

VIII. THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM

During 1954 the Gray Herbarium, the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames, the paleobotanical collections of the Botanical Museum and a portion of the herbarium collections and the library of the Arnold Arboretum were moved into a new building in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This move was the culmination of a long period of planning to determine how the best interests of each institution as well as the field of systematic botany could be served best in this period of rapidly developing interrelationship of diverse scientific fields of knowledge. Additional considerations prior to the move were the isolation of the various taxonomic units at Harvard, the duplication of resources, efforts and goals, as well as the more mundane problems of increasing costs of labor, material and demands for additional storage facilities. In 1946 the President and Fellows of Harvard College appropriated from its unrestricted funds the sum of one million dollars to construct and equip a new and modern building to house the systematic work and collections of these institutions in Cambridge, to be in close proximity to the resources of the Department of Biology, the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Farlow Reference Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany. The building, designed around the requirements established by the taxonomists of these institutions, was under construction during 1953 and was finished in the early months of 1954.

The new building, called the Harvard University Herbarium, is modern in design and function and is one of the few herbarium buildings designed primarily for systematic work. The building comprises five floors. The ground floor contains lecture and laboratory rooms, photographic rooms, storage, sorting, mounting and fumigation areas. The first floor, devoted to morphology and paleobotany, houses the wood, fruit and pollen slide collections of the Arnold and the Gray, the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames and the paleobotanical collections of the Botanical Museum, with laboratory and office space for these activities. The library reading room, offices and stacks occupy most of the second floor, with the beginning of the herbarium proper at one end. The third and fourth floors are devoted to herbarium and offices. The entire building is air conditioned, with dust removed electronically from the air. The clean air and constant temperature afford better care for the books and specimens. Recessed ceiling lights in the herbarium and offices make this the best lighted herbarium.

Prior to the move, about 20% of the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum was maintained in cardboard boxes. Wooden cases held a portion of the collections of the Gray Herbarium. So that all herbarium specimens would be housed in steel herbarium cases and to allow for future expansion, 440 new steel herbarium cases were included in the cost of the building. Numerous other

items desired by the taxonomists who will work in the building were also acquired. These include individually desired office equipment featuring wall sorting racks of 24 compartments, specially designed laboratory benches and equipment such as microscopes (compound, phase and dissecting), warming trays, drawing tables, dictation recorders and transcribers, and many other items. For the library, new shelving, files and map cases allow proper housing of books, manuscripts and maps. An attempt was made to anticipate all needs for scientific research and seven months of occupancy has produced few desires overlooked in the original planning.

During April and May of 1954 the Gray Herbarium was completely moved from its former location on Garden Street into the new herbarium building at 22 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. In June and July the Arboretum herbarium and library were reorganized and the non-horticultural portions were moved from Jamaica Plain to Cambridge. The Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames was likewise moved from its former basement quarters on Oxford Street to a well-lighted first floor room in the new building.

Extensive alterations were completed during the summer at the Administration Building of the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain. That building now houses in newly improved and redecorated quarters a complete headquarters for horticultural research, identification, teaching and display. A horticultural herbarium of some 100,000 sheets representing taxa in cultivation and supported by specimens of spontaneous taxa for satisfactory coverage of any group is housed in 97 steel herbarium cases with room for expansion. A new first floor library shelves 8000 volumes, including reference works, folio volumes and periodicals dealing with horticultural subjects. Offices for the director and the horticulturist open off the new library. A large lecture-demonstration hall is available for the first time for class work, garden club meetings and displays of plant materials. Provisions have been established for the transfer of books or specimens from Jamaica Plain to Cambridge or vice versa, as need arises. There is sufficient movement of the staff members of the Arnold Arboretum between locations so that a request for materials on loan or permanent transfer to or from either herbarium or library is readily expedited.

In Cambridge the proximity and ready availability of the libraries and collections of the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium in one building now both complement and supplement each other. Each organization, however, has retained its identity. Dr Reed Rollins is the director of the Gray Herbarium and is Asa Gray Professor of Botany. Dr Richard Howard is the director of the Arnold Arboretum and is Arnold Professor of Botany. Dr C.E. Kobuski has been appointed curator of both the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium. Requests for loans

addressed to either director are referred to Dr Kobuski and specimens from both the Gray and Arnold collections are included in single shipment joint-loans. Specimens from the horticultural herbarium will be included in loan requests if specifically desired. Mrs Lazella Schwarten has been appointed librarian of both the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium and is ably assisted by assistant librarians in both locations. Requests for interlibrary loans, microfilm or photostat reproductions are filled from the most appropriate source. Independent acquisition records are maintained for both books and specimens. Herbarium material sent to the Arnold Arboretum or the Gray Herbarium are still credited to individual accounts.

The changes described above represent major advances in physical facilities for taxonomic botany at Harvard. With superb working quarters now available for the staff and visitors, with better care now possible for the books and the specimens of the taxonomic institutions concerned, with space for expansion of the collections, we look for increasing activity in systematic botany at Harvard. We extend an invitation to the collaborators and readers of *Flora Malesiana* to stop in Cambridge as they have the opportunity to renew acquaintances and to become personally familiar with the resources and facilities of our institutions.

Richard A. Howard