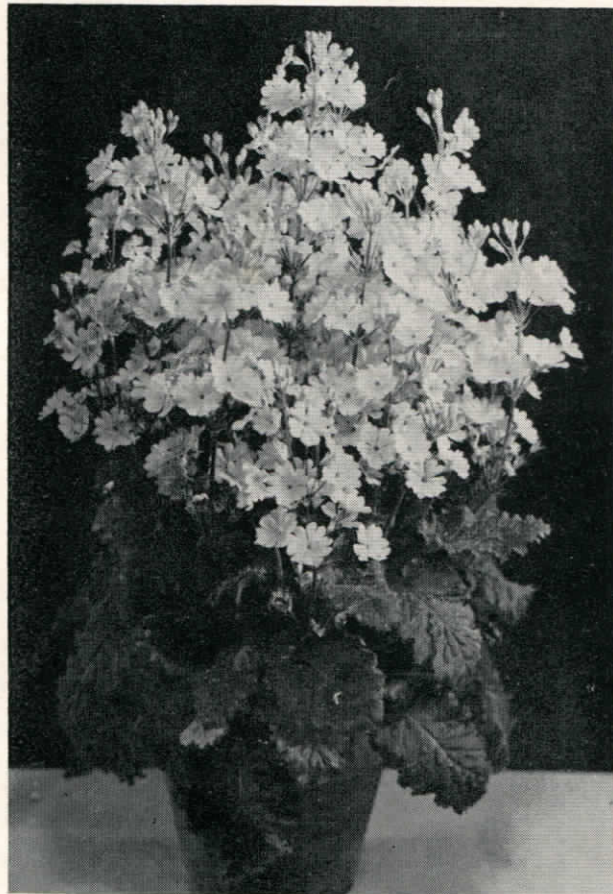


Quarterly of the American
Primrose
Society

VOLUME XXI

SUMMER 1963

NUMBER 3



Czechoslovak Varieties of Primula

Czechoslovak Variety of Primula Malacoides Franch "Hranicky triumph"

Photographed by H. Kopečna

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Quarterly

of the

American Primrose Society

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THE COVER ILLUSTRATION—Photographed by H. Kopečna is "Hranicky triumph," one of the many lovely Czechoslovak varieties of *P. Malacoides Franch* discussed in the first article from our member Ing. Karel Hieke. Mr. Elmer Baldwin was instrumental in encouraging Ing. Heike to send this article which appears on page 85.

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A Tribute to the Greatest Gardener

It has become important at this time that those who understand the truths of nature, the truths to be found in garden and wilderness; in desert, forest and pastureland—speak out their understanding in an attempt to spread tolerance and to combat the confusion and strife in the world.

As a grandmother and a teacher of retarded children, I have come to use a simple vocabulary in telling what I know of nature. I speak of the great pleasure in having a garden; of the rewards gained in planning and caring for it; of the beautiful sense of harmony that results from thoughtful planning. I tell the children, "I love my garden and every plant in it. I love to see it nurtured by sun and rain alike, by both day and night, winter and summer."

I also tell them that my garden is like the rest of God's world: A place

where flowers of different color, like people of different color, may live together in harmony, each contributing to the whole; following a master plan.

I show them the great variety of texture, leaf pattern, form and height that create the garden's harmony. These children understand that each plant is entitled to its full share of nourishment and its most suitable environment. They know that I seldom discard a plant because of a minor fault, because the plant may have some quality to contribute to a new strain.

They have seen me remove a predator—a slug or cutworm—but they have also helped me protect the lowly earthworm from harm. Children understand many things. They have listened with me to the songs of the birds who come to my garden, who need it for sustenance, and who love it as I do.

Nancy Ford, Editor

Letter to the Editor . . .

From Mrs. Joyce Graewin,
Norwalk, Wisconsin, July 8, 1963

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Something about my compost must not be right—I always get such an abundant crop of weeds wherever I use it.

The poor primroses here are having hard going this summer. We haven't had rain since the first week of June. Many counties in Wisconsin are applying for disaster aid because of the drought. It has been very hot, too. Some of my strawberries just dried up completely but the primroses get a soaking with the hose every night.

I reset the Auricula bed. They were so beautiful this spring.

I do wish more people in Wisconsin would grow primroses. We have no garden clubs near here. My one great ambition is to visit Washington and Oregon in the spring when the shows are held.

Dear Mrs. Graewin:

It is good to hear from you again and know that your Primroses are still alive even though the strawberries are not. As

much as I enjoy strawberries I'd rather have primroses. They are food for the eyes.

Auriculas are certainly hardy and will withstand either very hot or very cold temperatures. I find that it does not pay to water plants that have been in very hot sun until about an hour after the sun has left them. It is so easy to "cook" them with steam from the hot ground.

Rewarding the weeds—many weed seeds travel by air and settle everywhere. My own garden in which I use Fertosan is full of weeds now, because I have been away for four weeks doing graduate internship at a state institution for retarded children. I am happy for the weeds because they protect them from the sun. I'll just feed them extra liquid fertilizer. Perhaps that is why the English primroses do so well naturalized.

