

ARNOLDIA



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BONSAI AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

“THE Larz Anderson collection of Japanese dwarf trees presented to the Arnold Arboretum as a memorial to his friend, Charles Sprague Sargent,” is an explanatory statement quoted from the carved inscription displayed with these intriguing plants. This group of dwarfed trees was given to the Arboretum in the fall of 1937. The plants have been on public display in a specially erected shade house ever since. Brought to this country at a time when strict plant quarantines were not in force, these plants were imported with soil around the roots in their original Japanese containers. The Arboretum welcomes the opportunity of being able to display these striking examples of Japanese horticulture.

The honorable Larz Anderson became interested in Japanese horticulture as early as 1907 and built a particularly attractive Japanese garden on his estate in Brookline, Massachusetts. Somewhat later he became interested in dwarf trees and in 1913 he brought back from Japan a splendid collection of them, which he acquired while serving as Ambassador Extraordinary from the United States to Japan (1912-1913). These he placed on display in his own garden where they were carefully tended for twenty-five years by different Japanese gardeners. When he died, his wife presented the collection to the Arnold Arboretum.

In 1962 this fine collection was moved to a specially built lath house in front of the new Charles Stratton Dana Greenhouses. Here the plants are given the necessary shade and the pots in which they are growing, all originals from Japan, are displayed to good advantage. There is overhead irrigation so that on hot days the atmosphere about the plants can be moist. They are taken into a cold house for the winter months, so that the plants and the pots will not freeze, and then returned to their display house in early May.

There are twenty-seven specimens, ranging in age from 56 to 226 years. Pruning and other care is given by our own work crew. This collection has been shown at one time or another in most of the major flower shows of the East, but because of its great value (as well as the great weight of some of the pots!) it is

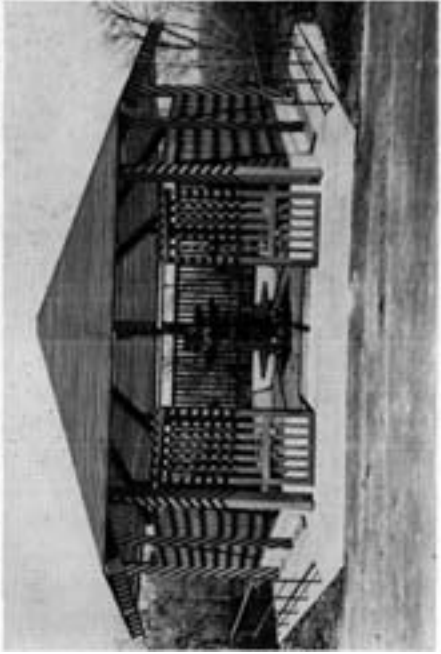
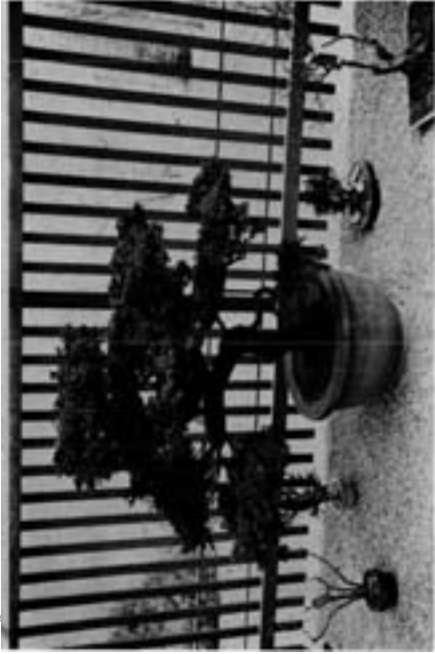


PLATE X

Upper left: *Chamaecyparis obtusa*; 175 years old. Upper right: *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, 160 years old. Lower left and right: The new Bonsai house in front of the Charles Stratton Dana greenhouses at the Arnold Arboretum, with plants conveniently displayed.

