

In Memorium

Arthur Samuel Colby, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, and a past president of the American Pomological Society, passed away on February 1, 1964.

Arthur Colby was born in Tilton, New Hampshire, July 4, 1887. After completing his undergraduate work at the University of New Hampshire in 1911, he received his M.S. Degree in 1915, and his Ph.D. in 1919, both from the University of Illinois. He then spent 42 years at that same institution as teacher and researcher in the Department of Horticulture, after which time he retired in 1955, and took up residence in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Dr. Colby's research at the University of Illinois was directed mainly toward the breeding of improved varieties of strawberry and raspberry. He was the first to show that the Aberdeen strawberry is resistant to the red stele disease. Using it as a parent, he developed the red stele resistant varieties Vermilion and Plentiful. His raspberry breeding resulted in the introduction of the variety Purple Autumn, the first purple everbearing raspberry, and, later, the Crimson Cone red raspberry.

In appreciation for his fine work with nut trees, his name was given to the Colby walnut, a selection he made from the Carpathian strain of the English walnut, and to the Colby chestnut, his blight resistant selection, of the Chinese chestnut.

Dr. Colby was also interested in fruit bearing ornamental plants, and categorized types of Japanese quince strains. He made type selections for

introductions by nurserymen, and six of these are now commercially available.

He was twice elected president of the Northern Nut Growers Association, serving from September 1939 to September 1941; and was president of the American Pomological Society in 1953 and 1954.

Thaddius A. Merrill, Head of the Department of Horticulture at Washington State University since 1946, died March 24, 1964, at the age of 56.

Dr. Merrill was born March 8, 1908, in Richmond, Utah. He graduated from Utah State College in 1931, and received his M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees from Michigan State University. He served as an Extension Specialist and Research Assistant at Michigan State from 1935 to 1941. In 1942 and 1943 he was Supervisor at the Vineyard Laboratory of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, at Geneva. He returned in 1943 to Michigan State in the capacity of Assistant Professor of Horticulture, and remained until he went to Washington in 1946.

From January 1963 until his death, Dr. Merrill served as chairman of the important Wilder Awards Committee of the American Pomological Society.

The surviving families of both Arthur Colby and Thaddius (Tam) Merrill have the deepest sympathy of all the members of the American Pomological Society who knew and worked with these two fine men.

—G. M. Kessler,
Secretary-Treasurer,
A.P.S.