Why don't you send for the A.P.S. slides and invite some friends in. Perhaps you would eventually get a small garden club going.

Sincerely, *Nancy Ford*



P. malacoides Krinolina. Foto: Kopečna

Czechoslovak Varieties of *Primula Malacoides* Franch

ING. KAREL HIEKE

The author, a horticulture specialist, is with the Research Institute of Ornamental Gardening at the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture Science, at Pruhonice.

During its short, sixty-year cultural history, *Primula malacoides* was worked up in Europe with preferred and most significant pot flowers for market. The improvement in the previously weedy

flower is due primarily to British, Swiss and German cultivators; improvement in the size and color of blossoms, and construction of the inflorescence, the growth of the whole plant and later, the quantity of flowers. Immediately after the 2nd war, Czechoslovak horticulturists engaged in the growing of new, first quality varieties which were approved in the State tests and registered in the list of permitted varieties.



A spectacular display of *P. malacoides* at the Research Institute of Ornamental Gardening in Pruhonice, Czechoslovakia. Foto by Kopečna.

In the Research Institute of Ornamental Gardening in Pruhonice, Czechoslovakia, the work of several years (1958-1962) together with that of other European growers of *Primula malacoides* culminated in a re-evaluation, and a public showing of all the forms developed. Altogether, 62 were fully described and evaluated. Among them were the following Czechoslovak varieties:

BECVA (Betshwa): leaf elongately oval up to narrow, middle floured (meal), 5.5 to 7.0 cm wide, 7.5 to 10.5 cm long; the flower is rich, 1.9 to 2.3 cm diameter, of a fine violet-blue (Horticultural Color Chart 633-633/2), inflorescence is thin.

DANA: leaf largely oval, much floured, 5.0 to 6.0 cm wide and 7.5 to 9.5 cm long; flower simple, 2.9 to 3.4 cm dia., expressively pink (HCC 27-27/1), inflorescence is medium dense to thrusted (a compression of individual stages, vertically).

HRADECANKA (Hradetshanka): leaf largely oval, only a few floured,

5.5 to 7.5 cm wide and 7.0 to 10.5 cm long; flower simple, 2.5 to 3.5 cm. dia., shiningly rose-red (HCC 27-27/1), inflorescence medium dense to thrusted. One of the best Czechoslovak varieties, especially good for growing on a large scale.

HRANICKY TRIUMF (Triomphe of Hranice): leaf oval to narrow, medium to only slightly floured, 4.5 to 5.5 cm wide and 6.0 to 8.5 cm long; flower simple, 1.9 to 2.1 cm dia., white with a fine pink eye (HCC 627/1), inflorescence is thin. One of the best Czechoslovak varieties.

JANA: leaf mostly oval, medium to heavily floured, 5.5 to 7.5 cm wide and 7.0 to 9.5 cm long; flower simple, 2.5 to 3.2 cm dia., expressively pink (HCC 627), inflorescence medium dense to thrusted.

JITKA (Yitka): leaf oval, medium floured, 5.5 to 8.0 cm wide and 7.0 to 9.0 cm long; flower is rich, 1.9 to 2.4 cm dia., white with a hardly perceptible rosy tinge in the center (HCC 627/1—

627/2), inflorescence thrusted.

KRINOLINA: leaf oval to elongately oval, medium to heavily floured, 4.5 to 7.0 cm wide and 6.0 to 9.5 cm long; flower rich, 2.5 to 2.9 cm. dia., fine pink (HCC 627-627/1), inflorescence medium dense. One of the most valuable rich and full varieties.

MELNICKA PERLA (Perle of Melnik): leaf mostly oval, medium to few floured, 5.0 to 7.5 cm wide and 6.0 to 8.5 cm long; flower simple, 2.6 to 3.6 cm dia., vivid pink (HCC 627/1), inflorescence medium to thrusted. Good for large scale growing.

POESIE: leaf oval to elongately oval, not floured, 4.5 to 5.5 cm wide and 5.0 to 6.5 cm long; flower half full to simple, 1.8 to 2.0 cm dia., expressively vio-

let-pink (HCC 628 and 727/3), inflorescence thin.

POLABENKA (Polabyenka): leaf oval to elongately oval, not floured, 4.0 to 6.5 cm wide and 5.0 to 7.5 cm long; flower half full to simple, 2.0 to 2.5 cm dia.; expressively pink (HCC 627), inflorescence thin to medium dense.

ZUZANKA: leaf largely oval, medium to heavily floured, 6.0 to 8.5 cm wide and 7.0 to 9.5 cm long; flower simple, 2.6 to 3.5 cm dia., light pink (HCC 27/1-27/2), inflorescence thrusted.

Persons interested in the exchange of these varieties may write to our Institute. As contravalue we desire samples of germinal seeds of American varieties of *P. malacoides* and *P. obconica*.

TREE ROOT PROBLEM SOLVED

BURR BRONSON, Watertown, Mass.

