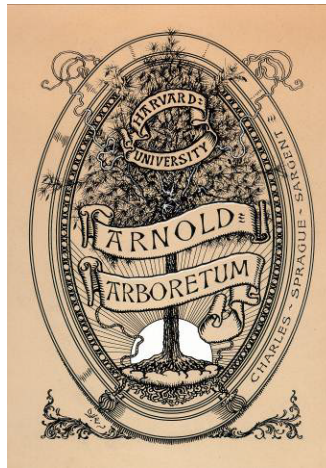


Archives II A-1

**George Russell Shaw (1848-1937) papers, 1886-1942: Guide**



Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University  
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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## II A-1

### **George Russell Shaw (1848-1937) papers, 1886-1942: Guide Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University © 2024 President and Fellows of Harvard College**

#### **Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA

**Call No.:** II A-1

**Location:** Archives

**Title:** George Russell Shaw (1848-1937) papers, 1886-1942.

**Date(s):** 1892-1937

**Creator:** Shaw, George Russell, 1848-1937

**Quantity:** 3 linear feet

**Abstract:** The George R. Shaw collection documents his taxonomic research on the genus *pinus*. Originally trained as an architect at Harvard, Shaw continued his studies at L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and, in 1873 was a founding partner in the architectural firm Shaw & Hunnewell. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Shaw became interested in studying pines and based his taxonomic career at the Arnold Arboretum.

**Note:** Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

**Preferred Citation:** George Russell Shaw papers. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

**Additional Material:** More George Russell Shaw correspondence may be available in the [Arnold Arboretum Correspondence Database](#).

#### **Acquisition Information**

**Provenance:** In large part the George R. Shaw papers were acquired during Mr. Shaw's studies at the Arnold Arboretum. However, a collection of artwork used in his publications was presented to the Arboretum in 1942. His personal library and his unique work *On the Identification of the Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts at All Seasons of the Year* were generously donated by the Shaw family in 1983. The collection was transferred from the Arnold Arboretum's departmental holdings to the Arboretum's Archives in 1986 when the Archive was established.

**Processing:** Compiled by Mary Harrison, Volunteer; Carol David, Library Assistant. Sheila Connor, Archivist, June 1995, 2011. Revised by Larissa Glasser, Archivist, January 2023, July 2024.

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### Biographical note

George Russell Shaw (1848-1937), the son of Samuel Parkman Shaw and Hanna Shaw was born in Parkman, Maine and spent his childhood in Portland. He was educated at Harvard, receiving his A.B. in 1869 and A M. in 1872. While at Harvard he studied architecture and he continued with his studies in London and at L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. While in Paris he married Emily Mott (1848-1927). In 1873, Shaw began a partnership with another young architect, Henry Sargent Hunnewell (1851-1931), son of Horatio Hollis Hunnewell (1810-1902), Arnold Arboretum benefactor for whom the Administration Building is named.



Portrait of Shaw ca1890



Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Harvard SEAS Communications Office

The Shaw & Hunnewell architectural firm was located at 9 Park Street in Boston from 1873 until 1902. The firm designed many Boston residences and local buildings such as Pierce Hall and the Jefferson Physics Building for Harvard College. In Wellesley, Massachusetts the firm designed the Wellesley Town Hall as well as the Library and Houghton Memorial Chapel for Wellesley College. In Boston, their work included the Boston Medical Library and the Ear and Eye Hospital and, in Brookline, Massachusetts the Free Hospital for Women.

In 1919, Shaw's entry in his 15th Anniversary Harvard College Class Book reads, "my principal occupation has been the study of Pines, with headquarters at the Arnold Arboretum." His interest in this genus led to travel to Cuba, Mexico, and Europe to see pines growing in their native habitat, to collect herbarium specimens, and to study in the libraries and herbaria of botanical intuitions. In Mexico, he travelled with the noted botanist Cyrus Guernsey Pringle (1838-May 25, 1911) who helped Shaw find and identify the various species of an exceedingly complex group of Mexican pines.

