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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.

T. Graydon Upton
5315 Albemarle St
Washington D C

[Apr 1960]

We were so interested in the
"Columbus" discussion, we
thought this might interest

~~Mr. and Mrs. T. Graydon Upton~~

you. With best wishes from
us both -

Aunt Graydon Upton

Antigga, Guatemala, 1 May 1960

Dear Mr and Mrs Upton:

When I address a letter to Albemarle Street it makes me a bit nostalgic. Oh, those dear dead days beyond recall! But it is not the purpose of this message to talk about Washington in the early 1900's, but to thank you heartily for that delightful book on the history of the Armada.

It seems to me this is a very factual account, without bias, and well written. It seems the Spaniards, in the first place, got too far from base and did not get the assistance they expected from the mainland. The British began to knock them off, one by one, but not just like sitting ducks. Finally lack of supplies and foul weather whipped them, but not lack of Spanish valor!

Do come down and see us again. Helen joins me in warm regards.

Sincerely,

MRS. T. GRAYDON UPTON
ROUTE 2, BOX 437
MCLEAN, VA.

Saturday, June the 5th.

[1965]

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Do you remember that Graydon and I have been over to your house several times with the de Solas? You were kind enough to say that we might ask you if we could spend the night in your house if we came to Antigua again, and I am coming down for a trip through Central America with our 16 yr. old son and his 16 yr. old friend Mike McClintock (whose father used to work for the United Fruit Co. for years) in July and wonder if it would be at all possible for us to spend a night sometime the week of July 5th, probably July 6th, depending on the bus schedule. If this is inconvenient, not suitable, or in any way upsetting, please be very frank with us.

yours sincerely,

Ann Nash Upton

Jinotega 15 de Julio de 1960

Doctor
Wilson Popenoe.
Antigua Guatemala.
Guatemala, A. C.-

Estimado Dr. Popenoe:

Hace algunos días tuve la grata sorpresa de encontrarme con una pequeña plantación - de Matazanos, en un lugar distante 15 K al Sur de Jinotega. Traje, para sembrar en el patio de la casa - 200 semillas, que espero habrán de servirme como patrones ó bien para injertar Matazanos en patrones de citrus.

Conocía el Matazano por lo que dice Fruticultura Centroamericana en la página 300.-

Asimismo, he puesto en mi patio 120 semillas de Durazno, que espero usar como patrones para injertar la variedad que existe en Jinotega. El regalo que Ud. me hizo ha venido a avivar la llama que tenía latente en mi simpatía por los asuntos de Horticultura.

Hasta la fecha, no he recibido contestación del Dr. Standleny sobre los informes que le pedí en relación con el Elequeme. No pierdo las esperanzas de llegarme a Honduras, talvez en la época de las vacaciones de Navidad. Y si el tiempo y la plata lo permiten, espero llegarme a Guatemala para visitarlo en Antigua.

Oportunamente tendré ocasión - de comunicarle cualquier resultado que pueda obtener sobre lo que ahora estoy iniciando. Mientras tanto, - ruego a Ud. se sirva aceptar el saludo siempre cordial y afectuoso de su alumno que lo recuerda con especial cariño. Atentamente;

Francisco Urbina S.
Agr. Francisco Urbina S.
Oficina Regional IFN.
Jinotega.

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 octubre de 1960

Sr Agrónomo Francisco Urbina S.,
Jinotega, Nicaragua.

Mi querido ex-discípulo:

A mi regreso del Perú encontré su muy apreciable cartita del 15 de julio. Me interesa que Ud esté dedicando algún tiempo al estudio de los matasanos, aunque no creo que las variedades que tenemos en Central America sean tan buenas como las de Méjico. Y debo decirle que hasta la fecha no tenemos datos que indican que se puede injertar Casimiroa en Citrus o vice-versa. Sin embargo, vale la pena probarlo otra vez.

Siga con los duraznos, y cuando tenga patrones (y el mejor patrón para las buenas variedades es el mismo durazno del país) ~~listos para~~ ^{para} tener el injerto, yo podré mandarle puas de unas variedades superiores de aquí.

He despachado al Ing. Astorga una lista de frutales - manzanos, perales, ciruelos (sobre todo) y duraznos para la proyectada plantación experimental en Santa Lastenia. Ojalá el Infonac podrá completar los arreglos para empezar a trabajar el año entrante en enero y febrero - que es la época para recibir arbolitos de California y Florida.

Si Ud podrá venir a Guatemala por la Navidad - y Ojalá sea posible, no le perdonaré nunca si no venga a la Antigua; hay mucho que enseñarle aquí, y varias plantas y vastagos para llevar a Jinotega. Salúdame cariñosamente a su familia, y reciba un abrazo de su afectísimo amigo

Managua, 20 de Mayo de 1963

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

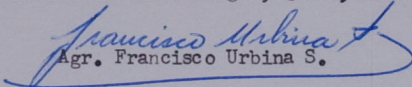
Recordado Dr. Popenoe :

Con los mejores saludos de mi parte, va - para Ud. la comunicación afectuosa de su alumno, deseando se encuentre bien de salud y que nos de pronto la oportunidad de saludarlo personalmente en Nicaragua.