On our return from the New England Rock Garden Society meeting in Johnson, Vt., we stopped at Stone Chimney Gardens, Reading, Vt., to see Mrs. Hollis Newton's primroses. I have never seen more robust plants or larger umbels of flowers. Mrs. Newton grows them under large maple trees.

There are two things she does to obtain such results. First, in making a bed, she removes all the soil to the depth of one foot, then lays down a sheet of black plastic which has several small holes in

it. The soil mix of compost, well rotted manure and sand is replaced. The plastic sheet retains the moisture which otherwise would be absorbed in quantities by the tree roots. Second, she lays old fence posts on the sides of her beds building her soil up to the top of the post. This aids in giving proper drainage, also the wooden posts absorb water and feed it back into the bed.

Footnote: The color of the plastic should make no difference since it is so far underground. Editor.

Rare Alpines, Plants & Shrubs

Unusual dwarf slow growing conifers that stay dwarf and other shrubs . . . all on their own roots (no seedlings) and suitable for Bonsai culture. Large collection of heathers, Japanese Irises and many rare plants and alpines for the Rock Garden are listed in our catalogue.

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Quarterly Editor, Nancy Ford, presenting Roy Gender's new book "The Polyanthus" to Grace Dowling, author of CONCERNING PRIMULAS, at the National Banquet. Mrs. Dowling was an honored guest.

Concerning Primulas

GRACE DOWLING, Seattle, Washington

CHAPTER 4.

DENTICULATA SECTION

Denticulata Section is one with members wholly essential to every primula garden. The plants come from the woodlands of Asia and grow nonchalantly in our woodlands as well as our borders, rock gardens, and in fact any spot where a common perennial will grow. They make beautiful rosettes of luscious, crinkled leaves, finely toothed, as suggested by the name of the section. The flowers grow in a tight ball of many blooms with each individual flower pointing upward. This idiosyncrasy distinguishes the Denticulata Section from the Capitatae Section, whose umbels are formed of blossoms hanging down.

The stems are usually covered with farina, sometimes white and sometimes yellow, but occasionally some stems seem almost without meal. The stems are long, straight and sturdy and the powdery decoration adds much to their interest.

Primula Denticulata

It should not be surprising to hear of primulas contentedly growing in the Arctic circle when we remember so many of them came from above timber-line localities in mountains all over the world. Nevertheless it must be a perennial joy to find *P. denticulata* sending out exquisite blooms in the far northern parts of Norway and Sweden.

Early in the spring the sky-blue, lavender, white or almost any color between and around these three begin to show deep in the crown of the plant. The stem rapidly elongates as the days grow warmer until it is sometimes ten or twelve inches high with a ball of blooms at the top. Most of the individual flowers open at the same time and make an enravishing pop-corn ball. These balls are indispensable in the spring garden, being one of the best early-flowering perennials among all plants. The white form

is especially beautiful and colors are constantly being perfected—pink, violet, and I have read of a crimson variety. Of course, this description may be from an enthusiastic nursery catalog, but no doubt shades of red are not impossible.

P. denticulata does not need as much moisture as many of the Asiatic primulas, but appreciates a moist, well-drained soil. I find it grows well in my woods' soil but I am particular to have the soil deeply dug before planting, adding peat and compost. In the spring the beds have a dressing of well-rotted cow manure and if some plants do not respond quickly I have found that a spoonful of commercial fertilizer, used with discretion, gives them aid and comfort.

To keep *P. denticulata* presenting its very loveliest display it should be divided each year, soon after blooming, otherwise the plant grows and looks for all the world like a skunk cabbage and the flower balls are fewer and smaller. It also can be divided or transplanted in the spring just as the buds appear.

P. denticulata and the *Juliae* hybrids, especially Wanda, blooming at the same time, make a grand association. *P. denticulata* and *P. rosea* make one of the loveliest groupings in early spring, with a drift of lavender species crocuses added to complete the picture. I have *P. denticulata* planted in the spring garden with vari-colored aubrietias and double white arabis making a carpet in front of the big lavender and white balls. The aubrietia is not at its height but there is enough color showing to be effective.

P. denticulata grows well in town gardens, a far cry from its original home in Afghanistan and western China. It has been successfully used as a bedding plant in London parks.

Primula Cachemiriana

P. cachemiriana hardly needs a space to itself since it is so nearly related to *P. denticulata*. Mr. Cox, in his book "Primulas for Garden and Greenhouse," says "for all intents and purposes the names are synonymous" but the name cachemiriana is so fixed in our minds that it might be well to say that some primula authorities are willing to distin-

guish *P. cachemiriana* by the yellow meal on its stems while *P. denticulata* carries white meal.

Any plant with a name which suggests the Vale of Cashmere necessarily has a special glamour but the primula conference of 1928 divests *P. cachemiriana* of this enchantment, when it states it is "only known in cultivation and is, no doubt, of garden origin."

CHAPTER 5

FARINOSAE SECTION

The Primula Conference in England in 1928 changed the classification of some of the sections in the primula family. The Farinosae Section now includes the Auriculatae Section.