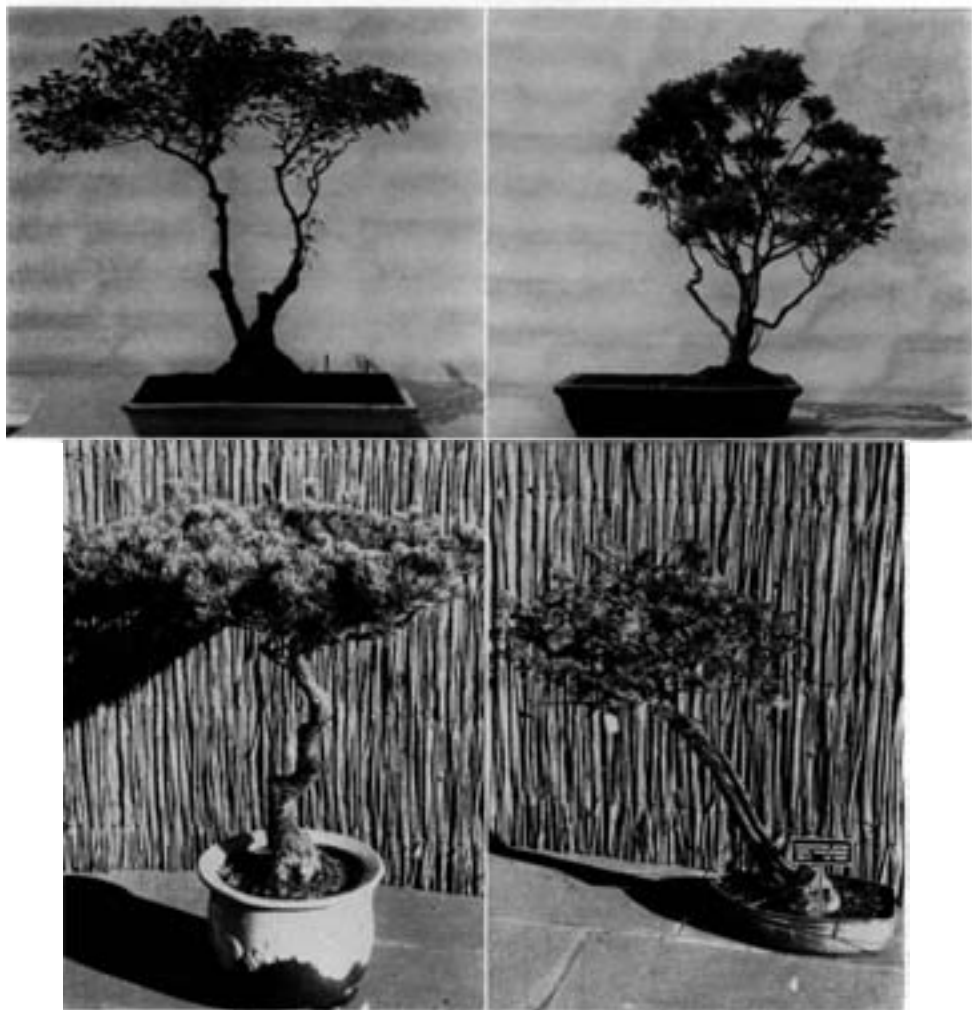


PLATE XI

Upper left: *Acer buergerianum*; 110 years old. Upper right: *Chamaecyparis pisifera squarrosa*; 65 years old. Lower left: *Pinus parviflora*; 75 years old. Lower right: *Chamaecyparis obtusa*; 130 years old.

not expected that the collection will again leave the Arnold Arboretum.

Recently there has been a surge of interest in Bonsai. In order to assist those who wish to learn more about the art some of the more recent books on the subject are listed here.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden's publication, *Plants and Gardens*, Vol. 9, No. 3, 1953, entitled, "Dwarfed Potted Plants as the Japanese Grow them."

Chidamian, Claude. "Bonsai. Miniature Trees" D. Van Nostrand Co., Princeton, N.J. 96 pp. 1955.

Kawamota, Toshio and Joseph Y. Kurihara. "Bonsai-Saikei" Nippon Saikei Co., Tokyo, Japan. 361 pp., ill. 1963.

Yashiroda, Kan. "Bonsai" Charles T. Branford Co., Newton, Mass. 166 pp., ill. 1960.

Yoshimura, Yugo and Giovanna M. Halford. "The Japaaese Art of Miniature Trees and Landscapes" Chas. E. Tuttle & Co., Rutland, Vt., and Tokyo, Japan. 220 pp. 1957.

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