



## Annual Report 1906-1907

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the progress and condition of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending July 31, 1907.

The preparation of the ground (see report for 1905-06) for the type collection of hardy shrubs has been finished during the year and the collection has been planted as far as material for it has been available. In the new arrangement this collection occupies nineteen beds 10 feet wide, with a total length of 7,765 feet, separated by grass paths 5 feet wide. The northern and eastern ends of the area filled by these beds are protected by a trellis 1,280 feet long and 10 feet high, built with concrete posts and galvanized wire stringers and to be used for the cultivation of the collection of vines and other climbing plants. The ground available for the shrub collection is unfortunately too small for the display of representatives of all the hardiest and most distinct species, and it has been found necessary to plant genera like *Syringa*, *Viburnum*, *Cornus*, and several others in which some species are arborescent along the drives in different parts of the Arboretum. Among these excluded groups are some of the principal hardy genera of the Heath family, including Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Kalmias; and for these genera additional ground has been prepared on the western slope of Bussey Hill, and at the base of Hemlock Hill where a large plantation of Rhododendrons has been made during the year. Ground has also been prepared round the borders of the North Meadow for a number of partly arborescent, partly shrubby, groups which were formerly cultivated in the general shrub collection.

On Peter's Hill 266 additional species or forms of North American *Crataegus* have been permanently planted during the year. This collection is now represented by 716 groups of species, forms, and varieties. The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. 14,003 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 732 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: To the United States, 12,522 plants and 57 packets of seeds; to Canada, 21 packets of seeds; to the West Indies, 8 packets of seeds; to Argentina, 5 packets of seeds; to Peru, 4 packets of seeds; to Chili, 101 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 1,186 plants and 147 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 295 plants and 272 packets of seeds; to Japan, 69 packets of seeds; to China, 3 packets

of seeds;; to Java and the Straits Settlements, 3 packets of seeds; to Australia, 4 packets of seeds; to New Zealand, 6 packets of seeds; to the Hawaiian Islands, 13 packets of seeds; to Cape Colony, 17 packets of seeds. There have been received during the year 3,325 plants and 476 packets: of seeds; of these, 3,067 plants came from the United States, 75 from England, 31 from France, 2 from Holland, and 150 from Russia. During the year 7,823 sheets of dried plants have been added to the herbarium; of these, 6,392 have been purchased and 1,433 have been presented to the arboretum. The most important of the purchased collections is a selection of 3,540 sheets from the herbarium made by [Mr. Alfred Rehder](#) during his travels in Europe and North America and rich in rare and critical woody species cultivated in European, botanic gardens. Other important collections added to the herbarium during the year are from the United States, Mexico, Jamaica, Chili, Paraguay, the Philippine Islands, the Malay Peninsula, Sweden, northern Russia, the Caucasus, and Portugal.

During the year the Arboretum [Library] has received by gift 1,508 bound volumes and 247 pamphlets. To supplement a gift of \$5,000 made a few years ago by the late Francis Skinner, for the purchase of rare and expensive books for the library, his son, Mr. Francis Skinner, of Dedham, has given to the Arboretum a similar sum, with the suggestion that the books purchased with this money be considered a memorial to his father's interest in the Arboretum and its work. During the year instruction in dendrology has been given at the Arboretum, by Mr. [J. G.] Jack, to students of landscape-gardening from the [Massachusetts] Institute of Technology and to University students in forestry.

A few friends of the Arboretum living in Massachusetts and in Europe have made it possible to begin during the year the systematic study of the trees and shrubs of central and western China. This mountain region, with a climate similar to but more severe than that of the southern Appalachian region of North America, is known to be rich in valuable and interesting plants; and as it is the only part of the world remaining botanically unexplored of which the trees maybe expected to flourish in our northern states, results of the highest scientific and practical value may be expected from its careful examination and by the introduction of its plants into American and European gardens and plantations. For this difficult exploration the Arboretum has secured for two years and a half the services of [Mr. E.H. Wilson](#), an Englishman who has had five years' experience in western China in collecting plants for an English commercial firm. Mr. Wilson, having passed some time at the Arboretum during the autumn, sailed for China early in January and established his permanent base of operations at Ichang, at the foot of the great gorge of the Yang-tse-kiang. During 1907 he has been occupied in collecting on the high mountains of Hupeh, and, early in 1908 is to proceed by way of the Yang-tse-kiang to the western borders of Szech'uan to explore the great forests of conifers which cover the mountain ranges separating China, from Thibet [*sic*]. To extend the field of operations in China an arrangement has been made with the Department of Agriculture of the United States under which an experienced collector of the Department in China has been detailed to explore, without expense to the Arboretum and under Mr. Wilson's general direction, the forests surrounding the temples on the little known Mt. Wut'ai, one of the sacred mountains of

China, situated in the northern province of Shansi. The seeds of a large number of plants entirely new to cultivation have already been received from Mr. Wilson, and there is now every reason to hope that his mission will be successful, and that this new enterprise will be one of the most useful and interesting pieces of work undertaken at the Arboretum.

[Mr. Alfred Rehder](#) returned to the Arboretum from Europe in November and has since been engaged here on the *Bradley Bibliography*. Mr. Shaw is still working on his monograph of the genus *Pinus*. I take this opportunity to express again my thanks to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture for their annual grant for the maintenance of the Arboretum, and to the members of the Visiting Committee for their interest and assistance.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.