The members of the Farinosae Section range, geographically, far and wide, farther and wider, as a matter of fact than any other primula section. The distinguishing marks are exceedingly obscure and incomprehensible to the amateur,

P. denticulata



and the advanced primula grower should seek detailed accounts which could not be attempted in as casual a narration as this.

As in other sections, the Farinosae Section contains members difficult to retain for any length of time in the garden, but many are too beautiful to miss, and some of the most charming are comparatively easy.

Primula Farinosa

P. farinosa asks for conditions often difficult to procure. It grows, in its natural habitat, in thick, low meadow grass. A situation in the garden where its roots are free of incumbrances is just the thing it abhors. The sloping mountain meadows, with underground streams of melting snows and marshy lowlands in full sun are the locations it has chosen. These situations in Europe, Asia, North and South America have lured *P. farinosa* until its homes are in all continents, preferably in climates with cold, snowy winters which terminate in spring moisture in the subsoil. It grows luxuriantly in Northern England and Scotland, across Greenland to Quebec, down to Maine and west to Michigan and Minnesota. It is not as abundant in China, but increases as it crosses Russia and Siberia; then south to extreme South America, in southern Chile, it is found again.

In each country it has a different name and often when a gardener thinks he has found something unique, it finally proves to be *P. farinosa*. It is *P. borealis* and *P. mistassinica* (sometimes *P. americana* in North America. From *P. mistassinica* or *P. americana*, the *farina*, found on the type, has all but disappeared. *P. magellanicus*, in South America, is an especially husky sub-species which necessarily must have developed a strong constitution to be able to live in antarctic conditions. *P. modesta* is yellow instead of white, as it is in *P. frondosa*. These are but a few variations.

Besides its botanical names its common names are Bird's Eye Primrose, Mealy Primrose and it is still often called the "Bird's e'en" of the old herbalists.

It is one of the most charming of the whole family, a small fairy, with an umbel of closely bunched, fragrant flowers in shades of pink and mauve with cheerful, shining, yellow eyes, blooming from March to May. The husky flower stems, covered with meal, are twelve inches high. The color, as well as the shape of the individual flowers, varies somewhat when grown from seeds, as it varies in the different countries where it is found. The leaves form a bright green, tufted rosette of variable sized leaves, smooth on the upper surface, but covered with white farina on the under side, hence its name, *P. farinosa*.

It has a reputation of being very selective in its choice of places to live and consequently, to produce its best, many experiments have been made for its comfort and happiness. A crevice between rocks in porous, loamy, rich-with-leaf-mold soil often lures it for several years, but if left too long in one place without removing its closely packed side shoots, the plant cannot stand this congestion, and dies of exhaustion. This division should take place every other year or so, immediately after flowering, and new soil substituted for that in which it has been growing. It dies down in the fall leaving an inconspicuous knobby growth which may be lost if the frost pushes it out of the ground in winter. An inspection, now and then, is advantageous and all lovers of *P. farinosa* realize that treating it as a biennial (saving seeds and raising new plants every year), is the best technique.

Seeds germinate quickly and generously and, if the plants can be kept growing sufficiently long for the crowns to multiply, the stock can be increased by divisions.

P. Scotica, a sub-species from the North of Scotland and other northern European countries, is a miniature form of *P. farinosa* and even more of a problem to gardeners than its larger relatives. Its flowers are a deeper color, suggesting purple. Damping-off after blooming is its peculiar affliction.

There is a white form of *P. farinosa*

I should love to see, called *P. farinosa* alba var. Saundersæ, discovered by Mrs. Saunders in a large natural planting in England. I have *P. nipponica*, often called a white *P. farinosa*, with blossoms creamy white and with a yellow eye. It, also, disappears in winter.

Primula Frondosa

The word *frondosa* signifies that the plant is leafy and leafy it is, but the quality of the leafiness is distinctive, gray-green with an interesting rough texture on the upper side, while the under side is densely covered with a perfectly white meal, so thick, that after a heavy rain, the ground is white from washed-off farina.

For *P. frondosa* I have a tender passion and, apparently, my affection is returned. Undoubtedly I have had my first plants, or divisions of my first plants, for over ten years. The original home of the species is Thrace, the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula.

There is a decided family likeness between *P. farinosa* and *P. frondosa*, but *P. frondosa* has more the appearance of content and well being. It is fat and round, a healthy and clumpy little bunch. The blooms, a sweet pale mauve, more pink than lavender, rise up about four or five inches high in April, many rather loose clusters on each plant. The color never seems to vary; it is exactly the same shade in every plant. In my garden they seem happy in many locations. I have light, well-drained soil and, as a consequence, they are never sitting in water in winter, which they loathe. They do not demand nearly so much water as many primulas; in fact they like to be rather dry for a while after blooming; nevertheless, in summer they are watered enough to keep them from being too thirsty.

