimately will land somewhere down this way, and if you dont, alright. I have you in mind and if anybody drives by in a hearse and asksme (as your pappy and I used to say) I am going to tell them you might be interested, unless you stop me in the meantime.

Ever yr devoted uncle

Auburn, 23 March, 1959.
122 Cedar Crest Drive

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Thanks for your letter of March 12. Your findings in California are just as I expected. I never have thought that you could interest any of that group in further research in Tropical Horticulture. I still think that Mexico is the logical place. I particularly think that Mexico is the place for research in Tropical Fruit Improvement, partly because of all of the plant material already to be found in Mexico. If conditions were satisfactory I would be very interested in taking part in this work. As Paul has perhaps told you I don't look on my job here at Auburn as permanent and I would as soon go from here into tropical work as to go the other way. As a matter of fact I think I'm best qualified to go into Tropical Horticulture and I feel that my calling is there, if a good opportunity can be found. At my rate I don't think I would want to leave here before summer of 1960 ~~if~~ because I feel a certain responsibility to the department head here to stay at least 2 years. I am really enjoying the work here, even tho it is not with tropical plants. My main research project is breeding plums. I am learning a lot about plant breeding, such as the techniques involved, and enjoying working up the variety collection and doing the propagating. These are phases of Horticulture that I could not participate in at Miami and I enjoy them much more than the straight laboratory work with ripening and rotting fruit.

I appreciate your continuing interest in me and hope you will keep me in mind if any good opportunities arise.

Tu amo sobrio,
John

Antigua Guatemala, 31 March 1959

Dr John Popenoe
122 Cedar Crest Drive
Athens, Alabama.

Dear Johnny:

Yours of 23 de los corrientes has just come and I am answering more promptly than is my costumbre because it looks as though we may have to fly down to Venezuela next week to do a little 'expertin'. And this 'expertin' business (that was one of A D Shamel's good stories) is really the reason for this letter, or to put it somewhat more technical form, TROPICAL AMERICA NEEDS MORE GOOD HORTICULTURISTS.

So here is the milk in the coconut (and please don't you ever spell it cocoanut if you want me to speak to you when I pass you on the street) I like your letter. I read quite a bit between the lines. Maybe reading between the lines is risky, but I don't think so in your case. You are right about California. Those lads have missed the boat. Maybe it wasn't their boat anyway. It was my boat. And I am terribly glad that you feel a responsibility to your job at Auburn. I used to get pretty sore at Zamorano when one of our teachers - and we were terribly hard pressed for teachers in those early days - would come in and say, I am leaving at the end of the month. And I would say, Who is going to teach elementary geometry? And he would say, That is your problem. Johnny, I hope and believe as long as you live you will keep a sense of responsibility to your job.

So now let us return to our muttons (of course a vegetarian substitute) but I am quoting one of the great writers. I feel sure you can get a swell opportunity here in tropical America, something that will suit you. There is no hurry. This program of the Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico, about which I wrote you, if it goes through at all won't swing into action until next year. Then there is this new program in Venezuela, about which I am going to take part next week - on a purely advisory basis (it is such a satisfaction to be on advisory basis and get up and say, Gentlemen, I am going home, please give me my ticket and there is the ICA which is right now very popular down here and the FAO which is doing a pretty good job and needs more men. And all of these projects need more horticulturists. Plant pathologists are available in abundance. The other specialists also. What we need most is guys who know something about tropical soil management, as Hugh should now and if he doesn't I will cut him off with a shilling, and good practical horticulturists.

So hombre, just keep these things in mind. I am terribly biased in favor of tropical horticulture, because I love it. I have a strong but perhaps sneaking suspicion that you do too. There is lots of room in this field. If I am still above ~~s~~ sod when you feel you are ready to leave Alabama, I believe I might be able to help you get into the right field down here. But if you come, come to stay. I am tired of these boys who come down for two years only. I think you know all about that. When people ask me, Is this your first trip to Guatemala (as they not infrequently do) I reply, Not quite, I arrived in the SS Sixacoa on the 16th of September 1916.

Antigua, Guatemala, 14 July 1959

Dr John Popenoe
122 Cedar Crest Drive, Auburn, Alabama.

Dear Johnny:

I have been pretty much on the go, and don't even feel that we have congratulated you and Jerry directly on the arrival of Juanita. I wrote your father, I believe, that I sensed in the name a suspicion that you expected to come to Latin America sooner or later and it would be much simpler if your kids from now on had names which would easily fit into the picture. Sandra, for example, does not seem so appropriate and I have never heard a good equivalent for Ethel.

After spending 3 weeks in Venezuela, trying to find some land good enough for anything but mangos, I came up to Costa Rica where I took part in the meetings of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, then two weeks at home and day before yesterday we got back from two weeks in Mexico, where I was Conferencista for the III Curso Internacional de Horticultura run by that grand chap Ernesto Casseres. I gave the boys six talks on tropical fruits and told them that irrigación is not riego and drenaje is not avenamiento, with which they did not agree. We went to Querétaro and Rio Verde, San Luis Potosí, and Irapuato. I was sort of glad to get home again and was determined I would not do any more travelling this year when along comes a letter from Bob Allison saying I simply must come to Gainesville for the meeting of the Fla Soil and Crop Science Society as they have just made me an honorary member. This all came about because had written me that I had promised to remain a member of the Society until I was 90 yrs old and sent him a check to cover annual dues up to that time. I guess he thought it would be easier to make me an Honorary Member and avoid the bookkeeping.

But here is the agua en el coco. Ralph Richardson is now head of the Mexican Agril Program of the Fundación Rockefeller. I have told you that they have been thinking of a fruit development program, to be concerned solely with tropical fruits (mainly aguacates and mangos). They have made no progress; approval is up to the Minister who has cotton problems. But Ralph asked about you. I told him, for the second time, that you had your eye on the tropics, and would probably come down to this part of the world if opportunity offered. I think the Foundation needs men even if they don't get the fruit program going. I told Ralph I thought you intended to stay at Auburn for one more academic year at least.

I believe you could get lined up with the Rockefeller if you tried, a year or so from now. I suspect there might also be work at Turrialba but I wouldn't advise taking it. I have just been in Turrialba; I think the world of Ralph Allee; but I don't feel there is sufficient continuity in their program, probably no fault of Ralph's. Ernesto Casseres, who is normally on their staff feels the same way about it (don't quote him, but I have just been closely associated with him for two weeks and have had many frank talks). You might keep me advised of your interests and intentions and maybe I can help.

July 16, 1959.
Auburn, Ala.

Dear Uncle Wilson,

You may already have heard the news but in case not, Dr. Bruce Sedin died last week. Dr. Ruehle has written me about taking Sedin's place at the Subtropical Experiment Station and I thought maybe I should write you and get your view on this. I am inclined to think I would take the job if Dr. Ruehle made a reasonable offer on the salary but I am wondering whether or not you turned up anything in Mexico. If there were some juicy plum waiting for me there, I would hate to impose on Dr. Ruehle by leaving after ~~a~~ very short time. I think you can appreciate my feeling in this matter.

My work at Auburn so far has not been too exciting. I have only taught for two quarters out of the 4 I have been here because of lack of students. Even when I did teach I had few students. 5 one quarter and 2 the other. Although I am enjoying the research work I sure miss the avocados. Peaches may substitute for mangos

but there is absolutely no substitute for
avocados. I consider them essential in the
diet. Incidentally I asked Huehle, in my
letter of inquiry whether I would be allowed to
start a breeding project on avocados. I'll be
interested to hear what he says about that.

I don't see why Turrialba and some of these other
places don't work more on avocados. It seems
like a waste of time for them to fool with
coffee and cacao to sell to the gringos
when they could work on avocado and really
improve on the diet of their own people.

Hoping to hear from you about
this matter,
Queda tu afmo sobrino,
John

August 3, 1959

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Your letter of July 21 was greatly appreciated. I have followed your advise by coming to terms with Doc. Ruehle so we will be moving back down on the rock about Xmas time. I told Ruehle that I was signed up to teach the fall quarter and that it would be unfair for me to leave before this quarter was over. He agreed and my appointment will be effective as of Jan 1. unless someone up at Gainesville objects. Consequently I feel I am on my way back into tropical horticulture which leads to my next thought.

I am prepared to dispute you on the avocados breeding. Maybe I'm just ignorant, but where in the world can the Agri. explorer find a good source of West Indian X Guatemalan hybrids? I feel confident that the future of the Florida industry depends on these for several reasons. For one they are hardier than the West Indians and more disease resistant than the Guatemalans. A second reason is that

they ripen in the Fall when the competition with cheap California and Cuban avocados is least. Florida cannot hope to compete with Cuban seedlings or "Hass" from California during the summer. These West Indian x Guatemalan hybrids I am talking about ought to be valuable in many other parts of the tropics too, by extending the season in the lowlands. The next point is that emasculation is not necessary with the avocado. You just put the tree in a cage that will keep the bugs out and then go in and dust the stigmas as they become receptive. The dicogamy prevents self pollination. (I'm just itching to cage up a few Hass trees and cross them with Walden or even Simmonds or Kampong. I could be almost certain of getting hybrids).

Now as to the mangos that may be a different story. If you can go to Reunion and get a hold of No. 12 we might have something since No 11 didn't turn out too well. By the way, why is it that all the introduced mangos except the Saigon types have been such failures in Florida. Do you not think that the mango varieties are just as critical as to areas where they are adapted as avocados for instance? If so, will it not be necessary to breed special varieties for each mango growing district of importance? This has been so over

with most other horticultural crops which have
been grown intensively, with some exceptions
such as bananas and coffee.

Interchange of plant materials is still
a fine thing and it is a necessary preliminary
step to breeding.

I hope we'll get a chance to
get together and discuss all these things
in detail in the near future.

Siempre tuyo,

John.

Antigua, 8 August 1959

Dear Johnny:

Yrs of 3rd instant just to hand. Boy, you are showing more good sound common sense than anybody except your wife and your mighty sensible mother would have given you credit for possessing. As for myself, I feel perfectly sure that this move back to Florida is just exactly the right thing, for the time being at least. You know I spent the ~~better~~ part of 2 yrs at Miami - just the most profitable better part of 2 yrs I ever spent. So go to it; and I am glad and proud that you are fulfilling your obligation at Auburn before packing up the 1934 station wagon and heading back to Homestead. Several times one of our teachers at Zamorano came in and said "I am leaving on Friday" and when I asked, Who is going to take over your classes, he replied "Well, that is up to you."

And I can't tell you how happy I am to see you get back into the field of tropical horticulture. Because this means you will be there to stay. And we need stayers. Now as to this mango and ~~wood~~ breeding business. Go to it. I ain't a going to argue. But the way I would start would be this way: I would plant 1000 seedlings of Hass which were open-pollinated. Then I would go on with my pollinations under the mosquito net while I was waiting for those open pollinated seedlings to show what they are going to do. And remember, don't think you can count on open-pollinated seedlings of the WI race, even tho they have been exposed to Guatemalan pollen on all four quarters of the Universe. It ain't happened yet. And just incidentally, take a look at some of those Mex x WI hybrids I got in Ecuador, and some from Ciudad Victoria in Tamaulipas - his is practically an unexplored field. I wrote Doc Ruehle about some of my Chota Valley Mex x WI hybrids; I think they still have some at Chaparral Field. And as for the mangos, you just bide your time until you can get out to Reunion and get Nos 12, 13, 14 and 15. But I would try Martinique first; not such expensive travelling. And then go on with your hand pollinations. Its lots of fun but I made several thousand and total nada; and incidentally, don't say anything about it down there in South Dade, but I am not too sure that some of Simmond's "hybrids" such as Edward, are really hybrids; I am sure he made a lot of hand pollinations, just as I did, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the resultant seedlings are hybrids. Get me? But Oh boy, what a field you have ahead of you! And don't forget old Luther Burbank? What did he do? He said he dusted a little pollen on those 100,000 plum seedlings (without emasculation) and he got some fine things, and he couldn't help it and he still enjoys a pretty wonderful reputation among 99 44% of the U S population. With is more than I will ever enjoy. And that isn't the point. He produced some good plums, tho I don't think much of his plumcots.

Keep in touch with me. I am sending a copy of this letter to your Pappy so he will know I am pleased with your proposed move and will try to help you when and wherever I can.

Ever yr devoted Unk

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua Guatemala, 16 Jan 1960

Dear Johnny:

What do you think that rascal Hugh has gone and done? Sent a radiogram (must be important, for him to throw money around like that) asking us to come up for the doctorado on 30 Jan and for me to bring my 'gator hood so I can march in the academic procession. He didnt send two round trip tickets, but undoubtedly he has authorised those at that end.

Made reservations yesterday on AVIATECA (the Guatemalan line) to fly on the 27th instant, reaching Miami just about noon. We will stay in Miami overnight, probably at one of those guest houses right south of the river, and take the Silver Meteor to Waldo on the 28th unless someone is going up to the graduation at Gainesville and has a couple of extra seats; just about as much chance of this as for the durability of a snowball on a hot stove.

But here is el agua en el coco: After we get that hood slapped squarely over Hugh's head ~~will~~ come back down to the land of sunshine fruit and flowers and spend about three days talking shop, and of course I want to get lined up with you for some future projects. I am very glad you are back in the land of tropical fruits. So much to be done and all so interesting and enjoyable. Wish I was 50 years younger.

Ever yr devoted uncle

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ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 25 Feb 1960

Dr John Popenoe, Horticulturist,
Subtropical Experiment Station,
Homestead, Florida

Dear John:

This will introduce my friend and neighbor, don Arturo Falla,
who is very much interested in tropical and subtropical fruits.
It you will do all you can for him, it will be greatly appreciated
by your affectionate uncle

Wilson Popenoe
Director Emeritus

Feb. 28, 1960

Dear Uncle Wilson,

As you can see by the enclosed clipping, I was too late to get your greeting to Earl Ames.

I enjoyed your visit here greatly and hope you can come again soon so that we can discuss the Tropical fruit situation again in more detail. I'm learning more about the plantings at the Sub-Tropical Experiment Station every day and will be able to discuss things more intelligently.

I am getting interested in the *Tabebias* here from an ornamental standpoint. I wonder if it would be possible to get you to send me some seed from *Tabebia pentaphylla* sometime. As you perhaps know, most of the *Tabebias* seldom set seed here so we have no way of propagating them. Although *Tabebia pallida* sets lots of seed, it does not make a competitive rootstock for the Central American species which are much more spectacular. I hope to make some rootstock tests if I can get seed from several of the species. *Tabebia pallida* is used as a rootstock for *T. argentea* here because the latter, the very ornamental, makes a very weak trunk on its own roots and easily blows over. The Guatemalan

avocados will soon be in bloom and I hope to have a breeding cage made shortly so that I can try some crossing. After the avocado blooming season is over I'll move the cage over to the annonas and either put it over a sugar apple or an Atemoya for making back-crosses to Cherimoya. Do you know anything about fertility of Atemoya seed? I am hoping it will germinate so that I can make some back crosses or perhaps cross it with ilama.

The Itzemma fruit has been of higher quality this season than I have ever seen it. Usually it is almost too dry and gummy to eat when ripe, but this year it has excellent quality. Maybe the excessive rainfall last summer was responsible, quien sabe?

