interpreting the stage of development in the evolution of that soil. He also emphasized the importance of field tests for soil interpretations. "The only way to test the productivity of a soil is to grow plants in it" (Marbut, 1921).

*Soils, Their Genesis and Classification*, published by the Soil Science Society of America in 1951, is a memorial volume of 10 lectures given shortly after the Graduate School in the Department of Agriculture was formed. These lectures covered the basis of his soil concepts as they applied to U.S. soils. His teaching style was to encourage independent thought by teaching ideas and methods with strong emphasis on field work. A series of 20 additional lectures on the soils of the USA were later incorporated into *Soils of the United States* (Marbut, 1935).

As a spry gentleman of 71, Dr. Marbut left Washington to make an examination of soils of China, India, and Rome. His goal was to complete a soil map of the world before returning to Missouri. Onset of pneumonia ended his soil science career before his goal was achieved. Shortly after his death in November 1935, *Fortune* referred to Dr. Marbut as "the world authority on soil classification and a man whose services to his country must rank among the greatest in our time."

**References**


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**A Photo Story of Dr. Curtis Fletcher Marbut**

Nancy Lankford, John P. Tandarich, Chris J. Johannsen, and Lynn Morrow

The following photos depict Dr. Curtis Fletcher Marbut from 1880, as a young man, to his departure for China in July 1935. The photos, in addition to indicating some of the places he worked, show some of the equipment used, methods of transportation, and a few of his colleagues. These are only a few of the photos in the Curtis Fletcher Marbut collection. For those interested in the other photos, see the article in this issue "Unpublished Materials of Curtis Fletcher Marbut."