They grow at one side and at the edge of a planting of treasures; such as *P. marginata* and Linda Pope, a few named varieties of Auriculas. Back of *P. frondosa*, in more shade, is *P. farinosa* and *P. nipponica*. *P. frondosa* also grows across the path with some American natives: cyripediums, hepaticas, tiny ferns

and shooting stars. In spring the little plants get a top dressing tucked under their leaves, of old manure, peat, and compost, well-mixed and sifted. They produce seeds which germinate easily. The plants should be divided as the rosettes multiply.

Primula Longiflora

A close relative of *P. farinosa*, *P. longiflora* is a little taller and a little larger in every way. It has a much better disposition than *P. farinosa*, adjusting itself to locations which its smaller sister would never endure. It grows into a lusty plant under garden cultivation, a clump rather than a rosette, while in its native home in Southeast Europe, near other members of the Farinosae Section, it is much smaller. It has two enemies—winter damp and slugs. The first-named is serious because the lush growth it develops in rich soil is necessarily soft, and when soaked in winter, rapidly succumbs. Small stone chips packed closely around the collar of the plant help to protect it. With this enemy routed, it will stay many years, but when the flowers come in the spring, they, the flowers, are promptly eaten by slugs, often before they are fully open. The problem of combating slugs has been fairly well solved with the new "meta" bait, and while we will probably always have slugs, the meta attracts them more than the blossoms, and the beasts can usually be trapped before the flowers are ruined.

The long tube of the blossom (which gives *P. longiflora* its name) is a deeper lilac and more blue than the color of *P. farinosa*. The shape of the flower is the distinguishing mark of the plant, the slender trumpet reaches out at right angles to the stem, giving the whole plant an unusual appearance.

To get the best effect, *P. longiflora* should be planted in colonies, a drift of them near a late flowering shrub, such as Kalmia, which often blooms about the same time. Another telling combination is *P. longiflora* planted with white or pale pink astilbe for a background.



P. rosea growing by the thousands in the Portland, Oregon estate of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry. Photographed by Orval Agee.

Primula Rosea

P. rosea is truly indispensable. Mr. Cox thinks it is one of the six best primulas and most growers absolutely agree with him. Early in the spring, on some cold, sunny morning in late February or early March, in an inconspicuous rosette of young, earth-colored leaves, round naked buds, perfect pink jewels, may be found almost buried in the dark, moist soil. The color is so vivid and the appearance is so startling, that one not accustomed to waiting for this experience blinks with astonishment. Each day the stem lengthens until the blossoms stand about four inches high or higher, a brilliant, carmine-pink, with few leaves, as yet, to distract attention from this utter loveliness.

The blooms are polyanthus-like in form. With six or eight stems to a plant, it makes a picture difficult to describe and quite impossible to duplicate with any other flower, primula or whatnot. It blooms on until April when the leaves begin to definitely appear—glossy and perfectly proportioned. They develop into fat little cabbages which, in them-

selves, make nice edges. I have them planted along borders that lead into the Asiatic primrose path, and while the blossoms are gone long before the pulverulentas and Moerheimi hybrids are in blossom the neat, little tufts of leaves are attractive.

P. rosea must have water and plenty of it. Sun is not objectionable if it is not mid-day sun and the right amount of food determines the number and length of the flower stems. Planted in a rich, moist soil with plenty of peat moss, it will do well in very shady locations, where, along a shady stream or at the edge of a pool, it will enhance any planting.

There are two forms of *P. rosea*, the type, *P. rosea* and a larger form *P. r. grandiflora*; the latter making larger clumps and having larger blossoms. The clumps should be divided before they get too cabbagy. Seeds are developed in profusion. If planted soon after gathered, by the following spring, seedlings will be ready to add to the original planting. The seedlings disappear entirely at the approach of winter but the flats

should be protected until spring when the tiny plants will reappear.

Plants taken up, potted and brought in the alpine house, blossom before those outside and make a marvelous addition to the collection of potted plants.

For arrangements in the spring border, *P. rosea* combines beautifully with the early blooming *P. denticulata*, and some notable, pale blue *P. acaulis* planted in groups near it, never fails to bring out the best in them both.

P. rosea comes from high, icy spots in the Himalayas, therefore it is perfectly hardy in even the coldest parts of the United States.

Primula Luteola

Deserving a warmer welcome than it has found in many primula gardens, *P. luteola*, if better known, undoubtedly would be sought and given an honored place. Its chief requirement—an absolute necessity—is good drainage in winter. Luteola, meaning yellow, is a description of its color which almost repeats the soft yellow of the English, native primrose. Planted near this early spring-flowering *P. acaulis*, *P. luteola* carries the color on into July and then into August. However, the manner of flower growth is quite different from *P. acaulis*, the blooms growing in a closely packed, round bunch at the top of stems about nine or ten inches high. The foliage is a soft, exquisite green which gives one the feeling that it is a rather delicate plant, and indeed the lower leaves sometimes droop in a lax fashion, too soft to uphold themselves. The leaves are smooth, without farina, with saw teeth along the edges and about seven inches long, large in comparison with others of this section.

