

The Rhododendron Collectors:

Forrest - F; Kingdon-Ward - KW; Wilson - W; Rock - R; Ludlow and Sherriff - L&S; Cox - C; and Clark - AC: initials and names most rhododendron enthusiasts will be familiar with from avidly seeking out the labels dangling from the lower branches of the plants those collectors introduced, mature specimens of which can be found populating all the principal UK gardens that specialise in the genus and are open to the general public throughout the flowering season.

Yet the exquisite treasures they discovered have never before been gathered together and illustrated within the pages of a single volume, each opus highlighting the work of an individual plant hunter.

So a host of photographs portraying those plants in UK cultivation - images captured over the course of the last three decades on a myriad of visits to the leading horticultural establishments of England, Scotland and Wales - have been gathered together across the heptad, with each volume augmented with pertinent texts and articles, most written at the time the expeditions took place, plus full field number listings of all the species and natural hybrids that were so painstakingly amassed on those trips across the rhododendron-rich regions of Southeast Asia.



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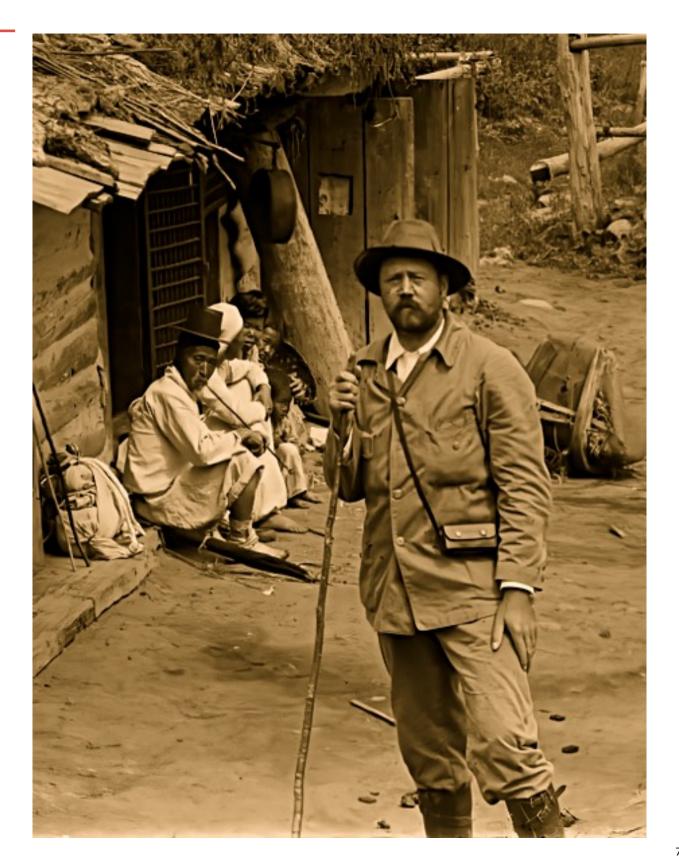
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Ernest Henry Wilson, 1876-1930.

by Professor Alfred Rehder.

The sudden death on October 15 of Ernest Henry Wilson, Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum, in an automobile accident, was a great shock to his associates and friends, taking him in the prime of his life from the work he loved so well and in which he was interested with all his heart.

Ernest Henry Wilson was born at Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, England, on February 15, 1876, the eldest son of Henry and Annie (Curtis) Wilson. After leaving school he entered the nurseries of Messrs. Hewill at Solihull, Warwickshire, and in 1892 was recommended to the Curator of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens as a promising young gardener. He accepted a position in these gardens and notwithstanding the long hours of work he studied at the same time in the Technical School in Birmingham which offered excellent facilities for the study of botany, and did so well that he won the Queen's prize in this subject at the examination held by the Board of Education. In January 1897 he entered the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew where he soon succeeded in winning recognition for his work in the garden as in the lecture room. On the advice of his friends and induced by his love of botany he left Kew and entered in October 1898 the Royal College of Science at South Kensington with the intention of becoming a teacher of botany.

About this time the nursery firm of Veitch & Sons asked the director of Kew Gardens to recommend a suitable man to send to China to collect seeds and living plants. The choice fell on Wilson and he left England in April 1899 for China by the way of Boston and San Francisco. This was his first visit to Boston and to the Arnold Arboretum. One of the chief objects of his journey was the introduction of Davidia involucrata and he had instructions to see Dr. A. Henry who was at that time in Szemao, Yunnan, and obtain information on where to find this tree, which Dr. Henry had seen in Hupeh [Hubei], nearly 20 years before. He arrived at Hong Kong, then had to sail to Haiphong in Tonkin as the best way to reach Szemao. After much delay and with great difficulties owing to political disturbances, Wilson finally succeeded in reaching Szemao. After Dr. Henry had given him the desired information and all possible advice and assistance, he returned to Hong Kong and went from there early in 1900 to Shanghai and up the Yangtze River to Ichang. There he found some of Dr. Henry's men who guided him to the place where Dr. Henry had seen the Davidia tree, but to Wilson's dismay all he found was the stump of the tree which had been cut down a few years previously. Wilson then decided to collect all the interesting plants of the region he could and in traveling around for this purpose he found in another locality trees of Davidia in full bloom, from which he collected in autumn a rich harvest of seed. With Ichang as his headquarters, he collected in Hupeh, during 1900 and 1901, seeds and living plants of a great number of new ornamental plants and also a large amount of herbarium material.

In April 1902 he returned to England and on June 8 married Ellen Ganderston of Edgbaston, Warwickshire. Mrs. Wilson, quiet and unassuming, found her highest pleasure in making the happy atmosphere of the home in which he loved to write of his adventures in far away lands. They had one daughter, Muriel Primrose, who, was married last year to Mr. George Slate, a member of the staff of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y

He had been so successful in his work that Messrs. Veitch & Sons decided to send him again to China, and in January 1903 he started on a second expedition. He arrived in Shanghai on March 22, and started at once for northern Szechuan [Sichuan]. He made Kiatingfu his headquarters and first went to Tachienlu and later north to Sungpan where he found among other things *Meconopsis punicea*. The year 1904 he also spent in the

exploration of western Szechuan and returned in March 1905 to England, where he attended for some time to his introductions in the Veitchian nurseries at Coombe Wood and later went as temporary assistant to the Herbarium at Kew to assist in the sorting and identification of his herbarium collections. He had sent in during the expeditions about 2000 numbers of seeds and plants and about 5000 numbers of herbarium specimens of which many proved new to science. In January 1906 he accepted a position as botanical assistant at the Imperial Institute in London.

The success of Wilson as a collector of seeds and living plants and of herbarium specimens attracted the attention of Professor C. S. Sargent and he secured Wilson's services for another exploring expedition to China this time on behalf of the Arnold Arboretum. In December 1906 Wilson came to the Arnold Arboretum and left on the last of the month for China via San Francisco. He arrived in Shanghai on Feb. 4th and proceeded at once to Ichang. He made an excursion in April to the southwest, where at an altitude of 7000 ft. the trees were still bare and snow was lying in the crevices. On this trip he discovered *Pinus Bungeana* wild in Central China. During the rest of the year he explored western Hupeh in different directions with Ichang as the base where he also spent the winter. In May of 1908 he traveled west and using Kiating as his base, explored western Szechuan in different directions finding the Min valley, Mt. Wa and Mt. Omei particularly interesting and profitable. At the end of the year he left Szechuan and went east again and leaving China towards the end of April 1909 arrived in England on May 15. He stayed in London until September when he returned to the Arnold Arboretum.

As the Conifers in western China did not bear cones in the autumn of 1908 and as it seemed important to secure cones and seeds of these trees. Wilson went to China for the fourth time in April 1910. He traveled by the Trans-Siberian railway via Moscow and Peking and arrived at Ichang by the end of May. As the men who had traveled with him on his former expeditions had been already notified, he was able to start without delay for western Szechuan and reached Chengtu on July 27. At the beginning of August he set out for Sungpan and after having collected there and having made arrangements for digging the bulbs of the Regal Lily in October, he started on his return trip to Chengtu. When following a narrow trail along a steep slope Wilson's party was surprised by a rock slide and Wilson was hit by a rock, which broke his right leg in two places below the knee. He was still three days from Chengtu and with his leg temporarily bandaged with splints improvised from the legs of his camera tripod, he had to be carried to Chengtu. There he was cared for by doctors of the Friends' Presbyterian Mission, but infection had set in and at the end of six weeks, as there were no signs of the bones uniting, the question of the amputation of the leg was raised. The doctors, however, finally succeeded in staying the infection and after three months Wilson was able to walk on crutches. Soon after he started on his return voyage to America where he arrived in March 1911. After spending a few weeks in a Boston hospital, where he had his right leg, which was nearly an inch shorter reset and fitted with a special boot, he was able to walk freely again. In 1910 the Conifers in western Szechuan had fruited freely and were collected as were the Lily bulbs by Wilson's trained collectors, so that notwithstanding the unfortunate accident, the object of the expedition was realised.

> - opposite left -A portrait of Ernest Wilson aged 23.

The photograph was taken just before he set off on his first collecting trip for the Veitch Nursery in 1899.

- opposite right -

Standing at the front entrance of the Arnold Arboretum's Hunnewell Administration Building, in September, 1925.



During the two Arboretum expeditions Wilson collected about 65,000 specimens representing 4700 numbers and secured 1593 lots of seed and 168 lots of plants and cuttings, also about 850 excellent photographs of plants, general views of vegetation, and of other objects of interest.

From March 1911 to the end of 1918 he remained at the Arnold Arboretum sorting and classifying his collections and preparing jointly with the writer an account of his collections in China edited in three volumes by C. S. Sargent under the title "Plantae Wilsonianae".

In 1914 he went to Japan and spent February and March in southern Japan paying special attention to Cherries; in one garden, where 80 garden forms were grown, he collected herbarium material of 63 named forms. From April to June he collected in Central Japan and in July and August in Hondo and Saghalin. In autumn he returned to central Japan and the last two months of the year he spent on the island of Shikoku. After having collected about 2000 numbers with many duplicates, taken about 600 photographs and sent home a large collection of Japanese cherries and seeds he returned to the Arnold Arboretum in January 1915.

From January 1915 to the end of 1916 he assisted again, after having worked and arranged his Japanese collections, in the preparation of the "Plantae Wilsonianae," the last part of which was issued in January 1917.

In January 1917 he started on his sixth voyage to the Far East and explored first in February and March the Liukiu and in April the Bonin Islands. In May he left for Korea and made several excursions with Dr. Nakai, the government botanist of Korea, and during 1917 visited almost all the provinces and also the southern island of Quelpaert and the small Dagelet Island whose flora is closely related to that of Japan. After having spent the last months of the year in the southern provinces he returned in January 1918 to Japan to proceed at once to Formosa where he arrived on January 22; he visited Mt. Arisan where Taiwania cryptomerioides the tallest tree of Eastern Asia grows and also ascended Mt. Morrison the highest peak of Formosa (13072 ft.). In April he left the island and returned to Japan where he visited the city of Kurume on Kyushu Island to see a collection of 250 named kinds of Kurume Azaleas; this collection was started by Motozo Sakamoto about 100 years ago and is now in the hands of K. Akashi; the parent stock came from Mt. Kirishima. In June he made a second trip to Korea where he stayed until September 28, when he returned to Japan to visit Formosa once more. About the middle of December he left Formosa and after a short sojourn in Japan returned to the United States arriving in Boston on March 17, 1919. From this last expedition he brought back about 30,000 specimens representing 3268 numbers and 700 photographs, also many seeds and living plants. Some of the most interesting plants he introduced during this expedition are Taiwania cryptomerioides, Pinus luchuensis, Juniperus taxifolia and Cunninghamia Konishii.

In April 1919 Wilson was appointed Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum and in July 1920 started on a tour to Australia, New Zealand, India and Central and South Africa. He first went to England whence he embarked in September for Australia where he visited the Botanic Gardens at Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and made collecting tours into the native forests. February and March of 1921 he spent in New Zealand and Tasmania, then returned to Australia which country he left in June for Singapore. From Singapore he went to Penang, Rangoon and Calcutta and during August made a tour through the northern and north-western forests, visiting the botanic gardens at Lucknow, Saharampur, Lahore, Simla and the Forestry College at Dehra Dun. In September he made a tour to Sikkim and Assam and in October went to Bombay and from there to Ceylon and later to the Nilghiri Hills visiting Ootacamund and Coimbatore, On Nov.

4 he sailed from Bombay for Mombasa in East Africa whence he proceeded at once to Nairobi in British East Africa; from there he visited Kenya and the forest where *Juniperus procera* grows. In the beginning of 1922 he went to Portuguese East Africa and thence to Victoria Falls in Rhodesia. On February 2 he reached Pretoria and from there traveled to Durban and Capetown. From Capetown he sailed on April 7 for London. In June he paid a visit to Edinburgh and in July made a trip to France. On August 15 he sailed from Liverpool for the United States to take up again his duties as Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum. During this last tour he took 522 photographs and collected a large number of herbarium specimens in all the countries he visited. He fully realised the chief object of this tour which was to bring about closer relations between the Arboretum and other botanical institutions all over the world and to establish friendly relations with individuals interested in botany, horticulture and forestry. In April 1927 after the death of the Director, Professor C. S. Sargent, he was appointed Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum.

On October 15, 1930, Dr. and Mrs. Wilson were returning from a visit to their daughter. When near Worcester, Mass., the automobile which Dr. Wilson was driving skidded on a road made slippery by fallen leaves and swerving across the side walk crashed through a wooden fence and dropped over a steep embankment to a field 40 ft. below the level of the road. Mrs. Wilson was dead when extricated and Dr. Wilson died on the way to the hospital without regaining consciousness.



Wilson with a group of reformed headhunters and armed policemen on the mountains of Formosa (Taiwan) in 1918.

Wilson's chief contribution to horticulture and botany lies in his exploration of China where he spent most of his time between 1899 and 1911. His long sojourn in this country and his familiarity with it earned for him the epithet "Chinese" Wilson. He made four journeys to China and in all six to the Far East, the last two to the different countries of the Japanese Empire. He was a born plant collector; endowed with a strong physique, robust health, indomitable will power and a deep love of plants. He succeeded in collecting and introducing into cultivation a greater number of plants than any other collector. He knew how to handle his men and never had any serious trouble in all his expeditions in the Far East. He introduced more than a thousand species previously unknown to cultivation and collected about 16,000 numbers of herbarium specimens, with numerous duplicates, so that now his specimens are found in all important herbaria throughout the world and his plants have spread to all the gardens of temperate and subtropical regions. It is not feasible to enumerate here all his introductions and only a few of the more important can be mentioned, as: Abelia Schumannii Rehd., Abies Fargesii Franch., Acer Davidii Franch., Actinidia chinensis Planch., Aesculus Wilsonii Rehd., Ampelopsis megalophylla Diels & Gilg, Berberis Sargentiana Schneid., B. triacanthophora Fedde, Buddleia Davidii var. magnifica Rehd. & Wils., Burus microphylla var. koreana Rehd. & Wils., Catalpa Fargesii Bur., Celastrus angulata Maxim., Cercis racemosa Oliv., Citrus ichangensis Swingle, Cladrastis Wilsonii Takeda, Clematis montana var. rubens Ktze., Corylopsis Veitchiana Bean, Cotoneaster apiculata Rehd. & Wils., Cunninghamia Konishii Hay., Deutzia longifolia var. Veitchii Rehd., Dipteronia sinensis Oliv., Evonymus [Euonymus] Aquifolium Loes. & Rehd., Forsythia ovata Nakai, Fagus Iucida Rehd. & Wils., Fortunearia sinensis Rehd. & Wils., Gaultheria Veitchiana Craib, Hamamelis mollis Oliv., Hydrangea Sargentiana Rehd., Ilex Pernyi Franch., Jasminum primulinum Hemsl., Kolkwitzia amabilis Graebn., Liquidambar formosana Hance, Liriodendron chinense Sarg., Lonicera tragophylla Hemsl., Magnolia Delavayi Franch., Malus theifera Rehd., Neillia sinensis Oliv., Photinia Davidsoniae Rehd. & Wils., Picea asperata Mast., Pieris taiwanensis Hay., Populus lasiocarpa Oliv., Prunus Dielsiana Koehne and many varieties of P. serrulata Lindl. and P. Lannesiana Carr., Pyrus Calleryana Dene., Rubus lasiostylus Focke, Rosa Moyesii Hemsl. & Wils., Salix magnifica Hemsl., Sargentodora cuneata Rehd. & Wils., Schizophragma integrifolium Oliv., Sinofranchetia chinensis Hemsl., Sinowilsonia Henryi Hemsl., Sorbaria arborea Schneid., Sorbus Sargentiana Koehne, Spiraea Veitchii Hemsl., Staphylea holocarpa Hemsl., Stewartia koreana Nakai, Styrax Wilsonii Rehd., Sycopsis sinensis Oliv., Syringa reflera Schneid., Taiwania cryptomerioides Hay., Thea cuspidata Kochs, Tilia Oliveri Szysz., Tsuga yunnanensis Mast., Vaccinium praestans Lamb., Viburnum rhytidophyllum Hemsl., Vitis Davidii Foéx, Aconitum Wilsonii Stapf, Astilbe Davidii Henry, Corydalis thalictrifolia Franch., Lilium regale Wils., Meconopsis integrifolia Franch., Primula Veitchii Duthie, Rodgersia aesculifolia Batal., Senecio tanguticus Maxim., Thalictrum dipterocarpum Franch., Rehmannia angulata Hemsl., and others.

During his travels in different parts of the world Wilson paid much attention to forest conditions and published valuable contributions and suggestions relating to the forest problems of several countries, as Korea (*A summary report forestry and afforestation of Chosen,* 1919), East Africa (*Indigenous forest trees of Kenya,* 1922), South Africa and Australia (*Northern trees in southern lands,* 1923). He also rendered a great service to silviculture through the introduction of important forest trees into cultivation.

In his position as Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum he carried on the work of Professor Sargent and succeeded well in maintaining its steady progress and development. Besides this work he took an active interest in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society of which he was trustee and member of several important committees, and was advisory editor of the

Society's publication "Horticulture." He also was much sought for as a lecturer by horticultural societies in different parts of the country and particularly he liked to lecture on the Arnold Arboretum, the subject closest to his heart. Notwithstanding all these activities he found time for literary work. He was a frequent contributor to horticultural and botanical periodicals and published a number of important horticultural and botanical books; he wrote of his experiences in China in "A Naturalist in Western China", "Plant Hunting" and "China, Mother of Gardens"; he dealt with ornamental plants, chiefly trees and shrubs, in "Aristocrats of the Garden", "More Aristocrats of the Garden", "Aristocrats of the Trees", and "America's Greatest Garden", which is a description of the Arnold Arboretum. More strictly botanical are "Cherries of Japan", "The Conifers and Taxads of Japan", "A monograph of Azaleas (with A. Rehder)" and "The Lilies of Eastern Asia". Wilson's books are well written. In his botanical publications he covers his ground completely with painstaking accuracy, knowing the plants he is dealing with not only from the study of ample herbarium material but also as they grow in their native habitat; in his more popular books he writes in a vivid and entertaining style imparting his masterly knowledge of the plants in a way that keeps the interest of the reader alive from cover to cover. Not the least valuable part of his books are the reproductions of the excellent photographs he took in all parts of the world.

Many honours were bestowed upon Wilson. On November 6, 1906 he received the Veitchian medal in recognition of his services in horticulture and in 1913 the Victoria Medal of Honour in horticulture. He also received the Geoffroy St. Hilaire Gold Medal, the George Robert White Medal, the Medal of the Horticultural Society of New York and the Centennial Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1916 the honorary degree of A.M. was conferred on him by Harvard University and in 1930 the honorary degree of Sc.D. by Trinity College of Hartford, Conn. He was elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, was an honorary member of the Rhododendron Society, the American Horticultural Society and also was a member of other scientific and horticultural societies. In recognition of his services to Chinese botany a new genus of Hamamelidaceae from China, Sinowilsonia, was named in his honour. Besides this, about 60 species and varieties of Chinese plants bear his name of which some may be cited here: Aconitum Wilsonii Stapf, Aesculus Wilsonii Rehd., Aralia Wilsonii Harms, Cladrastis Wilsonii Takeda, Corvdalis Wilsonii N. E. Br., Daphne Wilsonii Rehd., Deutzia Wilsonii Rehd., Evonymus Wilsonii Sprague, Ilex Wilsonii Loes., Iris Wilsonii C. H. Wright, Magnolia Wilsonii Rehd., Populus Wilsonii Schneid., Rubus Wilsonii Duthie, Salix Wilsonii Schneid., Sophora Wilsonii Craib, Sorbus Wilsoniana Koehne, Spiraea Wilson Rehd., Styrax Wilsonii Rehd., Ulmus Wilsoniana Schneid., Viburnum Wilsonii Rehd.

Although Wilson was taken from us in the full vigour of his life, he had already accomplished so much that his memory cannot die with us who knew him both personally and as a friend. His name will live through generations to come in the new plants he discovered many of them commemorating his name and in the plants he brought from foreign lands to enrich and embellish our gardens.

Alfred Rehder's encomium obituary for his friend, colleague and co-author, was published in *The Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* (Volume XI, Number 4, October 1930).

Azaleas in the Arnold Arboretum.

by E. H. Wilson.

Azaleas are the gayest of plants, and the flowers of no other group of hardy shrubs present such a range of brilliant colours - white, pink, yellow, orange, salmon to flaming red and scarlet, in tones of great purity and vividness. Many species are delightfully fragrant, and all are abundantly floriferous. The first each year to flower in the Arnold Arboretum is AZALEA MUCRONULATA, which opens its blossoms in April at the blush of early spring; the last is A. VISCOSA, blooming in July. In height they average from 5 to 8 feet, but with age may grow 10 or 15 feet tall; all are of shapely habit, branching freely, and are usually broader than they are high. Some, like A. VASEYI, are partial to moist places; others, like A. CALENDULACEA, flourish on dry banks. But they are all good-natured, and easily adapt themselves to a variety of situations. They may be planted in full exposure or under the shade of trees. Most of them are ideal when associated with deciduous trees, especially Oaks, either on the fringe of woodlands or in glades. The flowers of A. KAEMPFERI are apt to bleach in full sun, and this sort is seen to best advantage under the overhanging branches of Fir or Pine. So far as I know, none of the really hardy species are subject to disease of any kind, nor are they attacked by insect pests. They demand, however, a limefree soil.

The two great regions of the world that have supplied our gardens with Azaleas are eastern North America and north-eastern Asia. There are several Azaleas which have their home in China, there is one (A. PONTICA) in Asia Minor and parts of Europe, and two in western North America. The American species and that from Asia Minor thrive in English gardens, where many of them have been growing for more than two centuries. The Chinese species must be classed as tender; and those of Japan and continental northeastern Asia are not altogether a success under the grey English skies, and flourish far better in New England. The difference in the amount of summer heat enjoyed probably accounts for this difference in behaviour. Nevertheless, many of the Oriental Azaleas are so beautiful as lo deserve more thorough and extended trials in British gardens. Eastern North America is fortunate in having among its flowering shrubs many species of Azaleas. The centre of their distribution is the Appalachian mountain region, but they are found north as far as Vermont and Quebec, south to Florida, and west into Texas. If Rhodora be included, the range is extended into Labrador and Newfoundland. In all some fifteen species with many varieties are known, though some of these are critical and only recently recognised. Three of the species (A. NUDIFLORA, A. VISCOSA and A. CANESCENS) have been cultivated in European gardens for about two hundred years, seeds having been received from John Bartram by Peter Collinson sometime between 1725 and 1730. These Azaleas have never lost their popularity in England, though hybridisation has been carried so far that the pure species are now rare in gardens, and are confused with the hybrids.

My earliest recollection of hardy Azaleas is of a large oval-shaped bed in a garden enclosed within a Beech-hedge. The plants grew thickly together and beneath them flourished Snowdrops, Crocus, Scillas, Grape-hyacinths, and other early spring-flowering bulbs. Later the Azaleas - Ghent hybrids and American species - furnished a galaxy of colour, and the fragrance and beauty of the scene is still vivid in my memory. And this is the right way to plant Azaleas; thickly, and in clumps or groups, for they are surface-rooting plants, and when growing close together keep the soil about them cool and properly aerated.

