

Arnoldia Online

Ninety-five years and 13,000 pages of *Arnoldia* (1940–present) and its predecessor, *The Bulletin of Popular Information* (1911–1939), are now available on the Arboretum’s website at www.arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu.

This trove of rich and varied content invites browsing by date, author, and title or by using the yearly indexes (1915–2006) and the two cumulative indexes (1941–1969, 1970–2000). Plants, places, and people are the chief but not the only constituents of the indexes, and they can be searched online in the same way as in printed versions. As you’d expect, either Latin binomials or common names will take you to plants, although the Latin binomial is likely to yield more comprehensive

results. In cases of frustration, look for the “Help” button provided by webmaster Sheryl Barnes, who orchestrated the two-year project.

A bit of history: *The Bulletin of Popular Information* was launched by Charles Sprague Sargent, founding director, in response to complaints from visitors who had missed the peak bloom of certain plants. To the expected dates of bloom he added the phylogeny, history, and culture of many Arboretum plants, particularly those introduced from East Asia by staff members and other agents. Sargent’s *Bulletin* was a four-page affair issued weekly during the growing season until his death in 1927. E. H. Wilson took up where Sargent left off, adding more illustrations but otherwise without change.

It was after Wilson died, in 1930, that the publication began to expand its length and scope. The next editor, Edgar Anderson, wrote *The Bulletin*’s first article on botanical nomenclature, aptly titled “Jabbywocky.” Other staff members also contributed longer articles: e.g., Ernest J. Palmer’s “Trees Used by the Pioneers” and Hugh Raup’s “Injurious Effects of Winds in the Arnold Arboretum” and “Notes on the Early Uses of Land Now in the Arnold Arboretum.”

Donald Wyman assumed the editorship of *The Bulletin* when he arrived in 1936. In 1940 director Elmer Drew Merrill shortened the title to *Arnoldia*, following his penchant for one-word titles and honoring benefactor James Arnold. For over thirty years Wyman wrote nearly all of the articles in *Arnoldia*, an accomplishment not likely to be soon matched. Subsequent editors (listed in the 1970–2000 cumulative index) expanded the range of content, updated the design, and added color and variety while emphasizing scholarship and style. Please visit the site at www.arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu.

