The Glory of the Tree

by Dr. B. K. Boom and H. Kleijn. First published in Great Britain, 1966, by George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd.; and by H. J. W. Becht's Uitgerversmaatschappy N.V., Amsterdam 1966; distributed in United States by Pat Ryan, Portland, Ore. 128 pp. \$12.50.

The Glory of the Tree is a magnificently illustrated volume which contains almost 200 color photographs and many line drawings. Now being printed in the Netherlands, it has been translated and is available for arborists and others interested in trees in the United States. Aiding in the translation for use here was Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, professor of Botany, Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania.

The authors describe and illustrate the beauty of individual trees in spring foliage, summer splendor, and wintertime power. Photos show each tree in its natural surroundings, whether in the forest, along highways, on plains, mountains, or wherever.

Illustrations in color are among the finest to be found on the subject.

In each instance, the authors present the structure, nomenclature, history and practical use of the specific species. The narrative includes many legends and much history about the origin and cultural importance of each.

The Rowan tree, as one example, is one of the Holy Trees of the old Celtic and Germanic worlds. It was thought to be of great spiritual power. The Ginkgo tree is believed by some Chinese and Japanese to have the power to turn away fire. The Cypress is an ancient tree which the Greeks considered a symbol of feminine beauty and also of death.

The authors also discuss the Laurel, Cherry, Medlar, Pine, Plane, Cedar, and many other trees from both the Old World and the New, as well as from Asia and the Middle East.

The Glory of the Tree is an important work for both professional and layman who find themselves interested in more than a surface knowledge of the tree. Special features include a list of botanical gardens and arboreta, a list of trees shown on postage stamps, an explanation of the Latin species names, and a selected list of books on trees.

Regarding the authors, H. Kleijn is one of the famous Dutch experts in the field of natural history and an author of many published works in the field. Dr. B. K. Boom is a horticultural taxonomist at the Institute of Horticultural Plantbreeding, Wageningen, Holland. G. D. Swanenburg de Veye, who made the photographs is a doctor of medicine, a member of the Royal Dutch Society for Natural History, and a writer on mycology.

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