Azaleas have been very extensively planted in the Arnold Arboretum, and from the end of April until mid-July produce a gorgeous display of colour. The collection proper occupies a western hill-slope, but there are groups among Oak trees, and clumps here and

there by the roadsides and by the edge of ponds. As arranged these Azaleas give arresting bits of colour in all sorts of unexpected places. Here and there a flame of orange or red, a patch of yellow, a drift of pink, or a sheet of the purest white. In some places, hidden among other bushes, their exhaled fragrance leads a visitor to the discovery of isolated plants of Pinxter Flower or Wild Honeysuckle. Azaleas lend themselves to all sorts of surprises, and add alluring interest to a stroll through the grounds. Looking from vantage points through vistas of Oak and Beech, a blaze of brilliant colour fascinates the beholder. Flaming drifts of abundant blossom, a vision of ecstatic delight. A rapturous scene such as fancy associates with tropic lands. Flora dressed in her gayest robes, steeped in honeyed scents, voluptuous, alluring, irresistible.

First of the Azaleas to burst into bloom is A. MUCRONULATA [*R. mucronulatum* ssp. *mucronulatum*], native of Korea and other parts of north-eastern Asia. This is a shrub of loose branching habit with rigid, twiggy stems thickly crowded with clusters of rose-coloured flowers. The leaves are dotted with tiny glands, and when crushed emit a pleasant fragrance; in autumn they change to yellow and bronzy crimson. Seldom exceeding 6 feet in height, this Azalea is partial to dry and stony situations. The flowers are remarkably resistant to late frosts, but the best results are obtained in positions sheltered from strong winds.

Of singular elegance and charm is A. VASEYI [R. vaseyi], with star-shaped pure pink flowers. Rather spare in habit, it loves a moist situation, and is happiest near a pond or stream where tall Willows or other deciduous-leafed trees break the sun's rays and the water reflects its beauty. Though restricted in a wild state to the high mountains of western North Carolina, it is perfectly hardy in the British Isles. The typical form has pink flowers, but there is also one with pure white blossoms.

Vying with Vasey's Azalea in the pink purity of its blossoms is A. SCHLIPPENBACHII, [R. schlippenbachii] whose loveliness is beginning to be noised abroad. This has broad funnel-form, fragrant flowers, each $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches across, produced in terminal clusters, usually in May before the leaves unfold. It is a sturdy bush with rigid, twiggy branches, and I have seen it as much as 15 feet tall, though usually it is less than half this height. The leaves are obovate, from 2 to 4 inches long, and in the fall change to yellow, orange, and crimson. Known from two isolated mountains in north Japan, and one or two localities in north-eastern Manchuria, it is one of the commonest shrubs in Korea, where in thin woods it is often the dominant undergrowth. On some of the mountains it is extraordinarily abundant, presenting in June the wonderful sight of mile upon mile of drifts of purest pink. In Korea, through thin woods of Oak with grey and rose-tinted unfolding leaves, I have walked for hours among a myriad blossoms of this beautiful Azalea.

An old favourite in gardens is the floriferous Pontic Azalea (A. PONTICA) [*R. luteum*] with its exquisitely scented blossoms. This Eurasian species is a vigorous-growing shrub from 6 to 12 feet tall, wide-spreading, with rigid branches and hairy oblong leaves. The flowers are clear yellow, with outthrust stamens and pistils, and are crowded together in clusters at the ends of the shoots. This Azalea has been much used by the hybridist, and crosses between it and various American species have originated the polychromatic "Ghent Azaleas", without which our gardens would lack much early summer fragrance and colour.

Familiar to many is A. NUDIFLORA [R. periclymenoides], the Wild Honeysuckle or Pinxter Flower, widespread in eastern North America from Massachusetts southward. This is an excellent garden shrub growing from 2 to 6 feet tall, and densely set with thin branches, and bearing in profusion clusters of fragrant flowers, pale to crimson-pink in colour, with lobes spreading from a slender hairy tube, the stamens and pistils outthrust. It thrives in any situation and never fails to put forth a wealth of sweetly fragrant blossoms.

Two other species with pink and and rose-coloured flowers are the closely related A. ROSEA and A. CANESCENS (respectively, *R. prinophyllum* and *R. canescens*]. The first-named is the most northern of American Azaleas, being found from Quebec south, while A. CANESCENS is confined to North Carolina. Both are broad, irregularly branching shrubs from 4 to 15 feet tall, with fragrant tubular flowers opening before the leaves unfold.

About the end of the first week in May, A. POUKHANENSE [R. poukhanense] commences to blossom. This is the common Azalea of Korea from the central parts south, and was first introduced into cultivation by the Arnold Arboretum as late as 1905. In gardens it is a densely branched, rounded, or flat-topped shrub, from 1 to 4 feet tall, and more through, with terminal heads of rosy purple flowers rich in delightful fragrance. It is partially or wholly deciduous, and in the autumn the leaves are tinted orange to crimson. The double-flowered A. YODOGAWA [which after a century-and-a-half of botanic confusion as R. yedoense, has finally been deemed to be the hybrid, R. 'Yodogawa'], now frequent in gardens, is nothing but a form of this Korean Azalea, though its habit is more lax.

A Japanese species with rich magenta-coloured flowers is A. RETICULATA [*R. reticulatum*] better known as A. RHOMBICA [synonymous], which varies in habit from a low twiggy, flat-topped bush scarcely a yard high to a loosely branched shrub 18 feet tall. Placed by itself with a foil of dark evergreen behind, this Azalea in blossom is strikingly handsome.

For vividness of colour and spectacular beauty A. KAEMPFERI, A. JAPONICA, and A. CALENDULACEA must be granted pride of place [respectively: *R. kaempferi; R. molle* ssp. *japonicum;* and *R. calendulaceum*]. In the Arnold Arboretum may be seen broad masses of these Azaleas, and in late May and early June these are amazing sheets of flaming colour, illuminating the landscape from afar. From every vantage point they compel attention, and visitors are irresistibly drawn towards them.

Kaempfer's Azalea is the common Mountain Azalea of Japan, where it is abundant from the extreme south far into the northern part of the country, emblazoning the wayside and mountain slopes from sea-level up to 4000 feet high with unscented flowers varying in colour from salmon to rich red. The flowers last longer, and are seen to best advantage, when growing in the partial shade of Conifers and other evergreen plants. In full sun their brilliance pales, the colours bleach, and the blossoms fade more quickly. In Massachusetts this plant is wholly deciduous, but further south the leaves are retained through the winter. Though discovered late in the seventeenth century, this Azalea was not brought into cultivation until 1892, when Professor Sargent sent seeds to the Arnold Arboretum. With us it is perfectly hardy, extraordinarily floriferous, and among the most valuable of all exotic plants. In England, owing to less summer heat, it has not proved so tractable, flowering sparsely, and often suffering from late spring frosts.

More sturdy of habit, with rigid ascending stems is A. JAPONICA, also widespread on the mountains of Japan. This has broad, funnel-shaped flowers, each about 2 inches across, sweetly fragrant, and aggregated 6 to 12 together at the end of every shoot. The colour varies from orange-red to flame-red, or almost red, and there is a form (aurea) with soft yellow blossoms. At its maximum this is a shrub 10 feet tall and 5 feet through, but more usually it is from 4 to 5 feet high and as much in diameter. Vigorous of habit, free-flowering, and perfectly hardy, this handsome Azalea deserves the widest possible recognition. Very closely related is A. MOLLIS [R. molle ssp. molle] from China, with rich yellow flowers, but less hardy. By crossing these two species the hybrid race of "Mollis Azaleas" of which 'Anthony Koster' is a typical example, have been brought into being. Some of these are perfectly hardy, and none more so than the handsome orange-yellow 'Louisa Hunnewell'.

The third of this group is the Flame Azalea of the Appalachian Mountains, and right well does it merit the name, for A. CALENDULACEA is one of the most gorgeous of all American shrubs. All who have seen it growing wild extol its beauty, and we who know it in gardens are captive to its brilliance. The colours range from yellow through orange to scarlet, and the flowers, which have little or no fragrance, open with or immediately after the unfolding of the leaves. This Azalea grows naturally in open woods and by the side of water-courses, and may be any height from 4 to 15 feet, and as much through. In gardens it is not particular in the matter of site, but massed on a bank or in thin Oak woods is most effective.

Before the last flowers of the Flame Azalea have fallen those of A. ARBORESCENS [*R. arborescens*], another Appalachian species, commence to open. This is one of the loveliest of all the American Azaleas, with its large fragrant flowers, pale rose-colour in the bud, and the purest white when fully expanded. The stamens and pistil are exserted far beyond the spreading lobes of the tubular flowers, and being of a bright red-crimson colour add much to the beauty of the blossoms. It is a much-branched shrub, from 8 to 15 feet high, with dark green leaves, lustrous above and pale below, and with an odour of newly mown hay. Unlike the proceeding species, the leaves of this Azalea and those of A. VISCOSA are fully grown before the flowers appear.

Carrying the Azalea season well into July, and last of all to open its flowers, is A. VISCOSA [R. viscosum], the Swamp Honeysuckle. This is an inhabitant of the swamps of the eastern part of America, from south-eastern Maine to South Carolina. An irregularly branching shrub from 3 to 15 feet tall, this Azalea as a garden plant is valuable for the delightful fragrance of its long-tube, clammy, viscid, pure white flowers, and for their lateness.

As we have passed some of the different kinds in review their individual characteristics have been pointed out and appraised, but it is the extravagance of colour and wealth of blossom that impresses, first, last, and all the time. Colour among flowers is like movement among animals, a virile expression of life. If this analogy be admitted, then Azaleas are rich in animation and vivacity.

Wilson's article was originally published within Volume 3, Number 2, of *The Rhododendron Society Notes*, in 1926. He contributed three other accounts to the yearbook series - *The Rhododendrons of North-Eastern Asia*, in 1922; *The Rhododendrons of Hupeh Province*, *Central China*, in 1923; and *The Rhododendrons of the Bonin and Liukiu Islands and of Formosa*, in 1924 - but principally these are now outdated classifications, with no detail given on the actual expeditions. The three specific volumes, indeed the entire *Notes* assemblage, may be freely downloaded from the Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group website at:

https://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/publications/books/rhodo-soc-notes/

E. H. Wilson as a Botanist.

by Richard A. Howard.

Ernest Henry Wilson wished to go down in memory as "Chinese Wilson," and so it has been. His reputation today is certainly that of one of the most successful individuals to introduce horticulturally valuable plants from China to western gardens. Over 1,000 different plants were gathered by Wilson and introduced in England and America as seeds, bulbs, cuttings, or plants; these have since become established in the horticultural trade and in private or botanical gardens.

Wilson initially followed the collecting routes of several distinguished predecessors but then went on into new and unexplored territory, finding plants in flower, marking the specimens or the locality, and returning in the proper season for material that could be shipped to his western sponsors. Wilson made two collecting trips to China for the Veitch nurseries of England and two trips for the Arnold Arboretum. These were followed by a slightly less arduous trip to Japan for cherries and azaleas already in cultivation, and a later trip to Formosa, the Liukiu Islands, the Bonin Islands, and Korea for conifers and general vegetation. Finally, Wilson made a special trip to Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, and Africa to establish contacts for the Arnold Arboretum with gardens and botanists and to examine tropical gymnosperms. Following these adventures, Wilson served as Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum (1919-1927), and after the death of Charles Sprague Sargent, he was appointed Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum, a post he held until his tragic death in an automobile accident in 1930.

Wilson's outstanding ability as a lecturer was equaled by his talent for writing about his trips and the plants he saw and introduced into cultivation. Less well known are Wilson's contributions as a botanist. For the Veitch firm, Wilson collected herbarium specimens to document his gatherings of seeds. On his later trips for the Arnold Arboretum, under specific directions from Sargent he made general collections of the flora in the areas he visited - in sufficient quantity to be distributed widely to other herbaria. Many of his collections have not fully been studied or identified to this day. When he had the opportunity to work over his herbarium specimens, Wilson contributed to the literature, at first with other authors and later under his signature alone. His scientific writings include floristic studies, papers on forestry and economic botany, and special treatments of such groups as rhododendrons, roses, hydrangeas, cherries, and especially the gymnosperms. Nevertheless, he is best known for his horticultural observations in several hundred articles and a dozen books.

We do not know if Wilson intended to write an autobiography. His last manuscript, "Wilson's Plants in Cultivation," is unpublished but is being considered for publication together with an updating of the nomenclature and with recent observations of the plants Wilson mentioned. The collection of Wilson's diaries and field books at the Arnold Arboretum is not complete, and not all the correspondence that probably exists has been assembled. Yet his life and his efforts seem worthy of a biographer. The following tribute comments on Wilson as a field botanist and adds to the published record some data on his itinerary, his collections, and his publications.

How It All Began: Wilson's First Trip (1899-1902)

It has often been written that a member of the Veitch firm saw Augustine Henry's specimen of *Davidia*, the dove tree, and sought a collector to contact Henry for its specific location and to return fruits to England for cultivation. Wilson himself wrote that "in time it chanced that the attention of Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, became drawn to the mass of material

Henry had collected. The result of this was that they applied to the Director of Kew to nominate a likely collector. I was the fortunate individual selected". On reading this article, James Herbert Veitch promptly wrote to Wilson:

"You are, however, wrong on one little point, but I do not wish it publicly contradicted. It was not Henry's specimens which drew our attention to China. When I was in Japan in '91, '92, & '93 I was quite aware there was a very rich field, and so was Sargent, with whom I was with some time in Japan.

"In fact, I wrote home here to my Chief Harry James Veitch to know whether I might not go (and I have the letters now) but my Chief very promptly sat on it, I did not go, and the matter dropped.

"For years I had been pressing the matter, and though Henry's work gave a fillip to my wishes, the expedition was long determined on in my own mind, before Henry appeared on the scene".

J. H. Veitch, letter, February 6, 1905.

In fact, Charles Maries had collected in China for the Veitch firm as early as 1879; he had discovered *Psilopeganum sinense* and had introduced the now well-known *Primula obconica*. James Herbert Veitch was on a collecting trip in Japan when Charles Sargent and party arrived, having crossed Asia and therefore part of China on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Apparently, an expedition in China was discussed, and young Veitch wrote to his uncle - as did Sargent. Harry James Veitch replied to Sargent:

"My nephew told me of his having been so fortunate as to fall in with you there and I am much obliged to you for your kindly expressions about him.... I trust he is now in Australia. His first consignment of seeds arrived last week and we are now looking forward anxiously to get further supplies.... As regards that portion of your letter which refers to his going to Central China after completing his present tour, he had also written to me previously on the subject and I have always been adverse to his undertaking such a journey; not because I should not like him to go but solely out of consideration as to what is best for him in connection with the business here....

"I do not say that my nephew can never go to Central China because he could manage this I dare say in the course of a year or two without difficulty in the same way as you from time to time take extended tours....

"I need not say that no one would hail with more delight than I should the introduction of some sterling hardy novelties and I should feel an especial pride were our firm to be the first to get them. It is not therefore from any desire to throw cold water on your proposals that I cannot fall in with them at once, but only because I am desirous of doing the best I can for all, in the circumstances in which we find ourselves - and I have written to you fully and quite candidly, that you may see I have given the matter serious consideration. You will I know treat all I say in strict confidence.

"Reverting to your Japanese tour and the collections of seeds you have made, you will I feel sure excuse my asking you not to distribute anything which my nephew and you may believe to be new until we have had an opportunity of doing so".

H. J. Veitch, letter, January 10, 1893.

Sargent did send seeds from his gatherings in Japan to Harry James Veitch and received another letter on the subject:

- opposite -

Davidia involucrata, 'the crux of the matter',
photographed by Wilson at Newport, Rhode Island, flowering on May 30th, 1928,
and almost certainly grown from one of the 14,875 seeds he gathered from a grove of trees at Kuan Pao, Hubei.



"I trust my letter of Jan. 10 last with references to my nephew's future movements has reached you safely. I regret that he has again bothered you in the matter. It is a great pity that he is so impetuous. He seems quite to forget that there is another side to the question besides his travelling about.... I shall write to him very plainly about his troubling you and also his being so dissatisfied".

H. J. Veitch, letter, January 23, 1893.

So Wilson was selected to make the trip and was well briefed by the Veitch firm as to his goals and methods. Regrettably, a written version of his instructions has not been located. Harry James Veitch later referred to Wilson's examination with him of Augustine Henry's specimens at Kew and of his suggestion that Wilson visit Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum en route. On March 30, 1899, just before Wilson's departure for America from Liverpool, James Gould Veitch wrote to Wilson:

"Enclosed is ... a copy of a letter my brother has received this morning from Professor Sargent of Harvard University. Read the letter carefully and ask any questions on any point therein, that may appeal to you. You will see that the professor suggests your going to the North first, and next year to the South.

"Your instructions are of course to go to the South this year and then to the North and in spite of what the professor says, we think this plan preferable, and would prefer your following it....

"The professor is a very dogmatic and strong man but you must not let yourself be too impressed by what he says about collecting dried specimens. On this point however, we all know you will be careful, and understand what we want....

"P.S. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this".

J. G. Veitch, letter, March 30, 1899.

Three contrasting statements have been written of Wilson's original visit to the Arnold Arboretum. S. B. Sutton (in his book *Charles Sprague Sargent and the Arnold Arboretum*, 1970), stated that "he had only five days in Boston and spent most of his time with Sargent at the Arboretum and at Holm Lea, where he was supposed to learn what he could about packing and shipping seeds for long trips from the Orient". Wilson wrote that "my stay in Boston was limited to five days and nearly the whole time was devoted to looking over the Arnold Arboretum collections and I departed enriched in knowledge and with much sound advice on matters relating to the collecting and packaging of seeds from Prof. Sargent and from the late Mr. Jackson Dawson". Wilson also wrote, in another account, that "my first meeting with Sargent took place in the shadow of the large pig-nut hickory on Bussey road in the Arboretum on Sunday April 23, 1899, when I was en route to China. After formal greetings he pulled out his watch and said, 'I am busy now, but at 10 o'clock next Thursday I shall be glad to see you. Good morning'. I voted him autocrat of the autocrats, but when our next interview took place I found him the kindliest of the autocrats".

Wilson crossed America by train and sailed from San Francisco, arriving in Hong Kong on June 3, 1899. Setting out to find Henry in southwestern China, Wilson sailed south to Haiphong in Indochina and traveled up the Red River to Laokai on the Chinese border, where he was delayed by officials because of reports of trouble in Yunnan. Sutton stated that "during his eight weeks in Laokai he tried to busy himself with the vegetation, but it was jungle and no practical interest to him". Quite to the contrary, Wilson busied himself collecting. The first seed lots (1-67, plus scattered other numbers) went to Veitch and were from Laokai. Also from this location were the herbarium specimens 2765-2798, including the new species *Sterculia scandens* described from Wilson specimens by W. B. Hemsley as

from Tonkin, and *Sonerila laeta* described by Otto Stapf as from China. Ultimately, Wilson was allowed to enter China, met Henry in Szemao, and traveled with him to Mengtsze.

In Mengtsze, Wilson obtained propagating material of *Jasminum primulinum* (*J. mesnyi*), which he sent to Veitch. This was ultimately exhibited and, as Wilson noted in his field book, was awarded "my first F.C.C. (First Class Certificate)". Armed with the information Henry could supply him on the location of the dove tree (a hand-drawn, generalised map), Wilson returned to Hong Kong for Christmas and made arrangements for his passage from Shanghai up the Yangtze. He arrived in Ichang on February 24, 1900, to begin his real collecting in China. Wilson later wrote that "Ichang, where I arrived on Feb. 24, 1900, was to be my headquarters for two years so I made plans accordingly. I purchased a native boat of good size in which to live and to serve as a base of supplies, and engaged some countrymen to assist me in collecting. The all-important arrangements completed, a series of short prospecting trips up country from Ichang were undertaken for the purpose of getting some acquaintance with the flora and for testing and training my men".



Wilson's houseboat in 1907.

Wilson told in detail of his quest for *Davidia* in *Aristocrats of the Garden* (1917). When he reached the location given him by Henry, he found that the tree had been cut down and the wood used in the construction of a house. It was not until late May, 1900, that he found his first plant of *Davidia* in flower in the mountains south of Ichang; during the summer he was able to locate a total of eleven trees. Fortunately, they fruited well - his collection number 930, although undated in his field notes, is indicated to be from Kuan Pao, Fa Wan Ma Huang Po, with 14,875 seeds gathered. The records of the Veitch nurseries do not show this seed number, although Wilson stated that in the late spring of 1902 some 13,000 plants were raised at the Coombe Wood nursery. The germination pattern of the seeds of *Davidia*, now known as double dormancy, was seen at the time to be so unusual that W. B. Hemsley read a paper on the subject before the Linnean Society; this was later published. Wilson concluded his story of *Davidia* with the comment "after sixteen years I have thought it of interest - and for history's sake desirable - to place on record the facts concerning the vicissitudes and difficulties which beset my path in the introduction of every seedling plant but one of this remarkable tree".

Little has been written by Wilson or others of the details of his first trip, and no diaries have been located. However, Wilson saved all his letters from members of the Veitch firm, and these are revealing of Wilson's personal and business relationships with Harry James Veitch.

Harry James Veitch took a paternal interest in Wilson, and his letters repeatedly contained homilies on Wilson's personal welfare. In his early letters Veitch warned Wilson of the loneliness he would feel and assured him that his friends and employers were thinking of him. "Keep up your courage and never lose heart - failure and disappointments in the very nature of things you must have - but always come up smiling and never allow yourself to believe things are bad - rely on it - they could always be worse" (H. J. Veitch, letter, December 11, 1899). "I am very glad to hear you are keeping well, take care of yourself and avoid whiskey (though I do not imagine you are fool enough to be weak in that point)" (H. J. Veitch, letter, February 26, 1901). After Wilson had some unexplained accident, Veitch wrote, "I beg you will take all reasonable precaution though never forgetting that 'nothing venture' means 'nothing have' whether it be in China or in the back street in Chelsea" (H. J. Veitch, letter, July 9, 1901).

Of Wilson's goals Veitch wrote, "It is especially the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants of the mountain ranges around Ichang and those we saw together in the herbarium, Kew we are anxious to get hold of" (J. H. Veitch, letter, January 8, 1900), and "The real object of your three year trip lies before you i.e. to obtain during the next two summers and autumns plants, but more especially seeds of the flora in the mountain ranges around Ichang, keeping especially in view those you and I know from the Kew specimens are likely to be especially fine and of commercial value" (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1900).

Veitch asked Wilson, "Are you dressing as a Chinaman - I think it better - but on this point the opinions of Henry and Ford are worth more than mine" (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1900), and later, "Do you dress as a Chinaman? You have not mentioned it - Personally I believe in it - but by now you will know more about such matters than I do" (J. H. Veitch, letter, July 11, 1900). No letters are available to indicate how Wilson answered, if he did, and no photographs of this first trip show Wilson in costume. In photographs of his later trips, Wilson appears in a field jacket or a full suit with a western style hat, leather puttees with straps, and heavy shoes.

News of the Boxer rebellion in the summer of 1900 must already have reached England, and Wilson evidently had written that he expected to encounter limitations to his activities, when James Harry Veitch wrote, "I do not know if this will ever reach you - as

from what you say in your letter of the 23rd it is more than likely you will have had to leave Ichang even before the date on which I write. It is most unfortunate that it is one of those things for which we cannot in any shape or form blame ourselves - and if you have to come away I know it will be through no fault of yours. I fear, from the tone of your letter that the situation is serious - and hope you will at no time run any unnecessary risk" (J. H. Veitch, letter, October 9, 1900).

Wilson had been instructed to collect one or two specimens of each plant from which he obtained seeds. He occasionally enclosed a leaf or a flower in a letter, asking for an identification or an opinion. As the following extracts indicate, Veitch procrastinated: "If possible get dried specimens of anything of which you get seeds - just a specimen or two of each - it will help us to identify. This I probably mentioned before - and it should not be lost sight of" (J. H. Veitch, letter, January 8, 1900). "Send dried specimens - (as you have done) - where you can" (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1900). "Three large bundles of dried specimens have arrived and I am waiting for a quiet afternoon to carefully go through them - and shall particularly look out for the numbers you refer to in your letter of June 29" (J. H. Veitch, letter, September 5, 1900). "I see in your letter you draw attention particularly to several plants of which you have sent dried specimens - I will see particular attention is paid to these" (J. H. Veitch, letter, April 19, 1901). "One case of dried specimens arrived.... As to whether I shall personally be able to go through the dried specimens I do not know - I shall certainly try - anyway I shall see all the leading things" (J. H. Veitch, letter, March 28, 1901). "You have sent a fine lot of dried specimens but I do not know when I shall get time to look through them" (J. H. Veitch, letter, April 19, 1901).

