

he found his way to the Shaw Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. It was here that the Department found him when, after months of search after the right man to send to explore China, it had almost despaired of finding anyone who combined an insatiable thirst for travel and the ability to walk long distances over trails and across country, with an extensive acquaintance with wild plants, a good knowledge of horticulture, and an absorbing and sustaining interest in the work of plant introduction.

Meyer came into the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in July, 1905, and was sent almost immediately to China, where he spent three years. Upon his return he spent one year in America and then went out to Chinese Turkestan, where he traveled for three more years and again returned to America. His third trip was into northwestern China and to the borders of Tibet, and he was gone on this trip three years. After another year spent in America, he again returned to China in 1916 and had nearly completed his second year there when death overtook him.

He introduced during these years of collecting over 2,000 species and varieties of plants; and these are in the main described in the Inventories of the Office. There are on file thousands of record cards which give exact data as to the whereabouts and behavior of the plants which he brought in as seeds or cuttings.

Meyer's field work is done, and whether his body rests beside the great river of China or under some of the trees he loved and brought to this country will matter little to him. He will know that throughout his adopted land there will always be his own plants, - hundreds of them, - on mountain sides, in valleys, in fields, in the backyards and orchards of little cottages, on street corners, and in the arboreta of wealthy lovers of plants. And wherever they are they will all be his.

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