

J. B. Edmond Undergraduate Student Paper Awards **Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences**

Donor: Endowed by the late Joseph B. Edmond 1993.

Background: Dr. Joseph B. Edmond was instrumental in organizing the Collegiate Branch within the Southern Region ASHS, and later within the national society. In 1958, he convinced the Southern Region to begin an undergraduate student contest for oral presentations on horticultural topics.

Award: Certificates and monetary awards of \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first, second and third place winners.

Objectives: To recognize outstanding oral paper presentations based on original research conducted by undergraduate students.

Eligibility:

- 1) Undergraduate student
- 2) Paper presentation judged on originality of research; justification for work; application of research; scientific soundness; visual presentation; accuracy of grammar; and poise with questions.

About the Donor:

Born in Yorkshire, England, on October 11, 1894, Joseph Edmond came to America in 1912 with his father who pursued a railroad career. Young Joe, at that time and throughout the rest of his life, pursued a career in horticulture, specializing in vegetables. He served in the 32nd Division of the Wisconsin-Michigan National Guard in France during World War I and received a Purple Heart for a leg wound sustained during fighting in the trenches in the Chateau Thierry and Belleaux Woods.

Following the war, he received his B.S. in 1923 from Michigan State University and his M.S. in 1924 in horticulture from Iowa State University, and his Ph.D. in 1933 from the University of Maryland. Dr. Edmond held positions from 1931-1935 at Mississippi State University, 1935-1944 at Clemson University, 1944-1946 at agricultural experiment stations in Texas and Georgia, 1946-1947 at Berry Schools in Georgia, 1947-1948 at Louisiana State University, and spend the remainder of his career at 1948-1961 as Professor of Horticulture at Mississippi State University.

In research, Dr. Edmond made notable contributions to the study of the physiology and production of sweet potatoes, muskmelons, cucumbers, and several other vegetable crops and to the physiology and longevity of vegetable seed storage.

Dr. Edmond's first love was teaching, and the students he taught and inspired. He taught a course on the fundamentals of horticulture to sophomores at Mississippi State University, and this became the pride of his life. Teaching this course led him to write *Fundamentals of Horticulture*, which survived four editions and was published in several languages. He also

authored *The Sweet Potato* and *The Magnificent Charter* about the Morrell land-grant college system in the United States. He spent his retirement writing books and scientific articles.

Dr. Edmond became a Fellow of ASHS in 1968, and was an active Member of the Society and the Southern Region for 67 years. He was instrumental in organizing the Society's Collegiate Branches, first within the Southern Region and later within the national society. In 1958, he convinced the Southern Region to begin an undergraduate student contest for oral presentations on horticultural topics. He also was a member and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Sigma, and Sigma Xi, and the Masonic Lodge in East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Edmond's life truly illustrates devotion to his fellow man. Indeed, he practiced service above self. Most of his estate has been designated for scholarships for horticulture students at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Edmond was buried in Saginaw, MI, next to his beloved sister Ella. He is survived by nieces and nephew.