Shaw's interest in conifers and his association with the Arboretum was evident as early as 1903 when, as Sargent describes in his Annual Report for that year, he "has fitted up one of the halls in the Museum Building with handsome and convenient cases for the preservation and display of the collection of conifers. Mr. Shaw has now taken charge of this collection, which he is improving and extending with numerous additions, especially in the genus Pinus, in which he is particularly interested."



Shaw's Conifer Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Hunnewell Building east side. In 1927 the exhibition cases with the low wooden herbarium compartments were removed and 128 new metal cases were installed to accommodate the growth of the herbarium

In 1904, Shaw published four articles in [The Gardeners' Chronicle](#): "The Pines of Cuba", "Pines of Western Cuba", "Pinus leiophylla", and "Pinus Nelsonii." In his first major publication [The Pines of Mexico](#), (1909) Shaw was able to distinguish 18 species of pines out of a large number that had stymied earlier taxonomists. This publication included a systematic description of each species and variety, a key, notes on distribution, and discussion of previous botanical treatments. In addition to the scientific merit of Shaw's work he added remarkable illustrations, drawings of cones and needles, and delightful habit sketches of entire trees in their typical surroundings.

Shaw published [The Genus Pinus](#) in 1914, which was a systematic, illustrated monograph on pines worldwide. In the ensuing years, Shaw collaborated on *Plantae Wilsonianae*, E.H. Wilson and Alfred Rehder's systematic catalogue of the Chinese flora. He also published "[Notes on the Genus Pinus](#)" in of the *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 5 (4) 1924.

In addition to his conifer research, Shaw was a significant contributor to the Arnold Arboretum and made financial contributions to many Arboretum projects. He financed the laying of a wood floor and "fire proofing" of the Hunnewell Building's attic (renovated in 1993 and occupied by the Arnold Arboretum Living Collections department). Shaw's conifer collection is now housed at the Harvard University Herbaria in Cambridge as are a collection of his [papers](#) which are held in Botany Libraries Archives.

The collection also includes Shaw's illustrations of pines, and two undated collections of plants commonly found in Massachusetts that perhaps predate his focus on pines. A man of many talents, Shaw worked in leather and made hand bound books. He also published three books on knots: *Knots* (1921); *Knots, Useful and Ornamental* (1924); and *Practical and Ornamental Knots* (1933?).

### **Scope and Content**

The collection covers Shaw's work from the turn of the century to approximately 1930 and includes notebooks, correspondence, publications and illustrations.

### **Arrangement**

- Series I: Biographical Material
- Series II: Correspondence
- Series III: Notebooks
- Series IV: Annotated Reprints
- Series V: Scrapbooks
- Series VI: Maps
- Series VII: Manuscripts
- Series VIII: Publications
- Series IX: Artist's Book
- Series X: Personal Library

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

#### **Series I: Biographical Material**

##### **Folder 1:**

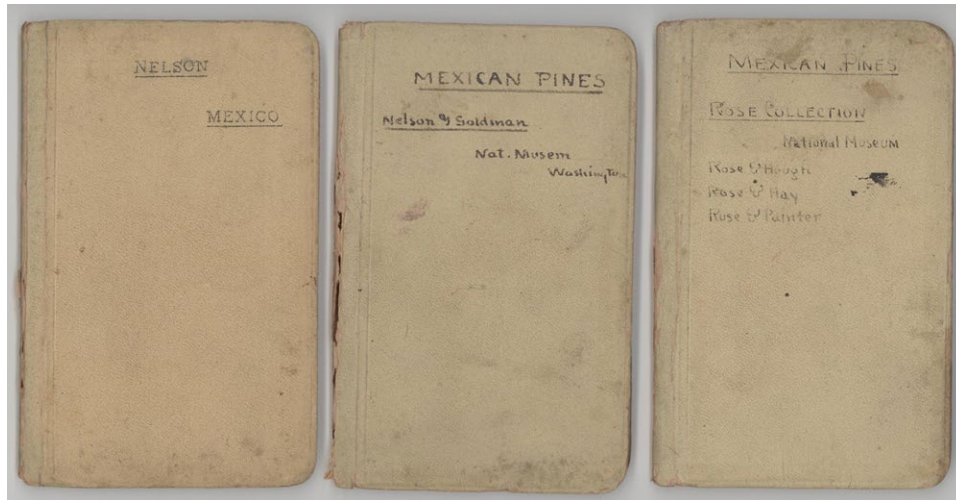
- Harvard College Class Of 1869, 9th Report 1901.
- Harvard College Class Of 1869, 15th Anniversary 1919.