On July 10, 1901, Herman Spooner wrote to Wilson, introducing himself as a member of the Veitch organisation. "During some spare time at Chelsea I commenced to look through your specimens, I have gone through some 15 to 20 bundles - they are in excellent condition, with the exception of some of the evergreens and conifers, the leaves of which in many cases have fallen - you were probably unable to poison them before drying. I was surprised at the number of species of Rubus, Acer and Rosaceous plants that there are, also at the brilliant colour of the Kerrias and Rhododendrons, one of the latter was of a distinct blue colour, if it is so in a fresh state it ought to be worth something". Shortly thereafter, Harry James Veitch wrote his man in the field, "I have also received a bundle of dried specimens, which so far I have not had time to look through, but hope to be able to shortly. I notice you have difficulty with your Conifer specimens - I used to dip mine in some solutions - I forgot exactly what - which immediately destroyed life and the leaves kept on fairly well" (J. H. Veitch, letter, August 21, 1901). Finally, "I am now having all that great bundle of dried specimens you sent looked through. Hitherto I have had no one who could spare the time to do it. They seem in excellent order and I congratulate you on the success" (J. H. Veitch, letter, September 12, 1901). No lists of plants appear in Veitch's letters, carefully saved by Wilson, and there were no identifications in the field books kept by the Veitch firm as Wilson's material arrived. Apparently Wilson did not receive much direct help while in the field.

Wilson received a request for help from J. C. Willis, then Director of the botanical garden at Perideniya, Ceylon. He sent the letter to Veitch, apparently asking for instructions, and Veitch replied to Willis:

- overleaf page 20 -

A general view of the country to the south of Ichang (photograph taken on January 21st, 1909, at an altitude of 1000 ft).

- overleaf page 21 -

The Ichang Gorge (photographed by EHW sometime between 1910 and 1911).





"Our collector in China has sent us your letter dated 21st, September in which you ask him to get seeds for you. It is of course clear to us you are unaware this man is in our employ, and is not permitted to gather anything for anyone but ourselves.

"You can quite understand the great expense of a journey of this description and the impossibility of our man serving more than one master, though we hope we need hardly say how glad we should be to oblige you, if it were at all possible.

"Should we be successful in raising plants of the genera you name to Wilson, we shall of course be glad, to give you specimens.

"We trust you will understand no discourtesy is meant, and with the assurances of our best service always...."

J. H. Veitch, letter, January 23, 1901.

Willis replied to Veitch and Sons, "I must apologise for having asked him to collect for me, but I was under the impressions that he was a resident, who collected for anyone that asked. If you can spare any plants of *Eucommia* or *Trapella*, I should be glad to receive them and exchange, and if we can be of service as a halfway house for anything that will not survive the whole journey from China please let me know" (Willis, letter, February 19, 1901). Wilson made a special journey in 1907 to collect *Eucommia* and attempted to obtain several bushels of the fruit as a potential source of the rubber-like latex. Wilson regretted in later years that he was unable to find the *Trapella*, although this rare plant had been collected by Henry near Ichang and subsequently by Frank Meyer. On August 21, 1901, Veitch wrote, "I enclose a letter from a Dr. Oliver, a botanist whom I should like to oblige do what you can for him". Although Oliver's letter is not available, he may have been asking about *Trapella*, on which he had published earlier.

Wilson's enthusiasm was at times misdirected. He wrote to Veitch that he had found *Ginkgo* in the wild. Veitch replied, "I was very interested in what you said in your report about Conifers and also you said you saw *Gingko biloba* wild. Very few men have seen that - I was under the impression its actual habitat, although of course guessed at, was not actually known. Are you sure the trees you saw were not planted it may be 100-200 years ago - in these thickly populated countries it is difficult to know what has reached any spot by the hand of man or what reached there by the agency of nature" (J. H. Veitch, letter, July 9, 1901). Wilson did not comment further, as far as can be determined.

Veitch's supervision or control of Wilson's activities was also evident in a letter of February 26, 1901:

"Now another little point - I notice in the last issue of the Gardeners' Chronicle which I now send you [February 23, 1901, p. 127], certain remarks of yours are published. We do not permit our employees as a rule, to write for the public press, as you can imagine if they did it would very soon take up too much of their time. I do not however wish to apply any of our ordinary rules to yourself, but would suggest until we meet, it would be better to leave this point in abeyance. This was a matter we did not discuss when you entered our service, and I think it may also be taken for granted any spasmodic articles may lessen the value of any possible publications undertaken in the future in a more complete form".

In the original agreement with the Veitch firm, Wilson apparently was to account for his expenses on a semiannual basis. Forgetting this, Veitch wrote in strong language asking for an account of Wilson's expenditures "every few months. It is more regular and business like" (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1900). Wilson promptly accounted for his expenses, but related his original instructions and his pique. Veitch humbly replied in appreciation and asked that "the matter shall be as though it had not been" (J. H. Veitch, letter, May 17, 1900). However, Veitch did not lack concern for costs. He usually mentioned several letters

in advance that a payment would be sent on a certain date and frequently requested that Wilson keep costs down. "Do not forget that you are very keen and an enthusiast - and that enthusiasts are apt in their great keenness to sometimes lose sight of the financial side of questions" (J. R. Veitch, letter, February 26, 1901). "Do not forget efficiency usually means economy, but that does not mean save a penny when a shilling could be earned by spending it" (J. H. Veitch, letter, July 9, 1901). On April 19, 1901, James Veitch essentially presented an ultimatum: "When you receive these funds the trip will have cost over £2,000 and I do not wish to spend more money.... If you feel that this amount will not enable you to stay til the middle of January 1903 and yet pay your expenses home, then you must do the best you can, and come away earlier."

Wilson brought his expedition to a close during the winter of 1902, intent on stopping in Paris to consult the herbarium. Veitch's letter of December 31, 1901, was directed to Wilson in Paris and stated: "I was yesterday at the Botanical building of the Natural History Museum (in Paris) and arranged for you to be expected.... Do not stay longer than necessary though you should take a day to see Paris - get a guide from the Hotel or you will see very little - he will perhaps want to take you around at night - which you can decline". Wilson returned to England in April, 1902. On his return, the Veitch firm presented him with a gold watch engraved inside the cover:

E. H. Wilson from James H. Veitch 1899-1902 Well done!

On June 7, 1902, Wilson married Ellen Ganderston. By the next January he was en route to China again to find *Meconopsis integrifolia*.

Wilson's Second Trip for Veitch (1903-1906)

Wilson left England in January, 1903, on his second expedition for the Veitch firm, and arrived in Shanghai on March 22. He found some of his former staff still available and quickly organised his expedition to find *Meconopsis integrifolia*, which grew at elevations higher than 11,000 feet. Two notebooks from this expedition are available, one a diary and the other a series of field notes on the plants Wilson saw. Clearly, he had worked over the specimens collected on his previous trip since he now referred to the plants by name, indicating those most recently taxonomically described. The details of his trip up the Yangtze River and into the mountains are published in Wilson's accounts of his expedition, and a series, "Leaves from my Chinese Notebook," ran for over a year in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*. He again purchased a boat, which he noted "is named and registered at the Customs the 'Ellena' after my wife. May it bring me luck in proportion as my dear one has" (Wilson, April 12, 1903). On June 7, 1903, he noted "the first anniversary of my wedding, what changes a year brings forth". (Wilson's marriage certificate is dated June 8, 1902).

Wilson's search for the yellow-flowered *Meconopsis* was arduous but successful, and he wrote:

"At 11,000 feet I came across the first plant of *Meconopsis integrifolia....* I am not going to attempt to record the feelings which possessed me on first beholding the object of my quest to these wild regions. Messrs. Veitch despatched me on this second, and very costly journey to the Tibetan border for the sole purpose of discovering and introducing the

most gorgeous alpine plant extant. I had travelled some 13,000 miles in 5½ months and to be successful in attaining the first part of my mission in such a short time was a sufficient reward for all the difficulties and hardships experienced en route".

A year and a half later, Herman Spooner wrote to Wilson:

"You will, I am sure, share our disappointment when you hear that *Meconopsis integrifolia* was first flowered by Messrs Bee and Co. alias Mr. Bully of Chester. We were astonished when we read the announcement in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, as we thought we were the only people who possessed it. Fortunately, Mr. James (Veitch) visited Langley the day after the notice appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and discovered two small flowers on the plants there. He immediately wired to the *Chronicle* stating the fact and thus saved the situation. The following week from our material and Miss Smith's drawing the *Gardeners' Chronicle* published a very good figure, with some descriptive matter extracted from your letters, so I think we have fairly taken the wind out of Messrs' Bee's sails".

Spooner, letter, October 4, 1904.

Wilson's letters from Veitch are very similar to those he received on the first trip. On behaviour Veitch wrote:

"You have a great chance and if you can manage to get hold of herbaceous seed - or of course - any seed - as you did on your last trip - you will do well - whatever position or work you ultimately undertake.... Take care of yourself and work - work is the only thing whether in England or China".

J. H. Veitch, letter, April 1, 1903.

"You have had a great chance - and have done well - Keep up your spirits and do equally well this time - and you will all your life be very glad of what you did in your youth - you have but one youth - and I doubt you ever have another such chance.... Work - and always work - it is the only thing - believe me - that man who through his whole life - does nothing but work - at the end of it has usually the least to regret - whether his work is what yours is now - or some far less interesting".

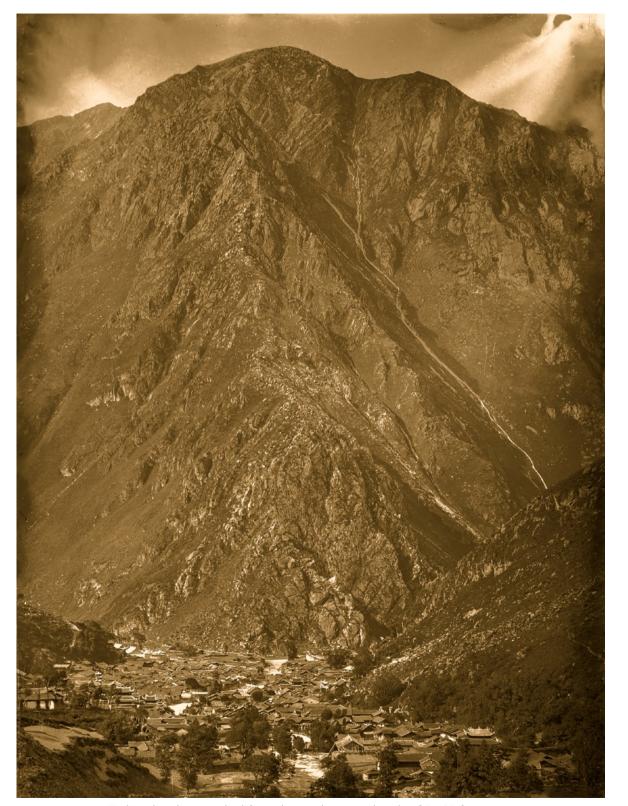
J. H. Veitch, letter, October 5, 1903.

Both Veitch and Spooner wrote to Wilson of the success of the herbaceous seeds Wilson sent. They flowered quickly and provided good sales. However, Veitch confided:

"I am really more fond of trees than any other plants - but you must not tell or whisper it for a business man ought not to have any likes and dislikes - and of course the great British Public does not buy trees - it has not the knowledge to select or the courage to wait for the results - and hence trees are "just trees" with no possibilities - but still after all they seem to be the finest type of plant".

J. H. Veitch, letter, October 5, 1903.

Veitch was aware of the competition for new plants. "I see Vilmorin must have got quite a lot of plants - and there is no doubt we are only just in time - as far as can be judged missionaries must have sent him seed for many years now - though I doubt if he has any quantities" (J. H. Veitch, letter, January 5, 1904). When Wilson's plants were described, many were attributed to cultivated specimens from Veitch and Sons, with the original locality given only as "China". Veitch wrote: "I was annoyed at a paragraph the Journal of Horticulture recently printed about you - the editor said it came from a 'friend at Kew' - do be careful - once home it is quite different - but please 'till then say but little" (J. H. Veitch, letter, January 27, 1901).



Tachien lu, photographed from the south, at an altitude of 8,400 feet.

Veitch had written previously on the subject of publications:

"You will see in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* dated July 25 your note about the boat service and the rapids which you found so difficult. I shall send no botanical or plant information - as I want to leave that for you on your return. Do not fritter away your information by writing scrappy information to injudicious friends, who, with the best of intentions in the world, send it on to the papers and thus forestall you".

J. H. Veitch, letter, July 24, 1903.

"I hope for your sake - you are making notes for the G.C. on your return - I shall have no objections to your doing this for your own sake and as a matter of business - though as to unexplored parts or information as to unvisited districts and any ideas you may have thereon, I think these should be at my disposal. What is past - and what you have learned in your two journeys you can dispose of after you return".

J. H. Veitch, letter, November 18, 1903.

"I hope you will have a good summer and autumn - I am sure you will do all you can - and I want you to make notes of what further district you think worth visiting - for me alone - in case I ever send you".

J. H. Veitch, letter, April 6, 1904.

Nevertheless, Veitch was aware of the novelties being introduced by Wilson, and subsequently of the value of the herbarium specimens. He noted: "Papers on new plants are to appear by Nicholson and myself.... Nicholson is to read his paper on April 7 and we are to fill a centre table in the Hall with all your specimens - it will make a most interesting show." (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1903.) Regarding the herbarium specimens, Veitch wrote Wilson: "We have some lovely photographs of your dried specimens for the July issue of the Journal of the R.H.S. a copy of which I will send you" (J. H. Veitch, letter, February 16, 1903). "Last week we exhibited all your specimens at Drill Hall - they created considerable interest and an immense amount of jealously. The ordinary person with Geraniums and Roses to exhibit, could not for the life of him see why the valuable space should be given up to dried specimens" (J. H. Veitch, letter, April 4, 1903). An article by James H. Veitch entitled "Recently Introduced Trees, Shrubs, etc., from Central China" appeared in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society. Forty-seven illustrations indicate the quality of the herbarium specimens Wilson had prepared, and the list suggests that 357 specimens were exhibited. A sheet from the Veitch firm that is now in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum illustrates the quality and the beauty of Wilson's early dried plant collections.

Wilson's specimens apparently had been dispatched to and were being studied by the herbarium staff at Kew. Herman Spooner wrote to Wilson:

"Professor Sargent has named your maples from the dried specimens, and I was out at Coombe Wood yesterday trying to name the living plants. I found it a rather difficult job as the young seedling plants are naturally more vigorous growers than the trees from which your specimens were taken and in consequence somewhat out of character. Sargent made three new species and a number of new varieties; one of the species is named Wilsonii (No. 303) but apparently it is not in cultivation at Coombe. In the next part of "Trees and Shrubs" Sargent proposes dealing with the Chinese maples and hopes to figure ten new species or species which have not been previously described".

Spooner, letter, June 23, 1894.

It was, in fact, Alfred Rehder who named the species as described in "Trees and

Shrubs".

Veitch again expressed his opinion on costs and expenses in many letters received by Wilson during his second expedition. "I am quite satisfied but try hard not to have to ask me for more money if it can be avoided" (J. H. Veitch, letter, November 18, 1903). "Twelve months after you get this I hope you will be with us - as soon as you have the result of the autumn of 1904 come right home - I know I can trust you not to leave till you have these - but stay not a moment longer" (J. H. Veitch, letter, December 2, 1903). However, two months earlier Veitch had written: "Today I wire you £100 and the January check will be for £300 - try and NOT exceed what we agreed on after this" (J. H. Veitch, letter, October 5, 1903). Shortly thereafter, Veitch asked a favour: "Instead of sending you £300 on Jan. 1, I will send £350, i.e., £50 from myself.... Buy me a few good pieces of lacquer, porcelain or bronze - not much silk - something quaint - but good - not much - but good" (J. H. Veitch, letter, November 18, 1903). Later he wrote: "I have no doubt I shall like the bronze etc., you have got for me, though of course buying for the taste of another is always a little difficult" (J. H. Veitch, letter, March 15, 1904).

The year was a difficult one for Wilson. "Food was scarce in Szechuan in 1904, and so labor was hard to get and harder to keep. Worst of all was the difficulty of feeding a group of 15 to 20 men for several days in the wilderness, wondering whether the next village would have enough food to sell and sufficient shelter". On one trip Wilson ran out of supplies and had to retrace his tracks. The trips scheduled were arduous, and Wilson missed his wife and wondered about their future. No personal letters are available to provide their expressions on the subject. Veitch, however, wrote in relation to future employment:

"I met Watson accidentally yesterday and do not think from what the director has said to me you need fear about a post in 1905 - we shall see you through".

J. H. Veitch, letter, November 18, 1903.

"You were very wise to write to Sir William (Thistleton-Dyer), and I know he much appreciated your letter - and sent it to Lord Landsdowne to read - next autumn I should write him again if I were you - it is always well to keep in touch with such gentlemen - everybody likes a little attention especially those beyond their first youth and in the so-called high places of the world - anyway Sir William has been very good to you and the firm".

J. H. Veitch, letter, December 2, 1903.

"I have written Kew to look out for something for you - there certainly will be. In fact, they say there may be a vacancy this summer in a colonial garden which may be suitable - and I would like you at Coombe anyway for a time - though of course, if anything good came along, you should take it".

J. H. Veitch, letter, March 15, 1904.

Early in 1905 Wilson was ready to go home, having abundantly fulfilled the demands of his employers. He had shipped back 2000 numbers of seeds and plants and 5000 numbers of herbarium specimens, many of which eventually proved to be new species. The figures given, however, represent the total for both expeditions, for the second produced only 510 numbers of seed lots and 2,400 numbers of herbarium specimens.

When Wilson returned to England in March, he received a letter from Veitch: "I have bought for you a pin - a flower of *Meconopsis integrifolia* - the five great petals of gold -

- opposite -

The Ya-chia-k'an Range under snow, with alpine meadows clothed with dwarf Junipers and Rhododendrons.



the numerous stamens forty-one diamonds - and I think it really looks like a Meconopsis and not a single Paeony or single Rose, which in jewellery it might easily have done - I hope you will like it" (J. H. Veitch, letter, March 18, 1905).

In January, 1906, Wilson accepted an appointment as a botanical assistant at the Imperial Institute in London, where he worked on collections from Hong Kong.

Wilson's Third Expedition (1906-1909) - the First for the Arnold Arboretum

"To all appearance, he (Wilson) was a man prepared to settle down to botanical research and retire forever from the field". Charles Sprague Sargent, however, had been seeking a man to collect in China for the Arnold Arboretum, and after several failures with other candidates, he approached Wilson. Wilson was hesitant and wrote:

"There are many difficulties in the way, difficulties which are well-nigh insuperable, but which you cannot be expected to appreciate in the way I do. Putting sentiment aside, I have to throw up a Government appointment which, if at present modest, has possibilities. Secondly, I have to leave behind my wife and child, and these have to be provided for. Thirdly, there is the possibility of the pitcher going too often to the well. There are other things of might which have to be considered, and the possibilities of obtaining suitable employment on my return do not appear to me to be brighter in the future than in the past".

Wilson, letter, October 3, 1906.

Sargent had been persuasive in earlier letters, but he also made some questionable statements about Wilson's career: "The trip is worth making alone for the seeds of fine conifers you have discovered, and you are likely to remain practically unknown unless you revisit China.... If you had been in China for two years more your service would be very valuable to the Arboretum either from a cultural point of view or from working up your Chinese material" (Sargent, letter, July 16, 1906). Wilson was certainly aware of the financial success Veitch and Sons were enjoying from his introductions, as well as of the scientific contributions made by his herbarium specimens. Therefore he could easily assume that he had made his mark. Nevertheless, in a letter dated September 14, 1906, he accepted Sargent's proposal, and he arrived in Boston shortly before Christmas. On December 27, 1906, a formal contract was signed by E. H. Wilson and "President, Fellows of Harvard College by Charles S. Sargent". The first paragraph read:

"Wilson agrees to go to China at once and for two full winter and summer seasons, or until about Dec. 1, 1908, to collect there for the College botanical specimens, seeds, information about plants, photographs, etc. All of the same including photographic plates or films, obtained by Wilson are to belong to the College immediately on coming into Wilson's possession, and are to be sent to the College by Wilson as often as practicable. Wilson agrees that during the period above mentioned he will devote all his time and his best energy and skill to the purposes above stated and will engage in no other occupation".

A salary was agreed upon with semiannual payments, and in case of his death before the term was completed, payment would be made for the current full year. An additional clause covered the period after the contract ended from December 1, 1908, until April 1, 1909.

The following day (December 28, 1906) Sargent wrote a detailed letter of his expectations, which shows both Wilson's task ahead and Sargent's botanical wisdom. It is reproduced in full:

"My dear Mr. Wilson:

"I shall try in these notes to set down some of the subjects that we have been discussing in regard to your journey to China.

"The object of this journey is to increase the knowledge of the woody plants of the Empire and to introduce into cultivation as many of them as is practicable. It is therefore desirable to cover as much territory as possible rather than to attempt to gather large quantities of specimens or seeds of any particular plant, and although we have generally decided on the territory that you will visit, it is desirable as far as it is practicable for you to do so to cover new regions not previously visited by you.

"For herbarium specimens we have decided that it would be well to undertake to dry six sets of all woody plants, and in order to show the distribution of species it is further desirable to dry specimens of the same species when this occurs in distinctly different regions. In the case of species that appear variable it is desirable to make a number of specimens showing as far as possible the extent of such variation. It is intended, of course, in such cases that these supplementary specimens should be made only or chiefly for the Arboretum and need not be included in your other sets.

"With regard to herbaceous plants it is desirable to make specimens of any plant of which you gather seeds, or of herbaceous plants which appear to you to be new or to present special interest either from a scientific or horticultural point of view.

"It is desirable to collect ferns for Dr. Christ to supplement your collections that have already been studied by him. All orchids should be collected for Mr. Ames, and where these present no difficulty in drying it would be a good plan to make a dozen specimens of each for purposes of exchange.

"As far as practicable seeds of all woody plants should be collected with the exception, of course, of such very common things as Ailanthus glandulosa, Kerria, Rhodotypos, and other species known to you to be in common cultivation. If it is possible to obtain so many, it would be a good plan to have enough seeds to raise four or five hundred plants of all species likely to prove hardy in our northern states. This, however, would not apply to oaks, chestnuts and walnuts, as these seeds require packing in earth and it would be too laborious and expensive to send them in large quantities. Three or four dozen sound acorns, chestnuts or walnuts would probably be all that we could expect to get. Magnolia and Euonymus seeds also travel badly and they probably should be sent either in earth or damp moss.

"In regard to seeds of plants like broad-leaved evergreens (with the exception of Rhododendrons) that cannot be expected to thrive in our climate, a much smaller number of seeds will be sufficient, my idea being to raise these plants here and then distribute them to gardens in southern Europe or the most temperate parts of Great Britain.

"In collecting seeds it must be borne in mind that the position of the individual from which the seeds are gathered has a great influence on the hardiness of the offspring and that it is therefore important, in cases of species of wide distribution, to gather the seeds from the individuals growing as far north as possible or at the highest altitudes. This I consider a matter of utmost importance. I believe it will prove more satisfactory to send seeds by mail unless you find that you have so many to send packed in earth that it would be more economical to send a case by freight. Seeds should be gathered of all Irises and Peonies, unless it is better to send roots of these by mail. It is also desirable to gather seeds of any showy bulbous plants other than Lilies, and of alpine and other herbaceous plants of real horticultural interest provided they have not already been introduced into cultivation, with the understanding, of course, that the introduction of herbaceous plants is secondary to the introduction of woody plants.

"In case seeds cannot be obtained, grafts or cuttings should be sent instead. It will probably be necessary to send the grafts of Elms as it is not easy to obtain the seed. We can manage the grafts of nearly all the deciduous-leaved trees and shrubs that you are likely to meet with but not evergreens. I do not think it would be worth while to undertake to send a large number of grafts of each species, and probably three dozen of each would be sufficient. Cuttings of all Poplars and Willows should be sent.