As ever,

John

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 3 March 1960

Dr John Popenoe
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Johnny:

Many thanks for sending me the obituary notice in re my old friend and Colleague Earle Ames. Of course his end was not unexpected; he did not think he would live long when he went to Florida many years ago. I always thought his avocado grove was about the best large commercial grove in Dade county; maybe some other folks would *not* agree with me in this. Ames was one of the best banana men we have known in UFCO.

I hope you got to see Arturo Falla of this valley, to whom I gave a letter to you. I realise that you have too many visitors at the Subtrop Exp Sta, but you want have too many like Arturo. If you could only choose your visitors (which you cant and never will) you could do a lot of good. Men like Arturo will learn a lot at Homestead and come back to take advantage of what they have learned.

I am glad to hear Itzamna showed up better this year. I dont know what to think of that variety. I hear it is doing well in Hawaii. My hope was that it might turn out to be one of the best late-ripening Guatemalans in Florida. But one never knows/

About the anona business: I have never had any reports on the atemoya so far as germination of seeds is concerned, but I doubt that it is a mule. I agree with your idea of some back crosses, but I wonder if you can develop something as good as the guanabana which at the same time will produce good crops in south Florida - and stand those occasional "unfavorable seasons" which I like to call the freezes? Some day we are going to have those Nunnally cowboys calling for a guanabana sherbet ~~sherbet~~ or a champola.

Nick Smiley gave us quite a send-off, didnt he? I have just written him to lay offn the old generation and direct his professional journalistic attent~~to~~ onto the F₁. I am so happy that you and Hugh are in the tropical field, even if at slightly long range. Remember that Aviateca will bring you down to Guatemala for \$108 U S bucks per round trip. Mighty cheap; to youse guys \$108 will hardly buy you a new suit of clothes and you dont need a new suit clothes as long as Sears sells Hercules khaki trousers at \$2.89.

Much love to all the family. I hope before long Helen and I can visit Florida and we will get a five-lb beefsteak instead of a three lb. ~~especially is Hugh is with us.~~

Antigua, 10 June 1960

Dear Johnny:

Herewith seeds from two trees of Tabebuia pentaphylla. These seeds came from trees near Zamorano; one is the finest thing of its kind I have ever seen, huge trusses of almost white flowers; the other is a pink, deep pink, with no purplish tinge. If you are in the ornamental plant business, give these seeds to someone who is; and tell him Ed Menninger at Stuart is crazy about this tree and I have sent him a lot of seeds. I am very doubtful that this species some true from seed so far as colors are concerned - if it does, why is it that no two trees in the Zamorano are exactly the same shade of pink? It would be interesting to plant a row of trees of each of the two colors I send, and see how they turn out.

Some big mangos coming into the market, in small quantities. I suspect they are seedlings of some of the trees I planted at Tiquisate 30 yrs ago; they are not any grafted variety that I know. Might be seedlings of Sandersha; the size and shape are suggestive.

I hope you are making good progress. We are going to have a lot of work to do together this next couple of years.

That scoundrel Hugh seems to be in New York tho he didnt tell me he was going/ I suppose trying to wangle something out of the Rockefeller Foundation. We are hoping to see him down here either at the end of July or August. I wish you could have one of these T-bones an inch and a half thick which I get here for 95 cents. Affectionate regards to all the family.

Ever yr devoted Uncle

June 17, 1960

Dear Uncle Wilson,

840 N.W. 6th Ave
Homestead

The *Tabebuia* seed came thru in good shape and I have planted all of it in flats in the greenhouse. I am anxious to plant rows of both white and deep pink at the Experiment Station so we can see what we get. I haven't seen any really good *T. pentaphylla* in Dade County. The trees at Chapman Field are not spectacular and don't make seed. I'm sure we can plant a couple of hundred seedlings out. Some of the other *Tabebuias* do very well here. The *T. palmeri* from Mexico & Guat is perhaps the most striking. I have about a hundred seedlings of it ready to plant out next spring. We'll have to try grafting it too. We are using *T. pallida* as a rootstock for *T. argentea* and several others but it is not compatible with *T. palmeri*. By the way, Meninger has sold out his flowering tree business to Stan Smith and it is now called Smith-Meninger Flowering trees. I believe Smith is going to push it. He is really doing work in introducing trees that should be done by Fairchild Gardens and the Plant Introduction Station, but since they are inactive his work is very valuable.

We had an excellent trip to Puerto Rico and I think the meetings were enjoyed by all. There were over 100 delegates. We expect 150 to 200 here next year and you O2 have the same in 62 when there in Antigua. I prepared and presented a paper in Spanish at the P.R. meetings, and much to my surprise, mine was the only one in Spanish. Everything else was in English, and there were no translators. There were only 2 or 3 at the meetings who couldn't

speaking English, while there were numerous who spoke no Spanish - mostly from Dade Co.

One thing that worries me about the Caribbean section is that it seems to be picking up quite a few delegates of the garden club set who go along for a cheap vacation, especially the tourists. Most or all of this class are from Florida. I'm worried that they may overwhelm the section in a few years. We won't have any trouble next year here, but in '62 when we meet at your house there may be a lot of obnoxious tourists with little horticultural interest. I don't know what to do about this problem.

Another problem that arose was that the pathologists wanted to form their own Caribbean section and meet jointly with us in the future.

Casseres and several of the others were not in favor of this because they thought it would detract from the hort meetings. I think his view point was unrealistic as the character of the hort meetings is bound to change as the years go by. I suggested that if we can't meet jointly every year because of lack of facilities at the meeting locations we could meet jointly every other year in larger cities. At any rate the pathologists will not be deterred by us and will form their own section anyway, so we might as well adjust to the idea. Ben Waite and Fred Wellman were the only two pathologists in on the discussion. If the pathologists form their own section it will be much easier for them to get travel expenses to the meetings.

Perhaps you are already acquainted with the other A-S-H-S sections and their methods, but the Southern Section of the A-S-H-S meets jointly with pathologists, plant physiologists, Soil Scientists etc. in what they call the Southern Agricultural Workers convention. This gives everyone a chance

to Caribbean impressions. If Horticulture and
ag. science in general progress the way I hope they
will in the Caribbean area, I can foresee meetings
of this type in the future. This will be quite
different from the way our section started,
but I don't think you can stop progress. I
have not yet written Hugh about this, but I
bet he'll agree with me.

By the way, why can't litchies grow in
the central American highlands? I should
think they would do well in such places as
Antigua. We are starting to get a few ripe
lyches and quite a few mangos now. Also
some mexican avocados. I sent an herbarium
specimen to NY of that avocado relative that you
thought might be *Ocotea*. It turned out to
be *Phoebe mexicana*. I wasn't even aware
of this genus before.

Thanks again for the *Tabea* seed -

As ever

tu of masobind,

John

Antigua Guatemala, 24 June 1960

Dr. John Popenoe,
840 N.W. 6th Ave.
Homestead, Fla.

Mi nunca bien ponderado sobrino:

En mis manos su muy apreciable del 17 del mes en curso. Me alegro que haya recibido las semillas de macuelizo traídas desde el Zamorano por nuestro mutuo amigo y colega de antaño, Amado Pelén. Creo que voy a mandar unas semillas a Johnny Lynch. Todavía tengo suficientes aquí.

Siento no haber podido asistir a la reunión en Puerto Rico. Estoy muy contento de que la próxima será en Florida pues hay mucho que ver y estudiar ahí y si tú tienes razón en creer que demasiados turistas están aprovechando nuestras reuniones para gozar de vacaciones muy económicas, ese factor se eliminará por el momento con una reunión en Florida. Le apuesto veinte reales que la mayoría de esos vacacionistas son Floridianos, es decir paisanos suyos. Respecto a la reunión convenida para 1962 en Guatemala, no dudo que también llegarán algunos vacacionistas. Tú recordarás que hasta cierto punto esto pasó en México.

Por el otro lado, en esto me avisa que un gran número se afiliaron con ASHS y pagaron su cuota de 8 duros. Eso sí es algo. Respecto al deseo de los Pitopatólogos de organizar un grupo tal vez no completamente autónomo pero dentro del seno de la Caribbean region, francamente no sé que decir. El peligro yace en tratar de organizar demasiadas entidades distintas. Los horticultores de la America tropical, es decir, los que realmente merecen el nombre, seguramente no pasan de doscientos. Nuestra sociedad madre, la ASHS, solo tiene unos 2,000 y esto en un país que cuenta con muchísimos horticultores profesionales. Unidos triunfaremos, separados fracasaremos. Tenemos que luchar para mantener unidos todos los horticultores tropicales americanos, aunque en las reuniones los edafólogos, los enólogos, los fitopatólogos, los aguacateros y hasta los amigos de la acerola se juntan por separado, en una reunión dedicada a sus respectivos amores.

Me preguntas respecto a Lychees. Hay 5 árboles cerca al aeropuerto aquí en la ciudad de Guatemala que producen cosechas magníficas mas o menos cada segundo año. Estos árboles vinieron de Lancetilla por el año 29. Hay cuatro en Zamorano que producen, pero la fruta se raja al madurar probablemente debido a condiciones desfavorables de clima. En Lancetilla existen muchos ejemplares pero por la humedad del clima no producen y tres árboles que sembramos aquí en Antigua han crecido bien pero no han producido, a pesar de sus 30 años, lo cual yo atribuyo al high water table. El Lychee, para fructificar bien, necesita clima seco o una época algo fría, la cual tiene en Florida. S

Sin mas por el momento y esperando que se encuentre gozando de una perfecta salud, al lado de su querida familia, me suscribo tu afmo. tío.

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 October 1960

Dr John Popenoe
Subtropical Exp Station
Homestead, Florida

Dear Johnny:

I have recently had several letters from my friend and colleague, Luis Sarasola of Almuñecar, where we did our little job of avocado introduction in 1958. He says he has written you, and he will probably want to consult you from time to time. Do what you can for him; he is enthusiastic and a hard worker and in a region where he cant get any local help.

He and his boss, Roger Magdahl, are trying to interest a man near Malaga, whom I know very well, in planting a fair-sized experiment with avocados varieties; that is a good region with less of a drainage problem than Rancho California where the soils are very fine silt loam and dont drain at all, hardly. He asks me what varieties I would recommend for trial at Malaga, and I have suggested the following:

Fuerte, because in spite of its faults it is still the most important commercial avocado; does well in some regions, not too well in my others, but it is the leader in Israel which has a Mediterranean climate like Almuñecar - only hotter.

Hass, because it bears so heavily; I dont like the way the skin gets very rough in some regions.

Nabal, because in spite of the fact it is definitely an alternate bearer, they say in Israel it puts on such heavy crops every second year as to more than equalise the off year.

Lula, which I dont much care for, as far as quality is concerned but it does bear.

Booth 8 and

Choquette because the Florida hybrids promise well in the Mediterranean regio.

Then for good measure, and to extend the season, I suggest Duke because they like it in Israel and Gottfried, which is pretty certain to be a shy bearer but is a good avocado and early.

I hope this last hurricane didnt hit the Homestead region too hard. I hear the Fairchild garden suffered quite a lot of damage, to old trees. When it isnt a hurricane it is a freeze, and when it isnt a freeze it is a hurricane.

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 Oct 1960

Dr John Popenoe
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Johnny:

I have just been looking over the program for the Tampa meeting of the Fla State Hort Soc and not that you are on the program. Fine business. Never miss an opportunity to attend such meetings and don't demand that you be allowed \$15 a day for expenses, plus transportation. Hugh and I will take the job at \$7.50.

I have a letter from Harold Winters, dated 6 July last, in which he reports having seen at your station an apple variety called Key West which fruits two or three times each month through the year - or something of that sort. This is just to advise that I am going after this apple business in this part of the world; looking for varieties with low chilling requirements and am going to fight it out along this line if it takes all summer. Damon Boynton writes about gibberellic acid and some nitrogen combinations and I have replied that all this is fine but Juan Garcia is going to ask "gibberellic - what did you say?" and what I want to give Juan is some apples that will grow here at 4000 feet. Over at Jinotega in Nicaragua I saw a very interesting tree at 4400 ft, which they said was grown from a seed of a California apple bought in Managua. Had a fine crop on it, apples 3 ins in diam. But I guess our best bet lies in the Siberian crabs, strangely enough. You may remember that there are some at Guinope, not far from Zamorano. So keep one eye open for apples which will produce fruit at 4000 ft down here with out ascorbic acid or magnesium sulfate or anything else. In this recent correspondence with Boynton he says he doubts that we will ever produce apples commercially between 20 degrees N and 25 degrees S. Now within 50 miles of Lima Peru, at 15 degrees S, they have some fine and productive apples so close to the beach that the salt spray sometimes hits them. You fellows talk a lot about temps of 45 degrees for so many hours and at just the right time of year. Do you suppose they ever get temps of 45 degrees at Guinope? I doubt it, and if they do they don't get more than half a dozen hours per yr.

I had plums on my two trees here in the patio, not many but still plums - probably Sta Rosa and Satsuma. And we are at 5150 ft. I have never seen the temperature go down to 45 here in Antigua. If it has went that low, it snook up on me in the night, once or twice.

If that Kew Westvapple is any good, Jorge Benitez has 10,000 Malling rootstocks at Quezaltenango and could do a bit of grafting in Jan or Feb. Do you know anything about the Spanish Cider crabs? What are they and where can we get them. George Darrow knows but I can't get a rise out of him as yet.

Antigua G, 2 Decbr 1960

Dr John Popenoe
Donde se encuentre.

Dear Johnny:

Thanks for yours of 9 pxmo ppdo. Stay with Luis Sarasola. He is our only hope for growing more avocados for those recalcitrant Spaniards to eat - and then I don't know who will make them eat them. But we will not give up the ship, as Commodore Perry said. In fact I am thinking serious of going back to Spain after we have that meeting of ASHS in south Florida next spring. Of course the fact that Helen and I have a house waiting for us at Almuñecar, rent free, and can live on US \$1.50 a day might be a factor.

Now about Booth 8. When I was with you at Homestead last Feb, we happened to have a moment's chat with Dr Ruehla; and I asked him, name the three varieties you would plant commercially in So Fla; and he said "I can answer that question in 30 seconds. Lula, Booth 8 and Waldin." Now, I don't think much of Lula for quality; I don't think too much of Waldin as an avocado because the seed or bone as we call it down here is too big; and I don't know Booth 8; never ate one in my puerca vida. You say it is about the lowest in quality of any avocado you know. Might could be, as they say in Mississippi. Is its importance due to good productivity? That means a lot to us poor bastards who are trying to make a living out of growing aguacates, though I must tell you a story on this subject if I haven't already done it. In fact, two stories. Paisano came in to see me a few months ago. Says I want your advice about planting 30 manzanas of aguacates down below Guatemala. I says, don't do it; aguacates is too darn cheap here. You can't pay for the grafted trees, you can't pay for the fertilizer, and so on. And he says, Oh lets get down to brass tacks. I don't want to plant aguacates to sell, I want to plant them to fatten hogs. So recently when I heard from California that the Fuerte growers are getting or have got six cents a lb for their fruit this year, I wrote this story to Dr Coit. Pork brings a good price in the US. And I wrote him last year that Dr Oppenheimer asked me to tell him how to hold down the crop on Nabal in the off years. They have their off years of course but the on years the crop is so large it more than makes up for the on years.

Going back to Almuñecar and my compadre Luis Sarasola, his soil is not heavy; it is a silt loam - Hugh has seen it - and you simply can not pull the water out of it. As old Prof Earle used to tell me in Cuba, Don't try to pull the water out of it, slide it off the top - I mean slide hit offn the top. The trouble at Almuñecar is a lime induced iron chlorosis and and if you have a quick cure for this send it to me and when we meet in Homestead next April I will buy you a 5 lb beefsteak of which you will get one lb if you can stand Hugh off.