- Obituary notices January 16, 1937, from the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* copied on one sheet.
- Portrait, 1892? Mounted on board, with one copy.
- Photograph of Shaw with young child taken by Charles A. Royle, Boston, 1905? Mounted on board.

**Series II: Correspondence**  
**Folder 1**

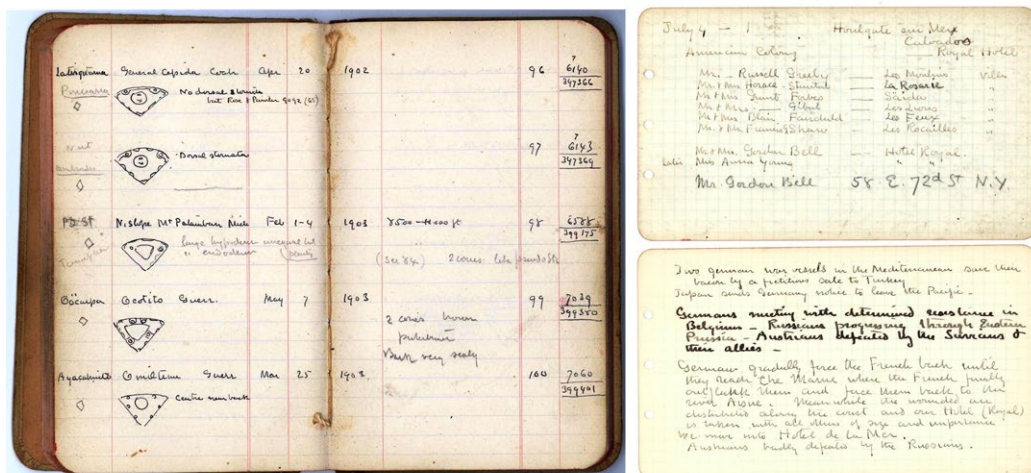
- Letter from W.G. Farlow, Chocorua, New Hampshire, August 17, 1911 in response to an inquiry concerning fungus growth at roots of trees growing in humus.
- Letter to E.H. Wilson [June 1907] regarding data on *P. densiflora* and *P. massoniana*.

**Series III: Notebooks**



**Folder**

- 1:** Small pocket notebook with "Mexican Pines: Rose Collection. National Museum Rose & Hay, Rose & Hough, Rose & Painter" handwritten on cover, contains notes and cross section illustrations of pines.



- 2:** Small pocket notebook with "Mexican Pines: Nelson & Goldman, National Museum Washington" handwritten on cover, contains notes and cross section illustrations of pines. This notebook also includes loose leaf diary pages for July and August that contain a list of names of the members of the "American Colony" at

