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WILLIAM H. JUDD, PROPAGATOR

FOR thirty-three years William H. Judd has been propagating plants at the Arnold Arboretum. This long period of usefulness was cut short in the early hours of May 23 when he died unexpectedly of heart disease. He had just returned from the last meeting of the season of the Horticultural Club of Boston, reaching his home at eleven P.M. when his attention was attracted by a large fire not far distant. He apparently hurried to the fire, and it was while he was mingling with the spectators that he suffered the fatal heart attack. He had not complained of any serious illness and was up to the very end as keenly interested in his daily tasks at the Arboretum as he always had been.

Born on July 14, 1888, at Preston Brook, Cheshire, England, he was the son of the superintendent of a large private estate known as "The Oaklands." Naturally, in such an environment he developed an interest in gardening, and his earlier training undoubtedly included many a chore which one would expect to find on an estate of the time. At the age of fifteen, he commenced his own gardening career in earnest, taking a position at Steventon Manor, Hampshire, England, where he worked from 6 A.M. until 6 P.M., his salary being four shillings a week.

He changed positions several times during the next few years, as was apparently the custom among the gardening apprentices in order to gain a rounded experience. He was always interested in the Royal Gardens at Kew and many a holiday would find him off on some excuse to visit these famous plantings. Finally, in 1910, when he was twenty-one years old, he accepted a position there. The training he received during the next three years was of the utmost importance to him in later life. It was here that he learned the system of records which he was responsible for initiating at the Arnold Arboretum. It was here that he learned many of the gardeners' "tricks" which better prepared him to propagate the new and strange plants which came to him later at the Arnold Arboretum. Kew meant a great deal to Mr. Judd, and many of the things which he learned and practiced there he strictly followed through the years. New processes might be explained

to him, new methods demonstrated, but he would always gauge them by the old "reliable" methods he had learned at Kew. The associations he made there lasted throughout his life. He was always intensely loyal to the United States and the Arnold Arboretum, but if anyone, even in jest, would so much as say a word against Kew and its trainees he was quick to take up the argument in behalf of what was his Alma Mater.

In June, 1913, he left Kew coming to the United States to accept employment at the Arnold Arboretum in a position offered to him by Charles Sprague Sargent. He was immediately placed under the general supervision of that remarkable propagator Jackson Dawson. I wish I could have listened in on some of the conversations these two strong-willed characters must have had. Jackson Dawson had much to teach to the new lad from England, and without a doubt it was absorbed quickly, until I think that student and teacher must have been on par. When Dawson died in 1916, Mr. Judd was given complete charge of all the propagating work at the Arnold Arboretum, an important responsibility which he assumed with eminent success until his death thirty years later.

This is yet too early fully to gauge just how valuable his efforts have been to the Arboretum and to horticulture in general. We undoubtedly owe him a very great deal, for when a packet of seeds reached the Arnold Arboretum greenhouses from some remote Chinese source, it was the propagator's responsibility to exert all his skill in order to coax at least a few of them to germinate. He was propagator during a period when the Arboretum was introducing tremendous numbers of plants from eastern Asia as well as from Europe. All of the seeds collected by Wilson on his 1917 and 1920 trips to eastern Asia were handled by Mr. Judd, this being his sole responsibility. Thus the success of some of the Wilson introductions were to a certain degree due to the skill of Mr. Judd as a propagator. It is one thing to introduce the seeds of a plant new to horticulture; it is another matter to grow the plants and to test them under varying climatic conditions. Because of his painstaking nature, his excellent gardening training, and a highly developed experimental inquisitiveness, he was able to propagate many things where others would undoubtedly have failed.

He not only had "green fingers" but he knew the language of plants, and was always willing to talk about plants to anyone at any time. With amateurs he was courteous but often abrupt. With so-called "experts" he took delight in pointing out the mistakes they made in discussing certain plants. He was always in demand by those writing on horticultural subjects for he could easily and quickly point out errors that had escaped others. His advice was continually being sought by all types of individuals because of his phenomenal knowledge of plants. He would not hesitate an instant to tell a Director of the Royal Horticultural Society that he was wrong as to a certain point, while on the other hand he would be the first to commend some youngster who might have brought in some new or interesting specimen. His dry humor and quick wit have made him famous in this country as well as abroad.

One of his most prized positions was that of secretary in the Kew Gardeners of America, an organization made up of men who took their early training at Kew and have since occupied responsible positions in various horticultural and botani-



William Henry Judd
1888-1946
Propagator at the Arnold Arboretum 1916-1946

cal establishments in the United States and Canada. He was a life member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and since 1921 has been in great demand as a judge at its more important flower shows. In 1931 he was awarded the Jackson Dawson Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for his skill in the propagation of hardy woody plants. He was a past president of the Boston Gardeners and Florists Club, one of the most important groups of its kind in this country.

In 1945 he was awarded the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society, London, a high award made each year to a person who has distinguished himself for achievement in horticulture. Mr. Judd was very properly proud of this award, for it could not have been given to a more deserving person in the United States.

Mr. Judd was also a prominent member of the Masons, the Horticultural Club of Boston, the New England Botanical Club, and many other organizations, taking an active part in their deliberations. In any group where horticultural problems were under discussion he would express himself cogently regarding his Arnold Arboretum experiences with a great variety of species, and when Judd spoke, his humor was always awaited with anticipation by those in the group who knew him.

He was easily one of the country's foremost authorities on ornamental woody plants. He liked to travel and always made it a point to keep extensive notes of his trips, the people he met, his experiences, and particularly the individual plants noted on such trips, especially those that he had propagated and distributed. He made frequent trips to Europe where he was distinctly a *persona grata* with the outstanding propagators in England, France, Holland and Germany, as well as with administrative heads of botanical and horticultural establishments, proprietors of private estates, wealthy amateurs and professional horticulturists. When traveling became more restricted, he journeyed to the west coast of the United States. It is evident that he travelled largely to learn more about plants, and no matter where he turned up, he would make it a point to visit the prominent plantsmen in that particular locality. He was continually making new friends for himself and the Arboretum, for he had to a remarkable degree that capacity of meeting people in all walks of life, impressing his personality on them, and of retaining their respect, esteem, and personal friendship.

His death is a very great loss to horticulture and especially to the Arnold Arboretum for he is the last of the practical plantsmen on the staff of the Arboretum trained under the administration of Professor Sargent. His good nature, his dry wit, and his phenomenal knowledge of plants will be sincerely missed by his host of friends in this country and abroad.

DONALD WYMAN

As positive evidence of the esteem that others had for Mr. Judd, it is here recorded that on the day of his funeral there was received from one of his Boston friends a check for \$1000.00 payable to the Arnold Arboretum. The donor requested that the amount be added to the capital funds of the institution under the designation "The William Henry Judd Memorial Fund." Others among his very numerous friends may be inspired to increase their amount.