



Annual Report 1925-1926

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition and progress of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending June 30, 1926.

The popular understanding of an arboretum is a collection of trees and shrubs able to live in the region where placed, sometimes supplemented by a few books needed to determine the names of these plants and sometimes by a small collection of dried plants useful for the same purpose. Such arboreta are useful and often interesting in proportion to the intelligence and industry of the man who manages them and the amount of the fund available for the purpose.

An arboretum, however, means more than this. Its real purpose and value is to increase the knowledge of trees and other woody plants without regard to the locality, and its collection of living plants however complete it may be is only one department of such an institution of learning and by no means its most important. There is no other great arboretum in the world and there is no better place for it, in spite of the severe climate of Massachusetts, than in Jamaica Plain under the auspices of Harvard University.

No other institution of the kind has or is ever likely to have the assurance of such a long life in one place as the Arnold Arboretum under its arrangement with the City of Boston. It is already in close touch with most of the countries of the world; its collection of living plants is a considerable one and through its collectors and numerous friends is increasing. Its herbarium is already large, and its library is probably the largest and most valuable devoted exclusively to the subject of trees and kindred plants, their history and cultivation. Only money and more land seem necessary to make Harvard the world center for the study of trees.

During the year [Rock's](#) explorations in northwestern China and Tibet were the most valuable work accomplished by the Arboretum. During the summer and autumn he successfully explored the Tibbu country near the Tibetan border in Kansu and the high mountain ranges in the northern part of the province.

Rock's first year in northwestern China, in which he endured great hardships and many dangers borne with incredible courage and patience, was a brilliant success in its accomplishments. The arboretum has already received from him 402 packets of seeds, 42 lots

of cuttings of Willows and other plants, and two hundred photographs of an entirely unknown country. The seeds have all germinated here and the surplus has been distributed in 3,718 packets among the principal botanical and horticultural establishments in the northern United States and Canada, northern Europe and northeastern Asia.

On May 5th he left Labrang for the exploration of the gorges of the Yellow River and the great Annemachin Mountains in Tibet, a region entirely unexplored by botanists. In his last letter at Radjumba on the Yellow River, Kokonoor District, dated June 8, he described his exploration of heavily wooded canons of the Yellow River in which he found trees unknown to him, and from a pass fourteen thousand three hundred feet above the level of the sea had his first view of the Annemachin Range with nine high mountains, one peak at least being twenty eight thousand feet high, which "may yet prove higher than any of the Himalayas, including Everest."

During the year the Arboretum has employed a competent botanical collector in Dr. Strong's party for the botanical exploration of tropical Africa from Liberia to the eastern coast. [Mr. E.J. Palmer](#) has devoted several months to the exploration of the flora of western Texas, including that of the little known Davis Mountains.

During the year the flora of New Guinea has occupied the attention of the Arboretum, but on June 30th the man employed for this work, who has made a large and satisfactory collection, left the service of the Arboretum to accept a more remunerative position in another country.

The collection of living plants permanently planted is generally in a satisfactory condition, thanks to the mild winter and abundant moisture during the year. The groups of popular plants like the Cherries, Lilacs, Viburnums, Crabapples, Rhododendrons and Azaleas, have all produced large crops of flowers with the exception of the Laurel (*Kalmia*), owing probably to its excessive blooming the past year.

During the months of October, May and June twenty-six free personally conducted walks, lasting from two to two and a half hours, with Mr. George Merrill acting as guide, were taken. The attendance ranged from eight to two hundred persons, according to weather conditions. Stormy week-ends, with rain often coming at the hour for starting, interfered much with these excursions. Those who took them appeared interested and enthusiastic, and many of the visitors from places outside of Massachusetts coming to Boston especially for the walk.

In addition to these many special walks by appointment were taken attended by members of garden clubs, women's clubs, nature classes, school classes and students with the Professor of the class from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. These walks, it is hoped, will create a better knowledge of the Arboretum and the wide scope of its work among the residents of Massachusetts and all parts of the country.