- Houlgate, Royal Hotel; notes of progress of World War I; copy of a speech(?) in French; detailed notes on clams at Houlgate; and two pages of illustrations of brick balustrades at Houlgat.
- 3:** Small pocket notebook with "Nelson Mexico" handwritten on cover, contains notes and cross section illustrations of pines and collection numbers.
  - 4:** Small pocket notebook with "Roezl" stamped (?) on cover; inside "Roezl Collections of Paris," contains notes and cross section illustrations of pines.
  - 5:** Small pocket notebook with "I, 1904, Uruapan, Morelia, Colima" handwritten on cover. In addition to notes, cross section illustrations and sketches of pines contains plant information; laundry lists; and prices; comments on hotels; dated diary entries; notes on photographs and films.
  - 6:** Small pocket notebook with "Mexico EMS 1907" handwritten label on cover and "with E.M.S." inside, contains collection numbers with notes and some illustrations made at the following: Cuernavaca, Ajuso, Pachuca, Toro, Tres Marias, Salazar, Cuernavaca, Nanacamilpa, Contreras, Oaxaca, Las Sedar; also includes 3, previously folded, double-sided pages of stamped collection numbers with notes. [EMS is likely Emily Mott Shaw]
  - 7:** Small pocket notebook with "Mexico, 1907" handwritten label on cover. Begins with a hand drawn calendar for November, December 1907 and January 1908 continues with date stamped entries with notes on collection numbers, and plant names made at the following: Toro, Tres Marias, Contreras, Huingo Uruapan, Jesus del Monte, Guernavaca, Ajusco, Pachuca, Toro, Salazar, Nanacamilpa. Includes notes on pines, travel arrangements; on people; also, a note disputing identification by Gordon of a species, Plant lists and names and places.
  - 8:** Small pocket notebook with "George R. Shaw Southern Trip 1907" handwritten label on cover, contains notes on pines with "Thomasville" and entries date stamped.
  - 9:** Small pocket notebook with "Wilson, Japan -1914-" handwritten label on cover, first page reads: 1914 Wilson's trip to Japan 7038-7857. Determined 1915, contains Shaw's notes, diagrams and cross section illustrations of pines collected by Wilson with Wilson's collection numbers.
  - 10:** Small, folded enclosure labeled "Trip to Europe, Summer 1902" with additional notes on cover. Nineteen loose-leaf, unbound, 4x5 cards written on both sides containing diary entries describing his travel in Switzerland, France, England (Kew, Liverpool), and Italy. Includes notes on labeling of pines in Europe.
  - 11:** Twenty-two loose-leaf pages apparently removed from a three-hole binder describing 1914 European cruise and land trip through Italy, Switzerland, France, and England. Includes notes on voyage, illustrations of nautical knots, hulls, bell towers and botanical observations.
  - 12:** Handmade loose-leaf binder (fastenings removed) labeled "Dimensions - Cones and Leaves - Pinus, JRShaw" handwritten on cover, contains drawings of leaves and cones and notes on pines arranged alphabetically by species.

#### **Series IV: Annotated Reprints**

##### **Folder**

##### **1:**

- Shaw, George Russell. "Characters of Pinus. The Lateral Cone" [\*Botanical Gazette\*](#). 43. 1907. Reprint interleaved and annotated by Shaw.
- Coulter, John M. and J.N. Rose, "Synopsis of North American Pines" from the *Botanical Gazette* (9) 10 1886. Reprint interleaved and annotated by Shaw.
- Rowlee, W.W. "Notes on Antillean Pines with Description of New Species from the Isle of Pines" by [\*Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club\*](#). 30 (2) 1903. Reprint interleaved and annotated by Shaw and includes documentation by G.R. Shaw of

specimens by Rowlee in the Arnold Arboretum, and observations on cones and leaves.

- Small. "Flora of the Southern States" (on cover), pp.25-30 1903. (Small, John Kunkel, Flora of the Southeastern United States?)
- "Plantae Hartwegianae by Georgius Bentham" handwritten title by Shaw pp.57-58. Interleaved and annotated by Shaw.
- Englemann, George. "Revision of the Genus Pinus and Description of Pinus Elliottii" *Transactions of the Academy of Science of Saint Louis*. p.1-29. 1880. Includes 3 folded illustrations. Reprint interleaved and annotated by Shaw also includes 2 instances of remarks inserted on separate paper notes.

