Beauty All Around the Library

Patrons who enter the Main Library on Broadway will often comment on the beauty of the both the new and old building. But in reality, the beauty starts before you even enter the library. I am referring specifically to the trees that surround the library. Most people can identify the large and graceful weeping willow that is located on Broadway at the beginning of the path that leads up to the library, or the enormous and magnificent Copper Beech that is right in front of the Library. But, if you are curious about the other trees, then wonder no more. Aline Newton and Florrie Westcoat have written a wonderful little booklet entitled, "Knowing the Trees of Cambridge, a Map & Self-guided Tour." In this booklet they identify twenty five of the trees around the Library. Each entry gives the tree's common and Latin botanical name and includes a lovely rubbing of its leaves. But what is even more fun about this booklet is they also give a very detailed description and some fascinating facts about each of the trees they have identified. For example, did you know that the bark of weeping willow contains salicin which is a chemical used in the 1800s to develop aspirin? In the middle of the booklet, there is a map which shows the location of all trees that have been included. You can pick up a free copy of this booklet at the Question & Answer Desk on the ground floor of the library and take a self-guided tour. And once you pick out your favorite tree, don't forget to come into the library and check out a book that you can read while you are sitting under it and enjoying its beauty.