

A Message from the President of the American Pomological Society

Members of the American Pomological Society, it was with mixed feelings of humility, pleasure and pride, that I accepted the office of president of our Society for 1967.

As many of you know, I have been very closely associated with APS for the past 15 years, first as Assistant Editor in 1952, then as Editor for the next 14 years, and also as Secretary-Treasurer for eight years (1957-'64). And, as is so often the case with one who has worked with an organization or institution for many years, I have come to feel very close to APS, its ideals, and its aspirations.



Fig. 1. George M. Kessler, President and Editor, American Pomological Society; and Asst. Prof., Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State University.

It was my privilege and good fortune, during these years, to have worked with many fine people active in APS affairs, including eight different presidents, namely: H. B. Tukey (1952), A. S. Colby (1953 and '54), H. Rollins (1955 and '56), L. Havis (1957 and '58), Paul Shepard (1959 and '60), W. H. Upshall (1961 and '62), W. A. Luce (1963 and '64), and most recently, D. V. Fisher. It is my opinion that each of these men has, in his own way, sincerely attempted to further the evolving goals of APS.

You will recall that in its early years APS played a most important role in focusing attention on the need for scientific information for solving the multitude of problems facing the young fruit industries of the U. S. and Canada in the nineteenth century. One of the most significant outgrowths of these efforts was the American Society for Horticultural Science.

From the beginning, always high on the list of priorities, were projects dealing with fruit variety improvement and nomenclature. Although the objectives dealing with fruit culture, handling, storage and marketing have passed into the capable hands of other organizations, the promoting, gathering and disseminating information dealing with fruit variety improvement, both for the commercial grower and the gardener, has become the primary responsibility of APS.

I am pleased to say that the Society has been making good progress in recent years. Membership is close to 600, representing almost every state and province in the U. S. and Canada, and numerous foreign countries. *Fruit Var. and Hort. Digest* appears regu-

larly. Work is progressing well on two new projects—the American Apple Varieties book, and the book, "The History of Pomology in North America." A gratifying upsurge of interest has developed within the amateur segment of APS. None of these advances could have been made without the devotion and active participation of many members, particularly Dr. Donald V. Fisher, our retiring president, and Dr. James B. Mowry, our hard working Secretary-Treasurer.

I hope all members responsible for the gains of recent years will continue

their efforts. I also urge all those who have not been active to offer your services to any of the officers, committee chairmen, or to me. If you should have any thoughts about how APS can be made more effective, we would welcome your ideas. With your help, we can make 1967 a highly productive year for APS. I, for my part, pledge to do my best to live up to the ideals and traditions of our grand old Society during its 120th year.

—George M. Kessler,
President and Editor

Apple Rootstock Studies in Eastern Europe

D. F. MILLIKAN AND S. A. PIENIAZEK*

Size controlling rootstocks are of increasing interest to Eastern European pomology, particularly clones that will resist the temperature extremes in the northern areas where the well-known EM types succumb to cold injury. In Poland, this work was started in the late '40's by Zagaja by crossing EM IX with some *Malus sylvestris* selections, and subsequent screening for rooting potential. All of these types were killed during the severe test winter of 1962-63. These first crosses were followed in the late '50's by some EM IX x Antonovka crosses, the more desirable ones surviving the 1962-63 winter. These are now entering their second test and, along with a third series of crosses, involving other EM types with the hardier varieties, will be available for distribution once additional horticultural qualities are determined.

None of these stocks have been sufficiently tested for any immediate release, but all possess greater cold

resistance than the stocks in current use. Further, all possess rooting character that is superior to the EM types under Polish conditions.

In Czechoslovakia, apple rootstock work is more advanced and approaching the release stage. This was started after World War II by crossing EM IX with local hardy varieties, and was followed by selection for rooting potential and compatibility studies. Those considered to be the superior types are in their second trial tests and, following the completion of these tests, will be available for commercial use.

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Ernest J. Downing, a fruit grower from Hollansburg, Ohio, informs us that trees of the Pacific Gold Apple, originated by the late John Edward Miller, can be obtained from the Bountiful Ridge Nurseries, Princess Anne, Maryland.

*Plant Pathologist, Dept of Hort., Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri; and Director, Institute of Pomology, Szeroka, Skierewice, Poland.