**2:**

- "Lebensgeschichte der Blütenpflanzen Mitteleuropas" 1905 Stuttgart Verlagsbuchhandlung Eugen Ulmer. Note on endpaper "bound by E.M.S. 1905." Marginal notes with elaboration of notes with page numbers given on separate paper notes.
- "East Asia, China Wilson's Pines" title handwritten on cover with "Wilson's Pines, China" handwritten on next page. Contains:
  - 20 pages of notes on and cross section illustrations of pines by George R. Shaw.
  - [Plantae Wilsonianae](#) An enumeration of woody plants collected in Western China for the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University during the Years 1907, 1908 & 1910 by E.H. Wilson. Parts I and IV annotated by Shaw.
  - "Botanische Jahrbucher fur Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie" by A. Engler, 1912 Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipzig--Notes by G.R. Shaw include: descriptions and illustrations of cones; localities of collection sites annotated by Shaw.

**Box 2**

**Series V: Scrapbooks**

**Folder 1:** Large paper bound scrapbook of a collection of published illustrations including photographs from magazines and journals, almost all from *Country Life* assembled by G.R. Shaw and labeled "Landscape Gardening and Trees; Informal Gardens, Water Gardens, Rockery, Yews."

**Series VI: Maps**

**Folder 1:**



- Stanford's Map of the Empires of China and Japan with the adjacent parts of the Russian Empire, India, Burma, etc. No date of publication given Areas circled on map have an accompanying key:
  - A. Henry I and Wilson Central China





**Box 5**

**Series IX: Botanical Illustrations**

Original undated artwork consisting of two volumes of line drawings in pencil, pen-and-ink, and watercolor of botanical illustrations of native plants (with some exotics) arranged alphabetically by common name.

Vol. 1 A-H; pages 1-96

- Alder
- Apple
- Arbor Vitae
- Ash
- Azalea
- Barberry
- Bass Wood
- Bearberry
- Beech
- Birch
- Blackberry
- Bladder Nut
- Blueberry
- Butternut
- Button ball
- Button Wood
- Cassandra
- Chaniaphylla
- Chequerberry
- Cherry
- Chestnut
- Chivgenes
- Chokeberry
- Clethra
- Cornel
- Cranberry
- Current
- Elder
- Elm
- Fir
- Gooseberry
- Grape
- Hackberry
- Hazel
- Hemlock
- Hickory
- Holly
- Honeysuckle



Mountain Ash



Bass Wood

Vol. 2 H-Z; pages 97-259

Hornbeam  
Huckleberry  
Inkberry  
Juneberry  
Juniper  
Labrador Tea  
Larch  
Laurel  
Leather Wood  
Lilac  
Linnera  
Liquidambar  
Locust  
Lyona  
Magnolia  
Maple  
Mayflower  
Meadow Sweet  
Mitchella  
Moonseed  
Negundo  
New Jersey tea  
Oak  
Partridge berry  
Poplar  
Pine  
Raspberry  
Sassafras  
Shadbush  
Rhodora  
Rock Rose  
Rose  
Smilax  
Snow berry  
Spice Bush  
Spruce  
Steeple bush  
Sumach  
Sweet Fern  
Sweet Gale  
Thorn  
Tulip tree  
Tupelo  
Wax Myrtle  
Willow  
Winter berry  
Witch Hazel  
Yew  
Zenobia



