

poissonii, *Osmanthus delavayi* and *Incarvillea delavayi*.

Adrien Franchet praised Delavay's collections, and his meticulous notes on every aspect of the materials collected, as among the finest he had ever seen. He published *Plantae Delavayanae* (1889-90) forever securing Pere Jean Marie Delavay's position in botanical history.

Père Delavay continued his amazing investigation of the flora of north-western Yunnan until 1888 when he contracted bubonic plague. He survived the initial onslaught of the disease, but never fully recovered. This did not stop his explorations, however, eventually he traveled to Hong Kong to recuperate, collecting plants all the way. By 1891 it was clear that a more drastic cure was needed, so Delavay returned to France in hopes of gaining a full recovery.

Unable to stay away, he returned to China in 1893 and continued his collections, adding another 1550 plants to his already impressive total, but in 1895 he finally succumbed to his illness, and died in Yunnan province.

The French Missionaries

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