

## John Shaw Boyce, 1889-1971

J. R. Hansbrough



John Shaw Boyce was born in Belfast, Ireland, November 8, 1889, and died in Marion, South Carolina, March 20, 1971, where he and his wife were wintering with their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Boyce, Jr. During the intervening 81 years, Jack led an active and highly productive life in research, teaching,

writing, and travel, thereby earning an international reputation as an outstanding authority on tree diseases and the decay of wood in service.

As a boy he left Ireland with his parents, and grew to manhood in Lincoln, Nebraska. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry from the University of Nebraska in 1911 and 1912, and his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from Stanford University in 1917.

Dr. Boyce served in the U.S. Army in 1917 and 1918, first in the Medical Corps and then in the Air Force, ending his military service as a Second Lieutenant stationed in Washington, D.C., where he was chief inspector of woods used in airplanes. As a civilian, Dr. Boyce spent 2 years in the U.S. Forest Service in 1910 and 1911; then from 1919-1928 served with the USDA Division of Forest Pathology as Pathologist-in-Charge of the Portland, Oregon, office. In 1929, he transferred to the Forest Service as Director of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass., and in 1929 became the first Professor of Forest Pathology at Yale University with tenure in both the School of Forestry and the Department of Botany, a position he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1958. In 1929, Yale University bestowed on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

In 1938, Dr. Boyce authored "Forest Pathology", one of the McGraw-Hill American Forestry Series, subsequently revised and updated in two more editions. Since its appearance, this book has been the standard text on the diseases of forest trees and forest products for teaching and reference throughout North America and abroad. In addition, beginning with his first publication in 1915, he published over a

hundred bulletins and scholarly papers in scientific journals, all dealing with some aspect of the cause and prevention or control of tree diseases and of the decays of wood in service.

Dr. Boyce was the United States delegate to the 1925 International Forestry Congress, Grenoble, France, and in 1940-1942 served as Chairman of the Committee on Forestry, National Research Council. He was Honorary President of the International Botanical Congress in Stockholm in 1950 and in Paris in 1954, and after retiring from Yale in 1958, spent 6 months in India as a consultant to the Indian Government on forest disease problems. Later came appointment to a Visiting Lectureship in forest pathology at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Boyce was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of The American Phytopathological Society, the Society of American Foresters, The American Forestry Association, the Botanical Society of America, the Mycological Society of America, the Connecticut Academy of Science, and the scientific honor society, Sigma Xi.

While Dr. Boyce will be long remembered as a professor, author, and scientist, it is probable that his most lasting imprint on his fellow men will be through his many graduate students at the Yale University School of Forestry. During his 30 years' tenure, he directed the studies of 33 young men who received the degree of Master of Forestry and of 22 somewhat older men who published their dissertations on some aspect of forest pathology and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Many of these men are active today in teaching and conducting or directing research in forest pathology on several continents, thereby passing on to coming generations much of the information and philosophy imparted to them by their honored and respected professor. With his passing, Yale lost one of its most eminent faculty members, and his students have lost the source of much of their inspiration for dedicated service.

Dr. Boyce was married in 1917 to Lillian Marion Jameson of St. Paul, Minnesota, who survives him and now lives in New Haven, Connecticut. An only son, J. S. Boyce, Jr., and four grandchildren also survive.