During the year 1,791 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 6,423 packets of seeds have been distributed as follows: to the United States, 1,365 plants and 1,979 packets of seeds; to Canada, 37 plants and 525 packets of seeds; to Iceland, 18 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 296 plants and 1070 packets of seeds; to France, 4 plants and 362 packets of seeds; to Germany, 40 plants and 581 packets of seeds; to Denmark, 85 packets of seeds; to Sweden, 364 packets of seeds; to Poland, 61 packets of seeds; to Russia, 176 packets of seeds; to Finland, 33 packets of seeds; to Switzerland, 30 plants and 1 packet of seeds; to Spain, 20 packets of seeds; to Czechoslovakia, 46 packets of seeds; to Japan, 342 packets of seeds; to China, 490 packets of seeds; to South Africa, 11 packets of seeds; to New Zealand, 190 packets of seeds; to New South Wales, 49 packets of seeds; to the rest of Australia, 13 plants and 1 packet of seeds; to Turkey, 2 plants; to Hawaii, 4 plants.

There have been received 6,516 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 1,205 packets of seeds as follows: from the United States, 4,679 plants and 70 packets of seeds; from Canada, 6 plants and 23 packets of seeds; from Great Britain, 1,751 plants and 325 packets of seeds; from France, 72 plants and 18 packets of seeds; from Denmark, 5 packets of seeds; from Russia, 89 packets of seeds; from China, 615 packets of seeds; from Japan, 12 packets of seeds; from India, 58 packets of seeds; from Sweden, 2 plants; from Switzerland, 1 plant; from Cuba, 2 plants, and from Manchuria, 3 plants.

The herbarium now contains 276,804 sheets, 21,783 having been added during the year, the largest addition in any year. Among the additions there are about 2,800 North American plants, about 300 from South America, 1,100 from Europe and western Asia, more than 5,000 from China, about 500 from the Himalayan region and southern Asia, 1,900 from the Philippine Islands, including a number from Borneo and Sumatra, about 400 from New Caledonia, more than 4,000 cultivated plants and several large collections of miscellaneous material received from other botanical institutions.

One of the most important collections is that of about 2,300 plants collected by [Mr. J.F. Rock](#) in southwestern China, Siam, Assam and Burma, and the collection of about 750 specimens made by Mr. R.C. Ching in Anwei. There have been distributed from the herbarium about 8,600 specimens among twenty-six institutions in the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Satisfactory as the growth of the herbarium has been it will require many years of hard work, perhaps a hundred more, and a large expenditure of money to make it what it should be and what it is hoped to be, the greatest of all arboreta.

The library now contains 36,566 bound volumes, 8,372 pamphlets and 12,515 photographs; 500 volumes, 202 pamphlets and 632 photographs, including 200 taken by Mr. Rock, having been added during the year.

The most valuable addition to the library is the gift of Mr. J. P. Morgan of New York of one of his two copies of *Das buch der natur* of Conrad von Megenberg, and the only copies in

the United States. This book, which is the oldest in the Arboretum library, was published in 1475. Other valuable and interesting books added during the year are, - *Fabio Columna, Plantarum aliquot historia*, 1592; Hieronymus Brunschwig, *Liber de arte distillandi*, 1512; Johann Vredman, *Hortorum viridariorumque*, 1583; Estienne, *De re hortensi libellus*, 1542; William Turner, second part of [his] *Herball*, 1562; Leonard Mascall, *A booke of the arte of planting trees*, 1596; David Kyber, *Lexicon rei herbariae trilingue*, 1553 (Mrs. Sears).

About four hundred and fifty persons, coming from twenty-nine states and from Canada, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, Brazil and Iceland, have visited the Administration Building to see and study in the herbarium and library.

During the year, with the assistance of the Committee appointed by the Overseers to visit the Arboretum under the efficient chairmanship of Mr. Roger Wolcott, the Arboretum has received \$44,954.31 to increase its income, contributed by persons living in thirty-nine states of the Union, the Province of Quebec, British Columbia, Canada, and Hawaii.

From the sale of publications, photographs, etc., the Arboretum has received \$1,896.99 during the year. Field Classes of ten meetings were held in the Arboretum in the spring of 1926 attended by fourteen persons.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.