I guess you can't help us much in the apple business. So just settle down to thinking about tropical fruits for that meeting of ASHS next Easter week. I believe that meeting is going to be the most important one Caribbean Region has ever held. Tell this to Billy Krome. But don't talk to me about apricots for the Guatemalan highlands. They haint no hope.

Digitized by John Institute of Botanical Documentation,
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Antigua, Guatemala, 10 Jan 1961

Dr John Popenoe
Homestead, USA

Dear Johnny:

Since writing you yesterday about getting me a few pkts of vegetable seeds, I have pulled out Kilgore's catalog and it strikes me we might as well try a new thing or two, while we are about it. No more Lagos Grandes, for example. So what do you think of the following. If Kilgore doesn't have them in stock at Homestead tell them you are greatly surprised and can't they get them from the home office in a week or so:

- 1 pkt Celery, Florida Green Pascal
- 1 pkt Summer pascal
- 1 pkt Lettuce, Bibb (very interesting to me)
- 1 pkt Mignonette (idem)
- 1 pkt Black Seeded Simpson
- 1 pkt Pepper, Early Calwonder
- 1 pkt Yolo Wonder A

That's all.

Jan. 14, 1961

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I wasn't able to find most of the seeds you wanted in Homestead. Kilgorkes just gave me a catalog and told me to order them from Hq. wh I will do if you want. I just assumed that you might have a cat and want to order your own. I am enclosing a Ferry-Morse order list in case you want anything from them. Your choice of vegetable varieties looked all right to me. I know nothing about celery but the Yolo Wonder paper does the best here. We like Black seeded simpson lettuce and have had it in our own garden this winter. It did well for us.

I had a nice visit the other day with Hugh's boss, Dr. Smith. He thinks Hugh is doing well and maybe entertaining matrimonial plans.

We're expecting to see you and Helen here in March for the meetings, but please let me know if I can be of service in the meantime. Advise re ordering of more seed.

As always,

John

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SUB-TROPICAL EXPERIMENT STATION

January 31, 1961

ROUTE 1, BOX 560
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Uncle Wilson:

Yours of January 20 including ck. was received. Thanks for the information about the black sapote. We have about a dozen fruiting trees of this species on the station now, including one which is quite a bit sweeter than the others and which we have propagated vegetatively. I have sampled fruit from about a dozen other trees growing in this area and have not found any as sweet as our clone. The fruit is grown here mostly as a curiosity. I've never found anyone who really liked them.

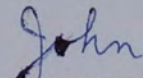
Some of my Venezuelan friends have been talking up the cotopriz (Talisia olivaeformis) as a good edible fruit. Are you familiar with this fruit? If so I would be very interested in your evaluation of it and any other information you might have on it.

In previous correspondence you asked why the Booth 8 is so popular here and yet not recommended by me. It sets very heavy crops of fruit which come closer to resembling Fuerte than anything else we grow. The resemblance, however, is all external and the quality of the fruit is exceedingly poor. Nearly anyone growing Booth 8 will admit this. I think that marketing this variety of avocado hurts the growers in the long run because few new people will get a taste for the fruit from it. Therefore, I always substitute for Booth 8 when I get requests for budwood, or else overlook the request unless there is some specific reason for wanting this particular variety.

Your request for information on loquats will be taken care of as soon as I get reprints of my paper for the F. S. H. S.

Hope to see you here in March for the meetings.

As ever,



JOHN POPENOE
Associate Horticulturist

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 16 Feb 1961

Dr John Popenoe
Subtrop Exp Sta
Homestead, Fla.

Dear Johnny:

Referring to yours of 31 pxmo ppdo, you tell those folks who think the black sapote too sweet how 30,000,000 mejicanos eat them, and 30,000,000 mejicanos cant be wrong. You mash up the Mica axke grease with some good orange juice and down she goes. Just like that. Which reminds me of my last visit to Venezuela. I was giving a talk in Caracas when a sujeto got up and asked, How about the sweet lime. We think it is a fine fruit. I said sure it is a fine fruit, but why spend time and trouble growing it. Just put a tablespoonful of white sugar in a glass of water and drink it. And he said, Yes and you folks who like grapefruit. Why spend time and trouble growing them. Just put a tablespoonful of vinegar in a glass of water and drink it.

No, I am sorry to say I do not know Talisia olivaeformis. You will find a brief description of it in Pittier's "Plantas Usuales de Venezuela".

I shall probably arrive in Miami via AVIATECA on 17 March as there is no flight on the 18th. I want to talk with you about a number of things, not only shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings. Thanks for the info about Booth ocho. I wish you would devote a little thought to Itzamna. When it came into bearing at the Brickell avenue garden it impressed me as the latest of the guatemaltecos and of good quality. Yesterday I got fruits of a perfectly magnificent seedling here in Antigua, but I am not going to bother about it because all these suatemaltecos are so definately alternate bearers. Except Hass. And I wonder about Hass. It seems as though it must be a pure guatemalteco, but I gather it tends to bear fairly regularly.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 27 Feb 1961

Dr John Popenoe
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Fla.

Dear Johnny:

Referring to letter of 16 pxmo ppdo, from George Kessler, copy to me, this is just about one of the best things that has happened in recent times. I wont say much now, because I expect to arrive in Miami via AVIATECA on 17th March, and go to the Hotel Exerglades which I would dodge were it not that somebody has tipped off the Florida Fruit and Vegetables Growers Assn and they have invited me to be their guest. Pretty darn fine of them.

Doc Kessler says he suggests Art Schroeder as a member of the Tropical Fruit Committee. Fine, There should be one more member and I suggest that we discuss this when I get up there, I want to see this committee do something; it is such a swell field. Mainly a matter of varieties of the more important or interesting tropical fruits.

Incidentally, I have just about decided in my own mind, that I shall stay on for a week or so after the ASHS meetings and have a look at tropical hort in So Fla. I might hole up at the Seminole in Homestead, which just suits Hugh and me, And speaking of Hugh, that young scoundrel is up in the Alta Verapaz but should be coming back here this week, to take a 10-foot marimba which I have bought here 2-handed, up to his colleague Doc Pritchett at Gainesville. I have tried it out, and it plays like a first on the Rancho Grande very well.

Hasta la vista

January 16, 1961

Dr. John Popenoe
Sub-tropical Experiment Sta.
Homestead, Florida

Dear John:

At the recent meeting of the American Pomological Society the Committee for Tropical and Sub-tropical Fruits was re-activated as a result of the suggestion of your Uncle, Wilson Popenoe. At this same meeting you were elected Chairman of the Committee. Just what the duties of this Committee will be will depend pretty much on you and the people you select to work with you in this area. Although the interests of our society are more in the direction of varieties, I don't see why this committee can't operate in a little broader sphere if you see fit to do so.

If I can be of any help in the operation of your committee, please feel free to call on me at any time.

I have taken the liberty to suggest that Dr. Schroeder at the University of California at Los Angeles might be an excellent participant in the newly formed committee of which you will be Chairman.

With kind personal wishes.

Cordially,

George M. Kessler
Secretary-Treasurer

GMK:bm

cc: Dr. Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua 2 March 1961

Dear Johnny:

That young scoundrel Hugh has dropped in here a couple of times recently, hoping to get a 1/2 fried chicken or a 2 lb beefsteak and tomorrow I expect him, to fly off to Miami with a big crate containing a marimba on which I have worked for 2 and 3/4 weeks, to be played by the studs at Gainesville, who will promptly say the B-flat is too flat and all that sort of thing.

Hugh says you are going to meet him at Miami tomorrow. So I am giving him this note which I hope he will deliver E.S.M. (en sus manos) as we say down here. I have a reservation for Miami on the 17th, Friday. I can't come later and get to the opening session of the Caribbean Region morning at 9 a.m. If you are so inclined, you might meet me on arrival of the plane Friday and drive me down to Homestead where I would relax at the Seminole and talk with you a bit on Sat and Sun, and then you and I would go up to the opening session of the Caribbean Region at the Everglades Hotel Monday morning early. If this does not fit into your plans I will hang around Miami somewhere until Monday morning. Don't let Billy Krome talk you in to having me stay at their house over the week end; Bill will be as busy as a one-armed paper hanger getting ready for the mtgs. I might go back down there with him after the mtgs so as to feed him aspirin every 2 hrs and put hot water bottles on his feet. Hugh will tell you that he and I are planning on some time around Gainesville after the Miami mtgs. I rather like those oysters on the half shell at the

March 2, 1961

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I notice that yours of Feb 16 is still unanswered. If you will confirm your flight (I suppose it is Aviateca flight # 600) I'll be glad to meet you at the airport on March 17. I guess that plans are well under way for the meetings of A.S.H.S. I understand they have received too many pathology papers and that they are changing the schedule and eliminating the Sub-tropical Experiment Station from the field trips. I think ~~may~~ they may have a special trip here after the meetings are over, however, for those who are interested.

The Etzamná avocado is very interesting because of its lateness, however most years the flesh in it is as dry as a cornstet when ripe. The fruit is also subject to anthracnose and usually gets eaten by the rats before it is mature. All in all it has little to commend it here. We have half a dozen other varieties that hang on just about as long and are in many ways superior. I just picked a dozen Hass fruits off of one of our trees last week. Generally none of our varieties are any good here after about the first of March. I think the hybrid types like Choquette and Kampong are much better late fruits than any pure guatemaltecos and they will generally hang on the tree until sometime in February. Please let me know if you want me to meet you at the airport -

As ever,
John

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 9 March 1961

Dear Johnny:

Just rec'd yr letter; by this time Hugh will have told you that I would be extremely pleased if you met me at the airport, stopped half an hour at the Kampong to see if we have have a chat with Mrs Fairchild, and then on to Homestead where you will put me up in the best \$2.50 room available at the Seminole Hotel. On the way down from Miami we will stop and get a Perro Caliente at that place where we got the big do-nuts and so-called coffee last time. And next day I guarantee I will set you folks up to the best darn Sirloin you have seen in some days, or maybe even weeks. Of course that will be at noon or in the evening after I have had my glass of buttermilk and stack of bucks at that drugstore close to the Seminole. Remember, I am not accepting any invitations to stay at anybody's home until after we finish that jamboree - though I believe now they call it a Bombosh. I gave Hugh an invitation to one when he was here - Explorers Club, ex-Pres Herbert Hoover there, and Werner von Brauen or however you spell it, and only fifty bucks a plate. Hugh asked me to reserve four of them for himself and friends.

I need to consult you, and badly. National Science Foundation has just asked me to recommend a grant for a chap from Eugene Oregon who wants to study tropical fruits in Costa Rica; he will pick out the two most interesting ones after looking over the field, and among his list are Ceiba pentandra and Crescentia cujete.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 9 March 1961

Mr Wm H Krome
Homestead (H-O-M-E-S-T-E-A-D) Florida.

Dear Bill:

Just got a letter from Johnny, who says he will meet me and take me down to Homestead Friday night the 17th provided I agree to set up the family to a 4-lb Sirloin. I can just see Johnny when he sits down in front of that Sirloin. He will put his foot on it and growl.

Did I ask you in my last, to book me for the Everglades for the morning of the 19th, Monday. I want to loaf around Homestead Saturday and Sunday with Johnny; might even drive down to Key West where Hugh says Johnny has unearthed some interesting plants. Reminds me of the recent letter I got from the National Science Foundation, asking if I can recommend a man for a grant; he wants to study tropical fruits in Costa Rica and thinks Caiba pentandra one of the good prospects. I will payyou ten bucks for every seed pod of that tree you eat.

Tell your mother Johnny and I might drop in on her for a call on Sunday if we can catch her when she is not at Mass. She might go to the earlyoone; it is 5.30 here in Antigua but there is another at 7.

We are going to have a lot of fun at that Miami meeting. Dont expect me to listen to all the papers, however; I might be outin the lobby telling Mrs Ray Hamlin that the way to enjoy Dispyros ebenaster is to mix orange juice with it and then shut your eyes!

My best to Phoebe and all the rest.

Sincerely,

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SUB-TROPICAL EXPERIMENT STATION

July 10, 1962

ROUTE 1, BOX 560
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

*Answered
16 July 1962*

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Uncle Wilson:

I am enclosing the quarantine tags. I'll be very happy to receive the material from Lancetilla and from Spain. We'll keep our eyes on the apple situation here. I just ate a couple of Key West apples last week. I think if they are handled properly they ought to be as satisfactory as your so called Winter Banana apple--though perhaps a little smaller. They may not produce 14 or 15 quintales per tree as yours do either.

Hugh spent the night with us last night and we had a nice visit. He talks like he'll be plenty busy this fall.

Thanks for all your fine hospitality in Antigua.

As ever,

John

JOHN POPENOE
Associate Horticulturist

JP:beb

Enc.

Tegucigalpa Honduras
16 Sept 1962

Dr John Popenoe
Subtrop Exp. Sta., Homestead, Florida

Dear Johnny

Here is the story on the
tropical walnuts.

Judans neotropica of the highlands
of Ecuador and Peru. I suspect is the
sp. which produces the best nuts. I
have eaten a good many of them and
this sp. has my vote.

Judans insularis of Cuba. See the
article by Earle and Popenoe in the
Journal of Red-Headly, way back yonder.
Not too bad a nut and the tree may
require less cold than J. neotropica.

Judans guatemalensis, syn. J. pycniformis.
Guatemala and El Salvador, perhaps
out 4000 ft and higher. Shell very
thick and hard.

Judans olanchana. Not rare in Olancha.
I have seen it at Catacamas. Said to
occur in other parts of Honduras. Nut like
that of J. guatemalensis.

Nuts of all these species taste very much like those of *J. nigra* and about the same size, sometimes smaller. *J. neotropica* used commercially on a very limited scale in northern Ecuador, to make nogadas (walnut meats in crystallised brown or white sugar). The tree is to be seen in dooryards at Ibarra, Ecuador, the only one of the four species I have ever seen in "cultivation".

I would put my money on this sp., and *J. insularis* for Florida - if we are talking about Dade County. The nuts of *J. alanchana* and *J. guatemalensis* have too much hard shell and too little meat.

Ever yrs

J. P. S. P. S.

Jamesville, 11 Oct 1962

Dear Johnny:

Hugh met me at Waldo. Before we got quite home we stopped at a red traffic light. Guy coming from the opposite direction didn't. He hit a car going thru on the green, knocked it to one side, then came ahead and crashed into us. Drunken driving. Hugh escaped unhurt - the steering wheel saved him. My face hit the windshield, WHAM - like that. Broke my nose and bruised my face badly. A week in the hospital. Now at 1722 W 2nd Ave again, and I think in ± 10 days I will be quite allright once more.

The Ruchle avocado was really good. It got a bit overripe in the ice box ~~at~~ while I was in the hospital and had some brown streaks in the flesh, which is smooth, better and of fine W. I. flavor. Guess we must send half a dozen scores to Luis Sarasola.

Guess I will spend some time now in Jamesville. I have plenty of writing blocked out - if I can ever get to it. I sure enjoyed that day with you - I learn a lot every time. Modelo Sapoñilla pretty good eating.

Love to all the family

N.H.