"Of Lily bulbs packed separately but sent with the Farquhar's bulbs, I should like to have one hundred and fifty of each of the Chinese Lilies for some of the subscribers here. If I hear from Miss Willmott that she also wants Lily bulbs, they had best be sent to her direct. I shall write you later on this subject.

"Notes. It was desirable that the herbarium specimens should be accompanied by descriptive notes covering the points that are not shown by the specimens themselves. For example, the date when the specimen was gathered, the locality and altitude; in the case of trees, the average height, trunk diameter, habit, etc.; colour of the flowers and fruit, the colour of the anthers of Crataegus, economic uses of the plant if any, general character of the bark, value of the wood if this is used commercially, etc.; in the case of shrubs, their size, habit, etc. It may be well to state that our definition here of a tree is a plant that grows up with a single stem from the ground without regard to its size or height, and that of a shrub a plant that grows up with two or more stems from the ground without regard to its height, so that a shrub may be often much larger than a tree.

"I think you agree with me that it is important to devise some system of numbering specimens and seeds by which the seeds can be correctly and quickly referred to the numbers of the herbarium specimens. Probably the plan we have discussed of giving each genus temporarily, at least, a separate series of numbers will prove effective. If this is done, I should suppose it would be possible to give the herbarium specimen and the seed the same number, and later when the sets are made up for distribution the plants can have a new series of numbers independent of the seed numbers which would be for our convenience only.

"It is desirable to photograph as many trees as possible, provided the tree photographed can be named. Some system of numbering referring to the herbarium specimens would therefore be needed for the photographs in the case of trees which you do not know. Photographs of flowers like Magnolias, Rhododendrons, etc., made life size if possible, are of very great value, and so are the photographs of the fruiting branches of Picea, Tsuga and Abies. Photographs on a large scale of the bark of trees are extremely valuable and should be made showing the character of the country inhabited by different trees. It would be well, too, if time permits, to take views of villages and other striking and interesting objects as the world knows little of the appearance of central and western China.

"Conifers. I shall be glad to have you collect all conifers with both flowers and fruit if it is practicable for you to do so. We should also be glad to get the seeds of all of them, and in the case of genera like Pinus, Picea, Thuja and Larix to obtain at least one hundred cones detached from the branches gathered from different trees in order to show as far as possible any variations. In the case of Cunninghamia which, raised from seed gathered near the coast, is not hardy in this climate, seed from higher elevations in the interior should be sent. Of course what I have said about the importance of gathering seed from northern and elevated stations applies with equal or greater force to conifers.

"I should be glad to get for our museum specimens of walnuts that you may meet with in the markets, as well as the fruits of other trees like chestnuts, etc., sold in Chinese markets. It would also be interesting if you could gather information about the trees and shrubs cultivated by the Chinese in their gardens or for economic purposes. The value of such notes would be increased if you could supply specimens of such plants.

"I understand that it is not possible to any longer find Azaleas cultivated in the Shanghai gardens. If there is a chance of doing so, however, it might be interesting to see them and perhaps secure plants of anything that may seem desirable to you. Shanghai, too, is the place of Populus tomentosa, of which we are desirous to obtain flowers.

"Bamboo. If it is feasible to do so, it might be well to try the experiment of sending small pieces of rooted plants by mail, of any of the small-growing mountain Bamboos that might prove hardy in this climate.

"Books. I should be glad to have you pick up for our library books on Chinese botany.

"Yours very truly,

"C. S. Sargent".

Sargent financed the third Wilson expedition by soliciting gifts from the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum, one of \$7,000, fourteen each of \$1,000, and numerous other smaller donations. Three donors from England contributed, but significantly no gift was received from the Veitch firm. Sargent apparently approached the firm, and Harry Veitch replied: "Thank you also very much for what you told me about Wilson's trip to China for you. I felt sure always that you would take care that anything he sent you, provided we already had received the same from him, should not interfere with our stock. ... I appreciate fully your kindness in offering to tell Wilson to collect anything for us of which we are in special need" (J. H. Veitch, letter, July 1, 1907). Specifically, Wilson was to secure orchids for Oakes Ames; ferns for Hermann Christ of Switzerland; and lily bulbs for the Farquhar nurseries of Boston and for Miss Ellen Willmott of England, as well as some to be used as gifts for the supporters of the trip.

Field cooperation on this trip was planned with representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard. The trip was far different in its goals and co-operative efforts from the business adventures undertaken for the Veitch firm. In the cooperative efforts planned with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wilson was to obtain seeds and propagating material of economically important plants for David Fairchild, while the Department's Frank Meyer was to gather herbarium specimens and cones of conifers especially for Wilson and Sargent in the Wu t'ai Mountains, where he was to make a spring trip for flowering specimens and a fall trip for the seeds.

Wilson arrived in Shanghai in February of 1907 and briefed Meyer on procedures. As he described these instructions in a letter to Sargent, they were a remarkable copy of those he had received himself. Meyer was to collect six sets of specimens of everything in this unknown flora, giving preference to ligneous plants, ferns, and terrestrial orchids (Wilson, letter, February 16, 1907). From Sargent's point of view, Meyer failed miserably in his mission, while Fairchild made repeated direct requests to Wilson. The situation caused Sargent to comment: "It was never understood that you were to do a great deal for the Department, and certainly it was not contemplated that while you were in the field you were to be bothered by answering their inquiries.... I should judge that you have already done more for the Department than the Department is likely to do for the Arboretum" (Sargent, letter, December 5, 1907).

- overleaf page 28 -

The view southeast of Tachien-lu, showing a snow-clad peak some 20,000 ft. high. (Wilson took the photograph on July 17th, 1908, at an altitude of 7000 ft).

- overleaf page 29 -

Wa-shan, 11,200 ft. high. East-south-east and north-west angle, from 4800 ft. (Photographed on September 20th, 1908).





Before Wilson had left Boston he knew he was to have the administrative responsibility for - and often the company of - Walter Zappey, who was sent by the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology to acquire bird skins and animal pelts. In a publication describing the results of the expedition, Samuel Henshaw later wrote:

"The collections, described in the following pages, were made in the Chinese provinces of Hupeh and Szechwan during the years 1907 and 1908. With hardly an exception they represent the work of Mr. Walter R. Zappey while he was attached to the expedition sent out by the Arnold Arboretum under the direction of Mr. E. H. Wilson, the well-known botanical collector.... Mr. John E. Thayer, recognising the need of zoological work in lower China, secured the consent of Prof. C. S. Sargent, the Director of the Arnold Arboretum, for a trained collector to accompany Mr. Wilson, and most generously provided the necessary financial support.... The results of Mr. Thaver's liberality and Mr. Zappey's zeal would have been very much less, however, had they not been supplemented by the tact and administrative ability of Mr. Wilson.... Mr. Wilson's earlier work in China was of distinct advantage for the success of the Arboretum Expedition. It had shown that he possessed the trustworthiness characteristic of his race, and the natural and ever present suspiciousness of the natives towards aliens engaged in a line of work the object of which is not wholly clear, was happily avoided from the beginning. It should be recognised that all of Mr. Wilson's time and energy were required for his botanical work and that every additional task he assumed, even though willingly and successfully, was nevertheless a burden".

Henshaw, 1912.

Wilson had to keep separate accounts for the "John E. Thayer expedition" for Harvard. He handled baggage and repacked packages too large or too heavy. He arranged for support personnel, took care of customs formalities, and finally packed and shipped all the zoological specimens, notifying Sargent of their departure. In succeeding months Wilson repeatedly asked if they had arrived and inquired why he had not heard from Thayer. Finally Sargent wrote: "If Mr. Thayer has not written to you about Zappey's consignment, he is most enthusiastic over Zappey's work and perfectly delighted with Zappey's results, and especially the way in which his collections were packed. Apparently they have reached Boston in perfect condition and appear to contain many new specimens" (Sargent, letter, December, 1908). Although they traveled separately a great deal of the time, Zappey was Wilson's charge from February, 1907, until Zappey's departure from China in March, 1909.

Wilson was less successful with some of the shipments of bulbs to the Farquhar nurseries. Although he had collected, packed, and shipped bulbs on the Veitch expeditions, literally thousands of bulbs, each carefully wrapped in mud, rotted en route on this trip. Wilson was deeply chagrined at the failure of the first shipment and vowed to replace the consignment. With other seeds and plants Wilson was highly successful. Jackson Dawson, propagator at the Arnold Arboretum, was kept busy handling the significant introductions of Wilson's third trip. Sargent kept much of the herbaceous material for his own estate or shared it with botanists at Kew or with the Veitch firm.

Wilson held in storage the herbarium collections he made in 1907, gathered more in 1908, and shipped all at once in 1909. His collecting localities during this period are included in a separate listing later in this paper.

During the summer of 1908, while Wilson was still in China, Sargent made a trip to Europe to discuss with Harry Veitch the prospects for a new expedition. Veitch thought candidates would be more numerous in Europe. After a refusal from George Forrest, they

chose William Purdom, once of the Veitch firm and then at Kew. After a quick briefing Purdom was sent to China to meet Wilson, who was preparing to depart. Apparently Purdom's appointment was news to Wilson, for he wrote to Sargent:

"You may be quite sure that anything I can do for Mr. Veitch and yourself in the way of helping your new man will be done. My last attempt in such matters (i.e., in the case of Mr. Meyer) was not altogether a success, but nothing daunted I am willing to try again since you wish it. It is well, professor, you did not tempt me with the offer to remain another season, for in spite of what I said in '06, I fear I should have succumbed to such an offer providing the political outlook in China seemed favourable. This would have completely broken up my wife, and for her sake, therefore, I am very glad the temptation did not come my way. But I am human and I confess to a slight feeling of chagrin at being passed over so completely in favour of another and without a word of warning. It can be interpreted to reflect unfavourably on the work I have accomplished during the past two years. I merely mention this: I do not say I think it thus intended. I am no longer a "cheap" man and I can quite understand that Mr. Veitch would hesitate to pay the salary you yourself did not think exorbitant. It is probably foolish of me to expose myself thus, but perfect frankness has characterised our association thus far and I think you know me too well to attribute this to a churlish or jealous spirit.

"With kind regards and best wishes for the success of your new venture". Wilson, letter, March 9, 1909.

Wilson packed his materials in Ichang, shipped them from Shanghai, and on April 25, 1909, was in Peking to return via Siberia. He stopped in Moscow and St. Petersburg (Leningrad) to examine herbarium specimens, particularly those of gymnosperms. In the greenhouse nurseries in St. Petersburg, he discovered seedlings grown from his Chinese collection of 1907, seeds of which Sargent had sent to Russia. In the herbarium of the botanical garden in Berlin, Wilson wished to study the collections of von Rosthorne and to acquire duplicates for the Arnold Arboretum. However, he learned that these collections were only on loan, and that the staff of the Berlin herbarium had first choice of duplicates or fragments, so no material would be available. This may explain a critical statement he wrote to Sargent:

"In Berlin I saw the most flagrant examples of species mongering that have ever come under my notice.... At this moment I will content myself with one example. You will remember that Diels described a new Liquidambar from Rosthorne's collection. Having been practically all over Rosthorne's ground and failed to discover anything answering the description, I had grown skeptical and determined to see the type when in Berlin.

"I did.

"The species is founded on two leaves only and these leaves are those of a palmately veined species of Acer. Can anyone defend the founding of a new species on two leaves alone? Greed and greed alone is responsible".

Wilson, letter, May 22, 1909.

This was *Liquidambar rosthornii* Diels, which was not considered in Sargent's *Plantae Wilsonianae* by Rehder and Wilson because of Wilson's observations, and which was placed in the synonymy of *Acer sinense* Pax by Handel-Mazetti in 1933.

After a stop in Paris, Wilson reached London on May 17. He met with Ellen Willmott, then he visited Coombe Wood to see the plants grown from his earlier collections. Since his

- opposite -

The upper (western) part of Wan-Hsien, on the Yangtze River (April 1st, 1908).



photographic plates had been sent to London, he worked with Wallis at Kew in the development of the plates and the identification of the pictures.

His herbarium collections, however, went directly to Boston, where Sargent apparently realised the task ahead in organising and identifying the material. Although Wilson's contract had expired, Sargent offered him temporary employment to work up the material "after a short vacation". "When this work on the herbarium is done, possibly some arrangement for other work connected with the Arboretum can be found or perhaps you will care to undertake another journey" (Sargent, letter, May 24, 1909). Wilson was not pleased with the salary offered and "when he asked Sargent for a higher salary to cover his herbarium work Sargent replied that any increases would only generate ill feelings among Arboretum staff members who worked for less". Dissatisfied though he was, Wilson had no better alternatives, so in September he packed his wife and daughter and sailed for the United States to settle down in the herbarium for a while.

Wilson's Fourth Expedition (1910-1911)

Although a goal of the third expedition was the collection of seeds and propagating material of conifers, the season proved disastrous. As Wilson observed, first Meyer let them down and then: "I am sorely afraid the fates intend to treat me severely this year in the matter of conifers" (Wilson, letter, October 11, 1908). In Boston, Wilson arranged his herbarium specimens and apparently found himself ill-prepared to do much of the taxonomic and nomenclatural work Sargent had in mind for the publication *Plantae Wilsonianae*. In the original prospectus the work was to be in six parts comprising three volumes. As completed, it proved to be nine parts in three volumes totalling 1931 pages. The work was dominated by Alfred Rehder.

Little is known of the conversations and arrangements that led to the fourth expedition. Wilson and his family had arrived in Boston in September, 1909, and Wilson departed for China in March, 1910. The objective was to try again for seeds of the gymnosperms. Taking the train across Europe to Moscow and from there to Peking, Wilson arrived in Ichang on June 1, 1910. Again he was able to assemble "as much of his old men as he required" and left for Chengtu on June 4. Wilson said:

"My object was to enter Szechuan by way of northwestern Hupeh and then strike due west to Chengtu, the capital of the province. Much of this proposed route was absolute terra-incognito, and no one had before attempted this journey in its entirety. The distance is about seven hundred miles, but in rough mountainous country mere mileage is no criterion. In all it took about eight weeks of steady travel to cover the distance".

From Chengtu, Wilson made a round trip to Sungpan. He collected a few herbarium specimens, reported his "camera was very busy", and arranged for the gathering of fruits of *Eucommia*. Three day's travel outside of Chengtu, Wilson's party was caught in an avalanche of sliding rock. Although Wilson escaped from his sedan chair, which was carried over the precipice, he was hit on the leg and suffered a compound fracture.

He wrote to Sargent of the accident: "Fortunately as far as the expedition is concerned my plans have been so laid that whilst handicapping us, the accident cannot involve the expedition in entire failure" (Wilson, letter, September 10, 1910). He added the personal postscript: "P.S. My wife of course knows nothing of the accident, nor will she for several weeks to come, for I shall not write her about it until I am on a fair way to recovery. Please take every precaution to prevent the news from getting into the hands of the press or its friends at yours or across the water" (Wilson, op. cit.).



Ernest Wilson with his wife Ellen, and their daughter, Muriel Primrose, photographed during a visit to Japan in 1914.

He received medical care from Dr. and Mrs. W. Henry Davidson of the Friends' Mission in Chengtu, as well as from a Dr. Mouillac, the French army surgeon in charge of the Ecole de Medecine and the Roman Catholic Hospital in Chengtu. Because of the delay caused by the long passage from the scene of the accident, Wilson's leg became infected and nearly had to be amputated. Twelve weeks elapsed before he could hobble about on crutches with a shortened and painful limb. Sargent expressed his sympathy in a letter of October 25, 1910, and Wilson wrote in reply:

"While in bed I knew my men would do what they could, although hardly as much as if I was around. An abundant seed season and possibly a grain of sympathy have worked in our favour with most gratifying results. In mere quantity the amount of seed despatched is equal to any former season. On counting, I find some four hundred packages have been despatched by post. At Ichang I expect to find a certain amount more". (Wilson, letter, December 4, 1910).



Wilson wrote: "My Chinese collectors, all faithful and true".

The group, assembled in Ichang on February 15th, 1911, had continued to collect while Wilson was recovering from his accident.

While incapacitated, Wilson received a letter offering him the post of Assistant Superintendent (under Butcher) of the Botanic Garden at Hong Kong. He replied:

"Had the offer presented itself at the time of old Ford's retirement, I should have accepted it joyously. But seven years alter the aspect of affairs. In the first place I am bound by written agreement to remain with Harvard until April 1 next and to return there. There is also a more or less tacit understanding that I remain with them until all the collections are distributed. I have also the offer from Harvard of a permanent post of rather better value than the Hong Kong post, though it is doubtful if I shall accept even this. I have an almost overwhelming desire to settle down at Kew and take up certain work having direct connection with that which I have done in China".

Wilson, letter, November 16, 1910.

Documentation for his contract and offer of a permanent post have not been located in the Harvard Archives.

Wilson collected only 462 numbers during this trip, but specimens dated after his accident, from locations far from Chengtu, indicate that his team worked during his recuperation. Wilson's last letter was written in Ichang on February 16, 1911, and he arrived back in Boston in March, 1911, almost a year to the day after his departure. His subsequent medical treatment and his mental and physical adjustment to work in an herbarium are not well documented.

Wilson after 1911

Although Wilson referred to a "written agreement with Harvard until April 1, 1911", "a tacit understanding that I remain with them until all the collections are distributed", and "the offer from Harvard of a permanent post" (Wilson, letter, November 12, 1910), none of these can be confirmed in the available records. "Sargent felt conscience-bound to provide for him professionally when he limped back from China". Wilson did need further medical treatment both in England and in Boston, and the abrupt return required much physical and psychological adjustment. "The Wilson family tried to adapt to the United States while living in a modest apartment in Jamaica Plain near the Arboretum. Wilson could not make up his mind about the United States (and never did become a citizen); Ellen Wilson, for her part, liked neither America nor Americans. Wilson soon became accustomed to the new environment and began to enjoy the benefits of his reputation" (Sutton, 1970, p. 250). He was in popular demand as a speaker with his "stereopticon illustrations", and Sargent, recognising the value of the publicity for the Arnold Arboretum, encouraged him to write popular articles and to give lectures. Wilson did contribute to the study of his collections, but it is obvious that Alfred Rehder dominated the work, handling nomenclatural problems and especially the German literature with greater interest and facility than did Wilson.

- overleaf page 34 -

Yakushima, a view of the cone-shaped hills with rice-fields and the village of Shitogo in the foreground. Had Wilson's leg injury prevented any arduous exploration, who knows what he may have found...

- overleaf page 35 -

Dagelet Island (Oo-ryong-too), on the northeast coast of Korea.

- overleaf page 36 -

The Bonin Islands, showing the west coast of Haha-jima from Naga-hama. Muko-jima can be seen on the horizon. Wilson took the photo on April 27th, 1917.

- overleaf page 37 -

Kongo-san, from Seiyoji above Hyokunji, Korea, October 14th, 1917.









Wilson wrote numerous popular articles based on his explorations of China and also calling upon his experiences at Kew and subsequently at the Arnold Arboretum. *The Bulletin of Popular Information* issued by the Arboretum beginning in May, 1911, contained unsigned articles until Sargent's death in 1927. The information in many of the notes is probably attributable to Wilson, and the phrases are often repeated in Wilson's later, signed articles. Former staff members recall that Wilson dictated to a secretary as he rode or walked around the grounds, and such material was published in the Bulletin.

Both Wilson and Sargent had field knowledge of Japan, its flora, and the plants under cultivation there. In 1914 an arduous field trip was still out of the question, but Wilson did accept Sargent's plan for a special trip to Japan to study the plants under cultivation. Sargent had less difficulty soliciting funds for this trip because of Wilson's reputation, and Wilson was permitted to take his wife and daughter along. Wilson's field books reveal trips primarily along railroad routes, and they are dominated by entries from various botanical gardens and by records of cultivated plants. Two of his publications for the Arnold Arboretum, *The Cherries of Japan* (1916) and *The Conifers and Taxads of Japan* (1916), resulted from his observations on this trip. When World War I broke out, Sargent was in England. He cut short his planned trip and returned to Boston, where he wrote to Wilson, suggesting that he abandon the original plans for traveling to adjacent islands and return home soon. Wilson arrived in Boston in April, 1915. Wilson's frustration, resentment, and bitterness over his isolation and his inability to enlist or serve in the war effort in a useful way was clear:

"Wilson's patriotism ran deep and frustration blurred his judgment. Before the war Rehder and Wilson had been close friends. Now, although the professional dialogue continued amiably, Wilson - under pressure from his wife - discontinued their social relations.... Rehder, a scholarly, gentle person, was apolitical, and it was some time before either he or Mrs. Rehder understood why the Wilsons mistrusted them".

Sutton, 1970, pp. 256, 257.

Rehder may have been "apolitical," but he was strongly pro-German throughout his career. Sargent clearly had a personnel problem: "Sargent became conscious of Wilson's irritability and restlessness, and these influenced his decision to send Wilson on a new collecting expedition even though the fighting was still in progress" (Sutton, 1970, p. 257). In January, 1917, Wilson left again for Asia and the Bonin Islands before spending six months in Korea in 1917. In 1918 he collected in Formosa [Taiwan] for four months and then returned to Korea via Japan. He returned to Formosa in the late fall of 1918. Apparently his leg no longer bothered him, for the schedule he kept was arduous. He collected over 3,000 numbers in remote places and exposed over 600 photographic plates, primarily on the flora of Japan. It was during this trip that he assembled from nursery sources the collection of Kurume azaleas that become known as the "Wilson Fifty". Those plants not hardy in the Boston area were kept by Sargent at Holm Lea and by the Ames family in North Easton. They were forced for exhibition at the spring flower shows of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and other organisations; during nearly fifty years of exhibitions, they won prizes on each occasion.

Wilson's exact title at the Arboretum during this period is not recorded, although in one article he refers to himself as "Dendrologist, Arnold Arboretum." In 1916 he received an honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard, and in 1919 he was appointed Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum, without limit of time. In this capacity he made one more trip to the Pacific area. This lasted from July of 1920 until September of 1922, during which time Wilson visited Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, India, Ceylon, Kenya, Rhodesia, and

South Africa. He took few photographs on these trips - in fact, he had commercial photographs sent back to the Arboretum. He sought specific conifers for study, but his collection numbers for this period are incomplete, overlapping, and confused, and many specimens are without numbers. No introductions of seeds or living plants were made, as far as can be determined. The trip has often been described as a "public relations effort" to permit Wilson to be introduced to the staff of various tropical botanical gardens. A series of reports from each area visited was published in the *Garden Magazine* (1923-24) under the title of "Travel Tales of a Plant Collector", and the subject matter became chapters in his two-volume work *Plant Hunting* (1927).

Sargent died in 1927. The University filled the gap by appointing Professor Oakes Ames as Supervisor of the Arnold Arboretum and chairman of a standing committee on the University's botanical collections. The title of Director of the Arboretum was abandoned, and Wilson was given the new title "Keeper of the Arboretum." Only after Wilson's death was the title of "Director" re-established for the Arnold Arboretum.

Wilson died on October 15th, 1930, in an automobile accident near Worcester, Massachusetts, while returning from a trip to Montreal. The accident was blamed in part on the weakness of his leg so badly injured in China.

Wilson in the Field

Wilson left little information about his method of operation in the field. What can be gathered from occasional comments in his writings and diaries does not give a complete picture of what was needed to live and travel as he did during the eleven years from 1900 through 1910.

In *Plant Hunting* (1927, Vol. 1, p. xxv) he stated the necessary qualifications:

"Like any other vocation, plant hunting calls for certain qualifications on the part of those who essay the task. First and foremost it is a work of youth, for it takes a heavy toll of strength and endurance, patience and enthusiasm. A sound constitution and an eminently sane mind are fundamental requisites. An optimistic temperament and abundance of tact are essential in dealing with the difficulties and delays incident upon travel and the idiosyncrasies of native peoples. The more knowledge the hunter has of plants already in cultivation, of gardening, and of botany, the greater the chance of success. Some business acumen, ability to mingle freely and pleasantly with all sorts and conditions of men are added qualifications of no mean order. But above all else tact and a sound physique are needed in the rough and tumble of plant hunting".

