



Annual Report 1918-1919

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, 1919.

The mild winter of 1918-19 and the abundant spring and early summer rains have improved many plants in the Arboretum and have healed some of the injuries caused by the unprecedented severity of the previous winter. Many plants have not before flowered so abundantly, and the Arboretum has attracted an unusually large number of interested visitors who have come from nearly every part of the country to enjoy and study the Arboretum collections. After an absence of twenty-six months passed in eastern Asia, [Mr. E.H. Wilson](#) returned to the Arboretum on the 17th of March.

He had passed 1914 [collecting in Japan](#) for the Arboretum and this last journey was undertaken for the purpose of exploring the forests and studying the trees of Korea, the Bonin and Liukiu Islands and Formosa, now parts of the Japanese Empire.

From his last journey Mr. Wilson brought to the Arboretum 30,000 herbarium specimens, 700 photographs of trees and types of vegetation, and collections of seeds and living plants. The Arboretum now offers excellent opportunities for the study of the trees and shrubs of eastern Asia.

The great collections of dried plants made by Wilson and other officers of the Arboretum are supplemented by the largest collection of living plants of China and Japan in America, and by a large number of photographs of Chinese trees, of every native tree in Japan proper, Korea and the Bonin Islands, and of nearly all the trees of the Liukiu Islands and Formosa.

The botanical exploration of the Missouri-Texas region has been continued with good results by [Mr. E. J. Palmer](#), and has been extended into southern Illinois. Mr. T. G. Harbison, continuing the work of previous years, has travelled extensively for the Arboretum in the southeastern states.

Few important additions have been made to the library during the year. Only 483 volumes and 110 pamphlets have been secured for it. Among the additions the most interesting is a collection of Japanese works collected in Japan and Korea by Wilson during his last eastern journey. The library now contains 32,142 bound volumes and 8,137 pamphlets. A classified arrangement and descriptive catalogue of the Arboretum's large miscellaneous collection of plant photographs has been commenced during the year.

During the year 10,635 sheets have been inserted in the herbarium, a somewhat larger number than it has received in any previous year. 1,481 duplicate sheets have been sent to other botanical institutions.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. 13,696 plants, including grafts and cuttings, and 1,422 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: to the United States, 13,639 plants and 777 packets of seeds; to Canada, 54 plants; to Great Britain, 3 plants and 406 packets of seeds; to France, 156 packets of seeds; to Italy, 4 packets of seeds; to Algeria, 13 packets of seeds; to Egypt, 15 packets of seeds; to British India, 2 packets of seeds; to Japan, 37 packets of seeds; to China, 2 packets of seeds; to Australia, 2 packets of seeds; to Tasmania, 3 packets of seeds; to New Zealand, 5 packets of seeds.

There have been received 4,111 plants and 674 packets of seeds as follows: from the United States 3,487 plants and 222 packets of seeds; from Canada, 7 plants; from Great Britain, 7 plants and 259 packets of seeds; from France, 37 plants; from Japan, 573 plants and 139 packets of seeds.

Instruction in dendrology has been given in the Arboretum during the year by [Professor J. G. Jack](#) who in May and June held weekly field meetings attended principally by teachers interested in trees. Several special students under Professor Jack's directions have made use of the laboratories of the Arboretum during a large part of the year.

For several years the usefulness of the Arboretum has been curtailed by its need of a publication through which information about plants, gathered in its laboratories and library could promptly reach the public. To overcome this difficulty the publication of the [Journal of the Arnold Arboretum](#) has been undertaken. This *Journal* is a small quarterly and in its pages will appear notes on trees and shrubs with descriptions of new species and their relationships, letters from correspondents and notes on the vegetation of the countries visited by officers and agents of the Arboretum. In its pages will be found items of news about the Arboretum, its library, collections and plans which will be of interest to botanists, horticulturists and other friends of the institution. The first number of this *Journal* was prepared during the year but did not appear until July, 1919.

During the year 18 numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* have been issued. In making this report I must repeat what I have said in many previous reports, that the Arboretum owes its success to the small group of men and women whose generosity to this department of

the University never fails. Their interest and their belief in the value of an institution like this has alone made its world-wide influence possible.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.