Homesland Fla
May 30, 1963

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I received the books you sent, also the walnuts, the letter on mangoes and your photo - Thanks for all. To begin with the walnuts, they are germinating well. W. E. Manning, who recently monographed the genus *Juglans* in Central America, tells me that *J. guatemalensis* is the same^{as} and should be called *J. olanchana*. He asked where the nuts came from and whether it was a wild or cultivated tree. He tells me that *J. boliviana* is fruiting well at Tapachula and may be the best one to try here.

Next the apple outlook - I recently looked at Simmons' tree and it is loaded with fruit, the pointed nose on it makes it look like Red Delicious but I suppose it could be anything. It shows delayed foliation the same as our Key Westers. With regard to the Key West, it has set a wonderful crop and probably ought to be thinned this year for maximum size. Some of the Dorsett Goldens in Newcomb's Nursery also have set fruit. I hope Jorge's grafts of this have taken.

Mango season is coming on now and fortunately we have plenty of varieties and don't have to eat Hadens. If I were allowed three varieties for a commercial grove here I would choose Irwin, Palmer, and Parvin. I guess Irwin is the only one of these you mention in your mango letter to Mrs. Krome. - Here's my rundown on your varieties:

Zill - good flavor but poor bearing for us - too small + ripens around the seed.

Davis/Haden - I don't like it because of the second name, besides it's not good enough flavored and doesn't bear enough.

Irwin - fine bearer - mild flavor but liked very much by people who don't like Julie. - It's our best early

Kent - good, but ripens around seed and is not ~~as~~
attractive in color.

Lippens - heavy leaver, but poor color, and very susceptible to
anthracnose. - I don't care for it.

Springfield - Too fibrous.

Tolbert - don't know this one - I think it came from Sanatilla.

Fascell - I don't like the flavor - not as good as Palmer but
in same season.

Mulgoba - H. S. Wolfe says there is no such variety.

Amini - smells good.

Jutic - good for dwarf trees here.

Haden - Already too much said about it.

Total - I'll plant Swin, Palmer, and Parvin for commercial
varieties - and Carrie to eat for myself.

We are just starting Lychee + Mango season now so I've
got plenty to do. Dillies and White sapotes are getting
pretty good too. I wish you were here to help me
evaluate some of them. I'm getting pretty excited
about my move up to the F.T.G. and winding up
my work here. I still plan to go to the meetings in
Mexico in about 3 weeks - I hope you will be there, but
I believe you said you'd pass it up this year.

My friend from Chetumal finally sent the
black zapote, birdwood and we got 2 stakes of
his variety. He sent a picture of the fruit. It
weighed over 1 kilo and was seedless - besides
having excellent flavor. I think were at the doorstep
of a big horticultural development with this. Do you
care to invest a little capital?

I'll get the razor blades for you.

Siempre te sobrino que B.S.M.

John

Antigua G 9 June 1963

Dear Johnny:

As Director of the Fairchild Tropical Garden I assume you will know about ornamental plants as well as tropical fruits, and I further assume that this knowledge will be retroactive. Ergo, when you step into Mr Kilgore's palatial seed emporium to buy me those Wilkinson blades, which he will probably say "Wodavía no han llegado; están en la a'uana, que le parece? purchase for me one only pkt of the best quality Antirrhinum seeds, double if possible, one idem stocks, and one idem Butterneck squash and send them down with Nixon. If by any chawnee they they have another pair of Wilkinson pruners, small ~~like~~ like the pair I bought (I assume we say a pair of shears, tho we do not say un par de pantalones, you know) buy them por cuenta y riesgo del interesado and send them down idem.

I wish I could publish, side by side, my letter re mangos to Doña Isabel, her reply, and your reply. That would do more than anything else I can imagine to make confusion worse confounded for the prospective mango grower, in this world or any other. No obstante, I sure enjoyed your letter but think you are a Liberal and not a Cachureco; you seem to think those new Florida varieties are not going to stop bearing at setas 15, like you say Haden does, Well, probably you are right, if we grow them in C A.

The Guatemalan Juglans is from the Alta Verapaz - I collected it yrs ago in the Polochic valley above Lake Izabal. As for the apples, Hon. J.M. Benitez who was over here yesterday, says the scions I got from Bob Newcomb have peared, likewise the Simmonds from Homestead. Says they have not yet broken into growth because of the extremely dry weather but are bien pegados. I wish you could see the Anoka and Whitney and Chestnut from Jewell Nurseries; after coming out of that northern winter they have made perfectly beautiful growth; but just until they realize how disappointing next winter is going to be. The Key Westers are already suffering from delayed foliation, and badly. Wealthy doing well so far, like Anoka; Methley plum beautiful, likewise all the American grapes and Indian Summer and September raspberries, now in fruit, and Ind. Sum. is swell eating.

Tolbert mango is not from Lancetilla; Isabel says she and Johnny Lynch went to see the Parent tree in So Fla and that it looked pretty good. Shame on you. Neither Herb Wolfe nor I can find the name Mulcoba in the literature; L B Singh says MULCOA was the variety sent to Washn in 1889 by G Marshall Woodrow. Typographical error on Woodrow's part, I assume.

Jorge and I already at work on the Temp Zone fruits; the Española plum was first in the mkt here, April 1. Cant figure it out yet. Small, red right to the stone, juicy but little flavor. Santa Rosa now on sale. Two pears - or more also - looks to be more and more than nearly all of the pears here are communis, Kieffer and Pineapple being the two notable exceptions. More of this anon. This yr we are going to wind up our study of these fruit varieties and come out with another paper. Recuerdos a la Pinestera.

The Fairchild Tropical Garden 10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD, MIAMI 56, FLA. • MO 1-3022

Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Florida

January 13, 1964

Dear Member:

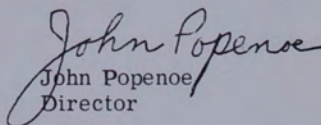
More than two months of our 1964 fiscal year have passed and our records indicate that you have not renewed your membership.

Interesting and exciting events are taking place at the Fairchild Tropical Garden this year. Two outstanding scientists are scheduled to give science lectures. Two wild life films will be presented. New educational courses are being offered and we have some unusual plants which will be distributed to our members this spring. You will read about these events in the January bulletin.

The Fairchild Tropical Garden needs your support. Won't you please send in your membership renewal check at once?

Sincerely yours,

Fairchild Tropical Garden, Inc.


John Popenoe
Director

JP/pw

11925 Old Cutler Rd.
Miami 56, Fla.

July 24, 1964

Dear Uncle Wilson,

It just doesn't seem possible that a little over a week ago we were with you in your story country. Mother and I have been working since we got back. As I sit here looking out onto our patio thru my new white Guatemalan curtains it makes our wonderful trip more real. — It wasn't just a dream — even tho I didn't go into the Church at Chichicastenango. Since we wanted our living room different from every one else up here — I feel sure making it as much Guatemalan as we can has given it character. We want to get our rug — amaranth green or some such color —

2/ some lamp tables and lamps and a
Good chair as soon as possible to
make that room ready for company at
all times. I didn't mean to take so
much time talking about furniture
but I thought you might care.

Mother and I both got a bag
of black beans to try - but I
doubt if they will taste like Marian.
The beans are so small - more like
navy beans. The girls are all
eating well again - even Juanita.
John has been having some stomach
trouble tho.

We had a nice but short visit
with Marian at the airport. We
will be home when she comes back
this way so we hope she can spend
a day or two with us.

2/ Evelyn was just over here.
She has finished one of her dresses.
She was very happy with both
pieces — the black one may be
her favorite.

The table cloth that Mother
got was too large for my table.
I think she will have to take some
off the ends to make it fit
hers. I'm glad I got the place
mats — they look very good.

Thank you again for sharing
your lovely home with us. Come
see us soon — we hope to
have some changes.

Yours truly,
Jerry + John
girls

Antigua, Guatemala, 9 Sept 1965

Dear Johnny:

Thanks for your aerogramme. Sounds just like radigramme and only costs 11 centavos. That's the way to keep within the budget. Il faut faire des petites economies, mon cher Jean.

That Meyer medal is almost within your grasp. Do I know May Blaine? She and Anne Nolen were the two gals who did all the work during those periods when DF was away and I was acting in charge. We three began personal friends. Anne Nolen is dead. Both of them wrote to me once in a while after I came to the tropics. Both were very loyal to David Fairchild and to me.

Of course I don't understand just how May Blaine came into the Meyer Medal picture, but I think I do. And I am somewhat surprised that May has not thought of suggesting that the medal go into the hands of the FTG. Maybe she didn't feel that she could, with propriety, do so, in view of the fact that Dr Creech wanted it - and perhaps Ben Morrison also wanted to see the Am Hort Soc take it over.

You know the background of this medal. Frank Meyer left \$1000 to the office staff of SPI "to have a good time". I was handling his affairs at the time as DF was away. It occurred to me that all of us would much rather honor his memory in some way other than throwing a party. I talked it over with Peter Bisset and we agreed. When DF came back we put it up to him and he was in favor. He got Spicer Dash (you know who I mean) to design it and it was a beautiful job. DF thought it best not to have the medal in the hands of the govt - too much red tape involved and we might not control the awarding. So he put it nominally in the hands of the Am Genetic Assn of which he was president, but right from the start DF chose the recipients and handled the whole matter.

Therefore, it logically and properly falls in the hands of the FTG. I know DF would have wanted it that way. I am surprised he did not think of this in his last years. I do not think a medal was awarded during those years. Weren't the ones given to Chas Torrey Simpson, and myself, and - I believe - Col. Montgomery the last ones?

Get George Lawrence to give you May M. Blaine's address. I have one in Washington, where she lived after retirement, but it is some years ago and apparently she has moved to Staten Island, from what you say. Send me her address and I will write her a personal letter on the matter. You follow it immediately with an official one.

I wrote Bob Cook about this matter and sent you a copy. I haven't as yet received a reply. I doubt that he knows much about the matter anyway as I don't think the Am Genetic Assn ever took an active part in the bestowing of the medal. It was DF and SPI right from the start. I wonder, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, if they have the money, income from which was used to strike the medals. May Blaine can of course tell us. And finally I want to say that I bet May will be happy to get this matter turned over to the FTG.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Antigua G, 25 Sept 1965

Dr John Popenoe

Wailuku Hotel

Wailulu, Maui USA (Please forward if addressee found it cheaper to move
than to pay his hotel bill)

Dear Johnny:

Yrs of 29th rec'd and contents noted. Many thanks for getting me the address of May Blaine. I have written her as per enclosed copy. I will let you know if/when I receive a reply. If the matter of the Meyer medal is really in her hands I feel sure we can get somewhere. And as I told her in my letter, if there is no longer any money left in the bank to pay for strimming medal a year, I will go quite a way to help out. I think the Board of Trustees should be the ones to select an annual recipient - or what do you say? Or a committee appointed by the Board. Anyway, we must get that medal back in circulation. - I assume there is no need for you to write her until I get a letter and advise you; tho she may write you first. I hope so.

Yes, I heard you had a little blow up your way. I understand Mrs Krome was hit harder than you were, proportionately, and I am suggesting to her that she and I move to Almuñecar and start life all over again. You have freezes, you have hurricanes; California has freezes, and it has *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Of course I could add, Real Estate booms in both cases. In Almuñecar we would only have Real Estate booms, though Luis writes me that apartment houses and hot dog stands are coming on fast.

I am writing Jewel Nurseries to see if we can get some more Anokas and Chestnut crabs. Thanks to your original advice. Tennessee Nursey Co has not replied to my letter asking them to quote on Anokas etc. I guess they don't trust us cashpines.

You ask if I am waiting to come up for air, until you have the next freeze. You mean I had to come last week? I can't make it. Mainly because I have to stay here until Oct 22 - Nov 5 to help those folks frok the NY Bot Gdn find their way across Maria Tecum.

Incidentally, and apropos de rien, Luis Sarasola writes that they are cleaning up the big money with Hass at Almuñecar, and are going in for Anaheim. Kampong is a porqueria. De gustibus non disputandum est.

Siempre su muy afmo SS

Wailuku Hotel

WAILUKU, MAUI, T. H.

Sept 20, 1965
Miami, Fla.

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I have just received the address of Miss Blaine from George Lawrence. It is as follows:

Miss May M. Blaine

4 Chester Place

Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

So now you can write her and find out the whole story about the Meyer medal. Let me know if and when you think I should write to her.

We had a severe hurricane here on the 7th + 8th of September. The garden is quite a mess. With some good rains it ought to grow back pretty fast however. Our lowlands were covered by 6 to 8 ft of sea water.

Mrs. Krome's place took a real beating in the hurricane. The big Lilly tree blew down on her house and the big mango on her garage. Something else blew down on her ramada. As a matter of fact practically everything blew down at her place. I think the storm had been pretty hard on her. The Ex. Station at Homestead was devastated again as usual. I don't know how much they are going to try to save.

I think you are right about the Jewel Nursery - Lake City, Minn. Try writing to this address anyway. When are you coming back up here to see us again? Are you going to wait until after the next freeze?

Antigua, Guatemala, 25 September 1965

Miss May M. Blaine,
4 Chester Place
Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

My dear Miss Blaine:

When I was in southern Florida last spring, I became interested in the fate of the Frank N. Meyer medal for Plant Introduction. As far as I heard, it has not been awarded since Dr Fairchild's death, though one or two other medals which were made in his time, by the same man - Mr Spicer-Simpson, as you will recall - are still being given by the Fairchild Tropical Garden or closely related organizations.

Now, all this made me wonder, what has become of the Frank Meyer medal? Peter Bisset and you and I and Anne Nolen took part in having it created. You will remember all that. But it was our beloved Chief, Dr Fairchild, who made it a reality and who did, I believe, plan most if not all of the awards that were made. He is gone, and only a few of his old staff are left. And I think we ought to do something about the Meyer Medal, don't you?

On making inquiries, I learned that you are, and have been, interested in this matter. I also heard the American Horticultural Society had been interested in taking it over. It seems to me the Fairchild Tropical Garden is the proper institution. Doctor Fairchild's name should be kept linked closely to the Meyer medal, for it belongs in the field of Plant Introduction, and it belongs where David Fairchild would want it to be. And that is the Fairchild Tropical Garden, where there are so many of

Since the awarding of the medal had been, nominally I feel, in the hands of the American Genetic Association, I wrote Robert Cook to see what he could tell me, but I did not have his street address and sent the letter to the Cosmos Club, where he may not yet have called for it. Then I took the matter up with my nephew John Popenoe, who as you know is now head of the Fairchild Tropical Garden. He went to Dr George Lawrence, who told him you are much interested, and who gave him - and thence to me - your address. I was happy to have this indirect news of you again, for I have never forgotten, nor can forget, those happy days AT "FSPI" when we were part of Dr Fairchild's staff. I wrote a paper about this, which was published last year by the Fairchild Tropical Garden. I hope you have seen it, and the picture of "the staff" which went with it. I think I will enclose a copy of the Garden Bulletin, just in case you have not seen it.

I don't know how much involved, or interested, you are in this matter. But I sincerely believe you would like to see the medal kept close to David Fairchild's life work and interests, and the Fairchild Garden is the place for this. Will you help us get the awarding of this medal in the right hands? If there are no funds left, to strike a medal each year or so, I will personally help to get them. And so will my nephew John. Money is not the problem. What we want, and I believe what you will want, is to see this medal awarded as it was in David Fairchild's days, to men chosen as he would have chosen them. We know what he would have done, and you do too. Tell me how you can help us.

