

Ira Judson Condit



IRA JUDSON CONDIT

In Appreciation

Ira J. Condit was born November 18th, 1883 at Jersey, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Ohio in 1905 and later received the M.S. degree from the University of California in 1928, and the Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1932. Condit served five years as Instructor in Horticulture at the California Polytechnic School at San Luis Obispo. There he married Caroline Callender in June 1912.

In 1913 Condit joined the staff of the College of Agriculture at Berkeley as Instructor in Citriculture, and began special studies of various subtropical fruits. He published Experiment Station bulletins on the Loquat, The Avocado in California, The Carob in California, The Kaki or Oriental Persimmon, Caprifigs and Caprifloration. The Kadota Fig,

and a circular on Fig Culture in California. Condit's bulletin on the avocado in 1915 came at the time of the organization of this Society and he took an active part in the first meeting. At the instance of the Society, in 1917, he published "History of the Avocado in California, with a Check-List of all Named Varieties". The check-list, brought up to date, was republished in 1927. Finally, in 1939, he published a monumental work, "A bibliography on the Avocado". Condit has contributed many articles and illustrations to the Yearbook and, because of his perennial interest, has been most helpful to the editor by calling attention to articles on the avocado in obscure foreign publications.

Shortly after World War I Condit served a year as Horticulturist for the Forkner Fig Gardens at Fresno and later was for four years Horticulturist for the California Peach and Fig Growers. His interest in figs was such that in 1923 he spent six months in investigations in the fig producing districts of the Old World. Later, in 1934-1935 he was visiting Professor at Lingnan University, Canton, China. He has traveled extensively in Hawaii, China, Philippines, Formosa, and Japan.

Many who have become avocado growers within recent years are not well informed with respect to the very important part Condit took in helping to develop the young avocado industry along sound lines. This is because his chief attention has lately been devoted to the culture of the fig. Indeed he has now achieved recognition throughout the world as the leading authority on the fig. His great interest in his many researches on that subject are climaxed by his new book "The Fig" which is now in press.

In the early days it was Condit who, working with the Variety Committee, kept the nomenclature of avocado varieties in order—no small undertaking considering the many introductions and scores of new seedlings being fruited and named each year. Now, resident at the Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside as Associate Professor, he still keeps a personal card index of all printed matter on avocados appearing in many foreign as well as domestic publications.

The avocado industry presents its respects and high esteem to Dr. Ira J. Condit whose services in its behalf have been signal.

J. E. C.