In his first published article, in *The Field, The Country Gentleman's Newspaper* (CVI: 109. 1905), Wilson recommended western China for the sportsman: "Leaving aside the cost of outfit, which should be procured in England or America, £500 would amply cover a sportsman's expenses for one year in the country. This sum would include first class fare from London to Shanghai and return. The journey could even be done for £400 if strict economy were enforced; on the other hand many pounds could easily be expended".

Wilson's first major report of his travels was entitled A Naturalist in Western China, with Vasculum, Camera, and Gun, Being Some Account of Eleven Years' Travel, Exploration, and Observation in the More Remote Parts of the Flowery Kingdom (1913). The vasculum, adopted from his early training in Europe, is a metal case carried over the shoulder and opened by a cover hinged on the long side. Plant specimens are carried in it all day without being crushed; in the evening they are sorted and dried in plant presses.

- opposite -

Wilson's herbarium specimens from Formosa on the 1st Floor Atrium of the Hunnewell Building in April 1919.



Wilson's photographic equipment will be mentioned later.

The gun, according to available photographs, apparently was never more powerful than a double-barrelled shotgun, "12 bore" as he described it. It was used for acquiring birds "for the pot" or, on one trip, for skins and pelts. Zappey, who accompanied Wilson in 1908-9, carried a rifle suitable for downing larger animals. Wilson's party commonly had soldiers along, and there is some indication that their guns were used for hunting.

One chapter in A Naturalist in Western China is devoted to the subject "Methods of Travel: Roads and Accommodation". On page 22 of Volume 1, he stated, "In the regions with which we deal there is nothing in the nature of wheeled vehicular traffic save only the rude wheel-barrow in use on the Chengtu plain. There are no mule caravans and scarcely a riding pony is to be found. For overland travel there is the native sedan-chair and one's own legs; for river travel the native boat". The sedan-chair is mentioned frequently: "I travelled mostly on foot but had with me a light sedan chair made of rattan and my Boy or principal servant was similarly favoured. A sedan chair is an outward and visible sign of respectability without which no traveller is properly equipped. In those days it was of far more importance than a passport, for it inspired confidence and insured the respect of the people. Whether one rode in it or walked was immaterial; the important thing was its presence" (Wilson, 1927, Vol. 2, p. 148). Wilson was riding in his sedan chair in 1910 when the landslide occurred and he suffered a compound fracture of his leg. He fortunately left the chair before it was carried over the cliff. Wilson once wrote (1913, Vol. 1, p. 198) that although he slept in a hut of spruce boughs, "my boy preferred to pass the night in his chair". Four coolies of Wilson's entourage were engaged to carry the botanist and his "Boy" in the sedan chairs.

"One should have with him an outfit comprising bed, bedding, victuals, cooking paraphernalia and insect powder" (Wilson, 1929, p. 19). On several trips Wilson made his headquarters at Ichang and purchased a boat to be used as a residence. On the second Veitch expedition he had a boat named "Ellena" after his wife; on the two trips for the Arnold Arboretum, the boat was named "The Harvard." Ichang was a fairly busy commercial port, with customs officials and missionaries in residence. The two small rooms that made up the accommodations on the boat were confining, especially when plants were being worked up or stored. He found warehouses to store his collections, and he enjoyed the hospitality of many of the residents who spoke English. His indebtedness for their friendship is indicated by the number of species dedicated in compliment to them. "While travelling overland in China it is not possible to use tents and one has perforce to make use of such accommodations as the country affords. The Chinese do not understand tents, and it is unwise to try innovations in a land where people are unduly inquisitive" (Wilson, 1929, p. 19). The local accommodations, invariably called "hostels" by Wilson, were occasionally "fair" or "pleasant", but more often than not unpleasant, dirty, "ridden with hungry tormenting fleas", leaky, muddy, smelly, noisy, and sometimes "indescribable". At Wangtung-tsao "we found lodgings for the night.... The inn is beautifully situated in a grove of bamboo and cypress, but is poor and abominably stinking. Really, it is a pity that such a vile house should defile such a charming spot" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 81). At Lao-tangfane the single room had "a long row of 'bunks' built along one side, with benches for the accommodation of loads on the other.... Skins of serow and budorcas served as mattress on the bunks or settees" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 132). At Shihcu'uan Hsien he was "glad to escape from the malodorous, vermin infested inn" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 120). At Hsin-chia-pa the inns were unacceptable to Wilson, and a high-handed solution was described: "We happened on a decent farmhouse, which we commandeered. The owner being away, his wife was at first sorely afraid, but in a couple of hours her confidence was

gained and all was well.... We parted excellent friends with our hostess at Hsin-chia-pa, a trifling present and 400 cash (5 pence) made her extremely happy; her thanks were both genuine and profuse" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 89).

Wilson's 'bed' and 'bedding' are never explained. Presumably, a folding camp cot was used, for he referred to his bed having been brought in late by a coolie. He carried 'oil sheets', which were used to cover native beds or to protect Wilson from the leaking roofs at night.

In spite of his comment on tents, Wilson apparently did 'camp out' on occasion. At Tatien-lu:

"We selected a convenient spot nearby on which to pitch a tent for ourselves. Whilst I acted as family doctor my companion and the two men in good health attempted to fix up the tent outside.... Meanwhile rain, hail and sleet descended in torrents. After a half-hour's struggle, the rain and wind conquered, and the task of rigging the tent outside had to be abandoned. There being no possible place to sleep inside, free from rain, the only thing left was to fix the tent inside the house, the floor of which, owing to the absence of part of the roof, being already a quagmire. At length it was put up somehow, our beds were arranged beneath it, and oil-sheets placed over the top, as the thin cloth did not pretend to be waterproof...." (Wilson, 1906, p. 100.)

Wilson's party was often large; one of his photographs showed 24 people. He generally depended on local inns or hostels to supply meals and accommodations, and he rarely wrote of food or food supplies. The expeditions from a base such as Ichang, Tatienlu, or Sungpan were generally of two or three weeks' duration. One 1904 expedition to Sungpan took 52 days. On a trip to Shenei in 1907, the party ran out of supplies and had to double back. At Yu-yu-tien "travellers furnish their own food supplies, since nothing is obtainable at the hostel except, perhaps, some green vegetables in minute quantities" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 178). Wilson employed a cook, but I have not encountered in his notebooks any description of either his meals or his tastes in food. Farrington (in Wilson, 1931, p. 26) commented, "He told once of his difficulties in getting accustomed to Chinese food, especially certain chickens which have black bones. He had a fondness for birds' nest pudding, and he said that eggs which had been kept for two years in Chinese fashion were none too bad". He wrote of the taste of pheasant and of ships' biscuits and tea for breakfast.

Of all the locales Wilson visited, he appears to have been enthusiastic about only one. Of Sungpan he wrote:

"Did Fates ordain that I should live in Western China I could ask for nothing better than to be domiciled in Sungpan. Though the altitude is considerable the climate is perfect, mild at all times, with, as a general rule, clear skies in Tibetan-blue. During the summer one can always sleep under a blanket, in winter a fire and extra clothing are all that is necessary. Excellent beef, mutton, milk and butter are always obtainable at very cheap rates. The wheaten flour makes a very fair bread, and in season there is a variety of game. Good vegetables are produced such as Irish potatoes, peas, cabbages, turnips, and carrots, and such fruits as peaches, pears, plums, apricots, apples, and wild raspberries. Nowhere else in interior China can an Occidental fare better than in Sungpan Ting".

Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 144.

- opposite -

Wilson in hunting mode during the 1907-1909 expedition, shotgun to hand and a bag of 52 pheasants (*Phasianus decollatus*) hanging from the rack.





James Veitch asked Wilson in an early letter if he wore Chinese clothes. Photographs of him in the field always show him in western dress: occasionally he is shown with a field-type jacket, otherwise in a seemingly heavy suit including a vest. He wore a hat, leather puttees fixed with leather straps, and heavy shoes; he once referred to the fruits of Heteropogon as capable of penetrating the tongue of a "shooting boot".

Veitch wrote that field glasses were being sent to him in 1900. Wilson recorded the distances he traveled and indicated that 20 miles was an average day's trip. In his field books he recorded distances in lis, a Chinese unit of measure equal to one third of a mile. He carried a pedometer (among his mementos, still set for a 35-inch stride). He had two compasses, as well as an altimeter made by Negretti and Zambra that he referred to as an "aneroid" when he gave altitudes at various locations. Once Wilson cited a thermometer reading of 36°F, suggesting that he had a thermometer. Presumably he had axes or saws, for he reported felling large trees to obtain cones and removing slabs of bark from larger trees.

In letters to Veitch and to Sargent, he often reported on his health. An illness of 22 days in 1907 he attributed to a bout of malaria. On another occasion he suffered from "ague, brought on by a chill". He also wrote, "The magistrate sent me word that he was suffering from pains in the stomach and vomiting, and would be grateful for some medicine to relieve his suffering. I sent him some Epsom-salts and an opiate.... A traveller gets many such requests for medicine, and I have generally found quinine, Epsom-salts and opium pills most useful cures, for which the people were always grateful" (Wilson, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 192). He also noted that he "acted as family doctor" to his men who suffered frostbite and snow blindness on a trip from Tatien-lu (1906, p. 101). Although he published notes on Chinese medicinal plants, he made only one personal reference: "The dried rhizome of Coptis chinensis is an all-round medicine and particularly valued as a stomachic.... Personally I can testify that it makes an excellent and appetising bitters" (Wilson, 1929, p. 319).

Wilson appears to have kept a great many notebooks in the field. His diaries are available for parts of all of his trips except the first one for Veitch. They are not complete and rarely fill an entire notebook, suggesting that he frequently started a new book for a new trip. The entries in his diaries are in pencil, while most of his plant records are in ink; his writing is difficult to read. He kept a separate record book for seed collections for Veitch, but for the Arnold Arboretum seeds, specimens, and photographic records are frequently combined in one ledger. Wilson also referred in letters to his "book of records of photographs", but this has not been found. A few of his separate books of financial records are available. On most trips accounts were not kept in detail, but on some occasions he was explicit as to items for his "Boy", coolees' wages, expenses for his collectors, and one record of a Christmas gift.

Wilson's task was to collect seeds and botanical specimens. Nothing is known of his equipment for these purposes while he was employed by Veitch. At times Wilson collected in a vasculum, transferring the specimens to a press to be dried. On June 28, 1907, he wrote to Sargent, "I worked with nine presses and a thousand driers and I can assure you changing specimens every night meant work". Earlier (1906, p. 27) he had written, "My collections grew apace and it took all hands three hours changing papers".

- opposite -

The hostel of San-chia-tsze, at an altitude of 12,500 ft., one mile below summit of the Hsueh-Shan pass East of Sungpan. The photo was taken on August 23, 1910, and Wilson can be seen on the right.

No photographs have been located showing how Wilson dried specimens. He used wireframe presses that he made himself, or had made in China. The end frames were secured with chains and tightened by readjustment to a hook on the opposite frame. Wilson used thin blotters without ventilators; the paper containing the specimens must have been acquired in Shanghai. On February 15, 1919, Sargent wrote to Wilson that Purdom "is not taking any paper for drying specimens with him as you didn't and as I understand there is no difficulty in getting such material in China". Dr. Shiu-ying Hu told me that, as a student in the Natural History Museum in West China Union University, Chengto, Szechuan, she used the press frames, blotters, and drying paper Wilson had left behind. Dr. Hu recalled that the type of paper Wilson used was not then available in that region of China, and she felt that he must have brought it with him. When Wilson's specimens were dry, the packages were wrapped in oiled paper for storage and shipment.

Wilson also preserved fleshy fruits in "Chinese spirits" and returned some of this material to the United States. There is no indication where he obtained the bottles or spirits, or how this material was sealed.

One often gets the impression that Wilson was a loner and did not have company beyond members of his staff. Although he did not speak or read Chinese, as far as can be determined, he said that an interpreter was not necessary if there was a good "boy or principal servant". On each of his trips, he acquired a dog for company, and although the breed cannot be determined from the photographs available, one was referred to as a "spaniel". None of the dogs was identified by a name. Wilson (1913, Vol. 1, p. 249) referred to the need to carry them across narrow bridges or up ladders when ascending Mt. Wa. Wilson had field companions who can be identified only by the dedication of new species to them: Dr. William Kirk, "a keen lover of nature and the collector's companion on many rambles" (Meliosma kirkii); Rev. J. Moyes, of Tatien-lu, "companionship on one long and interesting journey in Eastern Tibet" (Rosa moyesii); Mr. W. C. Haines-Watson, "my friend and travelling companion" (Rhododendron watsonii); Mr. G. Houlston, "my companion on many a delightful ramble in the Ichang neighbourhood" (R. fortunei ssp. discolor Houlstonii Group); and of course W. R. Zappey, the zoologist who was associated with Wilson during his 1907-09 trip (Prunus zappeyana). No specimens are recorded as joint collections, and none of his Chinese collectors are acknowledged on the field labels.

Wilson's publications rarely revealed his feelings concerning his nomadic life. Veitch had warned him that he would be lonely and that he must keep up his spirits by hard work. Of a trip to the Chen-to Pass (14,500 feet) on June 19, 1904, Wilson did write (1906, p. 101), "We crossed the Chen-to Pass in a blizzard of snow and sleet. I shall never forget that day. It was the hardest, roughest and most exhausting one I experienced during the whole of my five years wandering China.... As I look back on that day I marvel that we were not all frozen to death. As it was, several of the party were badly frost-bitten and 11 suffered from snow blindness. It was many weeks ere we fully recovered from the effect of the passage".

Sargent's letters to Wilson were less frequent than Veitch's had been but usually concerned matters more related to the expeditions. For example, "I suppose by this time you are in the field and I hope that you are enjoying yourself. Write when opportunity offers, although do not let writing interfere with the real work unless you have something it is necessary to say" (Sargent, letter, April 18, 1907). Wilson did inform Sargent of each trip when it was planned and again when it was completed. His trips of 1908 were to new and difficult country. He reported the trip to Mt. Omei and Mt. Wa as having been profitable, "but owing largely to bad weather, desperately hard and uncomfortable. I never want to hear of, much less see that region again" (Wilson, letter, October 11, 1908).

In a letter written on September 3, 1910, only days before the accident that broke his leg, Wilson wrote:

"I am certainly getting very tired of the wandering life and long for the end to come. I seem never to have done anything else than wander, wander - through China".

Wilson as a Photographer

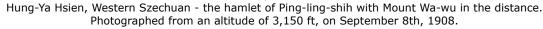
In an early letter (December 11, 1899) James Veitch wrote to Wilson, "The camera I have not sent as I feel sure you will do better in Hong Kong; have a quick look around and buy one - preferably an American. I also do not think you should use plates - films are much handier and give most excellent results and the roll can be changed in broad daylight. I have used such and find that though not the best for highest art photographs for all general purposes they are suitable". On July 9, 1901, he wrote again: "I am sorry to hear about your camera, you are indeed unlucky. I was more fortunate and only had my Kodak go wrong once". The *Gardeners' Chronicle* (37: 337, 382, 383., 1905) published several photographs to go with Wilson's article "Leaves from My Chinese Note-book," which reported on his 1903 trip. Similar to prints from Wilson's later trips, these photographs are marked "Gardchron" and "W. J. Welch, Sc." but are not credited to Wilson. If they were taken by Wilson, they would be the film negatives taken on the first of the Veitch expeditions. Wilson later wrote (1913, Vol. 1, p. 129), "My first journey over this highway was, as mentioned before, in 1904. At that time I had no camera".

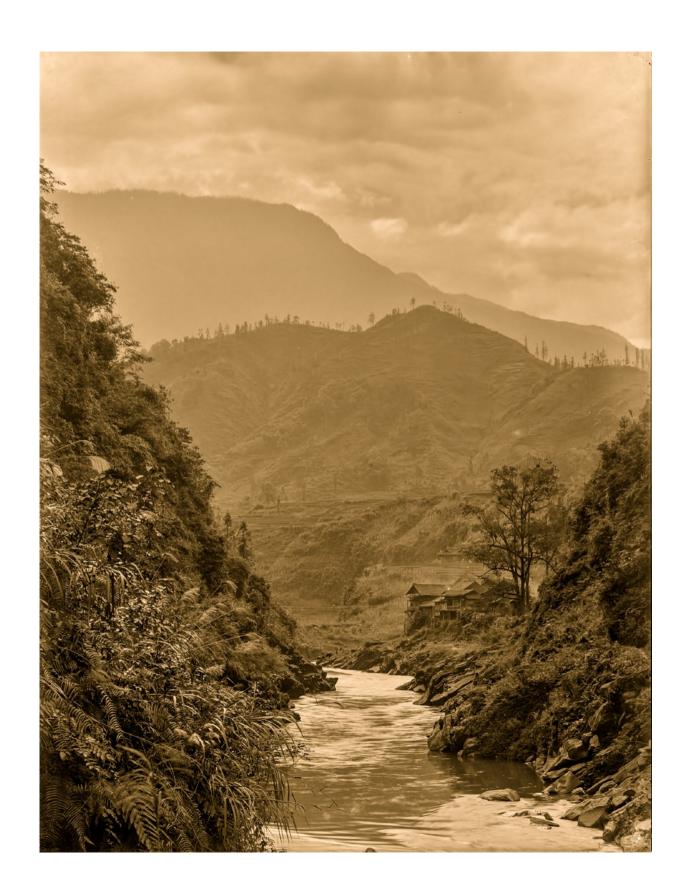
Sargent, however, wanted a good photographic record of the plants that Wilson saw and introduced, as well as of the countryside and the vegetation. In a special issue of *Arnoldia* commemorating the 100th anniversary of Wilson's birth, Peter J. Chvany (1976) reproduced many of Wilson's photographs and related how even Miss Willmott encouraged Wilson to acquire a camera and take pictures. Wilson had a Sanderson whole-plate field camera, with bellows and a stout wooden support tripod custom made, and he carried it in three heavy boxes. On the trips for the Arnold Arboretum, he also took along a roll-film camera on which he took some personal pictures. Sargent wrote to Wilson, "I hope you won't forget the photograph business which seems to me important, as we ought to get from this expedition all possible information about the Chinese flora" (Sargent, letter, October 11, 1906). On April 21, 1907, Wilson wrote Sargent, "I took fifty Kodak photos of different subjects and these have been forwarded to England to be dealt with by Ingalls"; on August 13 Sargent replied, "I did see some of the proofs of your photographs. These seemed to me to be promising although, as you have already heard, some change in exposure will have to be made".

By the middle of 1908, Wilson had mastered the camera. He wrote:

"Photography formed an important part of the journey just completed. With the large camera I took twenty dozen plates. I have had two dozen of these developed and the results were most gratifying. Whilst the bulk of the photos are of trees and other floral subjects, a fair sprinkling showing scenery are included, enough to give an idea of the general appearance and configuration of the country. The Kodak continues unsatisfactory. A consignment of films ordered from England to be sent via parcel post have got lost somewhere. As the few remaining old films are apparently useless I shall have to leave the Kodak behind on future trips.







"However the larger camera is working well and I have heaps of plates and the need for the Kodak is small".

Wilson, letter, August 27, 1908.

Chvany (1976) describes well the effort Wilson made in the field despite the uncertainty of the results. As Wilson (1913, Vol. 1, p. 197) stated, "Photography in the forest is no mere pastime. It took over an hour on three occasions clearing away brushwood and branches so as to admit of a clear view of the trunk of the subject. I secured a dozen photographs, which entailed a hard day's work".

In February, Wilson reported:

"On the last trip I secured 11 dozen photos with the big camera, practically all of them showing winter aspect. Today with the full plate camera I have taken 57 dozen plates. I hope to manage three dozen more and thus complete 6 gross. As I wrote you before, from experiments made from time to time there is good reason to believe, failing accidents, that these photos will turn out well. The trick before me now is to get them home safely".

Wilson, letter, February 2, 1909.

While Wilson was preparing to leave China, he wrote Sargent from Ichang:

"I have this day shipped to E. J. Wallis of Kew, three cases each containing 20 dozen undeveloped plates. These 60 doz. photos represent the work of two seasons with the large camera. A correct record of every plate has been kept and I anticipate no difficulty in correctly naming every photo. Trees largely predominate but scenery and objects of interest generally have not been forgotten. I have instructed Wallis not to commence developing until I arrive home, which will be soon after the arrival of the cases. If these plates reach Wallis in the condition they should, and all is as I anticipate, I think you will appreciate the unique collection of photos which in themselves should form not the least important result of the expedition. I have worked pretty hard at this photography business, and if anything goes wrong with these plates I vow I will never attempt to handle another camera. So soon as I know how the plates are turning out in Wallis' hands I will write you for instruction".

Wilson, letter, March 8, 1909.

Wilson worked with Wallis and saw to it that the plates were developed individually. In June, 1909, he sent prints to Sargent, even though his records of the subjects had not yet reached England. His enthusiasm grew as more were developed, and apparently Sargent, too, was pleased. Wilson wrote in July:

"Acting on the suggestion contained in [your letter] of July 13th, I yesterday called on the Director of Kew with very happy results. I took along a couple of dozen photos and made known your wishes. Colonel Prain said, "Certainly Kew would like a set, but what would the price be?" This I answered was a matter for arrangements between your good selves, but I presumed it would be about the ordinary market rate. On looking through the photos the director was highly complimentary in his remarks and told me to inform you "that Kew would be glad to acquire a set at any cost". ... From the enthusiastic remarks of Col. Prain and Dr. Stapf it seems probable that the more important continental herbaria would purchase sets of these photographs. Personally I think it reasonable to suppose that the different herbariums receiving sets of our dried plants will be glad of the opportunity to acquire a set of photographs which will so materially increase the value of the herbarium specimens themselves....

"The whole of the photos are now developed and nearly all are "spotted" and numbered with "running numbers" in sequence. In all there are exactly sixty dozen (720) negatives. Of these 80% are purely botanical, practically all trees with a few shrubs, herbs or forest-scenes. Of the remaining 20% about half are birds and mammals and should be of much value to Mr. Thayer and others with similar interests. The other half are general, i.e., scenes, architecture, porcelain and bronzes, and a few figures illustrating phallic worship. With the exception of about half a dozen of personal interest only, there is not a photo but what some scientific institution or another should be glad of".

Wilson, letter, July 2, 1909.

In looking at Wilson's photographs of a "bag of pheasants after a day's shoot" (in Chvany, 1976, p. 81), or of more than fifty ducks hung on a bamboo boat, or of a large number of dead animals, one must keep in mind that these were taken when Zappey was along collecting for the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The day's hunt was probably not for the pot but for science. Zappey brought back 3135 birds, skins of 370 mammals, and specimens of various reptiles and fishes, which since have been distributed to many museums as specimens for scientific study. Wilson appears to have kept the photographic record of the collections. Several chapters and many plates in *A Naturalist in Western China* are devoted to the zoological collections.

By November of 1909, the first of Wilson's excellent photographs had been used in a publication. W. J. Bean, in writing "Garden Notes on New Trees and Shrubs" (*Kew Bull.* 1909: 351-357. 1909), reproduced two photos with the acknowledgment, "By kind permission of Prof. Sargent, Arnold Arboretum, photographs of *Tapiscia sinensis* Oliv., and *Tetracentron sinensis* Oliv., taken by Wilson in China are reproduced on the accompanying plates".

Although Wallis made additional prints from the glass plates, we have no idea how the final sets were prepared. An announcement on the inside back cover of *Plantae Wilsonianae* (Sargent, 1913, Vol. 1, part 3) offered 850 photographs 8.5" X 6.5" for \$425, or \$.50 each.

His confidence renewed by the success of his photographic efforts, Wilson offered to expose the remaining plates on plants at Kew and at Coombe Wood. Wilson also took many striking photographs during his 1914 trip to Japan, and a smaller number on his later trips to the Liukiu Islands, Australia, and Africa, but apparently none in India or Ceylon.

Wilson's Field Numbers in Summary

1-1310. Seeds collected for Veitch, 1899-1901. China.

1-2800. Specimens collected for Veitch, 1899-1901. China.

1400-1910. Seeds collected for Veitch, 1903-1905. China.

3000-5420. Specimens collected for Veitch, 1903-1905. China.

1-3817. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1907-1909. China.

4000-4744. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1910. China.

6001-7888. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1914-1915. Japan.

8000-8415. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1917. Liukiu Islands.

