



Annual Report 1911-1912

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 June 30, 1912.

Little new construction has been undertaken during the year, and work in the Arboretum has been largely confined to the care and extension of existing plantations, and to the protection of these and the natural woods from the attacks of destructive insects which in many species abound in the Arboretum. To keep these in check now means much hard work and a large expenditure of money, and greatly increases the difficulty of properly maintaining a garden like the Arboretum.

[Mr. William Purdom](#) has completed his three years' contract to explore northern and western China for the Arboretum, and returned to Europe in May. He left Peking late in the winter of 1911 and was able to reach Min-Chau on the T'asho River in southern Kansu in the spring of that year. He was prevented, however, owing to the disturbed condition of the country, from extending his journey to the high mountains surrounding the Monastery of Chusan, near the Tibetan border of Kansu, which it was hoped he would be able to explore. Political disturbances, too, delayed his return journey to Peking and caused the loss of a part of his collections. His three years' explorations, while they did not result in the introduction of a large number of new species of plants, were on the whole successful, and he was able to make valuable contributions to the knowledge of the Chinese flora. His most interesting discovery is, perhaps, the wild form of the Moutanor Tree Peony, which he found growing on a mountain in southern Shensi, in the region believed to be the cradle of the Chinese race. Forms of this Peony have been cultivated for centuries in eastern Asia, where they are among the most beloved of all plants, but the wild origin of the cultivated plant has remained unknown to Americans and Europeans until Purdom found it in 1910 and sent seeds and a few roots to the Arboretum.

The library now contains 26,706 bound volumes and 6,640 unbound pamphlets, 1,959 volumes and 102 pamphlets having been added during the year.

During the year 6,300 sheets have been inserted in the herbarium; and 2,895 sheets of duplicates have been distributed in exchange. In addition to these, sets of duplicates of the dried plants collected by Wilson in China, as far as these have been named, have been acquired by the Smithsonian Institution, the British Museum, the Royal Gardens at Kew and at Edinburgh, the Imperial Botanic Garden at St. Petersburg, the Hamburgische Botanische Staatsinstitute and the Naturhistorisches Hofmuseum at Vienna.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. 8,052 plants, including grafts and cuttings, and 484 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: To the United States, 7,244 plants and 153 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 515 plants and 189 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 293 plants and 116 packets of seeds; to Japan, 26 packets of seeds. There have been received 844 plants and 452 packets of seeds; of these, 767 plants and 161 packets of seeds came from the United States; from the continent of Europe, 77 plants and 111 packets of seeds; from Japan, 32 packets of seeds; from China, 147 packets of seeds; and from New Zealand, 1 packet of seeds.

During the year instruction in dendrology has been given at the Arboretum by [Assistant Professor Jack](#) to students in forestry and to a class of twenty-three special students, principally teachers.

Two parts of the [Plantae Wilsonianae](#), or about one-third of the work, have been published during the year. This is an enumeration of the woody plants collected by Wilson in China for the Arboretum, with descriptions of the new species and the elaboration of some of the important genera as represented in the whole of China. In this work the staff of the Arboretum has received valuable assistance from several European specialists. Dr. E. Koehne of Berlin has elaborated *Philadelphus* and *Prunus*; Dr. E. Janczewski of Krakow, *Ribes*; Dr. W.O. Focke of Bremen, *Rubus*; Dr. Th. Loesener of Berlin, *Ilex*; Dr. F. Gagnepain of Paris, the *Vitaceae*; and Dr. Camillo Schneider of Vienna, *Syringa*.

During the year the first volume of the [Bradley Bibliography](#) has appeared and the printing of the second volume has been completed. This work, which will be finished in five volumes, contains an account of all printed books and of all articles in any way relating to woody plants in periodicals and other serial publications in all languages published before the end of the last century. Volume I includes all botanical publications containing references to these plants, except those which are restricted to a particular family, genus, or species which are found in the second volume. The third volume will contain the titles of publications dealing with the economic products and uses of woody plants, and with arboriculture, including the ornamental value and uses of trees and shrubs. The fourth volume will be devoted to publications on forestry, and the fifth volume will contain an index to all titles enumerated in the work arranged alphabetically according to authors and titles. This work, which has involved a large amount of labor, has been in charge of [Mr. Alfred Rehder](#) of the Arboretum staff, who has devoted most of his time to it during the last twelve years and who has examined for it all

the principal botanical, horticultural, and forestry libraries in the United States and Europe and obtained the assistance of many European specialists.

Twenty numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* have been issued during the year. The object of this Bulletin is to give at irregular intervals information about plants in the Arboretum of special interest. The Bulletins are issued gratuitously to any one on application and now go to many parts of the United States and to several European countries. The fact that these Bulletins are often reproduced in horticultural journals and in daily papers seems to show an increasing interest in the cultivation of the plants which they describe.

It has only been possible to administer the Arboretum, to increase its activities and to meet the demands which are made on it from all parts of the world by the interest and generosity of many persons living in the neighborhood of Boston and in other parts of the country.

Four years ago, following the example of the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Museum of Fine Arts, an effort was made to increase the income of the Arboretum by application to its friends for annual subscriptions. During the year 1908-09 this subscription produced \$15,810; in 1909-10 it amounted to \$19,110; in 1910-11, to \$20,625; and in 1911-12, to \$26,755. Annual subscriptions have been usually in sums of \$100; a few only have been for smaller amounts, and some have been larger. The success of these subscriptions is largely due to the assistance which I have received in this undertaking from the Committee appointed by the Overseers to visit the Arboretum. Without the industry, enthusiasm, and influence of the members of this Committee it would have been impossible to continue the development of the Arboretum, and I take this opportunity to express my obligation to them for the help they have given me in carrying out the provisions of the Trust established by the executors of [James Arnold](#).

C. S. SARGENT, Director.