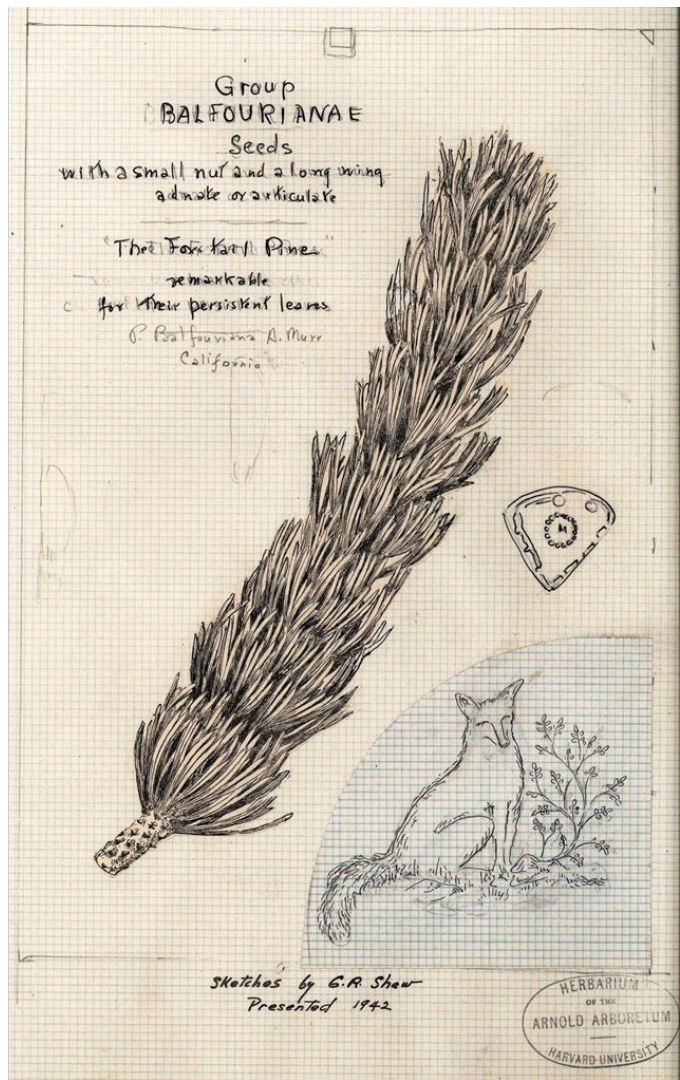
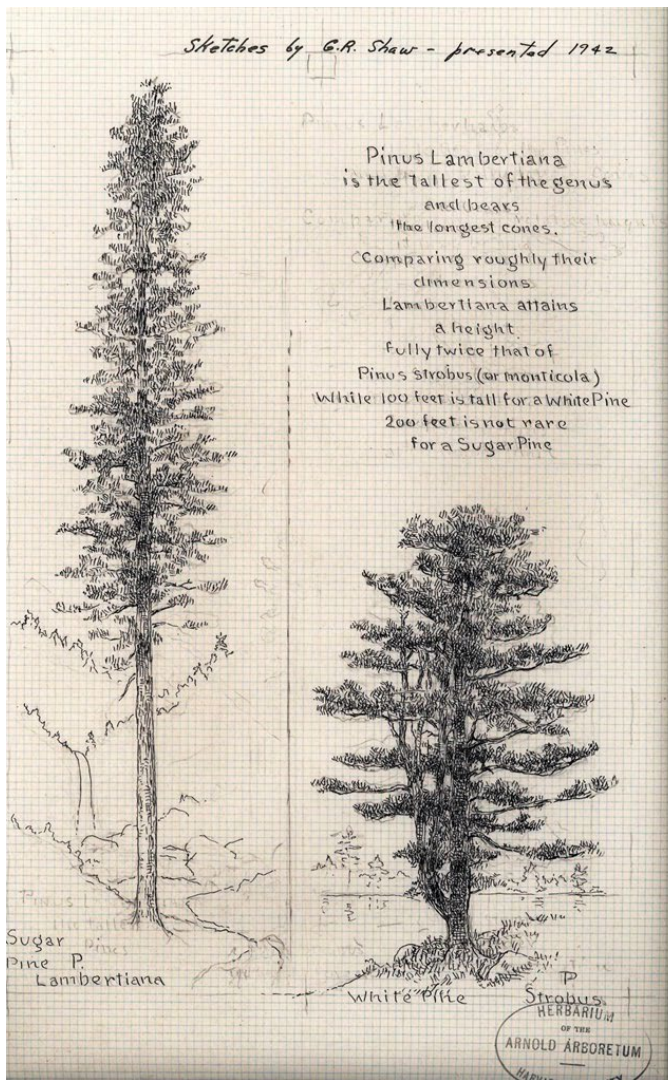
**Black Huckleberry**



