



Annual Report 1914-1915

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 June 30, 1915.

During the year 197 species of woody plants have been transferred from the nurseries to the permanent plantations. The severe droughts in the autumn of 1914 and in March and April, 1915, injured several broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, and the Arboretum has lost large plants of rhododendrons which have been growing here for twenty-five or thirty years. Conifers, however, which usually are injured more than other plants by drought and the cold winds of March and April, were fortunately uninjured, and, with the exception of the rhododendrons, the collections have been in good condition during the year.

To persons interested in new plants the Arboretum has been exceptionally interesting this year, for a number of trees and shrubs have flowered here for the first time in America. In February [Mr. E. H. Wilson](#) returned from his [journey to Japan](#), briefly referred to in my last report. During this journey he visited all the different botanical regions of the empire from the Island of Yakushima in the extreme south to Saghalin [*sic*], recently acquired by the Japanese, in the north. He was able to visit and photograph every Japanese coniferous tree in its native forests, and to collect botanical specimens of what he considers to be from ninety-two to ninety-five per cent of the species of Japanese trees and shrubs. He has brought to the Arboretum a large herbarium, a collection of living plants, seeds of many rare species until now unknown in cultivation, a set of 619 photographs, and information which will make it possible to solve many of the problems which have long perplexed the students of Japanese trees.

The botanical exploration of the Missouri-Texas region, undertaken on joint account with the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been continued during the year with good results. Mr. T.G. Harbison, who has been collecting for the Arboretum in the southeastern states for several years, has continued his work this year principally in Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida, and has made interesting additions to the herbarium and nurseries. It is important that this field work on the plants of the United States should be continued and extended, for the flora, especially the woody plants, of large areas of the country is still imperfectly known, and native plants are everywhere fast disappearing as population increases.

The library now contains 30,320 bound volumes and 7,143 unbound pamphlets, 620 volumes and 267 pamphlets having been added during the year. The first volume of the [catalogue of the library](#) has been published during the year; it is a volume of 782 double-column pages and contains a list of the serial publications, and authors and titles. This will be followed by a second volume, in which the books in the library will be arranged according to subjects.

The herbarium has made during the year its largest annual gain, 10,070 sheets having been inserted in its cases. Three thousand, six hundred and twenty-three duplicate specimens have been distributed during the year.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued, 8,951 plants, including grafts and cuttings, and 1,087 packets of seeds having been distributed as follows: To the United States, 7,266 plants and 443 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 1,683 plants and 463 packets of seeds; to Egypt, 2 plants; to Canada, 18 packets of seeds; to France, 163 packets of seeds.

There have been received 3,274 plants and 626 packets of seeds as follows: From the United States, 2,052 plants and 279 packets of seeds; from Great Britain, 782 plants and 82 packets of seeds; from Japan, 440 plants and 191 packets of seeds; from Canada, 28 packets of seeds; from France, 38 packets of seeds; from China, 8 packets of seeds.

During the year instruction in dendrology has been given in the Arboretum by [Assistant Professor Jack](#) to fifteen students of the School of Forestry and in the course on lumbering in the School of Business Administration, and from May to June weekly field meetings to a class of twenty-two special students, principally teachers. He conducted from April until June ten field meetings for a number of Boston architects interested in plants and planting; under his direction members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society have held ten field meetings in the Arboretum, and the members of the Massachusetts Forestry Association have passed a day here.

This use of the collections shows a growing appreciation of the Arboretum as a place for the study of living plants. The study of Wilson's Chinese collections has been continued and it is expected that the entire work will be finished and the results published during 1916.

During the year the third volume of the [Bradley Bibliography](#) has been completed and will soon appear; and it is hoped that this work, to which the Arboretum has devoted fifteen years, will also be finished in 1916.

During the year sixteen numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* have been issued.

The maintenance and scientific activities of the Arboretum require a larger annual expenditure of money than is provided by its small endowment, now only about \$380,000; and without the generous assistance of the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting

Agriculture, and the interest of the members of the Committee of Visitors appointed by the Overseers of the University, and of other generous friends, it would be impossible to carry on the Arboretum even on the comparatively small scale of its present organization. To insure its continued activities and to make the Arboretum what it should be, a great national dendrological institution to which the world would come for information on everything relating to trees, a much larger endowment is needed. Without such an endowment and without additional land on which to display its collections it will be impossible to accomplish what is expected of this department of the University.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.