Hace dos meses que estoy en Managua, en la Oficina Principal del Infonac; la estadía en Managua me brinda la ocasión de conversar con algunos Zamoranos que trabajan en el Centro Experimental del Ministerio de Agricultura; con ellos converso sobre temas hortícolas y experiencias de su cargo en el Centro.

Hace varios días salió publicado en los diarios de Managua una invitación de la Organización de Estados Americanos (O. E. A.) para becas que incluyen entre otros estudios sobre Horticultura. Yo he pedido el formulario respectivo y he pensado ponerlo a Ud. como una de las tres personas que podrían dar referencias de mí; espero sepa dispensarme.

Para fines de este mes ó principios del otro, si el tiempo lo permite, estoy seguro que podríamos tenerlo en Nicaragua; desde ahora le ofrezco mi casa en Jinotepé, para atenderlo en la forma que Ud. se merece. Sin más por ahora y con mis deseos de saludarlo en Nicaragua, quedo, atentamente;


Agr. Francisco Urbina S.

Managua, 21 de Octubre de 1963

Señor Dr.
Wilson Popenoe.
Apto. 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Querido Dr. Popenoe :

En la última semana de Septiembre estuve - en Guatemala con el principal objeto de visitarlo y dejarle un pequeño presente; al día siguiente de mi llegada a la Capital - fui a la Antigua y cual no sería mi tristeza al saberlo en - Zamorano; yo pienso visitarlo antes de fin de año, toda vez q' la situación general en Honduras se normalize.

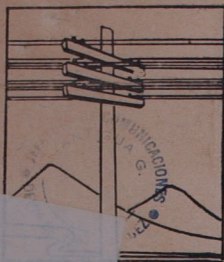
Por toda la vida estaré agradeciendo a Ud. sus finas muestras de generosidad y simpatía que permitieron - mi ingreso a la Asociación de Horticultura; gracias, muchas - gracias, siendo que ello me ha animado en mejorar hasta donde me es posible los conocimientos sobre Horticultura.

Quiero ofrecerle una casita que gracias a Dios he terminado en Jinotepe. Paso la semana en Managua, tra bajando en el Instituto, saliendo el Sabado a medio día para - Jinotepe. En ese lugar y en Masatepe hay varios muchachos q' les gusta trabajar con Injertos; ya he platicado con ellos y solo la bulla habida en Honduras nos atrazó para viajar a - San Marcos de Colón en busca de cierto material de rosas. Que reamos poner en Jinotepe una regular extensión de terreno para luego proveer a la gente de ciertas variedades de aguacate, - naranjas y rosas. La semana pasada estuve hablando con Orlando Cuevas y creo él estaría dispuesto a acompañarnos en el via je por San Marcos.

Rien Dr: pronto enviaré a Ud. el regalito que no pude entregarle y mientras tengo la oportunidad de salu darlo personalmente, le pido aceptar el saludo siempre cordial y cariñoso de su alumno

Francisco Urbina S.
Agr. Francisco Urbina S.

TELECOMUNICACIONES NACIONALES GUATEMALA CENTRO AMERICA



TELEGRAMA

DR. WILSON POPENOE.



2 GF MZ 1957. 1100 1230/

SUC. 25 DE JUNIO, GUATE 21 MAR 60/

NUEVOS ALUMNOS ZAMORANO DESEAMOS CAMBIAR IMPRESIONES CON USTED
SOLICITAMOS ENTREVISTA FIJANDO USTED FECHA Y HORA ÉSTA SEMANA,
ATENTAMENTE.

VICTOR M URRUTIA

Tela Railroad Company
Research Division
La Lima, Honduras, C.A.
August 20, 1963

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
E.A.P.
Valle de El Zamorano

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

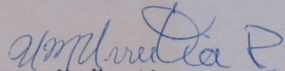
My name is Victor M. Urrutia. I am from Guatemala. I graduated from the E.A.P. last December and was awarded the "Wilson Popenoe Scholarship".

I've been under a general training at the Research Division of the Tela Railroad Co. and now I am getting ready to leave for the University of Florida. During the six months I spent here at La Lima, I had the chance to practice what I learned at the school, to learn more matters which undoubtedly will help me greatly in the near future and to know my weak points, so I can put more stress on them in the University. I'm leaving La Lima on August 24th, in order to spend a few days with my family in Guatemala City. My plans are to arrive in Gainesville on September 3rd.

I'm going to take my major in Soil Chemistry and the minor in Statistics. If I succeed and I have the chance to go through the Master's, I would change to Soil Fertility and Statistics. I don't like to make formal plans because I don't know how the studies are in the University. Any way, I've decided to put my strongest efforts to deserve the scholarship that was named in your honor for the great help you have given us, Latin Americans. I know it will not be easy, but I'll do my best.