With old time regards, as our beloved Chief used to put it,

Cordially yours,



The Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156

October 15, 1965

Dear Member:

On September 7 and 8, Hurricane Betsy struck the Fairchild Tropical Garden with 100 mile an hour winds and with tides more than six feet above normal. Trees were blown down and litter was left everywhere. There was a smell of rotting vegetation and even of dead fish among the tide carried debris. What can I tell the members of the Fairchild Tropical Garden to interest them in renewing their membership after such an experience as this?

We all know of the miraculous growth of plants in our tropical climate. Last year we had Cleo, several years before that Donna and so on. Yet each time the Garden has recovered rapidly and been lovelier than ever. Perhaps by the time you get this letter the major effects of Betsy will have disappeared and the Garden will be lovely again.

Betsy did no damage to the buildings at the Garden. Our new season of activities will go on just as scheduled. We are planning a big Member's Day program. There will be as many plants as ever for sale on November 6. Also, we will have free tram rides. Last year we had free tours of the orchid collection. Many of you missed out on this. This year we have twice as many orchids as last year and a much finer selection. I hope everyone who comes to the Garden on November 6 for Member's Day will take the time to see this collection. The plant sale will start at 10 a.m.

The Ramble takes place on December 3 and 4 this year and it should be bigger and better than ever. We will have a wildlife lecture with Mr. Hermes in the Garden House on December 14. The title of the film will be "Animals at Home and Afield". Will you be there?

Our new fiscal year begins on November 1 and it is now time to renew memberships. I am enclosing a membership renewal form for your convenience. Won't you show your faith in the Fairchild Tropical Garden by renewing your membership now?

Yours very truly,

Fairchild Tropical Garden

John Popenoe

Director



The Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156

November 2, 1965

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Uncle Wilson:

I am glad to hear that you have made contact with May Blaine and Ben Morrison regarding the Meyer Medal. Anytime you think it propitious for me to write to someone about the medal, let me know.

I had a letter yesterday from my friend Luis B. Crouch of the Dominican Republic. He is planning a trip to Guatemala soon and would like to drop in and visit you if possible. He is the nephew of your old friend the former Minister of Agriculture over there.

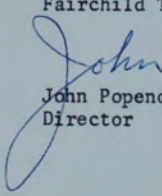
Things have been going well at the Garden lately. We have had plenty of good rain to make the plants grow. When are you planning to come north this winter? We are looking forward to seeing you around here.

I just received a letter from Nell Jennings. She says the Rassweilers enjoyed visiting you so much that she hopes she will be able to go to Guatemala herself this winter.

I am enclosing a clipping about the apple project in Guatemala.

Best regards,

Fairchild Tropical Garden


John Popenoe
Director

JP/pw



50 ROOMS

TOWN MOTEL

FRANKLIN, N. C.

MR. and MRS. LEE WOOD, Operators



PHONE: 4-4451

Oct 12, 1966

Dear Uncle Wilson

I was listening to the radio last night, la hora cubana, and there was an announcement from Sr. Pestonit advertising the finest grafted escadros for sale - equal calidad como en Cuba. Apparently he has set up a little nursery in exile on the Tamiami Trail. Will have to go visit him when you are down here sometime.

Last week I got a copy of the revised 2nd edition of Simmonds book on Bananas. It's hot off the press and really up to date with new information on culture, genetics etc. I suppose you have already seen this but if not you'll see mine when you're down here next month.

Your plan to come down on the 15th sounds fine. I'll be glad to meet you at the Seaboard Terminal and bring you to 11925 Old Cutler Rd. where you can stay as long as you like and argue the merits of the pitomba with me. I'll put you on the Aerateca plane when you're ready to go to Guatemala.

I will take the TAN flight to Teguc as scheduled. Bob Armour says that the Unifructa is planning to charter a plane to take all of us to Sancti Spiritus on the Monday following graduation so I'll be glad to wait and go courtesy of Jack Fox.

In your chapter on the fig - I agree with Watkins - you don't have much on pests and diseases - You should mention the rust that defoliates figs regularly in Florida and elsewhere. Are you going to say anything about chemical weed control on these fruits? I notice that Simmonds goes into this heavily on bananas.

On Kaki you ought to mention the side veneer graft. That's the one I use - Kakis don't always too easy to graft.

On loquat I'm glad you don't go into pomological descriptions of the varieties, but you ought to mention that several have been developed in Florida, including the Volpe. There ought to be some mention of the varieties used by fig breeders. This has been worked out both in India & Israel - and is the reason why summer bloom doesn't

fruit fly here, and probably in other areas.

By the way, you don't go into the various common names for these fruits as you did in some of the other chapters. No one will know what the *Nispero de Japon* is!

Is Condit going to look at the fig chapter?

Sincerely,

John

ones. In regions where temperatures during the ripening season are high and relative humidity sufficiently low, ^{figs have high} ~~their~~ sugar content ^{which} makes it possible to dry ^{them} ~~figs~~ in the sun, after which they can be stored for months in perfect condition, and shipped all over the world. In the southern United States, and to a limited extent in tropical America, ^s ~~fresh~~ figs of certain varieties are prepared in syrup and sold in cans or glass jars. When grown at medium to high elevations in the tropics, figs do not mature properly. For this reason they are usually picked when green, cooked with sugar, and served as a dessert. Unless they have eaten imported dried figs, most residents of tropical America are ~~then~~ familiar only with an excellent fruit in an unworthy form.

By nature the fig is a large and broadly spreading tree, which lives to a ripe old age in what is termed a "Mediterranean climate." In tropical America, it rarely attains a height and spread of more than 25 feet. It is deciduous during part of the year. The large leaves are deeply lobed, dark green and somewhat rough above, light green below. The fruit is such a peculiar thing that botanists have had to give it a peculiar name, syconium; it is a hollow, fleshy receptacle on the inner surface of which the flowers are produced. The delicious figs of what is known as the Smyrna type have to be pollinated by insects, because they produce only pistillate flowers and pollen must come from trees called caprifigs, which produce staminate ones. This complex process does not need to concern growers of the common fig varieties known in tropical America: they are parthenocarpic, that is, do not require pollination; and therefore do not produce fertile seeds. In one way, this is regrettable, for the fertile seeds of the Smyrna figs impart a nutty flavor to the fruit, appreciated by everyone.

Normally, fig trees bear a crop a year: fruits of the first or early crop (which are large in size but not so numerous as those

of the later or main crop) are termed brevas in Spanish; those of the main crop, higos (figs). In tropical America, where lack of a cold or dormant season seems to upset the normal biological cycle of the tree, this crop sequence does not seem to be so apparent as it is in real fig country.

Races and Varieties

From the standpoint of the tropical American horticulturist it is scarcely necessary to enter into a discussion of the several races of figs, since he will normally be concerned with only one - what is termed the common fig. But as a matter of interest, the classification adopted by Ira J. Condit of California, an acknowledged authority, is given below:

1. Caprifig type. This, Dr. Condit says, is the primitive type of fig from which the others have been developed. It is of value only to produce pollen required by the pistillate flowers of the Smyrna type, and this pollen must be transferred by tiny insects, known as Blastophaga wasps.

2. Smyrna type. This most important of all figs has been grown for centuries in Asia Minor. It is commonly termed Smyrna because the dried fruits are shipped through that port. In the 1880's horticulturists in California succeeded in bringing the Blastophaga wasp to that State, thus making it possible to produce figs of the same quality as those from Smyrna. The industry has become important. It is not necessary to describe here the complex technique of pollination, or "caprification" as it is called, because there does not seem to be much hope of producing Smyrna figs within the tropics, due to lack of proper climatic conditions. Something might be done on the dry coastal valleys of southern Peru, such as Ica, where date palms produce fruit of excellent quality.

3. Common type. These are the figs grown in tropical America (see list of varieties below). They are parthenocarpic, that is, they do not need the stimulus of pollination to produce edible fruits.

4. San Pedro type. Varieties of this group combine the characteristics of the two first-named groups; brevas or first-crop figs develop without the stimulus of pollination, second-crop fruits are of the Smyrna type and drop unless "ca/prified."

Most of the figs grown in tropical America are of one variety, the Mission, but there are several other good ones which have been planted here and there. Hundreds of varieties have developed during the long centuries the fig has been in cultivation. The synonymy is endless; Dr. Condit says that Brown Turkey, for example, is known under at least 14 different names. The following list includes the most interesting varieties for this part of the world:

Mission. Probably the most widely known fig of its group, ~~Dr. Condit says that~~ It had been cultivated in Spain for centuries before it was brought to the Americas about 400 years ago. This is the fig which was carried to California by the Franciscan padres about 1770, and planted along the coast all the way from San Diego to San Francisco. It is a black-skinned variety, of good size, and excellent quality. It is extensively utilized as a fresh fruit; it can be dried, but for this purpose its color is against it.

White Adriatic. Said to be grown to a considerable extent in northern Mexico, and believed to be in tropical parts of northern parts of South America as well. As a fresh fruit it is not considered as good in quality as Mission, but in California it is preferred for drying because of its color.

Kadota. A fruit of fine quality. It has been planted in tropical America but no information is available. It certainly should be tested

climatic
in regions where ~~weather~~ conditions make it possible to produce well-ripened figs. This variety is considered excellent for canning.

Celest^o. A small to medium-sized, violet-colored fruit, with firm juicy flesh of excellent quality. It is popular in the southeastern United States where it is considered one of the best for canning and preserving. It has been recommended because the fruits turn downward upon ripening, thus lessening the danger of souring. It has done well in tropical America.

Brown Turkey. A large fig, not considered suitable for drying, but this defect is of little importance in the tropics. Popular in California for the fresh fruit market. The first crop, brevas, are large, pear-shaped, and brownish black; the second crop fruits are usually smaller, with less flavor than the brevas. The flesh is light strawberry red.

Climate and Soil

In tropical America, fig trees are most commonly seen in door-yards at medium elevations - 3000 to 6000 feet. The winters are cool and dry, the summers cool and moist, in comparison with the rather cool winters and long hot dry summers of the great fig-producing countries of the world. While they grow well, trees of large size and great age are never seen. Figs grow in low-lying hot valleys here and there, but the ripening season usually coincides with the period of most rain, which is not favorable. Sometimes really luscious figs are produced in such areas, however, especially when trees are grown in patios where they are surrounded by high walls which intensify the heat. This is the case, at least, in the northern hemisphere.

In equatorial regions (Ecuador, for example) figs are grown at elevations as great as 7500 or 8000 feet. In Mexico and Guatemala they are occasionally seen at similar elevations, but it is useless

to expect well-ripened fruits in such cool climates. It is interesting to note, however, that crystallized green figs are popular.

It is generally believed that fig trees prefer deep clay loams, but they may be grown successfully on soils of many types. The volcanic sandy loams of recent origin, which are characteristic of so many regions along the Pacific side of Central and South America, are excellent for figs. The tree thrives on plenty of moisture, yet it resists drought well, as proved by its behavior in the great fig producing countries. Its habit of sending roots deeply into the soil is useful in this connection.

Propagation

One of the reasons for the popularity of the fig as a dooryard tree is the ease of propagation. Cuttings of mature wood - branchlets which have lost their green color-strike root readily, whether planted in the open ground (with adequate moisture at all times) or in propagating boxes filled with clean sand or light soil. It is customary in tropical America to take branchlets half an inch in diameter, cut them into lengths of 8 or 10 inches (with a clean diagonal cut at the base, just below a node) and set them in the rooting medium, leaving not more than one-third of the cutting extending above the surface. It is best to take cuttings during the dormant season. It is essential that the soil or sand be kept moist, but not waterlogged, at all times. It takes several months for a good root system to develop, after which the young trees can go into the open ground - if not already there.

Planting and Culture

Orchards of fig trees are practically unknown in tropical America. The time may come when small ones will be established, to supply fruit for local markets. In all probability, places can be found where such varieties as Mission and Brown Turkey could be produced

satisfactorily on a small commercial basis.

Due to the small size fig trees attain in the tropics, an orchard spacing of 20 x 20 feet would be about right. Little pruning is required, and it does not seem likely that much fertilizer will be needed, unless the soil is poor. Trees should commence bearing at 3, or at the most 4, years of age; annual crops may be expected. In this respect, the fig has the advantage over several more important fruit crops.

Nematodes are a serious pest in some ^{regions} ~~countries~~, especially on sandy soils. ~~Heavy mulching will control them but this method is of course useful only where there are a few trees to be protected, as in door-yard plantings.~~ Practically no information has accumulated locally regarding pests of the fig tree and its fruit, due ~~of course~~ to this situation: Pests of horticultural crops become serious in proportion to the expansion of areas planted. When avocados first began to attract attention in California, it was thought that this tree had few serious enemies, but with the development of thousands of acres, new pest control problems appeared. A parallel case is that of the banana in the Caribbean region.

THE KAKI

It is difficult to say just why the Oriental persimmon or Kaki (Diospyros kaki) is still such a rarity in the American tropics. One reason may be that it did not reach the western world until the 1870's. Another is that it must be served at just the proper stage of ripeness if it is to be acceptable as a dessert fruit. If eaten before it is in prime condition it is astringent and unpalatable - with the exception of a few non-astringent varieties, none of which seems to have

fruits. It did not reach Japan until about the 6th century A. D., but met with such a welcome in that country that much attention has been devoted to its culture and many varieties have been developed. In tropical America ^{kakis are} ~~it has shown itself to be~~ well adapted to the highlands, especially those regions which have well-marked dry seasons. Annual rainfall of 40 to 60 inches appears to be about right but irrigation may be required during long dry periods. While it is generally considered that kakis will not grow and produce fruit in the lowlands, occasional trees in Central America have done well, almost at sea level, when on good sandy loams, well irrigated during the dry season. It has become ~~pretty~~ clear, however, that this is not a tree of the tropical rain forest zone.

The kaki is a small deciduous tree, forming a shapely crown with abundant ovate-elliptic or oblong-ovate acuminate leaves, 3 to 6 or 7 inches long, glabrous above and finely pubescent below. While it is often stated that the species is dioecious or polygamous, it was shown by Hume, many years ago, that the distribution of the sexes is very irregular. During the early years of ^{the} Kaki culture in the United States, many varieties were planted, some of them requiring cross-pollination, others not. Still other varieties were parthenocarpic, that is, did not require pollination at all. Commercial cultivation of the kaki has now settled down to such varieties. This development has two advantages, firstly, no attention has to be given to the problem of pollination, and secondly, parthenocarpic fruits are practically seedless.

Any fruit of which so many varieties are cultivated is bound to show a wide range of forms and sizes. Kakis may be slender conic to

not eaten until it is very soft, this makes commercial handling difficult; the fruit must either be sold while still hard, and ripened in the home, or sold when soft and handled with great care. The outside color of the fruit does not vary greatly; it ranges from deep yellow to orange red; the flesh is yellow or orange colored, of almost gelatinous consistency when ready for eating (with exception of the non-astringent varieties, which are eaten before the flesh softens). Seeds, when present, may be as many as eight in number; they are flattened, dark brown in color, about half an inch long.

Varieties

Eight hundred varieties are said to be known in Japan, but ^{T.} Ikeda does not consider more than 90 of these really valuable. In tropical America, the prospective kaki grower will probably do well to limit himself to three, Hachiya (the favorite in kaki-growing regions of the western world), Tane-nashi, and Fuyu, a non-astringent variety.