**Red Raspberry**

**Box 6 (Folio)**  
**Series IX:**

Original artwork on graph paper for 20 plates that were published in his books on pines. Annotated "Sketches by G.R. Shaw, presented 1942" and stamped "Herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum Harvard University." These sheets were once part of the herbarium and were removed at an unknown date. Two plates follow:





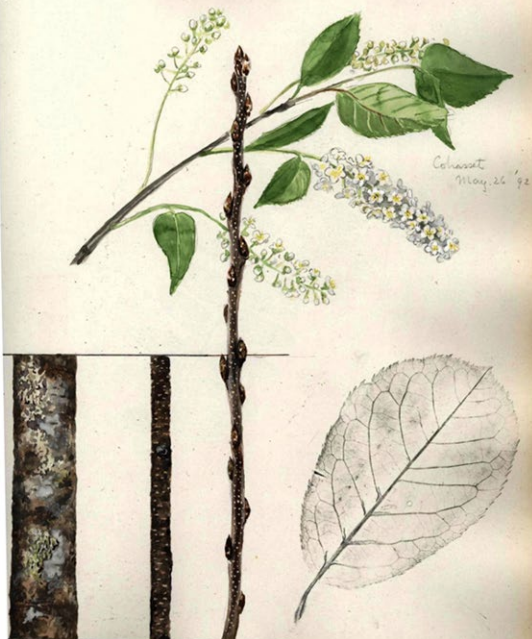
*Acer Rubrum*

Red Maple 158



Apr. 20 '91 Young Red Maple in Spring

Choke Cherry 146



Cohasset May 26 '92

Traumatic Sep. '91 Cohasset Oct. '92

Beach Plum 143



West Chab Aug '91

Naushon Oct 1 '91

*Gaylussacia resinosa*

Black Huckleberry 111



May 17 '92

## Series X. Personal Library



Beissner, L. (Ludwig), 1843-1927. *Handbuch der coniferen-benennung. Systematische einteilung der coniferen etc., angenommen als grundlage für die einheitliche benennung der nadelhölzer in Deutschland vom Kongress von coniferen-kennern und -züchtern in Dresden am 12. Mai 1887.* Erfurt, 1887.

[Bigelow, J.M.]. *Reports of expeditions and surveys, to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Made under the direction of the Secretary of War, in 1854-5, according to the Acts of Congress of March 3, 1853, May 31, 1854, and August 5, 1854.* Washington: Beverley Tucker, printer, 1857.

Coaz, Johann Wilhelm Fortunat, 1822-1914. *Ein Besuch im Val Scarl (Seitental des Unterengadin.* Bern: Stämpfli, 1905.

Dupuis, A. (Aristide) 1823-1883. *Conifères de pleine terre.* 2e éd. Paris: Librairie agricole de la Maison rustique, [1881.] (Bibliothèque du jardinier)

Endlicher, Stephan, 1804-1849. *Synopsis Coniferarum.* Sangalli. 1847.

Fernow, B.E. *Forest conditions of Nova Scotia.* Ottawa, Canada: [s.n.], 1912.

Hansen, Carl. *Danicum: Conifers collected and observed / Notes sent to the Conifer Conference held at Chiswick October 1891.* London: Spottiswoode, 1892. Reprinted from the *Journal of the Royal horticultural society*, vol. XIV.

Jepson, Willis Linn, 1867-1946. *A flora of California.* San Francisco: Cunningham, Curtiss & Welch; Berkeley, Cal.: Students' Co-operative Society, University of California, 1909-1979.