I don't know you personally but since I have the Wilson Popenoe Scholarship, I feel related to you in that respect. I'm here with another boy, who has a Rockefeller scholarship. Please receive our sincere regards. With best wishes, I remain,

Yours truly,


Victor M. Urrutia
28 Calle "A" 14-49, Zona 5
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala, C.A.

VMU:maa

References: "Pops" Rudder
Bill Taillon
Carlos Pinto

United Fruit Company
Bananera, Guatemala
March 2, 1970

Dr. W. Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I have read much about you and have read much that you have written but never had the pleasure to meet you. I have been working with United Fruit here for many years (Manager's Office) and have as a hobby, gardening and all things botanical. These subjects provide much of my reading matter.

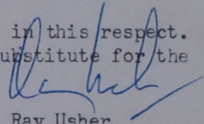
About an year ago, in the vicinity of the Atlantic Highway near the Quirigua area I came across a very showy and exotic flower. It seems to my layman's eyes that it is a relative to the Musae, and either closely related to Heliconia or Strelitza -- in appearance, nearer the latter. The flower is orange around the bract areas and yellow in parts. The little knurls you see in the photograph are seed-pods, and there are three seeds in each little knurl. I recently planted some but germination has not taken place, yet. I thought I would try to find a market for them and have been selling them on-and-off to a City florist.

The plant itself grows, or prefers to grow, in shade under a canopy of forest trees. I rarely if ever find it exposed to full sun. Leaves are 12" to 18", typical banana type and about 6" to 8" wide. Plant is stoloniferous and grows from 5' to 8' high. Leaves are alternate.

Can you identify it for me ? I have only seen this plant in the particular area I mentioned. It seems to prefer a rocky or lime base as if you dig the clumps, rocks and stones are invariably found underneath.

I certainly would appreciate any help you can give me in this respect. I am thinking of trying to export the flowers as a not-as-gaudy substitute for the Bird of Paradise.

Very truly yours,


Ray Usher

Bananera
March 13, 1970

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

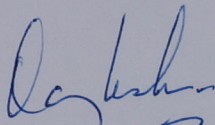
Many thanks for your most encouraging letter of
March 9th.

Subsequent to my writing to you, I came across
the book "Flora of the Lancetilla Valley Honduras" by the
same Paul C. Standley that you mentioned in your letter.
Attached is photocopy of the relevant page on Heliconias.
Plate XXI (photocopy also attached) confirms that this is
Heliconia Crassa.

I think you would like to know that I recently
wrote to a seed firm in the USA sending them the same color
photograph. They wrote back very interested, wish me send
a clump and a few seeds. They say if they decide to include
it in their catalog they will probably require about 10,000
seed. I am also working on the export end.

Once again, thanks for your interest. Quite
often I come across your articles in books and magazines.
Some day, some time, when I next visit Antigua I shall drop
by and look you up.

Sincerely yours,


Ray Usher 7

coloring of the spikes. Like other species, it usually is called "platanillo" in Central America, and by the West Indians "wild plantain" or "wild banana."

Heliconia crassa Griggs. Plate XXI. A comparatively small plant, but sometimes nearly 2 meters high; slender, the stems very leafy throughout their length; leaves sessile or nearly so, small, broadly oblong, bright green; inflorescence small, the few bracts short, narrow, reddish orange with green tips; flowers cream-colored. Frequent in deep mountain forest; occurring also in Guatemala. Perhaps not different from *H. choconiana* Wats. This species is much less conspicuous than the others, but nevertheless a very attractive plant. It begins to flower in March.

Heliconia latispatha Benth. Plants coarse, often 2 meters high, with few leaves, the leaves large and broad, green, thin; inflorescence erect, the bracts narrow, widely spaced, spreading at right angles, long and attenuate, orange-yellow. Common in wet thickets and in forest; a common species of Central America. Called "platanillo" and "guacamaya" in Panama. In Salvador sometimes called "castilloa."

Heliconia librata Griggs. *Bijaguallo*. Plants 2 meters high or less, the large leaves thin and green; inflorescence erect, almost triangular, broadest at the base and rapidly narrowing upward, the bracts long and narrow, closely set, widely spreading, yellow or straw-colored; fruits blue. Occasional in wet mountain forest; growing also in Guatemala.

Heliconia Mariae Hook. *Bijaguallo*. *Heliconia Mariae*. Plants very large, usually 3 meters high or more, much like the banana plant in size and habit, with large leaves; inflorescence very large and pendent, often 60 cm. long or more; narrow, composed of numerous broad, short, closely overlapping bracts, dull deep red. Frequent in wooded swamps near the coast, ranging from Guatemala to Panama. This is the largest of all the Central American *Heliconias*.

MUSA

Musa sapientum L. *Guineo*. *Guineo*. This species, of Old World origin, is the most important plant of the northern coast of Central America upon it depends much of the prosperity of the country. It is a coarse plant, much like the banana, and many millions of the fruit are exported every year to the markets of the United States and Europe. Except the banana, the lowlands of



HELICONIA CRASSA

one of the "wild plantains." A common forest species

*This is in full flower. The snap I sent is in sort of
bud form.*