

F(LOYD) A(LONZO) McCLURE
(1897-1970)

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Floyd McClure, famous as an economic botanist and taxonomist, world-renowned for his Bamboo studies, and an Honorary Research Associate with the Smithsonian Institution, was born in Shelby County, Ohio, on August 14, 1897, of a farm family. As a boy he always had to work hard helping his father to make a livelihood on the farm. His father was ambitious for his son to have a college education and Floyd picked up this spark for his advancement early. He received his A.B. in 1918, his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1919, his M.S. in 1928, and his Ph.D. in 1935. In 1919 he became an instructor in Horticulture (from 1919 to 1923) in Lingnan University in China, formerly known as Canton Christian College. He moved on, during 1923-1941, with several changes in titles, such as Curator of the Herbarium, Curator of Economic Botany, and Professor.

He early acquired competence in the Cantonese vernacular dialect. He led collecting trips in South China and Indo-China (North Viet Nam), and on one of these accompanied Doctor A. S. Hitchcock of the U.S. National Herbarium, thus helping to add Chinese grasses to the National Herbarium. He received training in the United States for the techniques relating to plant exploration and introduction, becoming acquainted with the top plant explorers, Dr. David Fairchild and Dr. Wilson Popenoe, to name but two. When he returned to China, he initiated the Lingnan University Bamboo Garden in 1924.

Before he returned in 1927 to work for his M.S. at Ohio State University, he had collected bamboo in the Philippine Islands with Dr. Merrill. His preparation for his M.S. thesis included testing the handmade bamboo papers. Laboratory facilities for this study were available through the courtesy of Mr. Howard Laymon of the Mead Paper Company of Chillicothe. He also became acquainted with Dard Hunter of Chillicothe, whose work on handmade paper is famous.

When the Japanese invasion of China occurred, Dr. McClure's familiarity with the Cantonese dialect made it important for him to stay in China to help the refugees. It likewise enabled him to distribute bamboo to the Western Hemisphere where he undertook to introduce a number of species. For a time, the Plant Introduction Garden at Tela, Honduras, became a haven for some forms. He also taught the uses of these species of bamboo for practical purposes.

His travels took him to eight provinces of China and the island of Hainan, Phillipines and Tonkin, North Vietnam, Hong Kong, the New Territories, Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, India, East Pakistan, Java, Hawaii, Jamaica, Trinidad, eastern and Southern United States, especially California, and Eire.

Dr. McClure became a member of Section B of The Ohio Academy of Science in 1924. He was elected fellow in 1937, and Honorary Life Member in recent years.

Besides many articles (over 100), his principal work is *The Bamboo*, published in 1966. His widow, Ruth Drury McClure, is at work on unfinished materials which were nearing completion at the time of his death on April 15, 1970.