Loudon, John Claudius, 1783-1843. *An encyclopedia of trees and shrubs; being the Arboretum et fruticetum britannicum abridged: containing the hardy trees and shrubs of Britain native and foreign, scientifically and popularly described; with their propagation, culture, and uses in the arts; and with engravings of nearly all species. Abridged from the large edition in eight volumes, and adapted for the use of nurserymen, gardeners, and foresters.* London, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1869 [1842?].

Lubbock, John, Sir, 1834-1913. *On buds and stipules.* London. 1899.

Masters, Maxwell T. (Maxwell Tylden), 1833-1907. *List of conifers and taxads in cultivation in the open air in Great Britain and Ireland.* [London, 1892]. Reprinted from the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, v. 14, Conifer Conference report.

Mayr, Heinrich. *Monographie der abietineen des japanischen reiches, tannen, fichten, tsugen, lärchen und kiefern, in systematischer, geographischer und forstlicher beziehung bearbeitet.* München. 1890.

Mohr, Charles, 1824-1901. *The timber pines of the southern United States. Together with a discussion of the structure of their wood by Filibert Roth.* Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1897. (United States. Dept. of Agriculture. Division of Forestry. Bulletin; no. 13. (Rev. ed.).

Oelhafen von Schöllnbach, Carl Christoph, 1709-1785. *Abbildung der wilden Bäume, Stauden und Buschgewächse, welche nicht nur mit Farben nach der Natur vorgestellt, sondern auch ... kurz und gründlich beschrieben warden.* Nürnberg: Adam Wolfgang Winterschmidt, 1767 [i.e. 1767- 1804].

Penhallow, D. P. (David Pearce), 1854-1910. *The anatomy of the North American coniferales together with certain exotic species from Japan and Australasia.* [Boston, 1904].

Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946. *Timber trees and forests of North Carolina.* (North Carolina geological survey. *Bulletin*, v 5). N.C. Geol. Surv. Bull. 6. 1897.

Sargent, Charles Sprague, 1841-1927. *Manual of the trees of North America: (exclusive of Mexico); with six hundred and forty-four illustrations from drawings by Charles Edward Faxon.* Boston; New York : Houghton, Mifflin ; Cambridge : Riverside Press, 1905. [p.1-34 only, bound separately, spine title: "American Pines"].

Shaw, George Russell, b. 1848. *The genus Pinus.* Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1914. (Publications of the *Arnold Arboretum*; no. 5).

Sudworth, George Bishop, 1862-1927. *Check list of the forest trees of the United States: their names and ranges.* Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1898. (*Bulletin*/Forestry Division; no. 17).

Tabuef, Karl, freiherr von, 1862-1941. *Die nadelhölzer mit besonderer berücksichtigung der in mitteleuropa winterharten arten.* Stuttgart, 1897.

Uyeki, Homiki. *Chōsen no rinboku | ndai ichi hen. kōsonju oyobi shōhakurui = Korean timber trees. vol. 1, Ginkgoales and coniferae.* Keijo, Chosen: Chōsen Sōtokufu Ringyō Shikenjo, 1926. (Ringyō Shikenjo hōkoku (Chōsen Sōtokufu Ringyō Shikenjo) ; dai 4-gō).

Uyeki, Homiki. *On the physiognomy of Pinus densiflora growing in Corea and silvicultural treatment for its improvement.* [Suigen], 1928. (Suigen, Korea-Agricultural and forestry college, *Bulletin*, 3).

Uyeki, Homiki. *The seeds of the genus Pinus, as an aid to the identification of species.* Suigen, 1927. (Suigen, Korea. Agricultural and forestry college, *Bulletin*, 2).

Wilks, W. (William) 1843-1923. *Report of the Conifer Conference.* London Royal Horticultural Society, 1892. (pages 257-480 bound as separate volumes).