P. luteola is not unlike *P. rosea* in growth and temperament. These two primulas are not included in the same section, proving they have important resemblances. *P. luteola* will thrive with somewhat less water than *P. rosea* requires.

In the same Caucasian Mountain meadows, where are found many of this section, *P. luteola* grows in sun or shade

and very good-naturedly has been removed into cultivation. It produces seeds freely and can be divided as the crowns increase.

Primula Involucrata

The above primulas of the Farinosae Section come from Europe and Eastern Asia. In China were found these two others, *P. involucrata* and *P. yargongensis* (formerly called *P. Wardii*), both near relatives and asking for the same simple mode of living in rich, damp soil in semi-shade.

P. involucrata is an especial beauty standing high in rank with the first dozen or so "best" primulas of the whole tribe. It has a comfortable temperament, tranquilly settling down into most any cool soil well enriched with old cow manure. Here it sends up rather small, smooth and shining leaves, each with a distinct stalk or stem, which form neat tufts. Perfectly hardy and perennial, *P. involucrata* forms its crowns in the winter, and if not kept firm with a constant cover of snow, the frost often pushes the roots out of the ground. In mild climates this should be watched and the roots pushed back.

The flowers, coming in May, are white, a beautiful paper white, growing on six inch stems and, like many white flowers, they are fragrant. Each blossom is surprisingly large for the size of the plant, in form round and in quality opulent.

It has a characteristic growth not easily mistaken, in spite of which it is sometimes listed in catalogues as *P. Monroi*, an almost identical plant, but thought by some growers to be somewhat of an improved form of *P. involucrata*.

P. involucrata sets seeds generously, often seeding itself. It should be divided, preferably in August, when clumps seem to require being separated.

Primula Yargongensis

Mr. E. H. Wilson first brought *P. Wardii* to the gardener and later Mr. Kingdon Ward, for whom it was named. It is a variable species, confusing the grower no end. *P. yargongensis* is now

its official name and because of confusion in marks of identification, it is sometimes mistaken for *P. involucrata*, and some plants of *P. siberica* may look much like *P. yargongensis*, after they have been in cultivation for some time.

It is found, in one form or another, in Europe, China, Tibet and North America, but from wherever it comes, *P. yargongensis* is veritably a treasure, appealing to everyone, with its large, starry blossoms, white or pale yellow eyes, and delicious fragrance.

The flowers grow tall, out of all proportion to the little tuft of oblong leaves which are pale green and delicate. The blooms are much larger than those of *P. involucrata* and of another color; generally a clear lilac with much blue in the pigment. The color varies considerably and sometimes the shades are a little too pale, lacking warmth and significance, but it is always charming and has a hue not usually seen. On a well grown plant there are many stems, each topped with a graceful, loosely formed umbel.

P. yargongensis is not difficult, it likes a boggy condition and a place can easily be made at the edge of a small pool, where a mass of it, tucked among dainty ferns, will bloom until July.

It produces abundant seeds and it may be divided early in spring, when the tufts grow large enough to need dividing.

Primula Conspersa

Enough different in personality from *P. farinosa* to be easily recognized in the garden, *P. conspersa* is covered with farina, on the under sides of the leaves, along the flower steps and sparsely over the corolla.

It is a graceful, delicate plant when in blooms, somewhat similar to *P. farinosa*, but different enough to be much desired. The rosette of leaves is more a tuft than a regularly formed rosette and the leaves, about five inches long, are rather tough and leathery. The flower stem often reaches fifteen inches high, bearing a mealy umbel of from ten to twelve blooms. The flowers vary in color

somewhat, until, although the planting may be small, there is variation enough, from pale rose to lavender, to give a shaded appearance.

It came from Western Kansu, in China, from the same meadows and moist hillsides where *P. farinosa* is found. Some years it may live through to another year, making the gardener think it might be a perennial, but treating it as a biennial is a safe practice.

Planted alone in a shady corner away from other primulas, among some of our precious natives, in moist loam and sand, seems the most telling place for it to blossom. Here it has not the competition of more impressive members of the race.

CHAPTER 6

CORTUSOIDES SECTION

In Japan, in many provinces of China, down through Tibet, and into the eastern Himalayas, the Cortusoides Section ranges over a large area. The section was named for G. A. Cortusi, an Italian botanist living about 1593.

The primulas in this group are comparatively easy. They have been grown in gardens for a long time and are very important to all primula growers, especially to the amateurs who have no time for crotchety varieties. In their original home they are distinctly woodland plants; however, partly shaded areas in gardens suit them well.

Generally, except for *P. Sieboldii*, they are magenta, the color apparently accepted by the whole primula race as its favorite hue.

The leaves are always very decorative in the garden, quite different from primrose or polyanthus foliage. They are suggestive of the geranium family, rather large, deeply wrinkled and scalloped interestingly. They have no farina and most of the leaves have a conspicuous stem. The whole plant disappears completely during winter.

Each and every member of this section makes an interesting display in the alpine house or in a heated green house

in the winter. A collection of the different primulas of this section would be something of merit to use for a winter exhibition.