Hachiya. Perhaps the largest. The form is oblong-conical, with a short point at the apex; length up to 3-3/4 inches; color bright reddish orange, with occasional dark spots and rings near the tip; flesh deep yellow, rich in flavor. Usually, but not always, seedless. Astringent until fully ripe. The tree is a vigorous grower, but an alternate or erratic bearer - as are most other varieties. Commercially the most popular kaki.

Tane-nashi. This is a roundish-conical fruit, very symmetrical in form, and up to 3-1/2 inches in diameter. The surface is smooth, bright yellow to reddish orange in color, the flesh yellow, of sweet and pleasant flavor. This is a seedless variety, which ripens earlier than Hachiya. The tree is vigorous, prolific, and self-fertile.

Considered to be an alternate bearer. Probably the most highly esteemed
 Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation,
 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fuyu. Oblate in form, size medium large, about 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Color deep orange-red, the skin thin, tough. The flesh is firm, meaty when ripe, deep carrot-orange. The flavor is sweet, with no astringency even in the unripe fruit. The seeds are few, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. It comes into bearing at an early age and produces good crops.

Climate and Soil

Little needs to be added to what has already been written about climatic requirements. The kaki will withstand more cold than is experienced in fruit-growing regions of tropical America, but on the other hand, it will probably do best at elevations between 4000 and 6000 feet in Central America, one or two thousand feet higher near the equator (this seems to be about the usual difference; apples do well at 6500 feet in Guatemala but need 8000 in Ecuador).

Experience in California has shown that the kaki does not need a high degree of atmospheric humidity, provided it is amply supplied with water at the root. It must, however, have good drainage. It is widely adaptable with regard to soil; in Central America it has been planted mainly on sandy loams of recent volcanic origin, which are fine soils for almost any fruit tree. In California it has done well on heavy soils, when well drained, while in Florida it has been successful on light sandy soils, provided they contained a goodly amount of organic matter. Soils should be deep, since the kaki develops a long taproot.

Propagation and Culture

A good deal remains to be learned about best rootstocks for kakis. There are three which must be taken into consideration, and very little experience with any of them has accumulated in tropical America. The one which seems most likely to be suitable is Diospyros lotus itself. In China and Japan a closely related species, D. lotus,

is commonly used; while in Florida the native D. virginiana is preferred. This has been tried experimentally in Central America and does not seem as promising as D. kaki. It suckers very freely; it is not rare to find root suckers appearing 20 or 30 feet away from the kaki tree which was grafted on a rootstock of this species.

Trees may be shield budded like citrus, or cleft grafted. For shield budding, stocks should be about half an inch in diameter and buds somewhat more than an inch in length. When cleft grafted, it should be remembered that in the tropics generally it has been found that scions should not be too long; they should not protrude more than a couple of inches - one or two nodes - above the graft.

So few kakis have been planted in tropical America, that cultural data based on experience are lacking. It seems obvious, however, that the trees will not need to be planted farther apart than 18 or at most 20 feet. For planting in the orchard, George C. Roeding of California writes: "The tap-root should be cut back to 18 inches, and fresh cuts made on all the fibrous roots. After the trees are set, head them back at least one-half. In the second, third and fourth years pruning of the tree should be continued to fashion it into the typical goblet form."

On poor soils, it is recommended to fertilize the trees, nitrogen being the element most needed. Probably a program suitable for oranges would be better, in order to play safe. While it has been stated that grafted kaki trees should come into bearing at four years of age, this has not been the case in tropical America. Because they usually are planted at considerable elevations, they do not have hot summers to produce the rapid growth which is characteristic of important kaki-

because their weight may cause them to pull loose from the stem and fall to the ground. Furthermore, birds, bats and wasps are very fond of them. The grower will soon learn to recognize mature fruits: they begin to change color slightly. Picked at the hard-ripe stage, they carry well to market and are ready for eating after two or three weeks. They should always be cut from the short fruit stem, not pulled.

THE LOQUAT

This is an Asiatic fruit which merits more attention than it has received at the hands of tropical horticulturists. Perhaps it has been neglected because it is rather ^{exact} particular in its climatic requirements. It is not particular as to soils; it is not cursed with the habit of alternate bearing; and it is of simple culture; but the fruit only attains perfection in just the right climate. Ideal conditions seem to be found in Central America at elevations of 4000 to 6000 feet; somewhat higher, of course, near the Equator. On the coast, little if any fruit is produced; at elevations which are too high, the flowers may be destroyed by frost.

Though formerly considered to be native to Japan and China, it is now believed that it originally came from the latter country, where it is highly esteemed and widely grown. In fact, T. Ikeda lists forty-six varieties which are cultivated in Japan, though only nine of them are important. Fifteen varieties have been described from Algeria - a good loquat country - and half a dozen have originated in southern California. The loquat is widely distributed throughout the subtropical world. It would have made more progress in the tropics of this hemisphere if attention had been given to the selection and propagation of superior seedlings, or the introduction of grafted varieties. The average seedling loquat is good enough so that the average man does not take the trouble to look for better ones!

The loquat tree (Eriobotrya japonica), a member of the family Rosaceae to which so many of the fine northern fruits belong, does not attain great size; specimens more than 20 or 25 feet high are rarely seen. It has a short thick trunk, usually branching two or three feet from the ground to form a round, oval, compact crown, densely clothed with elliptic-lanceolate to obovate-lanceolate leaves, rather thick and stiff, with dentate edges. The fragrant white flowers are borne in terminal racemes; the fruits, which are carried in large, loose clusters, are round, oval or pyriform in shape, an inch to almost three inches in length (where grafted varieties are concerned), pale yellow to deep orange in color. The skin, about as thick as that of a peach, encloses⁵ the juicy flesh, white to deep orange in color, of a sprightly subacid flavor. Commonly the seeds are three to five in number, ovate in outline, light brown in color, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long.

Races and Varieties

There are two distinct races of loquats, the Japanese and the Chinese. These have long been recognized by Japanese horticulturists, not so long by those of the Occident. This is an important matter, not because of differences in adaptability to climates or soils, but because of characteristics useful to the grower.

Japanese group. The fruits are commonly pyriform in shape, not quite so large as those of the Chinese group. The skin is yellow, the flesh whitish, very juicy, more sprightly in flavor (subacid) than in varieties of the Chinese group. The fruits ripen early to mid-season - another important point - and do not withstand rough handling as well as the Chinese. For this reason, growers in the region of Antigua, Guatemala (5000 ft.) have transferred completely to the Chinese group. The larger size of the Chinese varieties has also been a factor.

Chinese group. The fruit is round to pear-shaped, with a thick orange-colored skin and deep orange-colored flesh, less juicy, more "meaty" than in the Japanese varieties. In keeping quality and resistance to rough handling (as has been mentioned above) varieties of this race are excellent, and they ripen after the Japanese varieties, thus extending the season during which loquats can be sent to market.

It does not seem necessary to describe in detail the best varieties which are presently available; a few notes ^{will} ~~should~~ suffice.

Champagne, of the Japanese group, is one of the juiciest and tastiest, of good size, attractive yellow color, but easily bruised if roughly ~~handled~~ when put on the market. The fruit clusters are large and handsome; the tree is productive. Advance is another good variety of the same group, not considered quite so precocious as Champagne. Tanaka is the leading variety of the Chinese group, if it is really a variety, and not a mixture of several very similar varieties, of which Gold Nugget and Thales of California are two. Tanaka is ~~a~~ pear-shaped, ~~some~~, Gold Nugget roundish; both are deep orange-colored, with firm, not very juicy flesh, and [^] somewhat smaller seed cavity than in varieties of the Japanese group. They ripen a month or six weeks after the latter. The varieties of the Chinese group tend to produce larger fruits than Japanese varieties, and are popular in the markets.

Climate and Soil

Climatic requirements have been covered above. In a general way. Cool weather during part of the year, and a rainfall of 30 to 60 inches seems satisfactory. During the long dry periods characteristic of many parts of tropical America irrigation is necessary; it should be about the same as for citrus fruit^s. It has been noted in Japan and California that the best loquat regions lie close to the seacoast. Humidity should not be low, and temperatures

should not be extremely high - heat, bright light and low humidity result in the fruit becoming "sunburned."

A rather heavy soil is considered best for loquats, but the tree has been grown successfully on many other types; light sandy ones (which will require plenty of irrigation during dry periods) and even stiff clays, if well drained. The volcanic sandy ^{loams} and clay loams so abundant all down the Pacific side of tropical America have proved excellent.

Propagation

There is no excuse for planting seedling loquats, unless one wishes to grow a large number and select out the best for vegetative propagation. It is as easy to graft loquats as it is to graft citrus - easier than avocados or mangos. The most popular rootstock is the loquat itself, though quince may be used if a dwarfed tree is desired. Loquat seeds can be kept for some time, but it is best to plant them shortly after they are removed from the fruit. Quince is propagated by means of cuttings.

Shield budding is the usual method of propagation. Seedling loquats are ready for budding when the stems have a diameter of about one-half inch; buds should be cut larger than is usually practiced with citrus; an inch and a half is not too long. After a union between bud and stock has taken place, the ~~latter~~ ^{the stock} can be lopped (a cut made half way through the stem, after which the latter is doubled over) or it has sometimes been found desirable to cut away the stock-plant completely two or three inches above the bud. It is not always easy to start the ~~latter~~ ^{bud} into growth. Budded trees should be stake-trained in the nursery, and headed 24 to 30 inches above the ground. Budded

or grafted trees should not be moved to the field with bare roots;

they should be "balled" and wrapped with burlap or other material.

Veneer grafting and cleft grafting are also successful. if

difficulty is experienced in getting the buds to "break" ^{that is,} - commence to grow after the stock is lopped or topped - the veneer graft may be used.

Planting and Culture

Based on experience in Central America, a spacing of 20 x 20 feet seems appropriate. Trees may be planted in the orchard at any time of the year, if given after-care, but the beginning of the rainy season is usually preferred. Little need be said about cultural attention; it should be about the same as for citrus. During the dry season monthly irrigations are right, unless the soil is very light and sandy, when they should be more frequent. Nothing can be said about fertilizers on the basis of experience in tropical America. Very little pruning is necessary, except to cut out dead twigs and small branches. The loquat usually forms a shapely, compact crown, with fruit borne at the ends of the branchlets.

Where conditions of growth are favorable, the trees should come into bearing not later than three or four years after planting. Loquats may be harvested individually or by clusters; the former way is usual in tropical America. Little is known about diseases and pests; the fire-blight ~~of pears~~ (Erwinia amylovora) attacks loquat trees in some regions, ~~but nowhere seems to be a serious pest.~~ Birds and bats may destroy some of the fruit.

*Caribbea
in fruit*



BIENVENIDOS, Welcome to Central América....

Jan 31, 1967

CABLE ADDRESS: "LINCOTEL"

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I gave Eileen Patton the coffee and she declared it to be delicious - asked for your address, which I gave her + I expect she has or will write you about it. I'm glad to get the low down on the Lister coffee from Chico de Sola.

Please don't get too concerned about some of the statements in the Rare Fruit Council Report - they make mistakes occasionally.

Only about half of the huigiles sold at the Ramble. Since I wasn't there, I can't give you any good information on what happened, but I understood that they got about \$1.50 each for what they sold. The rest will be sold in the gift shop.

This takes care of the questions of yours of Jan 14 so I can now tell you that we had a splendid time in Calif. visiting in Rheocactus and later in Frisco. We had a chance to drop in for a visit with Sally and her family - the Ed wasn't there, and then to go to Meola Park the next day for an afternoon with Nancy. We enjoyed both visits immensely. Upon returning to Florida we found everything in good order so we went right back to the job of getting things going again. As you probably know we are now planning for a big annual meeting and dedication of our new science building. This will be a big occasion for the Garden with many dignitaries and I hope that you are among them. The date is March 17 and 18 and we are reserving our spare bedroom to accommodate you. The new building is almost finished now and we will name it the W.F. Robbins Plant Science building.

Incidentally, L.F. Randolph greatly appreciated the help you gave him just before Xmas in Great. in locating the Hempsteads + the right museum. I + the girls all send their love -

Yours ever, John

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 May 1967

Dr John Popenoe
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, Fla.

Near Juanito:

Don't you think we ought to try to do something with that Amboina lychee? I know there a couple of trees in South Dade, but they are not in good situations, it seems to me. It is going to be awfully hard to get more air-layered trees sent up. What do you saw to trying a batch of seeds? Start them at the FTG, then get them in some good hammock soil, like Peg Churney has, and see what happens. I discussed with Dunlap -- perhaps you were present -- and he said he was sure Dr Forsyth would send you some this season. I believe Amboina ripens in June. I don't know whether or not you will need a Quarantine tag for such seeds -- I rather doubt it but it would, I suppose, be best to play safe. So why don't you send a tag to Dr W & C Forsyth, Research Dept, Tela Railroad Co, La Lima, Honduras, and ask him to send 100 fresh seeds. (I am wondering if they will germinate after even a week en route, but cant lose much by trying).

My Red Ceylon, seed of which you gave me, is just loaded down with fruit, which will not ripen for a month or more. Arturo Falla and I are just picking the last of the crop on Flordawon -- this seems keep on coming for six weeks or more, not a bad thing from our point of view but I hear they consider it a defect in the U.S. We think we have found that, by picking Flordawon hard ripe you can get away from that softening of the tip before the base of the fruit is ready for eating. Arturo has been selling beautiful flats of this peach in Guayaquila City for the last month. Our local seedlings are not in the market yet.

My Ruby Blood orange -- if it really is that variety -- is ripening this year (I don't recall previous behavior) at least a month after our local seedling oranges of the Valencia type. I regret to say that my old Fuerte tree which produced a tremendous crop of flowers, does not seem to have any fruit this year -- perhaps a dozen or so. It gave about 250 last year.

I am going into town on the 18th to get my tickets for Boston. Apparently I will have to leave here on Friday 2 June, stop over Saturday in Miami, and proceed to Boston on Sunday the 4th. I will confirm this later, but if it has to happen this way, then I suggest you let me take a taxi from the airport to your house. You can bring me up to the plane on Sunday morning. Aviateca arrives in Miami Friday 2nd at 2.50 p.m., or 14.50 as the gal at Aviateca told me. This is just a preliminary warning.

Do you plan to attend the ASH meeting in Panama? Seems to me you might combine this with the trip to Lencetilla. I guess I will have to go to the Panama mtg, and if I do I think I might stop a couple of days in Costa Rica to see if they are doing anything with temperate zone fruits.

June 14, 1967
11925 Alled Clarke

Dear Uncle Wilson,

This is Sally Lobeck, ~~she is~~
in my scout troop. I've told
her about your home and the
family is now reading Adamic's
book. They would enjoy seeing as
much of the house as possible.

So sorry we could not meet
you at the airport on Sat. Evelyn
said she would go over.

Love,
Jeri Popewell

Juanito: Looks like the question of Sally's medicines is clearing up a bit. I find we can get Stelazine here, though in doses of 1 and 2 mgms, (we would have to give her five at a time, of the 2 mgm) but we cannot get Cogentin. Dr Ainslie says it is not permitted to come into the country commercially, but you can bring it in your luggage, presumably for your own use. Hence, if you do not get a shipment from Ed Halley in plenty of time, try to get two bottles of Cogentin and ask Evelyn to bring them in her purse, tho I am sure they will not bother any medicines she has in her suitcase. This whole business is becoming quite a nuisance to all of us, but I feel hopeful that Ed will do the needful. Sally says we should have handled the matter through Ed's father, he is a medice himself and I believe honest and reliable, which Ed aint.

