

Of the two biographers, Turner provides the more factual, or mundane, account; his effort is a much expanded and updated Linnie Marsh Wolfe type of biography. Michael Cohen writes for those already familiar with the principal facts of Muir's life; in a sense, he picks up where Turner leaves off. Alone, neither book would satisfy the nonspecialist reader, but together they complement each other nicely. *John Muir: Life and Legacy* shares characteristics of both books, delving into some important facets of Muir's long, active, and productive life and probing its meaning, puzzles, and paradoxes, but selectively. It does not even begin to exhaust the wealth of questions and issues raised in Cohen's book, however. One of the articles, "John Muir and the Tall Trees of Australia," by P. J. Ryan, will attract the attention of readers with a special interest in plants. It is based on materials in the archives of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, West Perth; the Royal Botanical Gardens, South Yarra; and the Sydney Botanical Gardens, among others.

### Three Works for Specialists

Fortunately, three specialized Muir items provide scholars with ample resources for attacking the issues Cohen and others raise, and far more besides. Chief and most impressive among them is *The John Muir Papers 1858–1957*, the fruit of the John Muir Microform Project. It consists of fifty-one reels of microfilm and fifty-three cards of microfiche. A related item, *The Guide and Index to the Microform Edition of the John Muir Papers 1858–1957*, catalogs the contents of the *Papers*. While necessarily subordinate to the microform edition, the *Guide and Index* is valuable in its own right, not the least because it allows poor scholars and others for whom the microform edition would be inaccessible, to obtain reels and cards through interlibrary-loan services. The *Guide and*

*Index* also contains a useful chronology of Muir's life, as well as a biographical sketch.

Eleven thousand items were selected for the microform edition: items in the Muir Family Papers at the Holt–Atherton Center for Western Studies at the University of the Pacific and in more than forty other repositories in the United States (including the Archives of the Arnold Arboretum). The edition is published on archivally permanent silver halide film stock. Virtually all of John Muir's surviving papers are included. Linnie Marsh Wolfe's and William Frederick Badè's painstakingly assembled papers also were selected for filming. The microfiche cards consist of thirty-three hundred nature and landscape photographs and illustrations in the Muir collection. Forty-six of the photographs are by Herbert W. Gleason.

There are five series to the *Papers*: "Correspondence and Related Documents, 1858–1914" (seven thousand letters, both incoming and outgoing), "Journals and Sketchbooks, 1867–1913" (eighty-four journals and sketchbooks), "Manuscripts and Published Works, 1856–1914" (notebooks, published and precursor works, unpublished works, and miscellaneous notes), "Pictorial Works, 1854–1914" (the thirty-three hundred photographs, which were taken by nearly two hundred photographers, and other illustrations), and "Related Papers, 1873–1943" (the Badè, Wolfe, Muir Family, Sierra Club, and other papers). Among the many specific items of interest in the *Papers* are Muir's journals of his travels with the U. S. Forestry Commission, of a botanical trip with Charles Sprague Sargent and William M. Canby, and of his world tour, during much of which he was accompanied by Sargent and Sargent's son, Andrew Robeson Sargent. Sketches of fossil plants by Muir are reproduced on the microfiche cards. The *Guide and Index* to the *Papers* contains some nineteen thousand index entries.

Botanists scanning the *Guide and Index*



will find many familiar names—Asa Gray, Liberty Hyde Bailey, George Engelmann, William M. Canby, John Torrey, and Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, for example, in addition to Charles Sprague Sargent. John Burroughs, Edward H. Harriman, Gifford Pinchot, Luther Burbank, David Starr Jordan, J. H. Mellichamp, and Henry Fairfield Osborn make appearances as well. Western botanists, especially, will recognize the names Vernon Bailey, Anstruther Davidson, William R. Dudley, Alice Eastwood, Edward Lee Greene, George Hansen, Albert Kellogg, John G. Lemmon, Sara Allen Lemmon, C. Hart Merriam, Charles C. Parry, and William Trelease. (All, except Davidson, are represented by letters from or to Muir, Davidson by several photographs.) Sargent's correspondence with Muir is among the most extensive: some one hundred twenty-two letters to Sargent from Muir and forty-three from Sargent to Muir. There are fourteen letters from Asa Gray to Muir and nine from Muir to Gray.

The third item for specialists, as well as for general readers who find themselves developing a more than casual interest in Muir, is the revised edition of William and Maymie Kimes's landmark reading bibliography of Muir items. Originally published in 1977 in a limited edition of only three hundred copies, *John Muir: A Reading Bibliography* was sold by subscription for one hundred fifty dollars. The new edition of this definitive work, which is a third again as large as the original, has just been printed in a limited, but larger, edition of seven hundred copies and sells for only forty dollars. Containing six hundred seventy chronologically arranged and annotated entries, the Kimes bibliography is an indispensable tool for anyone hoping to do serious research on Muir. Until now it has been available primarily to those who were able to purchase the first edition or who are near one of the libraries that own copies of it. The Kimeses contributed to the John Muir Microform

Project and, fortunately, some one hundred sixteen of the entries in their bibliography are identified by number in the *Index and Guide* to the microform edition. With publication of the *John Muir Papers* and republication of the Kimes bibliography the stage has been set for a surge of new insights into the life, career, and achievements of America's premier conservationist.

Historians of the Arnold Arboretum and biographers of Charles Sprague Sargent have emphasized affinities with Europeans and European institutions—Joseph Hooker and Kew, for instance, or Ernest Wilson, Joseph Rock, Frank Meyer, and the St. Petersburg botanic garden—or else with the Far East. The Arboretum's activities in formalized, or academic, botany have justifiably received much attention too, as have its formidable accomplishments in horticulture. Sargent's *Silva of North America* is acclaimed as a classic. The Arboretum's status as an Olmsted park, as a gem in Boston's "Emerald Necklace" of parks, or as an academic institution has been noted time and again. The Arboretum is held up on the one hand as a world-class institution, on the other almost as a strictly local one. Its place as a peculiarly American phenomenon is overlooked, ignored, or played down, however, as is Sargent's seminal part in the unfolding of the American conservation movement. Perhaps the prolonged unavailability of the John Muir Papers has been partly responsible for the oversights. If so, then, in time, their publication could prove as momentous for historians of the Arnold Arboretum and biographers of Charles Sprague Sargent as it will for students of John Muir and the Sierra Club. Both Sargent and Muir deserve recognition for their heroic intervention on behalf of America's wilderness and forests. They were worthy opponents of the absurd Bunyanesque notion that forests exist solely to be cut down.—E.A.S.





1986. "Index to Volume 46." *Arnoldia* 46(4), 71–72.

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