



Annual Report 1926-1927

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

With the death of [Charles Sprague Sargent](#) on March 22nd, the last member of that small group of men who laid the foundations of Harvard's botanical eminence, passed on, leaving the Arnold Arboretum as his outstanding contribution.

The Arnold Arboretum is not only internationally prominent as a great institution for dendrological research, but it has through exploration enriched the horticultural resources of the world. Its influence has been felt by every one who loves a garden.

In scientific and horticultural achievements, the Arnold Arboretum has rendered to the community a service that exemplifies the broad vision and dauntless faith of the man who planned its development and formulated its policies during fifty-four years of his life. On the afternoon of June 8th, a memorial service in honor of Professor Sargent was held in the Arboretum beside the Bussey Brook.

[Ernest H. Wilson](#), who has served as Assistant Director since April 14, 1919, was promoted to the position of Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum, and on April 30, 1927, Louis Victor Schmitt was given the position of Superintendent, succeeding Christian Van der Voet.

The climatic conditions of 1926-27 were exceptionally favorable to the collections. Winter storms passed lightly over the Arboretum and the trees and shrubs were unharmed by snow and ice. The hybrid lilacs were severely pruned and none of them blossomed. It was feared that they had been injured beyond recovery, but a favorable season and the judicious enrichment of the soil around them stimulated vigorous growth and the plants should produce a profusion of flowers next year.

During the year 3,006 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 3,422 packets of seeds were distributed in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Finland, India, Holland, Japan, Sweden, Germany, China, Denmark, Russia, France, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Cuba, Tasmania and New Zealand.

There have been received 1,911 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 781 packets of seeds from the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, China, Canada, New Zealand, India, Sweden, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Cuba, Ireland and from Manchuria.

The Herbarium now contains 285,822 sheets, 9,018 sheets having been added during the year. Among the accessions 1,650 plants came from North America, about 920 from Central and South America, more than 1,200 from Europe and Western Asia, approximately 1,400 from tropical and southern Africa, 800 from China and 1800 from Malaysia and Australasia.

Among the most important single collections received may be mentioned 900 plants collected by [E. J. Palmer](#) chiefly in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Wisconsin; 257 plants collected by P. Dusen in Brazil; about 1,200 plants from Europe and Western Asia received from J. Bornmueller; 331 plants from Fukien province collected by H. H. Chung; 372 plants from Chekiang province through the National Southeastern University at Nanking; 1,085 from Borneo collected by A. D. Elmer; 406 from South Africa collected by R. Marloth; 984 plants from Tropical Africa collected by D. H. Linder; and 577 plants from Papua collected by [L. J. Brass](#).

There have been distributed from the herbarium 5,970 specimens among eight institutions in this country and in Europe. The crowded condition in the herbarium cases of the Herbarium Building and the lack of space for the installation of additional cases in that building made it necessary to utilize the Conifer room on the first floor of the main building. The exhibition cases with the low wooden herbarium compartments beneath were removed and 128 new metal cases were installed during the winter. These new cases will provide sufficient space to accommodate the accessions of the next eight to ten years.

Botanical exploration for the Arnold Arboretum has been carried on in different parts of the world during the year. The expedition to Northwestern China and Northeastern Tibet directed by [Mr. J. F. Rock](#) was brought to a successful conclusion.

Rock started from Choni, Kansu, in March, 1927, and arrived safely in Shanghai, at the beginning of May, and by June all the collected material, botanical and zoological, had arrived at Shanghai without the loss of a single parcel (see [Journ. Arnold Arb.](#), viii, 200). Mr. Rock sent to the Arboretum 601 different numbers of plant seeds. These have been distributed among 41 of the leading botanical gardens in this country, Canada and northern Europe. His herbarium collection covers 3,098 numbers of woody plants and herbs.

Assistant Professor [J. G. Jack](#) spent more than three months, from the middle of January to April, 1927, at the [Harvard Botanical Garden in Cuba](#), collecting for the Arboretum in the Garden and surrounding country. Mr. J. E. Palmer collected from July to October, 1926 in Texas and some of the adjoining states and explored the botanically little known Davis Mountains in southwestern Texas. Dr. H. Linder accompanied, as collector for the Arboretum, the Expedition of the Harvard Institute of Tropical Biology and Medicine, which crossed the African Continent from Liberia to British East Africa, starting in October, 1926 and reaching the eastern coast in

May, 1927; he collected more than 2,600 numbers of plants, most of them being represented by duplicates.

Dr. [John] Mattfeld collected in Greece from May to October, 1926 (see [Journ. Arnold Arb.](#), viii, 133 and 205 for a detailed report) and started again for the Balkan Peninsula in June, 1927, to collect in Bulgaria.

In Australia the Arboretum participated in botanical exploration carried on by Mr. C.T. White for the Brisbane Botanic Garden.

The collecting tour in the British Territory of Papua by [Mr. L. J. Brass](#) had already been terminated in June, 1926.

During the fiscal year 653 bound volumes were added to the Library making a total number of 37,146; in addition there are 200 unbound volumes; of pamphlets 187 were added bringing the total number to 8,559. Three hundred and fifty (350) periodicals are currently received, 168 by exchange. They come from all parts of the world, including Czechoslovakia, Estland, Lettland, Roumania, China, Japan, Indo-China, Siberia, Crimea, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. The most valuable and interesting books added to the Library were *Macer Floridus. De virtutibus* 1525, and Nicolaus Basseus, *Eicones platarum*, 1590, the gift of Mrs. Sarah C. Sears; J.C. Krafft, *Plans des plus beaux jardins pittoresques de France, d'Angleterre et d'Allemagne*, 2 vol., Paris, 1809-10, gift of Mrs. Edith Appleby; P. A. Matthiolus, *Medici senensis commentarii secundo*, 1559, and Mizaldus, *Hortorum secreta*, 1575.

During the year four parts of the [Journal of the Arnold Arboretum](#) and twenty numbers of the *Bulletin of Popular Information* were issued.

To the photographic collection 886 photographs were added. These include 200 taken by Mr. Rock and 53 from the Hamilton-Rice Expedition to the Amazon, 1924-26, the gift of Mr. Rice.

In June a tract of land comprising 112,464 square feet was purchased from the Adams Nervine Asylum and added to the Arboretum. At the same time the nursery land bounded by Orchard and Prince Streets was sold, the date agreed upon to deliver the title deeds and vacate this land being May 1, 1928.

About 350 visitors registered at the Administration Building during the year 1926-27. These visitors came from twenty-eight states of the Union and from Africa, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Japan, Roumania, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Among the visitors were Dr. A. W. Hill, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England; F. J. Chittenden, Director of the Royal Horticultural Gardens, Wisley, England; and R. Kanehira, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Taihoku, Formosa. Most of the visitors made only

brief visits, but Dr. Kanehira remained for several weeks studying the Asiatic collections in the Herbarium.

Generous gifts for current use and endowment have been brought in year after year in ever increasing volume by the efforts of Professor Sargent supported by loyal friends. Shortly before his death, Professor Sargent, realizing that the continuation of such necessary support was problematical, undertook to raise a large sum of money for additional endowment. At the time of his death hardly a beginning of this project had been made. Convinced of the soundness of his vision, and believing in the services the Arboretum renders, friends and admirers of Professor Sargent undertook to raise an endowment fund of one million dollars, to be called the Charles Sprague Sargent Memorial Fund.

For this purpose committees were formed in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other cities, so that the undertaking might be a national one and give an opportunity for contributions by those who are interested in the preservation and continued growth of a great institution and who desire to pay a tribute to the memory of its founder.

OAKES AMES, Supervisor