Again about the Program. Maybe I have made it too elaborate. That is one reason why I think you better go over it and tell me what changes I should make. I do feel that it would be a magnificent thing for the Montgomery Fdn to undertake a program along the lines I have suggested. If it seems a bit appalling, cut down some of the details; they could be added later if developments indicate.

Antigua, Guatemala 22 June 1968

Dear Juanito:

Ament your aereogramme of 19th instant. I have obtained permission from the 7th Day Adventists to use this what we call Sunday to prepare a rough draft of what I have in mind re program for the Montgomery Foundation. I feel that I should not present this to Nixon until you have gone over it and given me your views, since you are going to be the one to carry it out. Of course you will throw out the Myrtaceae, but I still reinsert them, maybe. I didn't mention the guavas - a pure oversight, and in the final draft they should be included, if only to the extent that propagating material should be available to the outside world. Luis Sarasola is pretty enthusiastic about the material (seed) we sent him.

Using this preliminary progra, as a starter, go ahead and give me your views. I think one of the most important points is to make it clear that one man is needed to have for the collections day by day and keep the records. I think the latter are important - we want them on the ~~AK~~ D Shamel basis. And I think it should be made clear that the program is guaranteed financial support without the cutting of funds from year to year which always handicaps work at govt stations. I feel sure Nell will want to see that this is the case.

Send back your new draft, then I will prepare a final one and send it to Nixon right away. I believe the administrative arrangement as suggested in my program will work out quite satisfactorily, con paciencia y buena fé de ambas partes. Of course I don't know what sort of a set-up Nell may want, but I believe this feature is no real problem: the main thing is to hire a good man to carry out the work as you want it carried out, and not to have someone say "This

Objectives of the Montgomery Foundation Tropical Fruit Program.

1. To create and maintain a collection on an International Basis. This would be in line with the objectives of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, and it ~~seems to me~~ ^{work} would set off the Montgomery Foundation as distinct from Chapman Field and the Subtropical Experiment Station, which of course operate, to a certain extent, on an International basis but ~~do not~~ ^{cannot} emphasize this feature. ^{the} This the Montgomery Foundation would create a separate place for itself and gain world-wide prestige which the other two really cannot do because of their political limitations. The Montgomery Foundation can become a great institution, allied to the FTG, which ~~will has and~~ ^{later} will continue to specialize on ~~the side of~~ Ornamental Horticulture.

2. The Montgomery Foundation will ^{operate} ~~work~~ along ~~some~~ the following lines:

(a) The introduction and trial of tropical fruit species and varieties which it will obtain through special channels which have not been fully developed by the other institutions mentioned. This can be done through the FTG and ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{associated horticulturists} others who have ~~xxxxxxx~~ useful contacts abroad.

(b) The maintenance, on a dynamic basis, of commercial or promising varieties of such fruits as the avocado, mango, annonas, lychees, gashews, Caricas, the myrtaceous fruit, the sapotaceous fruits, and a few others. By a "dynamic basis" is meant the introduction and to a certain extent the breeding of varieties, ^{progressively} eliminating those which are of little or no value, to avoid giving space and ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{and xxxxxx} expensive cultural attention to them.

The Montgomery Foundation has ~~the best land~~ better land for

this work than Chapman Field or the Subtropical Experiment Station, and thus is placed in a much more favorable situation than any other institution in southern Florida.

3. In connection with the program, the Montgomery Foundation will maintain careful records regarding growth, productiveness, and cultural problems of all trees in its collection. This will require the services of one competent man, whose work will be supervised by the Director of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, who in turn will be responsible to the Director of the Montgomery Foundation, who will from time to time review the work and policies ~~xxxxx~~ and approve or disapprove of any features.

4. Here are a few suggestions - just suggestions - as to some of the special fields of interest and importance. If in some ~~xxxxx~~ instances they seem to overlap on the work of Chapman Field and the Subtropical Experiment Station, the answer is that the field is so broad and the need so great that not even half a dozen institutions could do too much.

AVOCADOS. In addition to maintaining a collection of the best varieties which will produce satisfactorily in South Florida, (eliminating obsolete ones from time to time and adding new and promising ones) useful information could be obtained by keeping records of annual production. Fertilizer experiments would hardly be worth while, because this subject has been pretty well covered at Homestead and because fertilizer requirements vary so greatly, according to soils. Very little attention has been devoted to avocado rootstocks. Something might be done in this connection.

Pollination studies have been worked on extensively, and are too greatly dependent on climatic conditions, to warrant attention here. Perhaps the main objective should be to maintain a fine

3

source of propagating material for other countries.

MANGOS. After establishing the best present-day varieties, the introduction of varieties and races from regions which have not yet been adequately tapped would be the prime consideration. Indonesian varieties, and those of the little-known Julie race have been sadly neglected. Doubtless there are also some new varieties in India which should be brought in. Little has been done in this field in recent years. The subject of rootstocks for the mango has been given little attention and seems to real importance. A start might be made by getting information from Israel where rootstock trials have been conducted during the past ten years or more. Some attention should be given to the effect of environmental factors on productiveness.

ANNONAS. This subject, so dear to David Fairchild's heart, should come in for major attention. Assemble species and varieties, especially the atemoya hybrids. Make new hybrids. Work on the problem of severe pruning of old trees to bring out young and more productive wood. *Put the guanabana on a sound basis*

LYCHEES. Much more work is needed on this refractory fruit tree. New varieties seem to offer the most hope. Get as many as possible, *grow 1000* and produce seedlings hopefully. Neither Chapman Field nor Homestead has ~~xxxxxx~~ soil as good for lychees as the Montgomery Foundation. Work on cultural practices.

CASHEWS. This crop is attracting much attention in tropical America. It would be well to assemble promising varieties, vegetatively propagated, in order to have material for distribution.

CARICAS. Perhaps not a very promising field, and work done in the past has not been too encouraging. But it might be worth while to *pay some attention to* something with this group.

WAXY ACEOUS FRUITS. Not many of them are worth while, but *pushing*

how about attempting to develop a fine strain of Eugenia uniflora,
and ^{better} good jaboticabas?

SAPOTACEOUS FRUITS, Maintain a fine collection of sapodillas,
get new and better ones. Produce grafted trees for distribution -
they are hard to get today. Develop some good green sapotes, ^{from}
material available in Guatemala.

TROPICAL FRUIT PROGRAM FOR THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION

1. The primary objective is to maintain and cooperate a collection of interesting and valuable tropical fruits on an international basis. This would complement and broaden the work of the Fairchild Tropical Garden which is primarily concerned with ornamentals. It would gain international prestige and be internationally useful to a greater extent that is possible for either Chapman Field of the Subtropical Experiment Station, both of which have political limitations.

2. The Montgomery Foundation will operate along the following lines:

a. To introduce and test tropical fruit species and varieties which it will obtain through special channels which have not been fully developed by the other institutions mentioned. This can be done through foreign contacts of the FTG and friends of the latter abroad.

b. The maintenance, on a dynamic basis, of commercially valuable or promising varieties of such fruits as the avocado, mango, annonas, lychees, cashews, caricas, the myrtaceous fruits and the sapotaceous fruits. And others which time will bring into the picture. By a "dynamic basis" is meant the introduction and in some cases the breeding of varieties, progressively eliminating those which prove to be of little value so as to avoid devote space and effort to unimportant material.

The Montgomery Foundation has better land for this this work than either Chapman Field or the Subtropical Experiment Station, and would not be handicapped by the annual uncertainty of funds

3. In connection with the operation of the Program, the Montgomery Foundation will keep careful records of growth, productiveness, and cultural problems on all trees in the collection. This will require the services of one competent semi-technical man whose work will be supervised by the Director of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, who in turn will be responsible to the Director of the Montgomery Foundation, who will from time to time review policies and operations and approve or disapprove them.

4. Here are a few suggestions as to some of the special fields of interest and importance. If in some instances suggested activities seem to duplicate or overlap work at Chapman Field or the Subtropical Experiment Station, the answer is that the field is so great that not even half a dozen institutions can do enough to meet the needs of tropical pomology.

AVOCADOS. In addition to maintaining a collection of the best varieties which will produce satisfactorily in southern Florida (eliminating obsolete ones from time to time and adding new and promising ones) useful information could be obtained by keeping records of annual production (tree by tree) and other features of horticultural importance. Fertilizer experiments hardly seem worth while, because this subject, as far as south Florida is concerned, has been pretty well studied at Homestead, and fertilizer requirements vary so greatly from place to place, in accordance with differences in soils. Very little attention has been devoted to avocado rootstocks. Something might be done along this line, though here again results obtained in Florida may not be applicable all over the tropics. Pollination studies have been carried on so extensively in many regions, and seem to be especially important upon local climatic conditions as well as the variety concerned, that it hardly seems worth while to spend much time on them here.

An important objective should be to maintain a good source of propagating material for other parts of the world.

MANGOS. After establishing a collection of the best present-day varieties, the introduction of races and varieties from other parts of the world which have not been adequately tapped should be given prime consideration. Since the work done under David Fairchild's direction in the early 1900s, this field has been neglected. The objectives should be: mangos which are productive of fruits of good commercially quality, and which do not have such erratic bearing habits as most of these ^{with} which we are working today. Consideration should be given to the Indonesian race (Saigon or Cambodiana of Philippine), to the Julie race, and perhaps should include some varieties which have recently attracted attention in several parts of India.

The subject of rootstocks for the mango has been given little attention in the New World, and not much in the Old. It is a very promising field, as suggested by recent work done in Israel.

ANNONAS. This group of tropical fruit trees, so dear to David Fairchild's heart, should come in for major attention, especially the development of hybrids of the atemoya type and the production of hybrids which produce good crops of fruit of the guanábana type. Attention should also be given to the possibility of increasing productivity through attention to moist microclimates and through severe pruning of old wood to bring out new growth bearing more flowers than is commonly the case on old wood.

LYCHEES. Much more work is needed on this refractory fruit tree. New varieties seem to offer the best hope. Get as many as possible, especially from regions with very mild winters. Work on cultural practices. Neither Chapman Field nor Homestead has soil as

CASHEWS. This crop is attracting much attention in tropical America. It would be well to assemble promising varieties, vegetatively propagated, for distribution of material to interested regions. The amount of attention devoted to this crop might well be limited until further developments in tropical America point the way.

CARICAS. Perhaps not a very promising field, but material from regions where much work has been done might well be brought together for study and distribution.

MYRTACEOUS FRUITS. Not many of them are worth pushing, but if a really fine strain of Eugenia uniflora could be developed it would be valuable for sherbets, Mellies and the like. The world is abundantly supplied with jelly fruits, of course, but the combination of a fine hedge plant and an attractive little fruit is interesting. The Brazilians knew how to use this fruit; we do not. Jaboticabas need some attention: large fruited varieties of good flavor, as dooryard trees.

SAPOTACEOUS FRUITS. A good collection of sapodillas should be brought together; new varieties looked for, wherever sapodillas are abundantly grown, and grafted trees made available - or at least, propagating material. The green sapote (Achradelpha viridis) of Guatemala, introduced by Bill Whitman some years ago, should be given some attention, though introducing superior varieties propagated by grafting.

Antigua, Guatemala, 23 July 1968

Mr Nixon Smiley, Director
The Montgomery Foundation
Miami, Florida.

Dear Nixon:

Attached are my views re the role which the Montgomery Foundation could and should play in the field of tropical fruit production. David Fairchild could have done a much better job of portraying the future of such a program. The field is tremendous, the need is great. This I can say with confidence because I am somewhat familiar with the field, so far as tropical America is concerned, and to a certain extent in several other parts of the world.

I think the international aspect of this program should be stressed. Neither Chapman Field nor Homestead has ever been able to do this, for obvious political reasons, and I believe the Montgomery Foundation would have the enthusiastic moral support of the United States government if it put this feature in the foreground and kept it there.

Sincerely yours,

TROPICAL FRUIT PROGRAM FOR THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION

The Fairchild Tropical Garden is internationally useful, and has gained great prestige, in the field of ornamental horticulture. The Montgomery Foundation should round out the program by developing and maintaining a collection of tropical fruits, especially those of major importance. The Montgomery Foundation has better land for this purpose than either Chapman Field or the Subtropical Experiment Station at Homestead and will not be handicapped by changes in policy and financial support, as are government institutions.

The Foundation is prepared to introduce fruit varieties which are not available through governmental channels. It is prepared to test these under careful supervision, and supply propagating material to institutions and individuals in any part of the world. This feature would supplement the maintenance of a collection of standard varieties of important tropical fruits with a view to supplying propagating material mainly on an international basis. The international importance and value of this work can not be over-emphasized.

In connection with the operation of this Program, the Montgomery Foundation will keep careful records of growth, productiveness and cultural problems on all fruit varieties in the collection. This will require the services of one competent semi-professional man. The expense involved will be more than justified by the accumulation of more complete information than has been obtained from similar work done in the past.

AVOCADOS. In addition to maintaining a collection of the best varieties which can be grown satisfactorily in southern Florida (eliminating obsolete ones from time to time, and adding promising new ones) records should be kept of production, tree by tree, and other features of horticultural importance. Fertilizer experiments scarcely seem worth while, so far as South Florida is concerned, because this feature has been rather fully investigated by the Subtropical Experiment Station, and any work done at the Montgomery Foundation would not be wholly applicable to other parts of the world. Very little attention has been devoted to avocado rootstocks. Something might be done along this line, though here again results obtained in Florida will not be applicable to all other regions.

The major objective of work with this fruit would be the provision of propagating material for other parts of the world. There is great need for a good source of supply.

MANGOS. After establishing a collection of the most important present-day commercial varieties (as well as those for the home garden) the introduction of races and varieties from other parts of the world should be a prime objective. Ever since the early work done by David Fairchild and his associates (the early 1900s) this field has been neglected. The objective should be the securing of varieties of good commercial quality, which do not have the erratic bearing habits of most of those varieties available today. Consideration should be given to the Indonesian race (Saigon or Cambodiana or Filipino, as it is sometimes called); to the Julie race; and perhaps to some of the East Indian varieties which have appeared recently.

The subject of rootstocks for the mango has been given little attention in the New World, and not much in the Old. It is a very promising field, as suggested by recent work done in Israel, and

ANNONAS. This group of tropical fruit trees, dear to the heart of David Fairchild, should come in for much attention. Especially promising are hybrids of the atemoya type, It may also be possible to develop a hybrid of the guanábana type, which will be as frost-resistant as the cherimoya, and at the same time bear good crops. Attention should be given to increasing productivity of present forms of annona through specialised cultural practices.

LYCHEES. Much more work is needed on this refractory fruit tree. New varieties seem to offer the best hope. Get as many as possible, especially from regions with mild winters. Work on cultural practices. Probably no other place in Florida has such good conditions for this work as the Montgomery Foundation.

MYRTACEOUS FRUITS. Not many of these are worth pushing, but the Guava is of considerable commercial importance in many parts of the world, and there has already been a demand for propagating material of superior varieties. A few plants each of some of the minor myrtaceous fruits, such as the jaboticaba and the pitanga, should be in the collection, and efforts should be made to develop superior varieties.

CASHEWS. This fruit is attracting much attention in tropical America. It would be well to assemble promising varieties, for distribution of propagating material which is now difficult to obtain.

CARICAS. Perhaps not a very promising field, but material from regions where much work has been done, might be brought together for study and distribution.