Primula Cortusoides

P. Cortusoides is the type of primula of the Cortusoides group. It came to Europe late in the eighteenth century, almost a pioneer in the western world, and early in comparison with the immigration of Asiatic primulas, most of which, especially the candelabras, appeared during the memory of many gardeners today. It came, not from Japan proper, but from the mainland, nearby and from Siberia.

P. Cortusoides' identity is often uncertain. It is many times confused with *P. Saxatilis* and frequently it is called *P. Sieboldii*. In May, when the others of the section are blooming, *P. Cortusoides* sends out its blossom, "rosy pink color," the nurseryman's polite name for a mild magenta. *P. saxatilis* and *P. Cortusoides* are much the same height and the leaves of the two plants are similar; the difference lies in the blossoms. Each flower in the umbel of *P. Cortusoides* are much the same height and the leaves of the two plants are similar; the difference lies in the blossoms. Each flower in the umbel of *P. Cortusoides* has a very short stem, making a rather tight bunch of flowers, while *P. saxatilis* has a loose umbel with an entirely different appearance, even when the blooms of the two plants are much the same color.

The leaves are typical—lettuce-colored, rather limp and soft textured, very decorative and with a definite stem, longer than the leaf blade itself.

It has much the same tastes that other members of the section manifest—half-shade, well drained and well enriched soil with plenty of moisture while the leaves are green; however it will stand a little more sun, if protected from cutting winds.

It is as perennial as *P. Sieboldii* and should be included in plantations with its close relations in woodland, possibly at the edge of the location where it gets a little more sunshine than the others,

but still in enough shade to keep the soil from drying out during the growing season.

Primula Saxatilis

Every spring, for many years, I have visited the rock gardens in one of our public parks to see the blossoming of a group of *P. saxatilis*. These blooms are actually "pinky-mauve," following the descriptions of most writers, but in the shadow of the big rock, where they grow, they seem almost blue. They are the only ones I have seen with that particularly blue color. I know that they are never divided but they seem perfectly happy, coming each spring with the same surprised look and the same abandon, and nodding in the slight breeze.

P. saxatilis is often confused with *P. cortusoides*. The distinguishing mark, as has been said, is the length of the stems which carry each flower in the umbel. *P. saxatilis* has longer stems, giving an open, loose appearance to the cluster of flowers which often rises ten inches above the leaves. Also the leaf stems of *P. saxatilis* are longer than those of *P. Cortusoides*.

The name saxatilis (rock haunting) indicates that it was originally found in rocky parts; in spite of this it does very well in the primula border, in shade, in the same situations which *P. Sieboldii* and the rest of the section might select. It is perfectly hardy, ranging from Northern China to Alaska. It dies down in winter, appearing again fairly early in the spring when it may be divided and divided frequently. *P. saxatilis* produces abundant seeds which germinate easily.

Primula Sieboldii

Named for the German botanist and traveler, F. Siebold, nothing more lovely than *P. Sieboldii* could be desired to carry a name down through the years. Coming from Japan and Siberia, it was introduced into England about the time of our civil war.

P. Sieboldii is everybody's primula, the outstanding member of the section; gracious, willing, unprotesting in almost any or every location. Long ago, a gar-

dener in Portland, Oregon, told me *P. Sieboldii* was the one primula which she could grow well and keep growing in her garden. It is perfectly hardy—as has been said, it came from Siberia. It multiplies rapidly, it crosses easily, and any grower can establish a strain of his own with ease and untold pleasure.

The manner of growth is entirely different from most primulas; the roots spreading about under the soil, forming tiny buds which rise up, in the spring, into new shoots. These will, in time, form a whole colony without being unduly pushing or weedy. The foliage is beautiful, soft lettuce-green and while as luscious as lettuce, it has a firmer substance, developing in a year or two into a desirable ground cover, beautiful without blooms. The entire plant disappears in late summer. Often the leaves and a few blooms appear again in September, a habit considered unfortunate by many gardeners and an exertion which might prove too much for the plant. The positions of the plant should be carefully marked to avoid disturbing them in the spring before they appear.

The flowers of *P. Sieboldii* come in late April after the leaves have appeared and unfolded, and the blooming period continues through May into June. The stems are six to nine inches high carrying an umbel of flowers, each separate flower from one to two inches across. It is one of the members of the section which is willing to deviate from magenta, the colors ranging from white to dark red. In some plants the back of the flower is another color, more or less hidden but adding to its interest. The flowers are round, slightly cupped and curling at the edges, not a common habit for primulas.

There are many named varieties. Dora lives in my garden and *P. S. alba* grows next to her. I also have a charming fringed variety that is pink on the back of the petals and white on the upside. Southern Cross is another with a special name; General McArthur I have never seen; the color is listed as dark red. All the members of the section grow nicely together, the magentas

blending perfectly with the soft colors of *P. Sieboldii*. Some choice varieties of myosotis bloom at the same time and planted near them make a contrasting note in the planting. I have a dwarf iris planted on the sunny edge of the bed and all the *P. Sieboldii* are in the shade of a *Prunus Pissartii*. While the blooming season of the tree has passed by the time the primulas open, the red leaves fluttering above them add to the color scheme and give half-shade to the primulas.