8416-9736. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1917. Bonin Islands and Korea.

9634-11268. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1918. Formosa, Japan, and Korea.

1-507, 520-717, 700-799, Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1920, Australia.

21-138. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1921. Kenya.

80-430. Collections for the Arnold Arboretum, 1921-1922. South Africa.

Wilson's Collecting Localities

The following chronology of Wilson's travels in China is based on dated herbarium specimens and photographs, and on the entries available from his diaries and field books.

Specific dates, when known, follow the month in parentheses (when Wilson appears to have been in two widely separated places on the same date, one collection was probably made by one of his collectors). The spellings of place names are those used by Wilson. However, because there was not yet a standard system for romanisation of Chinese, it is likely that Wilson had to create his own spellings of localities too small to be on any map. He was not consistent, but I feel that it is important to use his spellings for each particular collection.

The smaller localities are not mapped. Where possible, additional information about the localities is given.

The following list of Chinese terms and their English equivalents should be helpful in interpreting the localities:

chiao - bridge; chou, chow, fu or ting - town, administrative centre; ho - small river; hsien - township or seat of a township; kiang - river; kou - mouth of a river, ravine; ling - range of mountains; shan - hill or mountain.

The First Veitch Expedition, 1899-1902

1899

April:

Arrived in Boston (April 23).

June:

Hong Kong (June 3).

August:

Yunnan: Laokai.

September:

Yunnan: Mengtsze, Szemao.

December:

Hong Kong (December 25).

1900

February:

Western Hupeh: Ichang (February 24).

March:

Western Hupeh: Ichang; Nanto.

April:

Western Hupeh: Ichang, Nanto, Patung; Chang-yang Hsien.

May:

Western Hupeh: Chang-yang, Chienshi Hsien; Ichang; Nanto.

Western Szechuan: Ching ting Shan.

June:

Western Hupeh: Chien-si Hsien; Pao-kang Hsien; Patung.

Szechuan: Wa-shan Mountain.

July:

Western Hupeh: Chienshi.

August:

Eastern Szechuan: Wulan.

October:

Western Hupeh: Chang-yang Hsien; Ichang.

December:

Western Hupeh: Ichang.

1901

March:

Kui (possibly Kui-chou in Eastern Szechuan).

April:

Western Hupeh: Chang-yang Hsien; Pao-kang; Patung.

May:

Western Hupeh: Patung Hsien.

June:

Eastern Szechuan: Kui-chou.

Western Szechuan: Chang-yang; Fang Hsien; Pao-kang Hsien.

July:

Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien, Pao-kang; Patung.

August:

Western Hupeh: Pao-kang Hsien.

September:

Western Hupeh: Chang-yang Hsien.

1900-1901 (undated)

An An Miao, Western Cheping, Fu Wan, Hsi Sha Ho, Hsing Shan, Kuan Pao, La Mo, Lalang, Linong, Lu Lung Po, Lung Kuan, Ma Huang Po, Manhao, Mu Lung Po, Papien River, Ping Shan Kai, Pu Lachi, Sze kou tze, Ti Mo Shan, Tu Wan, Yunnan, Yuenchiang.

1902

April:

Returned to England.



A studio portrait from 1905 taken soon after Wilson returned to England.

The Second Veitch Expedition, 1903-1905

1903

March:

Hong Kong (March 22); Shanghai.

April:

Western Hupeh: Ichang (April 25).

May:

Szechuan: Chungking, Fu-chau; Kiating-fu; Mu-tung; Shih Kai Tu.

June:

Western Szechuan: Kiating-Fu (June 19); Tachien-lu; Wa-shan.

July:

Western Szechuan: Fulin; Kiating; Mt. Omei; Tachien-lu; Tung Valley; Wa-shan, Yin-Kou.

August-September:

Western Szechuan: Kiating.

October:

Western Szechuan: Kiating; Mt. Omei.

November:

Western Szechuan: Kiating.

December:

Western Hupeh: Ichang.

1904

March:

Western Hupeh: Ichang (March 15).

April:

Western Hupeh: Ichang (April 24). Western Szechuan: Sui Fu.

May:

Western Szechuan: Kiating; Mt. Omei; Tachien-lu; Ta-hsiang-ling; Tung Valley,

Wa-shan.

June:

Western Szechuan: Mt. Omei; Mupin; Tachien-lu.

July:

Western Szechuan: Kiating; Mt. Omei, Tachien-lu; Tung Valley.

August:

Western Szechuan: Kiating; Sungpan.

September:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu; Min Valley; Sungpan.

October:

Western Szechuan: Mupin, Tachien-lu.

November:

Western Szechuan: Kiating.

December:

Western Szechuan; Kiating (December 8): Chung-king (December 14).

1905

March:

Returned to England.

The First Arnold Arboretum Expedition, 1907-1909, accompanied by the John E. Thayer Expedition to China for the Museum of Comparative Zoology, 1907-1909

1907

February:

Arrived in Shanghai (February 2); Ichang (February 26)

March:

Western Hupeh: Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang.

April:

Western Hupeh: Chang yang Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang; Patung Hsien.

May:

Western Hupeh: Changlo-Hsien; Fang Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang.

June

Western Hupeh: Chang yang Hsien; Fang Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang, Patung Hsien;

Ta-wan ("big turn").

July:

Kiangsi: Kuling. Western Hupeh: Chang-lo Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ta-wan.

August:

Kiangsi: Kui-Kiang, Kuling.

September:

Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang.

October:

Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien, Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang.

November:

Western Hupeh: Changyang Hsien; Fang Hsien; Ichang; Pa-tung Hsien.

December:

Western Hupeh: Changyang Hsien; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang.

1908

January:

Western Hupeh: Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang; Shasi.

February:

Western Hupeh; Ichang.

March:

Western Hupeh: Ichang; Ichang Gorge; Patung City.

Szechuan: Hsin-lung Rapids, Yangtze River (may be near Kui-Fu); Kui-Fu City; Te-t'an

(village); Windbox Gorge, Wushan Gorge; Yiin Yang City.

April:

Western Szechuan: Feng-tu Hsien; Sui-Fu; Wan Hsien (city).

May:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu, Chengtu Plain, Chien-wei Hsien; Ching-chi Hsien, Chiu-Ting Shan; Hanchou; Hsin-Hsin Hsien; Kiating Fu, Mao-chou, Mao-chou Plain, Mien-chu Hsien; Min Valley; Shih-Fang Hsien; Tachien-lu, Ta Hsing-ling (range of mountains, possibly near Tachien-lu); Wa-ssu; Wei-chow (possibly Mei-chou); Wen Chuan Hsien.

June:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu; Hsao-chin Ho (probably Hsiao-chin Ho), Hsin Wen ping; Hsuan Kou; Kuan chai (between Monkong Ting and Pan-lan-shan Pass), Kuan-Hsien; Mongong Ting, Mupin (region northwest of Tachien-lu), Niu-tou-shan (mountain east of Pan-lan-shan); Pan-lan-shan (mountain pass), Pi Hsien, Romi Chango, Tachien-lu (Kang-

ting); Ta-Chin Ho (upper Tung River); Tsung-lu possibly Tungolo, west of Tachcien-lu); Wohji (village; also the name of a region north of Mongkong Ting).

July:

Western Szechuan: Cheto-shan (mountain range west of Tachien-lu); Mupin; Tachien-lu; Ta-p'ao-shan (Pan-lan-shan); Tung River Valley; Wa-shan (mountain); Wassu Kou (probably a ravine near Wa-ssu); West Romichango.

August:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu City; Chengtu Fu; Ching Chi Hsien; Fei-yiieh-lung; Hua-ling-ping; Kiung-chou; Kuan Hsien; Leng Che (village), Luting-Chiao; Nitou (possibly Nui-tou shan near Pan-lan-shan), Shuangliu; Tartar City, Chengtu (inner city of Chengtu); Wa-shan (mountain); Ya-chou Fu (Ya an); Yung-yang Hsien.

September:

Western Szechuan: Ching Chi Hsien; Hungya Hsien (hamlet south of Ya-chou Fu); Kiating Fu, Malie (near Wa-shan); Mt. Wa-Wu; Omei Hsien; Tatien Chleh (hamlet); Tung River Valley; Wa-shan (mountain).

October:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu Plain; Chiu Ting shan, Mien-chu Hsien; Hsin-Hsin Hsien, Kiating; Mupin; Tachien-lu; Tung River Valley; Ya-chi Fu (probably Ya-chou Fu).

November:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu City, Chiu-Ting shan, Tu Men; Kiating Fu; Min River Valley; Mupin; Pan-lan-shan; Tachien-lu; Tung River Valley, Wa-shan (mountain), Wassu.

December:

Western Szechuan: Chiang Ching Hsien; Kiating Fu; Lu-chou; Min River; Na-Chi Hsien (probably Nan-chi); Sui Fu; Yachou Fu; Ya River.

1909

January:

Szechuan: Chungking; Shih-pao-chai; Wan Hsien; Wushan Gorge; Yunyang. Western Hupeh: A-tung Hsien (probably Pa-tung Hsien); Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang; Ichang Gorge; Nan t'o; Mitsang Gorge; Chin Tan Village; Patung Hsien; Putze (hamlet); Shan-Yuh-Tung Glen (near Ichang, among the Yangtze gorges).

February:

Western Hupeh: Changyang Hsien; Ichang.

March:

Han-Kow, Ichang Fu; Shanghai;

April:

Hong Kong; left China at the end of April.

The Second Arnold Arboretum Expedition, 1910-1911

1910

April:

To China via Trans-Siberian Railway.

Western Hupeh: Ichang.

May:

Western Hupeh: Ichang; Sun-yu-tung Glen.

June:

Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien, Hsiang-Tan; Hsing-shan Hsien; Ichang, Kuo-Hu-ping; Lumeng Ho, Patung Hsien; Sha-kao-che: Sha-kou-pieu (hamlet); Sun-yu-tung Glen; Yangtze gorges (near Ichang).

Eastern Szechuan; Tan-chia-Teng (village); Taning Hsien.

July:

Eastern Szechuan: Kai Hsien; Shato-tzu (market town); Wan-to-tsao; Wen-tang-ching; Yiinyang Hsien.

North-central Szechuan: Chint'ang Hsien; Chung-chiang Hsien; Hwai-pai-lu (small market village); Nan-ching Kuan; Pa-chou; Paoning Fu; Tai-lu-che (market village); Tung-chuan Fu; Tung-Hsiang Hsien; Yenting Hsien, Yi-lung Hsien.

Western Szechuan: Chengtu Fu.

August:

Western Szechuan: An Hsien; Chengtu; Han-chou; Kuan-Hsien; Kung-ching ch'ang, Lungan Fu; Mao-chou; Mienchu Hsien; Min River Valley; Slzi-chuan Hsien; Sin-tu Hsien (Hsin-tu Hsien); Sung-pan; Sungpan Ting (Sungpan), Tachien-lu.

September:

Western Szechuan: Kiating; Kuan Hsien; Mao-chou; Ping-long-shih (near Mount Wa-wu); Sungpan; Sungpan Ting (Wilson's accident); Tachien-lu; Wen-ch'uan Hsien; Yen-Meng.

Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien.

November:

Western Szechuan: Wa-ssu.

December:

Western Szechuan: Chengtu, Mt. Omei.

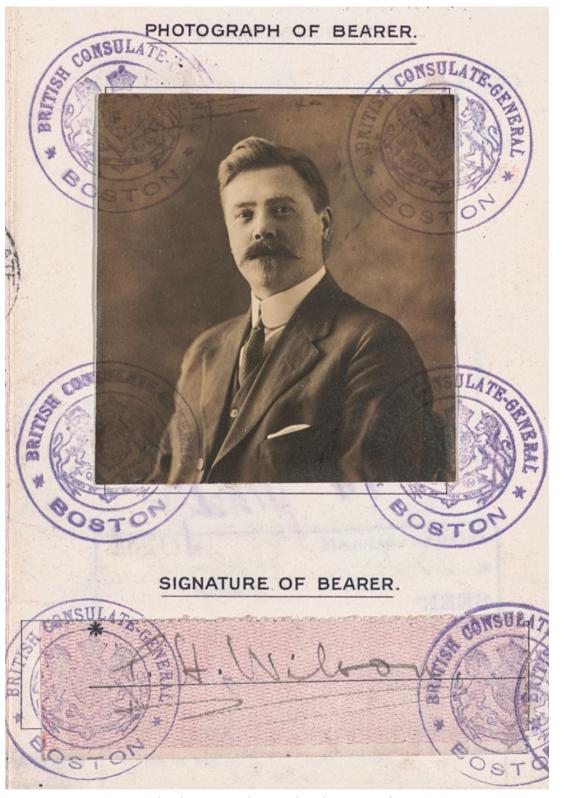
1911

February:

Western Hupeh: Ichang, Hankow; Kin-ling (port); Shasi.

March:

Hankow; Kuikiang; Shanghai. Arrived in Boston.



Ernest Wilson's passport photograph and signature, from 1916.

Wilson's Collecting Localities in Asia, 1914-1919

The day(s) of the month, where known, are indicated in parentheses after the locality.

1914

February:

Japan: Tokyo (3).

Undated: Kagoshima; Shitogo, Yakushima.

March:

Japan: Kinishima (9), Kagoshima (17); Nagasaki (18); Tokyo (20) Undated: Kai, Kamo,

Kusakabe, Muji; Sakurajima, Sano; Shigotomi, Togo, Yoshino.

April:

Japan: Tokyo (15), Kyoto (26), Tokyo (30).

Undated. Hachioji; Gotemba; Hakoue, Hatogaya, Joshino, Kasuga-yama, Koganei, Kyoto,

Meguro; Miyanoshita, Nara; Ongata; Totsuka-mura.

May:

Japan: Kamakura (11); Fuji (14), Nikko Mts. (23), Chuzenji (31).

Undated: Enoshima, Kasukae, Kanazawa, Sanjohara; Subashiri, Tatebayashi, Urami Falls.

June:

Japan: Chuzenji (5), Tokyo (6); Mitsumina, Mt. Chichibu (9);

Mt. Ontake (15), Mt. Fuji (20); mountains near Yumoto (28).

Undated: Kofu, Nantai-san; Rokugome, Yoshida.

July:

Japan: Nikko, Matsushima (2), Matsushima to Noboribetsu (6), Hakkeda and Yama to Tokyo (10), Asama (18); Adzuma (22); Morioka to Hakodate (22), Osisna (27); Yezo Fuji

(30); Kutchan to Sapporo (31). Undated. Furo-zan, Lake Onuma, Mt. Moiwa, Mt. Teine;

Wadamura.

August:

Japan: Sapporo to Otaru (1), Otaru to Saghalien (2), Saghalien (9). Otaru to Sapporo (10), Kushiro (15), Abashiri (17), Rubeshibe (20), Oketo (25), Sapporo (26); Hakodate

(30)

Undated: Bihoro, Kamizaima, Kushino, Odomari; Sakaihama, Yachiqashira.

September:

Japan: Hakodate to Karinzawa (2), Tokyo (6), Lake Suwa (17), Yatsugadake (22),

Tokyo (24), Mt. Hazachine (30).

Undated: Ashitoriya; Lake Towada, Nakabusa-onsen.

October:

Japan: Aomari (3); Hakkoda (5), Lake Towada (8), Odate (9);

coolee trip to Chokai-san (9), Adzuma Mts. (11). Yumoto (20), Lake Chuzenji (29);

Tokyo (30), Nagoga (31).

Undated: Jimba, Konsei-toge, Kurosawa, Nikko, Onsenga-take; Mt. Ontake, Sanjo-hara.

November:

Japan: Mt. Ontake (5); Gotemba (6); Mt. Fuji (9); Tokyo (10), Kobe (16); Shikoku and

return to Kobe (23), Osaka (25); Miyajima (29), Kobe (30).

Undated: Higashi-kawa; Lake Yamanaka; Nagoya, Nishinogawa; Shigaro-yama; Sugi.

December:

Japan: Kaga-san (3), Nara (7), Kyoto (10); Tokyo 11 & 24); Yokohama (29), Tokyo (31).

1915

January:

Japan: Yokohama (2). Arrival in San Francisco (22), Boston (29).

1917

January:

Started trip to Asia.

February:

Liukiu Islands.

March:

Liukiu Islands. Oshima: Atami, Idzu; Naze. Okinawa: Genku Mt., Naha. Karama group:

Aharen Island, Aka Island.

Unplaced: Kanaguru; Katema; Yaeyama Island; Yakuji Island; Yonebara.

April:

Japan: Boshu Peninsula (10).

Undated: Hojo; Michizaki; Sakai.

Bonin Islands. Haha-jima (23); Muko-jima (28).

Undated: Okumura, Sekimonzan.

May:

Bonin Islands: Ani-jima (3); Chichijima (3); Hachijo-jima (6).

Korea: Ajiore Station, Yamagutachi ken (17); Seoul, prov. Keiki (21);

Nam-san prov. Keiki (23), Ka-zan, near Suigen, prov. Keiki (24); Hoko, prov. Kesho (29),

Dagelet Island (30).

Undated: Sango.

June:

Korea: Dagelet Island (1-5); Taiyudo, prov. N. Heian (15-30).

Undated: Dodo; Pukchin, prov. Heian; Takkori, prov. Heian; Maban, prov. N. Heian.

July:

Korea: Koryo, near Keijo, prov. Keiki (6); Keijyo (13); Shinguiban on Yalu River, prov. N.

Heian (15).

Manchuria: Darien (19); Port Arthur (20); Murden (22).

Korea: Shingishu, Mt. Hakuba, prov. N. Heian (24).

Undated: Chiao-lan.

August:

Korea: Sempo, prov. S. Kankyo (1); Chemulopo, prov. Keiki (7); Fu-nei (14); Sha-yunei, prov. N. Kankyo (15); Mogan, prov. N. Kankyo (16); Jyosohyo, prov. N. Kankyo (17);

Enshamen, prov. N. Kankyo (18); Yujyo (19); Sohyo (20); Engan (23); Setsurei

(Snow Mt.), prov. N. Kankyo (25); Tumen-Yalu, prov. N. Kankyo (29-31).

Undated: Kankyo Ho; Hokudo.

September:

Korea: Tumen-Yalu, prov. N. Kankyo (1, 2); Keizanchu (4-12); Chochiin to Shinkari, prov. S. Kankyo (14); Laoling (17), Eiko (18-23). Undated: Kanin; Koshukoyu; Nanchatongu;

Rynsan, Shan-shui, Sinkabachin, Shinyu, Shobo; Yeiko River.

October:

Korea: Gensan to Onseri, prov. S. Kankyo (5); Kongo-san, prov. Kogen (8-16). Undated: Bambutsusu; Fukendo; Jizo; Kyurynan; Miroku-ho, Reifun san.

November:

Korea: Quelpaert Island (2-6); Chiri-san, prov. S. Keisho (13-17). Undated: Hallai-san; Keijyo, prov. Keiki, Saishu, Seikiho.

December:

Korea: Tanjyo-gan, prov. N. Chusei (9). Undated: Baiho-men; Baiho-rei.

1918

January:

Japan.

Formosa (22).

February:

Formosa: Takao, prov. Tainan (20); Bamshoruo (21); Anping (23); Kagi, prov. Kagi (24).
Undated: Arisan; Funkiko, Hso-gei-han; Keitao; Shakorio.

March:

Formosa: Mt. Noko, prov. Nanto (2); Horisha (9); Lake Candideus (10); Taihoku, prov. Taihoku (17-27); Chosokei (30); Urai (30).

Undated: Housha; Jukirin; Keelung; Koken; Mt. Kiraishiu; Mt. Taihei; Musha, Naiwsheizan; Nama; Parisha; Sekitei, Shirin; Sokei; Sozan; Tahken; Tentana.

April:

Formosa: Chosokei, prov. Taihoku (1). Undated: Keelung; Zuihu.

May:

Japan: Nishi-kirihima (4); Osaka (8); Yamamoto, Ikedo (8); Ha-komo, Gotemba (11).
Undated: Nishi-kirishima; Yokkaichi.

June:

Japan: Fuji-san (12); Subushiri (12); Onada (17). Korea: Keijyo, prov. Keiki (22); Kongo-san, prov. Kogen (30). July:

Korea: Diamond Mts., prov. Kogen (2); Miroku-ho, prov. Kogen (6); NW. Korea, prov. N. Heian (28-31); Ping-yang, prov. S. Heian (29).

Undated: Chinnampo, Choanji; Heiko; Hichecanbo Peak; Hyokunji; Kishi; Kokai; Makaen-an; Mt. Miraku; Mochuri; Shinchindo.

August:

Korea: NW Korea, prov. N. Heian (1-8); Keiki-on, prov. Keiki (20); Unsan distr., prov. N. Heian (29-31).

Undated: Kanghura Island; Keijyo; Pukchin.

September:

Korea: Unsan distr., prov. N. Heian (1-5); Kongo-san, prov. Kogen (11-17).

Undated: return to Japan and to Formosa.

October:

Formosa: Sekitei, prov. Taihoku (10), Sozan (11); Arisan, prov. Kagi (16-31). Undated: Funkiku, Keitao; Mt. Morrison; Mungetsu; Rinkiho; Rinnai.

November:

Formosa: Ketao, prov. Nanto (1), Boryo to Kuraru, prov. Koshun (14), Pinan (17-20); Karenko, prov. Karenko (22-26).

Undated: Gukutsu, Nanwo; Shin-chow; Tsihan-roku.

December:

Formosa: Horisha, Lake Candideus (3-7); Island of Tanshima, Japan Sea (23).

1919

January:
Japan: Tokyo (29).
February:
Japan.
Undated: Goto; Yamashiro.

March: Arrival in Boston (17).

Richard A. Howard was Professor of Dendrology at the Arnold Arboretum. His article on Wilson's expeditions was originally split into two parts and published in 1980 across two editions of *Arnoldia*, the journal of the Arnold Arboretum: Volume 40, Issue 3, (May/June); and Volume 40, Issue 4, (July/August). Both can be downloaded from the Biodiversity Heritage Library website.

Part One at:

https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/53646775#page/116/mode/1up

Part Two at:

https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/53646831#page/172/mode/1up

The Wilson Fifty Kurume Azaleas.

by Francis Hanger, V.M.H.

Amongst the many wonderful exhibits at the Chelsea Flower Show of 1958 was a large collection of Kurume azaleas known as the "Wilson Fifty", staged from the Royal horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley. These created much interest, so much so that I have been asked by the Editor to write, for the benefit of our Fellows, a short account for publication.

The space allotted for the exhibit was an oblong site immediately surrounding the obelisk. The first consideration was the necessity of camouflaging this heavy granite monument which measures 5 feet in diameter at the base, tapering gradually until it becomes 4 feet in diameter where it passes through the roof of the tent.

It should be remembered that when arranging plants together it is of utmost importance to include only naturally associated plants and material, for nature's blending and harmonising is always correct and is the best guide for would-be imitators.

Kurume azaleas originated from Kurume, a town about 800 miles south-west of Tokyo, and in appearance give every indication of being Japanese. When thought was being given to the arranging of the Wilson Kurumes, views and scenes of Japanese gardens soon sprang to mind. The obelisk; yes, that must be turned into a pagoda. Although pagodas are truly Chinese they are definitely oriental, and they look so well with Japanese azaleas that the pagoda was considered the best camouflage for the heavy, cold-looking stone obelisk.

Flowering cherries proved impossible as the birds had been busy quite early in the winter and had stolen all the flowering buds. Acers proved an excellent foil for the many coloured azaleas as did tall plants of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. But the best of the associate plants for the Kurume azaleas were the many varieties of oriental hostas, many of which were used as ground plants. Hostas were long known as funkias. Here is a group of plants which can be planted in a wet or desert position, in full sun or deep shade, in fact they cannot be misplaced. They always look so comfortable and natural wherever they are positioned, and their various colours and forms of foliage can be used with most flower arrangements with every confidence of success.

For a Japanese effect ferns and moss in abundance were a must, but no grass-mown paths, only large paved stepping-stones to loiter on, then view and enjoy the beauty. A small pool together with the royal fern growing by, *Iris kaempferi* and *I. laevigata* in flower on either side of the stone crossing all fitted into the scheme as wished.