SAPOTACEOUS FRUITS. A good collection of Sapodillas should by all means be assembled and propagated, and new varieties sought. The Green Zapote (Achradelpha viridis) might well be given some attention.



667-1651



The Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156

January 15, 1970

Dear Member:

It has been nearly four months since your membership renewal notice was sent out for 1970. Our records show that you have not yet renewed your membership.

The Garden still needs your support to continue improving its service to the community in the fields of research, education and maintenance of outstanding collections of tropical plants.

It is not too late to get in on this year's distribution of plants to members. You will see some rare plants on the distribution list in our January bulletin.

Your membership card will take on additional value this year since we are charging admission to the Garden and a membership card will entitle you to enter free.

Won't you please send in your membership renewal at once?

Sincerely yours,

Fairchild Tropical Garden

John Popenoe
John Popenoe
Director

JP/pw

P.S. If you have already sent your check, please disregard this notice.

Popenoe
11925 SW 8th St.
Miami, Fl. 33158



ALWAYS USE
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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD



Dear Uncle Wilson,

May 26, 1972

We received all 20 of the books as I think perhaps I wrote you. There are still a few left so I'll get 3 of them down to Dona Isabela.

The mango crop is rather erratic this year and our share of it will be late. The litchis are almost non-existent here but other people have a few. Avocados look all right.

I went to Boston earlier this week to the centennial celebrations of the Arnold Arboretum. It was my first visit to Boston or the arboretum and I'm afraid I wasn't much impressed. Even though it was the height of the flowering season with tulips, dogwood, redbuds, lilac etc. Also, I don't think they maintain the grounds quite as well as we do at F.T.B. A couple of weeks ago I had a nice visit with Hugh. We went out to the farm where he was having calf trouble. Also tried a little fishing but with no success. Hugh still keeps plenty busy.

We have had a lot of turmoil at F.T.B. lately. I found that Bill Gillis had been actively campaigning for some time to get me removed from office. The board made a thorough investigation and recommended that I ask for Gillis' resignation. He refused to resign so I fired him. Unfortunately he was very close to Kay Sweeney - having lived at the Kensing for 3 1/2 yrs. I'm afraid we are going to lose all her support because of this. He had a number of people on his side and of course they had been keeping track of everything I did for several years and could point out my mistakes I made or people I treated badly. It has been a rotten situation but I think it is about over, although I'll probably never know who all was involved and what they charged me with. The hearings went on for a month and most of the staff was interviewed by a special committee of the board. The whole thing has ruined my spring and left me somewhat exhausted.

We are going to spend about a month in Maryland this summer. We will be there most of the month of June so if you miss my regular letters you'll know why.

Dottie will be finishing her freshman year in about 2 weeks and has made a pretty good record academically. She's beginning to get serious about a boy now, tho, so who knows what will happen.

Love from us all, John

J. Popenoe
11935 Old Cutler Rd.
Miami, Fla. 33156
USA



Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala,
Central America

AÉROGRAMME • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

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Additional message area

Do not use tape or stickers to seal.
① Fold first at notch

Nov 13 [1933]

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Thanks for your letter of 31 Oct. We are delighted with the news that you are planning a trip up this way next March. It has been a long time since we saw you.

There is definitely no substance to the rumor that avocados can be imported. I checked with the quarantine officials - they said you still have seed weevil and we don't so there is no change.

We are all getting along well. Debbie is a sophomore now at So. Fla. and Nat is a junior at Palmetto Sr. High. Juanita is doing fine in school and Jennifer is growing up fast. Jerry as usual keeps busy with all kinds of things as well as taking care of us all and feeding us too well.

Mabel Dorn died last week but most of the rest of your friends are doing well. Many visitors still ask me if my father is still living in Guatemala etc. so you can see that there is much interest in your ben easter. I haven't seen Isabel Krome lately, but as far as I know she is still doing well enough. Johnny Lynch came over to the Horticultural Society meetings last week and appeared to be doing fine. Ed Menninger was also there. Eric Golby was supposed to be at the meetings but had to go into the hospital with some stomach ailment instead.

I haven't seen Hugh for quite some time. If you were here we could drive up for a visit.

Please give our love to Alice -

John



Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156

November 28, 1972

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Uncle Wilson:

Yours of November 14 has been received and duly noted. We would of course be most interested in your horticultural library. Unfortunately, we would not be able to retain duplicates, however, and would have to sell them.

I don't know your library too well so I am not sure what you have that is not already represented here. We already have Engler and Prantl "Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" in the original and I believe all of Paul Standley's floras of tropical regions. If we were given these we would have to sell them because of lack of space for so many duplicates. I would suggest that they be given to some Central American library such as at the University at Tegucigalpa, although I don't know anything about their library.

If you could make a list of your rarer books, I can tell you which ones we would want. In general I think we would already have many of them, though the Ahuacate yearbooks would be an exception. I have a personal set of these but the Garden has only a few issues.

I have just been reviewing a manuscript by O. B. Bergh in which he carefully describes the distinction between the side-wedge graft and the veneer graft. Our veneer graft involves two cuts in the rootstock. The first one similar to the side-wedge graft cut and then a second one that leaves a little notch of the base of the scion to fit into. A true veneer graft should be just one long cut on the rootstock and one cut on the scion. Some term should be used to distinguish our type of veneer from the true one. Maybe it should be called a wedge-veneer graft because it combines these two types of graft - actually a veneer with a small wedge on the bottom. I think Ruehle thought it would be simpler just to call it a side-veneer graft.

We are busy getting ready for Ramble this week-end. It is always a big day for us and we expect this one to be the biggest yet. We have been having good rains this month but perhaps we can be spared rain during the Ramble.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe

Page 2

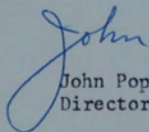
November 28, 1972

I am enclosing a little add for mangosteens. A number came onto the local market this year but the quality was not good. They can't be held very long in storage. The same problem exists with lychee.

We hope to see you here next spring.

Yours always,

Fairchild Tropical Garden


John Popenoe
Director

JP/pw

Enclosure



MANGOSTEENS

QUEEN OF ALL TROPICAL FRUITS

NATIVE OF THE FAR EAST

1st TIME OFFERED.

NEW TO THE UNITED STATES, SHIPPED BY AIR.
READY TO EAT. WILL KEEP UNDER NORMAL RE-
FRIGERATION.

DELICIOUS FLAVOR WILL WIN YOU OVER FROM
THE VERY FIRST TASTE. JUST OPEN AS SHOWN
IN DIAGRAM AND EAT OUT OF HAND.

EXOTIC PRESERVE CAN BE MADE BY BOILING,
THE EDIBLE FLESH AND SEED IN BROWN SUGAR.

"MANGOSTEENS" WILL ENHANCE ANY MEAL AND
ARE LOW CALORIE.

QUOTE FROM: "ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE."

"THE WORLDS BEST FLAVORED FRUIT."

"INDESCRIBABLY DELICIOUS."

"MOST LUSCIOUS FRUIT IN THE WORLD."



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Digitized by IF YOU LIKE "MANGOS" AND LIKE "LYCHEES" YOU'VE
GOT TO LOVE "MANGOSTEENS"

Antigua, Guatemala 23 November 1973

Dr John Popenoe, Director
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, Florida.

Dear John:

Your will recall that several years ago I took up with you the possibility of selling the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Plant Introduction which was published by Escuela Agricola Panamericana in 1966. I have forgotten just what happened, but for some reason we did not get anywhere, perhaps because Bob Armour wanted cash - two dollars was the price he had published, for copies ordered from the school.

As you know, there has recently been a change in administration at EAP and when I was over there a few weeks ago I talked with the new Director, Kermit Adams, who is a good friend of mine, about the possibility of getting rid of a goodly number of these books. At my suggestion and at the expense of the Rockefeller Foundation we had 2000 copies printed. I don't know how many are still on hand but I suspect there must be a thousand.

There is a lot of valuable information in this book, especially the history of Plant Introduction in the U.S. Dept of Agriculture in which, naturally, David Fairchild and his work come in for much attention. You doubtless have a copy of the work in your office and I wish you would get it out and look it over carefully with the following in mind:

I got the impression that Kermit Adams would be willing to put a goodly number of these books in your hands, to be sold at FTG, you Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, give half to EAP. It seems to me if you offered this book at two dollars, which is the price EAP still charges

I believe, you could sell a lot of them. You would probably want charge more - and I think you might, but I wouldn't raise the price too much, though if published commercially today a book of this size, hard-bound, would not sell for less than \$4.50 I would think. Don't you agree? But I think if you offered it at that price you would not sell many, as it is not a text book or a handbook but a series of papers presented at the Symposium held at EAP in 1966, many of which cover material of permanent interest. And there are a number of interesting illustrations connected with plant introduction, including a fine one of David Fairchild members of the Garden would prize.

Please give this matter serious thought and see if you don't think the garden could make two or three hundred dollars out of it, over a period of two or three years. You could bring it to the attention of your members through mentioning it in your Journal. The only thing I can see against it is that I am mentioned in it too often, due to the fact that the Symposium was given in my honor, to a certain extent.

If you don't feel you want to handle this, on the basis - which was not the one suggested some years ago - that it will cost you nothing in cash, what do you think of my turning the job over to Ed Menninger, if Kermit Adams would give it to him on the same basis I have just outlined. And I must add that this offer is not official, but I have reason to believe it will hold, even though the school has for more than five years help out for two dollars a copy, all to go to EAP. Bob thought the Rockefeller expected to have any money made from sales of the book but I do not believe this was the case; I would check with them before asking Kermit to go ahead, however.

John Popenoe
Fairchild Tropical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Miami, Florida 33156
U. S. A.



Dr. Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala C. A.

AEROGramme • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

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Additional message area

Fairchild Tropical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Miami, Florida 33156

November 27, 1973

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala C. A.

Dear Uncle Wilson,

Thanks for your letter of 23 November. We have been selling the book on the International Symposium on Plant Introduction for \$3 each. Of the 20 copies sent to us in February 1972, there are seven copies left. Mrs. Felton, our shop manager, believes that reducing the price would not increase sales but if anything reduce sales by depreciating the book.

We would have no place to store 1000 copies and they would last us for ever. We do feel that we could handle as many as 100 copies under the terms you mention. I wonder what condition the books are presently in and also what the shipping cost would be. One hundred copies would give us an eight or ten year supply and I don't think we want to project our inventory much longer than that.

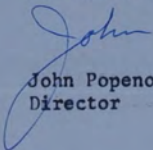
Mrs. Krome came to the Garden for our annual plant distribution. She is getting rather feeble now and walking with a cane and generally someone with her. You probably heard about her stroke last summer. Fortunately her mind is still perfectly clear.

The Garden is in fine shape now and we are looking forward to a big Ramble. The family is all well and wondering when you are coming up this way for a visit. We were disappointed that Hugh lost out on his bid to become the Director of Natural Resources for the State of Florida.

Give our best to Alice.

Sincerely yours,

Fairchild Tropical Garden



John Popenoe
Director

JP/ma

J. Popenoe
11925 Oak Center Rd.
Miami, Fla. 33156
Le SA



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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

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Additional message area

April 16, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilson,

I'm glad you enjoyed Mrs Douglas' book about Uncle Barbour and D.F. I found it to be fascinating reading.

Isabel Matthews phoned this morning saying that she and Mrs Grace Lambert are planning a trip to Guatemala and will be in Antigua on April 26. I know that this is very short notice, but I would appreciate anything you could do for Mrs Lambert. As you will recall she has been very generous to the Fairchild Tropical Garden and we hope will continue to be. Isabel Matthews is also a good friend of ours who lives on Miami Beach.

Your brother Paul and his wife has been visiting with us and will leave tomorrow. I'm sure you will get a fuller report from them shortly. Natalie is leaving for 2 months in Spain tomorrow also. She will be studying at Nerja for a month and then spend a month at the Escorial. Debby was down for the week-end and is looking forward to her trip to Mexico this summer. Juanita and Jenny are keeping busy as of course is Jerry.

Give our best wishes to Alice -
Dinore tu afms sobrina
John

Popenoe
11425 Old Cotton Rd.
Miami Fl 33156
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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala
Central America



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Additional message area

June 17, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilson,

We put Debbie on the plane for Mexico, Saturday and we assume that she is well settled in the Dormitory at the Universidad de Las Americas in Puebla, Pue, by now. As a matter of fact she should be registered and starting classes. We anticipate that she will have an enjoyable summer as well as learn a little Español, archeology etc.

We understood from your letters that she showed us that you had invited her to come home by way of Guatemala. Consequently she is booked on an Aviateca flight from Mexico to Quai, on August 25 (flight #401). If for any reason this plan turns out to be inconvenient for you she can change it easily and come straight home. She also said that you might visit her in Mexico sometime during the summer. I know she would love to see you. As soon as we get her correct address we will send it to you, but you might get it first.

Natalie has just returned from 9 weeks in Spain. She loved it there and is now speaking pretty good Spanish. She is telling us stories about the Alhambra, Malaga, Toledo etc and we are getting anxious to visit it ourselves someday. If anything I think she enjoyed her four weeks in Nerja more than in Madrid.

Mrs Lambert and her companion returned from Guatemala disappointed in not seeing you but she did enjoy the tour through your house. I spent half a day taking her through the garden here when she returned. The next V.I.P. who goes your way will get a letter to carry with them.

We have had and are having a good mango crop, but the litchis were just about nil. *Matia cordata* has not flowered but the *Swins* has one fruit on it. Bill Whitman has a good crop on *Bouea macrophylla* but still no mangosteens.

I hear that Sancti Spiritus has been given to the Honduran Government. I hope they do something toward maintaining it.

We are all well and enjoying the Florida summer sun. We plan to go to Maryland for the summer but Jerry & I will fly out to Denver for some meetings and then to Los Angeles for a

much love to you & Alice
John

Popenoe
11425 Oaklawn Rd.
Mission, 36. 39156
U.S.A.



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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America



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Additional message area

July 18, 1974

Dear Uncle Wilson,

We enjoyed yours of 29 June and greatly appreciate your interest in Debbie and your offer to meet her in the city. I'm sure you have heard from her by now, but if not her address is, Universidad de las Americas, P.O. Box 427, Santa Catarina Martín, Pue. Mexico. She seems to be getting a little homesick and unhappy with her surroundings. I'm afraid she doesn't make friends too easily so she appreciates notes from her friends. I hope she is learning lots of Spanish.

We had a visit recently from a young Guatemalan abogodo, Juan Roberto Eskinas. His Uncle is Consul here so he has come to learn English. He says he lives across the street from the President in Gua. City. He like F.T.C. - said it looked like the Country around Esquintha.

We are leaving Saturday for Maryland. Next Thursday Jerry & I are leaving the children with their Grandma in Baltimore and then flying to Denver for meetings. We will go from there to L.A. for a few days visit with the elder Popewes and then return to Baltimore. I'll give you a report on your brother after I see him. When He and my mother were here in March he seemed to be in fine shape. I said he was going to get some of the problems at the Institute settled this summer so that he could take a longer trip this fall and possibly visit you - all in Guatemala. Perhaps he has written you of this. His major problems seem to be to get people at the Institute who are willing to work.

We trust you have left your period of bad health behind and will go on indefinitely now carrying out a full schedule. We'd love to have you up here for a visit. We don't want you to get like me - Krome and just stay home all the time because you don't want to embarrass anyone by going to visit them and then lying on their doorstep. Last time we heard Mrs. Krome was washing her windows and not at all worried about the future otherwise - Much love, John