



Annual Report 1886-1887

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending August 31, 1887:

The map of the Arboretum which is joined to this report has been prepared by Mr. Henry Sargent Codman. It shows the position of the trees now planted in the permanent type collection; the position and extent of all boundary plantations, shrubberies, and nurseries. It shows too the amount of work now completed by the city of Boston under its contract to build roads through the Arboretum. About one third of the road contemplated under this contract is now finished, and open to the public.

The Oaks, Walnuts (in part), *Pterocarya*, and the Chestnuts have been permanently arranged in systematic groups during the year; and about fifty thousand shrubs have been planted as undergrowth among them. It is proposed to complete in the spring of 1888 the collection of Walnuts and to extend somewhat that of the Birches mostly planted last year. No other planting is possible, however, until the roads are extended by the city of Boston.

The removal of the Arboretum nurseries from the grounds of the [Bussey Institution](#) has necessitated their entire rearrangement during the year. This has been done and all surplus and unnecessary plants have been disposed of.

The question of preserving the history of every tree in the type collection in a more secure manner than is afforded by the labels commonly used in such collections for that purpose has long occupied my attention. The following plan has now been adopted. The holes occupied or to be occupied by trees are numbered in sequence, and the number of the hole stamped into a small metal label is securely attached to the tree planted in it. The exact position of each hole has been carefully plotted, and Mr. Codman has prepared a series of genus or group maps on a scale of twenty feet to the inch, showing the actual position of each tree with the number which appears on its label. A manuscript account of each tree shown on the map is bound with it. If all the records of the Arboretum including the stamped metal labels and the general card catalogue are lost, it will be possible to determine the position and history of every tree in the collection, unless this bound volume of maps is destroyed. The record of the trees which it is sought to preserve by this means shows where and by whom the seeds from which they were raised were gathered, the date when the seed was sown, the date when the

young trees were permanently planted in the collection and their height at that time. When the trees have not been raised from seed in the Arboretum, the record states where and in what manner they were obtained. In the case of grafted trees--the date when they were grafted and the nature of the stock, so far as this is known, is recorded.

Much attention has been given during the past year to determining doubtful and critical plants in the shrub collection, to improving its arrangement, and to supplying it with permanent labels. This collection, which has recently received some important additions, now contains nearly thirteen hundred distinct species or well-marked varieties, many here first introduced into cultivation.

INTERCHANGE OF PLANTS AND SEEDS

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued during the year. There have been 8167 plants and 282 packets of seeds distributed as follows: To all parts of the United States, 7952 plants and 211 packets of seeds; to Canada, 205 plants; to Great Britain, 10 plants and 21 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 50 packets of seeds.

There have been received during the year 1269 plants and 404 packets of seeds from 25 donors.

HERBARIUM AND MUSEUM

The ordinary work of the Herbarium and Museum has been continued during the year. There have been added to the Herbarium during that time 755 sheets of dried plants. The Museum has received among other gifts a large collection of the woods of India, Australia, New Zealand, and other British colonies, sent through the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew from the Colonial Exhibition held in London during the summer of 1886.

The Director, in continuation of the examination of the trees of southern Florida begun the year before, has made two more excursions: one in the late autumn and one in the early spring, along the Florida Keys in the U. S. lighthouse tender "Laurel"; he has been in western Texas and has seen during the year the forests of the Sierra Madre of northeastern Mexico. He has visited during the past summer many of the most important arboretums, botanical gardens, and museums of Europe and has been able through the courtesy of French and German forest officers to study some of the interesting forests and the methods of forest management in those countries. These journeys have enriched the Herbarium, the Museum, and the living collections of the Arboretum.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.