The authenticity of the exhibit would not be complete without Japanese stone lanterns; this created a puzzle. Here a loyal friend who is a keen horticulturalist and a wise counsellor, especially concerning such matters, came to my aid and made the necessary arrangements to lend the Society five perfect stone lanterns. All were of different design, the tallest being about 12 feet high, tiered skywards through the branches of a lopsided acer and looked most typical, while the smallest squatted comfortably under the branches of the metasequoia.

When placing the Kurumes into position, great care was taken to keep the pastel-coloured ones together to be viewed over and around the pool immediately facing the embankment entrance. The harder colours were arranged together on the far side of the pagoda, away from the entrance where they could only be viewed by themselves, thus preventing colour clashing.

HISTORY

Kurume azaleas are small-leafed, dwarf-growing, evergreen shrubs, most free-flowering and when in bloom the flowers are so plentiful that the leaves are smothered, leaving a mass of colour ranging from pure white to flesh pink, through the pinks to deep rose

salmon, pale lavender to rosy mauve, deep rose red and even scarlet.

It may be wise here to explain how and why this group of Kurume azaleas became known as the "Wilson Fifty". During 1914, the late Dr. E. H. Wilson was sent by the authorities of the Arnold Arboretum to the Orient in search of new and rare plants. While in Japan he was taken by the then principal of the Yokohama Nursery Company on a visit to the nurseries and gardens in the district a few miles north of Tokyo. It was here that he first became acquainted with the many variants of the Kurume azaleas. He was so impressed that he obtained specimens, dried them, and sent them to the Herbarium at the Arnold Arboretum, but it was not until 1917 that the first "Kurume azalea" plants were introduced into America.

These azaleas did not originate in these gardens and nurseries north of Tokyo, but at Kurume, a town some 800 miles south-west of that city. The original parents of these many hybrids are said to come from Mount Kirishima, the sacred mountain of Japan. Wilson states in his *Monograph of Azaleas* that "Japanese experts recognise by name more than 250 kinds of Kurume Azaleas".

It was neither possible nor wise to introduce to the Occident all these varieties and Wilson selected what he considered to be the best fifty, which are now known as the "Wilson Fifty".

Of this fifty, with the help of the Japanese experts, Wilson selected the following six as the very best of them all:

- No. 2. 'Kureno Yuki' flowers white, hose-in-hose.
- No. 11. 'Takasago' flowers pale apple blossom pink.
- No. 16. 'Azuma Kagami' flowers deep pink, hose-in-hose.
- No. 22. 'Kirin' flowers deep rose, shading to silvery rose.
- No. 29. 'Kumo-No-Uye flowers pure salmon.
- No. 40. 'Kurai-No-Himo flowers carmine, hose-in-hose.

This historical and valuable collection of plants was, to the writer's knowledge only complete in two private gardens in this country, Tower Court, Ascot, and Caerhays, Cornwall, and The Royal Horticultural Society is indebted to the owners of these two famous gardens, the late Mr. J. B. Stevenson and the late Mr. C. Williams, for providing the cuttings during July 1946 for the attempts to establish at Wisley the "Wilson Fifty".

PROPAGATION

These azaleas are quite easily propagated from cuttings taken during late July or early August to obtain the best results. The young current year's growth should be about 2 inches in length and these should be taken with heel attached. This is a simple operation if a little care is given to the work. Take the intended cutting between the thumb and forefinger - holding the branch of the bush steady with the other hand - then pull the selected cutting a little outwards and downwards at the same time, and if ready the cutting will easily part from the parent plant with just that necessary little bit of old wood (the heel) attached. Smaller cuttings less that 2 inches as advocated are too soft and tend to damp off, and longer ones need their very soft tops pinched out to balance the cutting.

About seven cuttings can be inserted in a compost consisting of two parts sand and one part fine granulated peat around the inside of a 3-inch pot. Just remove with a sharp knife the bottom two leaves before insertion, afterwards place the pot in a warm, moist frame, where the cuttings should root as quickly as chrysanthemums, which is in approximately three weeks. Water well in, and attend to watering when necessary.

- opposite -

A view of the Kurume Evergreen Azalea exhibit at the 1958 Chelsea Flower Show.



Shade from fierce sunshine and do not remove the moisture from the glass covering the cuttings. Keep close and moist.

Should large numbers be needed the cuttings may be inserted in boxes or direct into the propagating bed. As soon as the cuttings have becomes well rooted, air must be admitted by raising the lights or glass covering the cuttings. About an inch will be found sufficient for the first few days, after which it should be increased until the young plants are truly hard. At this stage the little plants may be potted off singly or planted out in rows in a frame which has been especially prepared with good drainage, and new lime-free soil with a pH value of 5.0-5.8. By the following May or June the young plants, which must have been stopped in the meantime to provide bushy specimens, will be ready to be planted in the open nursery, and being quick growers will be ready for planting in their flowering positions the second year.

It is unwise to grow the plants in very rich soil during the early stages as this promotes long sappy growths which easily become frost-bitten.

HARDINESS REPORT ON THE WILSON'S KURUME AZALEAS AT WISLEY

Many readers will want to know the hardiness of these lovely dwarf evergreen plants, and the following is the hardiness report of Wilson's Kurume azaleas at Wisley, where they have been growing since 1947. The report was made in the summer of 1956, immediately after the testing winter of 1955-6 which was comparatively mild at Wisley until the month of February. However, on October 26, 10 degrees of frost were registered on the ground and 4 degrees in the screen [-5°C and -2°C respectively], following which no exceptional frost occurred until February 11. Severe weather then ensued until February 23, the climax being reached on February 20 when the minimum temperature recorded 17 degrees of frost in the screen [-9°C] and 25 degrees on the ground [-14°C]. The maximum temperature that day never rose above 23 degrees Fahrenheit (9 degrees of frost) in the screen [-5°C]. Added to these low temperatures was the piercing north-east wind which continued night and day for approximately one week.

There are very few complete collections of the "Wilson Fifty" Kurume azaleas cultivated in this country, but individually many varieties have achieved widespread popularity. The Rhododendron and Camellia Committee when visiting Wisley to judge the Hardy Rhododendron Trials have yearly viewed the "Wilson Fifty" Kurumes. Since the war awards have been made to the following:

No. 3. 'Shin Seikai', AM 1952

No. 8. 'Irohayama', AM 1952

No. 15 'Kimigayo', AM 1952

No. 22. 'Kirin', AM 1952

No. 31. 'Sugo-No-Ito', AM 1952

No. 47. 'Ukamuse', AM 1952

The Wisley collection is planted on the north side of Battleston Hill, open to the full blast of the north-east wind yet sheltered from the due north and west. The behaviour of the plants since 1956 has proved consistent with the report then compiled.

Francis Hanger's article was originally published in the RHS *Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook 1959.*

Addendum:

In British gardens today, as well as those in America and elsewhere, it is doubtful if a complete and documented collection encompassing all fifty of Ernest Wilson's introductions still exist, especially as many of the individual cultivars are no longer commercially grown and widespread mislabelling has taken a toll.

The gardening staff at the Isabella Plantation in London's Richmond Park found this out to their cost when attempting to establish a National Collection of 'Wilson's Fifty' in the early 1990s, as not only were the plants supplied to them by the specialist nurseries mislabelled, the majority of specimens in established collections - those at Exbury Gardens, the Valley and Savill Gardens at Windsor, and the RHS's flagship establishment at Wisley, for instance - were either unlabelled or wrongly labelled, with the mislabelling inconsistent across the various collections.

The Isabella Plantation's 2012 Habitat and Health of Plants Survey records that John Bond, the curator of the Savill and Valley Gardens in the 1980s, had supplied material to Richmond from plants at Windsor that had originally come from Glasnevin, the National Botanic Garden of Ireland. It was just that the rooted cuttings, the mature shrubs in the Great Park, and the primary Irish scion donors, on critical examination, were found not to be what was stated on their labels. In addition, more recent research has also confirmed that the Arnold Arboretum never grew the Wilson 50 cultivars, because they would not have over-wintered successfully in Boston, so previously published texts indicating that the plants were introduced from that source are in error.

Given the above, with the extensive clonal mix-up and labelling inconsistencies between the various UK collections, Francis Hanger's 'hardiness table' has had to be rather substantially revised:

Spellings and synonyms are as set out in the 2004-published Second Edition of *The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist,* with the original form of the epithet, if different, appended.

The flower colour details have been taken directly from the Wilson-Rehder-authored *A Monograph of Azaleas,* published in 1921, with those for two plants updated from Wilson's 1927 book *Plant Hunting*.

RHS Award of Merit designations have been removed because the named plants they applied to were, in all likelihood, not the real deal.

And Hanger's hardiness ratings removed for exactly the same reason. However, these have been replaced with accurate, updated values conforming to the RHS revised bands post the two exceptionally cold winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11. Provided by Polly Cooke, an independent Evergreen Azalea researcher and also an RCMG member, they are specific to those azaleas of the collection now correctly identified, but will only accurately apply if the new season's growth has been fully ripened before Jack strikes. Those entries where the value given is followed by an asterisk (*) have not been fully assessed, while those with a plus sign (+) are still under observation or are being sought.

Polly has also checked all the plant portraits and indicated those that were correctly labelled and those that were not (as the captions accompanying each image now evidence). In addition, she has supplied correctly identified photographs of many of the real fifty to cover some of the gaps in the presentation that her assessment revealed. Her help with this and the 'hardiness table' update has been invaluable and is much appreciated.

The images in *Wilson's 50: Personates & Paladins* therefore initially highlight the label mix-up fait accompli, after which the portraits presented feature the true selections Ernest Wilson made over a century ago in the garden of Mr. Akashi.

No. 1: Seikai

Synonyms - 'Amoenum Album Duplex', 'Amoenum Duplex' and 'Madonna'.

Flowers white, hose-in-hose.

H4/5.

No. 2: Kure-no-yuki (Kureno Yuki)

Synonym - 'Snowflake'. Flowers white, hose-in-hose. H4/5.

No. 3: Shin-sekai (Shin Seikai)

Synonym - 'Old Ivory'. Flowers creamy-white, hose-in-hose. H4/5.

No. 4: Yoro-zuyo (Yurozuyo)

Synonym - 'Purity'. Flowers white. H4/5.

No. 5: Nani-wagata (Nani Wagata)

Synonym - 'Painted Lady'.

Flowers white, suffused with salmon-pink,
but changed to white, suffused lavender in Wilson's 1927 book *Plant Hunting*.

H4.

No. 6: Tancho

Synonym - `Seraphim'. Flowers flesh-colour, hose-in-hose. H4/5.

No. 7: Hachika-tsugi (Hachika Tsugi)

Synonym - 'Prudence'.
Flowers white, suffused with lavender.
H4.

No. 8: Irohavama

Synonym - 'Dainty'.
Flowers white, margined with pale lavender.
H5.

No. 9: Ho-o (Hoõ)

Synonym - 'Apple Blossom'. Flowers white, tinged with pink. H4/5.

No. 10: Sui-yohi (Suiyõhi)

Synonym - 'Sprite'. Flowers flesh colour. H4/5.

No. 11: Takasago

Synonym - 'Cherryblossom'.

Flowers pale pink, the colour of apple-blossom, but changed to cherry-blossom pink, and hose-in-hose in *Plant Hunting*.

H4/5.

No. 12: Kasumi-gaseki (Kasumi Gaseki)

Synonym - 'Elf'. Flowers pale pink. H4 (+).

No. 13: Bijinsui

Synonym - 'Little Imp'. Flowers pale pink. H4/5.

No. 14: Asa-gasumi (Asagasumi)

Synonym - 'Rosy Morn'. Flowers rose-pink, hose-in-hose. H4/5.

No. 15: Kimigayo

Synonym - 'Cherub'. Flowers pink. H5.

No. 16: Azuma-kagami (Azuma Kagami)

Synonym - 'Pink Pearl'. Flowers deep pink, hose-in-hose. H4/5.

No. 17: Osaraku

Synonym - 'Penelope'. Flowers white, suffused and margined with lavender. H4 (*).

No. 18: Otome

Synonym - 'Maiden's Blush'. Flowers blush pink. H4/5.

No. 19: Aya-kanmuri (Aya Kammuri)

Synonym - 'Pinkie'. Flowers rose colour. H4 (*).

No. 20: Shintoki-no-hagasane (Shintoki No Hagasane)

Synonym - 'Rose Taffetas'.
Flowers rose, shading to pink, hose-in-hose.
H4.

No. 21: Saotome

Synonym - 'Peachblossom'.
Flowers rose-colour.
H4 (*).

No. 22: Kirin

Synonyms - 'Coral Bells', 'Daybreak' and 'Pink Beauty'. Flowers deep rose, shading to silvery rose, hose-in-hose. H5.

No. 23: Tamafuyo

Synonym - `Fancy'.
Flowers white, striped peach-colour.
H4 (*).

No. 24: Kiritsubo

Synonym - 'Twilight'. Flowers rosy mauve. H4 (*).

No. 25: Omoine

Synonym - 'Dame Lavender'. Flowers pale lavender. H4.

No. 26: Oino-mezane (Oinõ Mezame)

Synonym - 'Melody'. Flowers deep rose-colour. H5.

No. 27: Katsura-no-hana (Katsura No Hana)

Synonym - 'Ruth'. Flowers rose-colour. H4 (*).

No. 28: Shin-utena (Shin Utena)

Synonym - 'Santoi'. Flowers pale salmon. H4.

No. 29: Kumo-no-uye (Kumo No Uye)

Synonym - 'Salmon Prince'. Flowers pure salmon. H4 (+).

No. 30: Beni-fude (Benifude)

Synonym - 'Sunbeam'. Flowers salmon. H4 (+).

No. 31: Suga-no-ito (Suga No Ito)

Synonym - 'Kumo No Ito' and 'Betty'.
Flowers pure pink.
H5.

No. 32: Kasane-kagaribi (Kasane Kagaribi)

Synonym - 'Rosita'.
Flowers dull salmon-red, hose-in-hose.
H5.

No. 33: Tsuta-momiji (Tsuta Momiji)

Synonyms - 'Cardinal' and 'Orange Beauty'.
Flowers bright salmon-pink, not red as Wilson states, hose-in-hose.
H5.

No. 34: Suetsumu

Synonyms - 'Flame' and 'Suetsumu Hana'.
Flowers crimson.
H4 (*).

No. 35: Fude-sute-yama (Fudesute Yama)

Synonym - 'Poppy'. Flowers light red. H4 (*).

No. 36: Ima-shojo (Ima Shõjõ)

Synonyms - 'Christmas Cheer' and 'Fascination'.
Flowers bright red, hose-in-hose.
H5.

No. 37: Rashomon (Rashõ Mon)

Synonym - 'Meteor'. Flowers scarlet. H4.

No. 38: Waka-kayede (Waka Kayede)

Synonym - 'Red Robin'. Flowers red. H5.

No. 39: Yaye-hiryu (Yayehiryu)

Synonyms - 'Scarlet Prince', 'Yaegiri' and 'Yayegiri'.
Flowers bright scarlet, hose-in-hose.
H5.

No. 40: Kurai-no-himo (Kurai No Himo)

Synonym - 'Carmine Queen'. Flowers carmine, hose-in-hose. H3/4.

No. 41: Agemaki

Synonym - 'Jose'. Flowers carmine. H4 (*).

No. 42: Hinodegiri

Synonyms - 'Mist of the Rising Sun' and 'Red Hussar'.
Flowers bright crimson.
H5.

No. 43: Aioi

Synonym - 'Fairy Queen'.
Flowers the colour of almond-blossoms, hose-in-hose.
H4.

No. 44: Sakura-tsukasa (Sakura Tsukasa)

Synonym - 'All-a-Glow'. Flowers rosy mauve. H4 (*).

No. 45: Tama-no-utena (Tama No Utena)

Synonym - 'Flamingo'. Flowers pale salmon. H4 (*).

No. 46: Gosho-zakura (Gosho Zakura)

Synonym - 'Vanity'.
Flowers white, striped a peach colour.
H4 (*).

No. 47: Ukamuse

Synonyms - 'Prince Delight' and 'Princess Delight'. Flowers vermilion, single, not hose-in-hose as Wilson states. H4/5.

No. 48: Hinode-no-taka (Hinode No Taka)

Synonym - 'Ruby'. Flowers crimson. H3/4.

No. 49: Osaraku Seedling

Synonym - 'Winsome'.
Flowers white, suffused and margined with lavender.
H4/5.

No. 50: Hana-asobi (Hana Asobi)

Synonym - 'Sultan'. Flowers red. H5.



Alfred Rehder, Ernest Wilson and Charles Sprague Sargent, c. 1916.

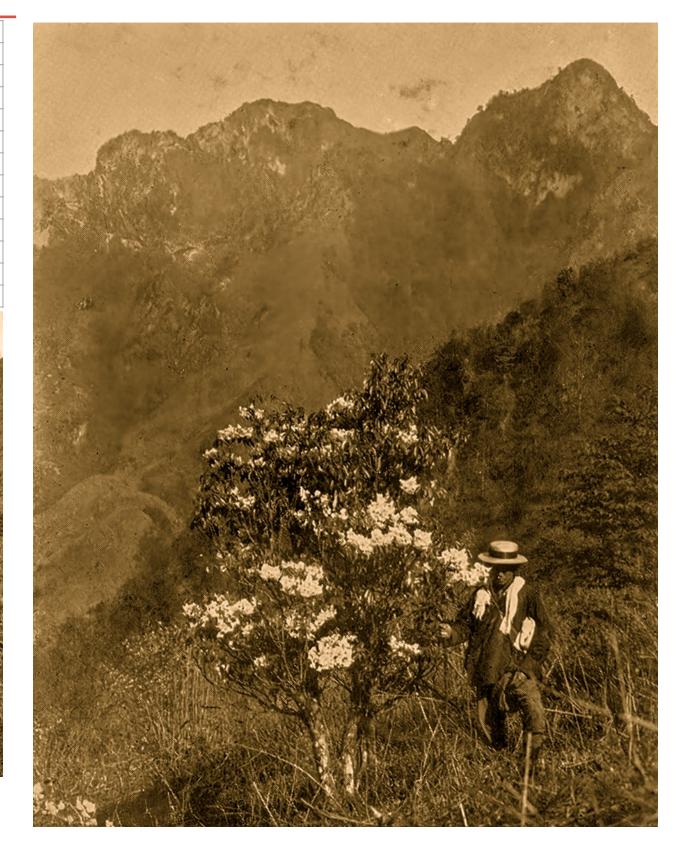


The 1899-1902 W Hubei Collections:

W 17	praevernum	W 886	latoucheae
W 17	x geraldii (NH)	W 887	stamineum
W 311	hypoglaucum	W 887b	fortunei
W 317	latoucheae	W 920	auriculatum
W 505	adenopodum	W 938	ovatum
W 517	x geraldii (NH)	W 944	maculiferum
W 570	discolor	W 1077a	fortunei
W 598	augustinii	W 1161	adenopodum
W 609	discolor Houlstonii	W 1181	discolor Houlstonii
W 648	discolor Houlstonii	W 1218	micranthum
W 683	farrerae	W 1232	sutchuenense
W 752	hypoglaucum	W 1250	fargesii
W 885	discolor Houlstonii		



Wa-shan: the sheer 11,200ft east face, seen from the southeast at an altitude of 5000 ft. $- \textit{right} - \\ \textit{R. maculiferum}.$













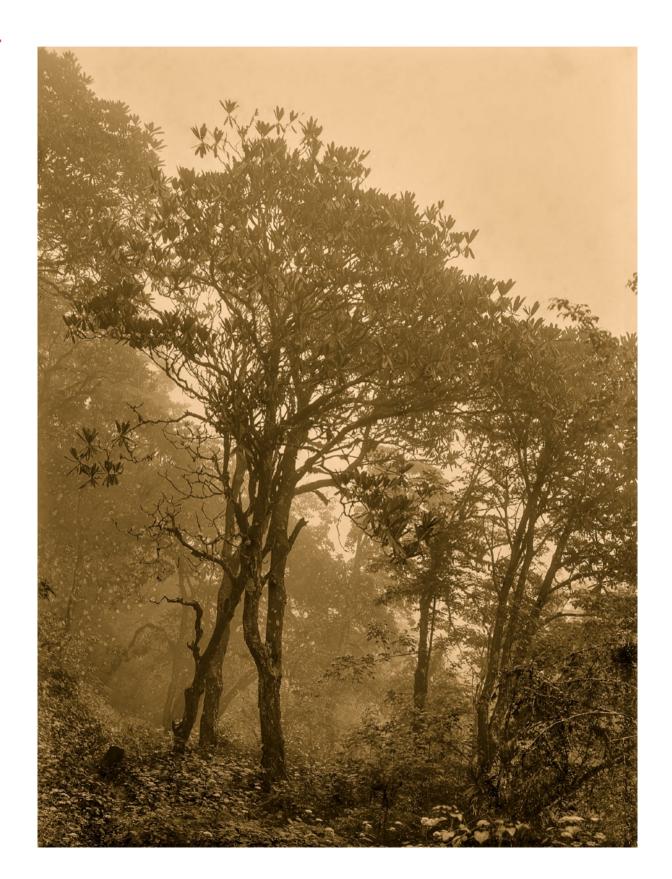




The 1903-1905 W Sichuan Collections:

W 1433 concinnum W 1810 orbiculare W 1435 pachytrichum W 1857 polylepis W 1519 orbiculare W 1862 trichanthum W 1520 longesquamatum W 1863 sphaeroblastum W 1521 argyrophyllum W 1864 x praeteritum (NH) W 1522 x monosematum (NH) W 1865 pachytrichum W 1523 calophytum W 1866 w asonii W 1524 concinnum W 1866 x inopinum (NH) W 1525 pachytrichum W 1867 Concinnum W 1526 argyrophyllum W 1867a faberi W 1527 faberi W 1869 concinnum W 1531 oreodoxa W 1870 strigillosum W 1535 davidsonianum W 1871 wiltonii W 1538 bureavioides W 1872 watsonii W 1539 x magorianum (NH) W 1873 davidii W 1540 souliei W 1875 lutescens W 1541 or				
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W 1525 pachytrichum W 1867 concinnum W 1526 argyrophyllum W 1867a faberi W 1527 faberi W 1869 concinnum W 1531 oreodoxa W 1870 strigillosum W 1535 davidsonianum W 1871 wiltonii W 1538 bureavioides W 1872 watsonii W 1539 x magorianum (NH) W 1873 davidii W 1540 souliei W 1875 lutescens W 1541 oreodoxa W 1876 wasonii 'Rhododactylum' W 1543 intricatum W 1878 concinnum W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1547 prattii W 1880 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 <td>W 1523</td> <td>calophytum</td> <td>W 1866</td> <td>wasonii</td>	W 1523	calophytum	W 1866	wasonii
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W 1527 faberi W 1869 concinnum W 1531 oreodoxa W 1870 strigillosum W 1535 davidsonianum W 1871 wiltonii W 1538 bureavioides W 1872 watsonii W 1539 x magorianum (NH) W 1873 davidii W 1540 souliei W 1875 lutescens W 1541 oreodoxa W 1876 wasonii 'Rhododactylum' W 1543 intricatum W 1878 concinnum W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1525	pachytrichum	W 1867	concinnum
W 1531 oreodoxa W 1870 strigillosum W 1535 davidsonianum W 1871 wiltonii W 1538 bureavioides W 1872 watsonii W 1539 x magorianum (NH) W 1873 davidii W 1540 souliei W 1875 lutescens W 1541 oreodoxa W 1876 wasonii 'Rhododactylum' W 1543 intricatum W 1878 concinnum W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1526	argyrophyllum	W 1867a	faberi
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W 1540 souliei W 1875 lutescens W 1541 oreodoxa W 1876 wasonii 'Rhododactylum' W 1543 intricatum W 1878 concinnum W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1538	bureavioides	W 1872	watsonii
W 1541 oreodoxa W 1876 wasonii 'Rhododactylum' W 1543 intricatum W 1878 concinnum W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1539	x magorianum (NH)	W 1873	davidii
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W 1547 prattii W 1879 ambiguum W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1541	oreodoxa	W 1876	wasonii 'Rhododactylum'
W 1764 wasonii W 1880 ambiguum W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1543	intricatum	W 1878	concinnum
W 1766 concinnum W 1881 ambiguum W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1547	prattii	W 1879	ambiguum
W 1769 bureavii W 1882 x planetum (NH) W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1764	wasonii	W 1880	ambiguum
W 1773 flavidum W 1885 hypoglaucum W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1766	concinnum	W 1881	ambiguum
W 1777 vernicosum W 1887 wongii W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1769	bureavii	W 1882	x planetum (NH)
W 1779 davidsonianum W 1888 sargentianum	W 1773	flavidum	W 1885	hypoglaucum
	W 1777	vernicosum	W 1887	wongii
W 1782 decorum W 3942a polylepis	W 1779	davidsonianum	W 1888	sargentianum
	W 1782	decorum	W 3942a	polylepis
W 1800 wasonii W 3958a prattii	W 1800	wasonii	W 3958a	prattii
W 1804 wiltonii W 3978 davidii	W 1804	wiltonii	W 3978	davidii
W 1808 ririei W 5137 hypoglaucum	W 1808	ririei	W 5137	hypoglaucum
W 1809 stamineum W 5139 ririei	W 1809	stamineum	W 5139	ririei

