



MEXICAN FAN PALM  
WASHINGTONIA ROBUSTA  
LOWER CALIF.&SONORA N92

MAIDENHAIR TREE  
GINKGO BILOBA F. PENDULA  
PLANTED BY "LUCKY" BALDWIN  
FROM SEED GATHERED ON HIS TRIP  
TO THE ORIENT IN  
CHINA-JAPAN 1867 N-2

COASTAL REDWOOD  
SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS  
CALIFORNIA N-82  
PLANTED BY WILLIAM WOLFSKILL  
ABOUT 1866. THE TALLEST OF ALL  
TREES IN THE WORLD. THIS SPECIES  
ATTAINS A HEIGHT OF 375 FEET

*Typical Examples of Transparent Plastic Labels as attached to trees in the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum*



## SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN TREE LABELS

Russell J. Seibert

The question of materials for the preparation of tree and shrub labels, either permanent or semi-permanent, is one which has never been solved satisfactorily. Types of labels in common usage do not answer all scores-of-perfect from the viewpoint of serviceability, economy, durability, legibility, beauty or aesthetic value.

In most cases, the label that could be considered satisfactory in all other respects, has the disadvantage of being a decorative detraction from the specimen so adorned. It is very easy to render a botanic garden of labels so conspicuous as to produce an over-all effect wholly unattractive.

It was perhaps ten years ago that the writer was impressed with certain tree labels in use at the Fairchild Tropical Garden in southern Florida. So effective were these engraved lucite labels from the standpoint of legibility as well as unobtrusive aspect that decision was made to investigate this material further when time and opportunity permitted.

Our Arboretum Foundation provided such an opportunity when it agreed that

proceeds from the Tour of Ranchos and Estates last June, held in benefit of the Arboretum, should be used for the purchase of materials and equipment for the cutting and engraving of permanent labels for the trees and shrubs on the Arboretum grounds.

The engraving machine now in use consists of an electric-driven cutter attached to a pantograph from which copy may be set up, and thence transposed and cut into the label medium. In the case of lucite, plexiglass or other transparent plastic, the letters are cut into the reverse side through use of reversed copy type. The letters become clearly visible because of refracted light which makes them stand out through the clear transparent material. Examples of the labels now being put into use at the Arboretum are illustrated in the accompanying plate.

The same pantograph cutter may be used to make a variety of types of labels—i.e. for laminated plastic, wood, soft metal, etc.—by employing normal rather than reversed copy type. At present, however, consensus of opinion is in favor of the clear transparent plastic because it produces effective neat economical labels which enhance rather than detract from, the particular specimens labelled.

## A KEEPSAKE

Dr. Frans Verdoorn announces that the following is available free, on request, from the *Chronica Botanica Co.*, Waltham, Massachusetts:

"My Great Oak Tree—and other Poems" by Liberty Hyde Bailey.

L. H. Bailey is well known to all students of botany and horticulture as the author of many a reference work in these fields. He is less well known as a poet,—a discerning and apperceptive one whose heart is full of understanding as his mind is full of knowledge, of the natural world. Those who send for the gratuitous offerings will be uncommonly enriched to share thus the thoughts of this eminent plantsman and horticulturist. An inkling of them:

"How tired the tropic seemed  
As tired as one who slept and dreamed!

. . . . .

And then there breathed a witching day  
When old growths went and new growths  
came

Like a verdant brooding flame,  
And pulses crept;

The bamboos melted at their tips  
And new tastes mounted to the lips,  
New rain-myths swept

The tropic clean  
Joined sky and earth and all between,  
And senses roused in bush and lakes  
As one so gently gently wakes  
He had not known he slept."

"Undertone," the last poem speaks L. H. Bailey's philosophy:

"The peace of the winds is my undertone—  
I move with the crowd, but I live alone."





Seibert, Russell J. 1952. "Something different in tree labels." *Lasca leaves* 3(Winter 1953), 4-5.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/129410>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/121729>

**Holding Institution**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

**Sponsored by**

Los Angeles Arboretum

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: The Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.