



Annual Report 1916-1917

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, 1917.

In August death deprived the Arboretum of the services of [Jackson Dawson](#) who from its first days had been its Superintendent. Dawson had a remarkable knowledge of plants and unequalled skill in their propagation. A large part of the plants now growing in the Arboretum were raised by him from seeds, and in the early days of the Arboretum he raised here thousands of plants for the Harvard Botanic Garden at Cambridge. All the Chinese and Japanese plants introduced by the Arboretum were raised by him, and the fact that in the last sixteen years of his life he raised seedlings of 3,367 numbers of American hawthorns shows his industry.

Dawson produced here several important hybrid roses, and with more time at his disposal he might have become one of the world's great plant breeders. Dawson brought to the Arboretum industry, intelligence, imagination and entire devotion, and much of its success is due to his labors. During the year 157 specimens of woody plants in 55 genera have been transferred from the nurseries to the permanent plantations. Although the winter was unusually severe on many plants, no serious losses are reported, and on the whole the collections are in a satisfactory condition.

Not much is known here of the flora of Korea, and only a few Korean plants are growing in the Arboretum, but these have proved so successful that it has seemed desirable to undertake a systematic exploration of that country for the purpose of determining the distribution northward of Chinese trees and of introducing plants into this country from a region with climatic conditions as severe as those of New England. To carry out this plan [Mr. Wilson](#) left the Arboretum in January for his [fifth journey in eastern Asia](#). On reaching Japan he first visited the Liukiu and Bonin Islands, to study the little known floras of these groups and to secure specimens and photographs of the peculiar trees which do not grow elsewhere. Returning from the Bonin Islands he went to Seoul and from there into the virgin forests of northern Korea, crossing the Chang-pai-shan, thus reaching the upper waters of the Yalu River, and penetrating into a region most of which had not before been visited by a foreigner.

The botanical exploration of the Missouri-Texas region undertaken in connection 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 during the year, principally in North and South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida.

The library now contains 31,213 bound volumes and 7,718 pamphlets, 295 volumes and 187 pamphlets having been added during the year.

The printing of the second volume of the [library catalogue](#) in which the books are arranged according to subjects is nearly finished and the volume will appear in a few months.

During the year 10,417 sheets have been added to the herbarium, and 11,554 duplicate specimens have been distributed.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. 14,041 plants, including grafts and cuttings, and 555 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: To the United States, 12,880 plants and 356 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 1161 plants and 138 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe, 47 packets of seeds; to South Africa, 10 packets of seeds; to New Zealand, 4 packets of seeds.

There have been received 1254 plants and 115 packets of seeds as follows: From the United States, 756 plants and 87 packets of seeds; from Great Britain, 66 plants and 2 packets of seeds; from France, 418 plants; from Japan, 12 plants and 26 packets of seeds; from Canada, 2 plants.

The usual instruction in dendrology has been given in the Arboretum by Assistant Professor [J.G. Jack](#), who from May to June held weekly field meetings for special students, principally teachers.

The third and final part of the third and last volume of [Plantae Wilsonianae](#) appeared in January. In these volumes are described the plants collected by Wilson in China for the Arboretum, with the elaboration of several important genera of trees and shrubs.

During the year the Arboretum has published [The Conifers and Taxads of Japan](#) by E. H. Wilson. This work is based on Wilson's study of these trees as they grow in their native forests, and is illustrated by 59 plates made from photographs taken by him.

The fifth and last volume of the [Bradley Bibliography](#) is nearly printed and will appear in the course of a few months.

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

During the year the endowment of the Arboretum has been substantially increased by the generosity of a number of its friends. The work of raising this money was undertaken voluntarily by Mr. Henry S. Hunnewell, assisted by [Mr. William C. Endicott](#), and to them the Arboretum is particularly indebted. It is indebted, too, to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, and to many other friends who have aided me in increasing the income of the Arboretum, for without their help it would be impossible to maintain this establishment and carry on the scientific activities which have made it an important station for increasing the knowledge of plants.

C. S. SARGENT.