- opposite R. calophytum var, calophytum,
on the Tu-ti-liang Mountains, Lungan Fu, North-Western Sichuan, China.
Height 40 ft., circumference 5 ft., growing in forests at an altitude of 8,500 ft.









































The 1906-1909 W Hubei & W Sichuan Collections:

W 509	praevernum	W 1237	augustinii
W 509	sutchuenense	W 1256	vernicosum
W 509	x geraldii (NH)	W 1274	davidsonianum
W 567	stamineum	W 1275	davidsonianum
W 569	simsii	W 1276	davidsonianum
W 586	discolor	W 1278	longesquamatum
W 608	augustinii	W 1319	x edgarianum (NH)
W 660	micranthum	W 1320	micranthum
W 800	molle	W 1324	ambiguum
W 879	moupinense	W 1325	unidentified species
W 882	hanceanum	W 1326	pachytrichum
W 1195	lutescens	W 1328	trichostomum
W 1196	amesiae	W 1328a	websterianum
W 1196a	concinnum	W 1330	ambiguum
W 1197a	lutescens	W 1339	insigne
W 1198	hunnewellianum	W 1341	strigillosum
W 1199	lutescens	W 1342	trichanthum
W 1200	micranthum	W 1343	searsiae
W 1201	concinnum	W 1345	lutescens
W 1202	flavidum	W 1349	pachytrichum
W 1203	pachytrichum	W 1350	williamsianum
W 1204	longistylum	W 1352	davidsonianum
W 1205	polylepis	W 1353	wiltonii
W 1206	watsonii	W 1353	x paradoxum (NH)
W 1207	augustinii	W 1361	longesquamatum
W 1207a	polylepis	W 1367	calophytum
W 1208	sargentianum	W 1369	calophytum
W 1209	decorum	W 1391	ovatum
W 1209a	openshawianum	W 1686	fortunei
W 1210	argyrophyllum	W 1690	ovatum
W 1211	oreodoxa	W 3412	maculiferum
W 1220	trichanthum	W 3414	openshawianum
W 1221	polylepis	W 3415	davidii
W 1222	souliei	W 3416	fargesii
W 1224	calophytum	W 3418	orbiculare
W 1225	websterianum	W 3425	ochraceum

W 3427	auriculatum	W 3465	ramosissimum
W 3428	racemosum	W 3467	ramosissimum
W 3440	pachytrichum	W 3468	ramosissimum
W 3443	hypoglaucum	W 3469	ramosissimum
W 3445	trichanthum	W 3473	simsii
W 3448	concinnum	W 3474	simsii
W 3454	sargentianum		



View to the west of the Tibetan hamlet of Romi-Chango, the cliffs dotted with *Cupressus*. Photo taken on July 2nd, 1908, at an altitude of 7,500 ft.







































































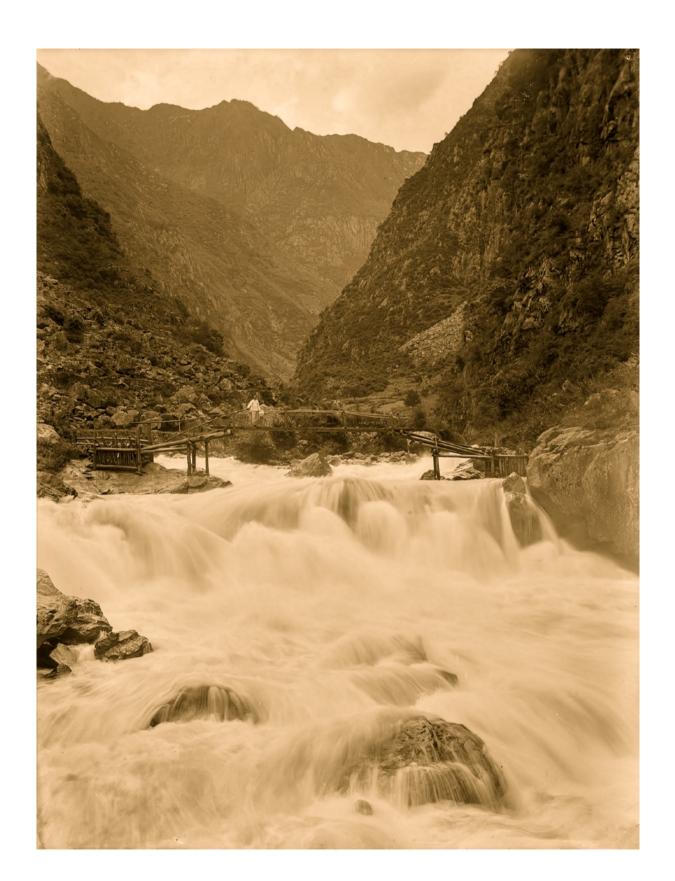




The 1910-1911 N & NW Sichuan Collections:

W 4041	concinnum	W 4255	hanceanum
W 4231	przewalskii	W 4256	moupinense
W 4232	przewalskii	W 4257	decorum
W 4233	amesiae	W 4258	strigillosum
W 4233a	concinnum	W 4259	watsonii
W 4234	faberi	W 4260	oreodoxa
W 4235	rufum	W 4261	davidii
W 4236	concinnum	W 4262	micranthum
W 4237	sargentianum	W 4263	longesquamatum
W 4238	augustinii	W 4264	wiltonii
W 4239	davidsonianum	W 4265	ambiguum
W 4240	ambiguum	W 4266	floribundum
W 4241	concinnum	W 4267	strigillosum
W 4242	trichanthum	W 4268	stamineum
W 4243	przewalskii	W 4269	ramosissimum
W 4244	watsonii	W 4270	pachytrichum
W 4245	oreodoxa	W 4271	oreodoxa
W 4246	pachytrichum	W 4272	faberi
W 4247	oreodoxa	W 4273	thayerianum
W 4248	hunnewellianum	W 4274	souliei
W 4249	wasonii	W 4275	argyrophyllum
W 4250	rufum	W 4276	argyrophyllum
W 4250	rufum x ? (NH)	W 4277	lutescens
W 4251	wasonii	W 4278	polylepis
W 4252	ambiguum	W 4279	calophytum
W 4253	bracteatum	W 4280	davidsonianum
W 4254	galactinum	W 4726	longistylum
W 4254a	x peregrinum (NH)		
	-		

- *opposite* -The Tachien-lu River ravine, Western Szechuan.













































































The 1914-1915 Japanese Collections:

W 7191	nipponicum	W 7694	reticulatum
W 7192	japonicum	W 7709	indicum
W 7638	albrechtii	W 7709a	kaempferi
W 7657	tschonoskyi	W 7733	semibarbatum
W 7670	japonicum	W 7794	stenopetalum 'Linearifolium'
W 7676	quinquefolium	W 7801	tosaense
W 7683	pentaphyllum	W 7813	weyrichii
W 7683a	quinquefolium		



R. kaempferi, at Lake Chuzenji, Hondo, June 4th, 1914.

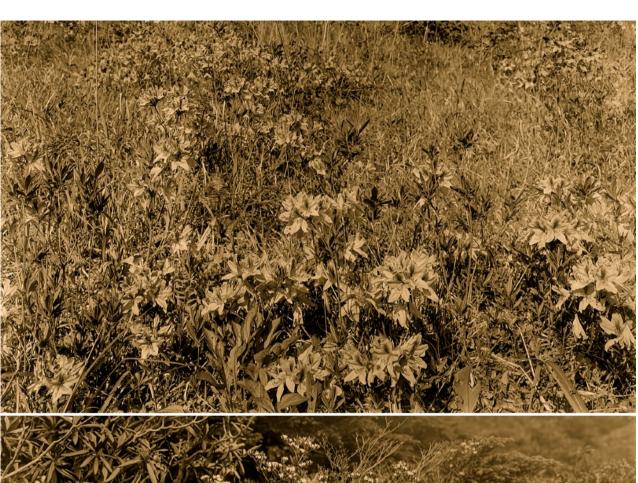
- above right -

R. japonicum, on the slopes of Mt. Ontake, Hondo, June 11th, 1914.

- below right - R. tschonoskii, near the summit of Adzuma-san, Hondo, July 20th, 1914.

- opposite left - R. rhombicum (R. reticulatum), on the slopes of Fuji-san, Hondo, May 8th, 1914.

- opposite right -R. quinquefolium, below the Urami Falls, Nikko, Hondo, May 15th, 1914.









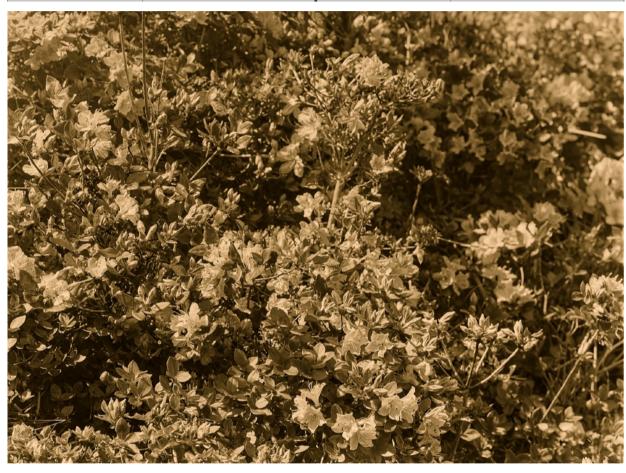






The 1917-1918 Korea, Japan & Taiwan Collections:

W 9251	dauricum	W 11250	kiusianum
W 9411	weyrichii	W 11255	kiusianum
W 9592	schlippenbachii	W 10928	pseudochrysanthum
W 9595	tschonoskyi	W 10939	rubropilosum
W 10956	obtusum	W 10955	morii
W 11248	kiusianum	W 11175	oldhamii

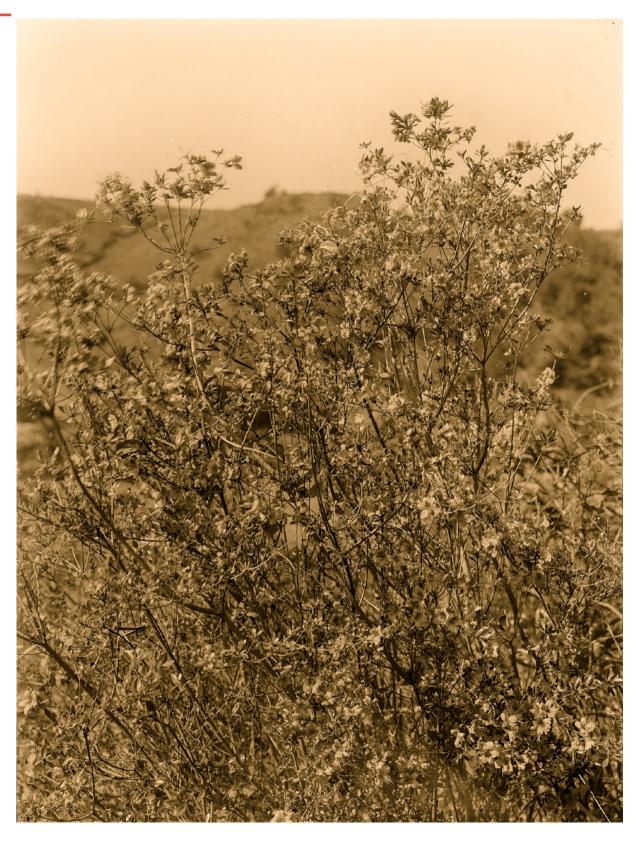


R. obtusum f. japonicum (R. kiusianum), among lava boulders, Nishi-Kirishima Province, Osumi, Kyushu, May 5th, 1918.

- right - R. obtusum var. kaempferi (R. kaempferi), Nishi-Kirishima Province. Osumi, Kyushu, May 5th, 1918.

- opposite left -Bokuen (Pakyen) Waterfall, 80 ft. high, with Buddhist inscriptions carved into the adjacent rock face, Kaijyo Province, Korea, August 20th, 1918.

- opposite right -Kongo-san, from near the Shinkeji Monastery, in the Hichisanbo Peaks, Korea, July 2nd, 1914.



































































































Wilson's 50: Personates & Paladins.

Personate:

an imposter masquerading as the real deal.

All thirty-eight portraits presented post the section title page fall into that category, though the latter, a photograph of R. 'Azuma-kagami' (Wilson 16) on page 181, is indeed the genuine article. As are the images that follow this short intermezzo.

However, the thirty-eight pretenders that precede it illustrate just how widespread the mislabelling problem is across the UK, for the photos were taken at some of the leading rhododendron gardens in the country: Exbury and Hilliers in Hampshire; Wisley in Surrey; the Savill and Valley Gardens in Windsor Great Park; Ray Wood at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire; and at Muncaster Castle Gardens in West Cumbria. Yet the fault for this lies not with the venues mentioned, nor with the staff at the National Botanic Garden of Ireland at Glasnevin, who supplied the original trays of rooted cuttings that were then more widely disseminated, for those primary Irish scion donors, on critical examination, were also found not to be what was stated on their labels. Therefore our eyes must turn westward and peer across the Atlantic, though not in the direction of Boston, for the Arnold Arboretum have confirmed that none of the Wilson 50 cultivars would have survived one of their typical east coast winters outdoors, so all were distributed to private gardens further south.

Compounding the problem even further, visitors to quite a few of the UK's prime rhododendron gardens open to the general public, might notice that two or more long-established specimens, which bear the exact same name tag label and grow within shouting distance of each other, will often be found to differ in their corolla pigmentation and flower truss morphology. Equally, this, and the general appellation problem, is not restricted to just those gardens listed above, but includes virtually every horticultural establishment in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as the specialist nursery firms that over the last century supplied cultivars of the Wilson 50 evergreen azaleas to public and private gardens alike.

Yet there are a few glimmers of light amongst all the doom and gloom:

For mixed-in with the horde of pretender personates, there are also some paladins; correctly labelled heroes that have somehow managed to come through the cognomen kerfuffle still bearing their correct designations; and their ranks are slowly being joined by a growing number of plants that have now been accurately identified.

It is portraits of these evergreen azaleas that follow, starting with those opposite:



R. 'Asa-gasumi' (Wilson 14)























































































Photographic Acknowledgements:

The black-and-white photographs taken by Ernest Wilson during his expeditions are held in the archives of the Arnold Arboreum, part of Harvard University, with the gardens located in the Jamaica Plain and Roslindale neighbourhoods of Boston, Massachusetts, on America's east coast.

The images are also available online - both to view and download in high resolution - through the Harvard Library's Hollis portal at:

https://images.hollis.harvard.edu/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,ernest%20wilson&tab=default_tab&search_scope=default_scope&vid=HVD_IMAGES&lang=en_US&offset=0

And as previously, much gratitude is due that institution for allowing a goodly selection of those photographs to be displayed in this volume.

They are:

- p. 7 Ernest Wilson by the Inn at Tokripdong (Tokuitsudo), in the Tumen-Yalu Divide,
 N. Kankyo Province, Korea, August 1917;
- p. 11 right standing at the front entrance of the Arnold Arboretum's Hunnewell Administration Building, September 25th, 1925;
- p. 12 Wilson with a group of reformed headhunters and armed policemen on the mountains of Formosa in 1918;
- p. 17 Davidia involucrata, photographed by Wilson at Newport, Rhode Island, flowering on May 30th, 1928;
- p. 18 Wilson's houseboat, photographed sometime between 1907 and 1909;
- p. 20 a general view of country to the south of Ichang from an altitude of 1000 ft, photo taken on January 21st, 1909;
- p. 21 the Ichang Gorge, photographed between 1910 and 1911;
- p. 23 Tachien lu from the south, photographed from an altitude of 8,400 feet on July 27th, 1908;
- p. 25 The Ya-chia-k'an Range under snow, with alpine meadows clothed with dwarf Junipers and Rhododendrons. Wilson took the photograph at an altitude of 13,000 ft on July 19th, 1908;
- p. 28 view of a 20,000 ft. high snow clad peak southeast of Tachien-lu. Photograph taken at an altitude of 7,000 ft. on July 17th, 1908;
- p. 29 Wa-shan, 11,200 ft. high. East-south-east and north-west angle, from 4,800 ft. Photo taken on September 20th, 1908;
- p. 31 the upper (western) part of Wan-Hsien, on the Yangtze River, April 1st, 1908;
- p. 32 Ernest Wilson with his wife Ellen, and their daughter, Muriel Primrose, photographed during a visit to Japan in 1914;
- p. 33 Wilson wrote: "My Chinese collectors, all faithful and true". The group, assembled in Ichang on February 15th, 1911, had continued to collect while Wilson was recovering from his accident;
- p. 34 Yakushima, a view of the cone-shaped hills with rice-fields and the village of Shitogo in the foreground. Had Wilson's leg injury prevented any arduous exploration, who knows what he may have found... (The photo was taken on February 26th, 1914);
- p. 35 Dagelet Island (Oo-ryong-too), on the northeast coast of Korea, photographed by EHW on June 1st, 1917;
- p. 36 The Bonin Islands, showing the west coast of Haha-jima from Naga-hama.
 Muko-jima can be seen on the horizon. Wilson took the photo on April 27th, 1917;

- p. 37 Kongo-san, from Seiyoji above Hyokunji, Korea, October 14th, 1917;
- p. 39 Wilson's herbarium specimens from Formosa on the 1st Floor Atrium of the Hunnewell Building in April 1919;
- p. 41 Wilson in hunting mode during the 1907-1909 expedition, shotgun to hand and a bag of 52 pheasants (*Phasianus decollatus*) hanging from the rack;
- p. 42 The hostel of San-chia-tsze, at an altitude of 12,500 ft., one mile below summit of the Hsueh-Shan pass East of Sungpan. The photo was taken on August 23, 1910, and Wilson can be seen on the right;
- p. 44 Hung-Ya Hsien, Western Szechuan the hamlet of Ping-ling-shih with Mount Wa-wu in the distance. Photographed from an altitude of 3150 ft, on September 8th, 1908;
- p. 49 Ernest Wilson's passport photograph and signature, from 1916;
- p. 57 right Alfred Rehder, Ernest Wilson and Charles Sprague Sargent, c. 1916.
- p. 60 left Wa-shan: the sheer 11,200ft east face, seen from the southeast at an altitude of 5,000 feet;
- p. 60 R. maculiferum, Hubei, China;
- p. 68 *R. calophytum*, on the Tu-ti-liang Mountains, Lungan Fu, North-Western Sichuan, China. Height 40 ft., circumference 5 ft., growing in forests at an altitude of 8,500 ft (Photographed on August 17th, 1910);
- p. 88 view to the west of the Tibetan hamlet of Romi-Chango, the cliffs dotted with Cupressus. Photo taken on July 2nd, 1908, at an altitude of 7,500 ft;
- p. 126 the Tachien-lu River ravine, Western Szechuan, on July 30th, 1908;
- p. 164 left R. kaempferi, at Lake Chuzenji, Hondo, June 4th, 1914;
- p. 164 above right R. japonicum, on the slopes of Mt. Ontake, Hondo, June 11th, 1914;
- p. 164 below right *R. tschonoskii*, near the summit of Adzuma-san, Hondo, July 20th, 1914;
- p. 165 left *R. rhombicum* (*R. reticulatum*), on the slopes of Fuji-san, Hondo, May 8th, 1914;
- p. 165 right R. quinquefolium, below the Urami Falls, Nikko, Hondo, May 15th, 1914;
- p. 170 left *R. obtusum* f. *japonicum* (R. kiusianum), among lava boulders, Nishi-Kirishima Province, Osumi, Kyushu, May 5th, 1918;
- p. 170 right *R. obtusum* var. *kaempferi* (*R. kaempferi*), Nishi-Kirishima Province. Osumi, Kyushu, May 5th, 1918;
- p. 171 left Bokuen (Pakyen) Waterfall, 80 ft. high, with Buddhist inscriptions carved into the adjacent rock face, Kaijyo Province, Korea, August 20th, 1918;
- p. 171 right Kongo-san, from near the Shinkeji Monastery, in the Hichisanbo Peaks, Korea, July 2nd, 1914.

Mirroring the first two volumes, the details of where each of the full colour plant portraits was photographed are once again set out below, along with the website details of those collections visited.

Thanks is again extended to each establishment for allowing images taken in a private-use capacity, to be reproduced herein. Gratitude is also due the institutions, organisations and individuals who allowed their own historical photographs to appear alongside the text.

Key: AL - above left; AC - above centre; AR - above right; BL - below left; BC - below centre; BR - below right; L - left; R - right.

Benmore Botanic Garden, Argyll:

https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/benmore-botanic-garden/p. 9; p. 100; p. 110; p. 116 - R; p. 127; p. 129; p. 145; p. 151; p. 152; p. 153; p. 159.

Roy Briggs:

Ernest Wilson, c. 1899. Photograph published in Seamus O'Brien's book *In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry*, (Garden Art Press/Antique Collectors' Club Ltd, 2011) and reproduced herein courtesy of Roy Briggs.

Brodick Castle Garden, Isle of Arran:

https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/brodick-castle-garden-country-park p. 78; p. 79; p. 80; p. 81.

Polly Cooke:

p. 220 - AR, BR; p. 222; p. 223; p. 226; p. 227; p. 228; p. 229; p. 230; p. 231; p. 237; p. 238; p. 239; p. 241; p. 242; p. 244 (photo by Barry Cooke); p. 245 (photo by Jo Scrivener); p. 248; p. 249; p. 253; p. 254; p. 256; p. 257; p. 258; p. 259; p. 260 - L, AR, BR.

Exbury Gardens, Hampshire:

https://www.exbury.co.uk/ p. 230; p. 236; p. 248; p. 256; p. 257; p. 260 - L.

Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park, London:

https://www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/richmond-park/isabella-plantation p. 244; p. 245; p. 254.

Logan Botanic Garden, Stranraer:

https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/logan-botanic-garden/p. 115 - R; p. 116 - L.

Muncaster Castle Gardens, Ravenglass, Cumbria:

https://www.muncaster.co.uk/p. 77; p. 106; p. 107; p. 108; p. 109; p. 208; p. 195; p. 212; p. 213; p. 268-AR.

Public Domain:

p. 47 - A studio portrait from 1905, taken soon after Wilson returned to England.

Ray Wood, Castle Howard, North Yorkshire:

https://www.castlehoward.co.uk/visit-us/the-gardens/the-woodland-garden p. 118; p. 119; p. 120; p. 121; p. 131; p. 146; p. 147; p. 148; p. 149; p. 156; p. 157; p. 158; p. 187; p. 201; p. 204; p. 206; p. 207; p. 218.

Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh:

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^{*} Personate portraits included to illustrate the extent of the labelling mix-up. + possibly (awaiting confirmation)



About the Author.

Julian Taylor-Whall was born in Lowestoft at the end of November, 1957. He received a grammar school education before embarking on a three-decades-long career with the BBC at Television Centre. During that time he worked on many of the now classic shows made in the production facilities there, the studios at Lime Grove and Elstree, and at the Television Theatre.

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His interests include landscape and plant photography, music, film, writing, and of course, the cultivation of rhododendrons. His previous multivolume treatise on that genus can be freely downloaded at:

https://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/publications/books/temperate-rhododendrons.

- above -Atop Great Gable, a self portrait against cloud.

- back cover images -

W 10955 - <i>R. morii</i>	W 1339 - R. insigne
W 4238 - R. augustinii ssp. augustinii	W 1210 - R. argyrophyllum ssp. argyrophyllum