P. Sieboldii is easily propagated by lifting the roots and cutting them up, a growing bud to each plant. It is important to perform this operation in the spring when the leaves first appear. Division should occur every spring to keep the plants young and vigorous, and the soil should be enriched with well-rotted manure before replanting.

Seeds germinate easily but, as with other species, the named varieties must be divided to increase the number of plants.

Primula Veitchii

P. Veitchii was discovered and introduced by Mr. E. H. Wilson, and named for the firm which made possible one of his voyages of discovery into Asia. Mr. Wilson, in his "China, Mother of Gardens," tells how he found *P. Veitchii*, growing on grass-covered rocks in "moderately dry, loamy places."

This primula is not one for magenta haters although how anyone can object to the warmth and glow of this fine flower with an orange eye, above the soft grayed olive-green background of its leaves, is incomprehensible. Placed in a group of thirty or more, near a planting of *P. Sieboldii* whose pale pink and white lighten the deep magenta color of *P. Veitchii*, they make a picture worth seeing. Both primulas bloom at the same time, in May and June.

The flower stems are much the same height as *P. Sieboldii*, eight to ten inches; Mr. Cox says they sometimes grow in tiers, as the candelabras, but I have never seen this peculiarity.

The foliage is heavy, much the quality and palmate shape of our everyday ger-

anium leaves. The leaves are hairy with a velvety appearance and feel. The young leaves are particularly lovely, a paler green and a tenderer quality.

P. Veitchii likes the woodland half-shade that *P. Sieboldii* prefers and it needs somewhat more moisture during the summer to keep the heavy foliage growing sturdily. The same cool soil that the whole section desires suits *P. Veitchii* in which it will grow on indefinitely, perfectly hardy in spite of its "tender" appearance. Mr. Wilson called it a hardy *P. obconica* but it apparently does not have the quality so irritating to the human skin which *P. obconica* possesses. These primulas are easily raised from seed and by dividing the plants regularly, a telling group may soon be established.

Primula Lichiangensis

A close relative of *P. Veitchii's*, *P. lichiangensis*, with its intriguing Chinese name, was first discovered in Yunan. Yunan is, apparently, the primula Heaven. When I finally reach there, I hope it will be without "the evil accompaniment of sand-flies, leeches and Chinese soldiers" featured in all biographies of plant explorers.

The foliage of *P. lichiangensis* is less hairy than that of *P. Veitchii* and the flowers are larger, repeating much the same color. The leaves are very striking and handsome, rather round in shape, on a relatively long stem.

Magenta or purple with a yellow eye and purple anthers, *P. lichiangensis* is a modern interior decorator's subtle combination. The flower umbel, standing well above the foliage, poised gracefully on the long, eight inch stem, blossoms through May and June.

This primula enjoys half-shade and a moist, rich soil. It also appreciates ground limestone and some limestone chips about it, recalling its natural habitat or limestone out-croppings in the mountains of China.

Seed is an easy medium of propagation and, naturally, division of the plants increases the stock and will perpetuate any especially fine, unusual shade of color.

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Snow Lady . . . Photo by Orval Agee

Snow Lady, American Named Show Auricula

The Show Auricula Floriculturists of America are pleased to record the name of the above white-edged exhibition auricula *Snow Lady*, grown by Mrs. A. C. U. Berry.

Since the S.A.F.A. committee for judging the qualifications of the American grown auriculas for naming began accepting applications for worthy plants only one other white-edged auricula has been named. *Frank H. Michaud*, presented by John Shuman, was officially accepted as the first named American grown auricula (see pg. 93, Vol. XX, No. 3) and it, too, was a white-edge.

The Chairman of the S.A.F.A. Committee, Win Shuman, presents the registration form with the following information:

I. *Mrs. A. C. U. Berry*, certify that the plant described below has bloomed at present high standard for several years, and ask that it be named and registered with the American Primrose and Auricula Society.

Presented by: *Mrs. Ivanel Agee*
 Name of Plant: SNOW LADY
 First Bloomed: 1952
 Variety: White-edged Show Auricula
 Existing offsets: 15
 Original Grower: *Mrs. A. C. U. Berry*

	Points
<i>Description of Plant: Tube:</i> quite circular, very near correct size, but is a bit scalloped.....	9
<i>Anthers:</i> Good, but could curve inward a bit more and could be more golden in color.....	8
<i>Paste:</i> Circular. Smooth, dense and fine textured, good white and free from cracks.....	25
<i>Body Color or Color:</i> Good black. Circular at center. Feathers evenly into eye color; a bit narrow and a bit mealed.....	10
<i>Pip:</i> Round, flat, circular. Some pips seven and some eight petaled.....	19
<i>Stem and Footstalks:</i> Scape sturdy and good length. Pedicels good.....	10
<i>Size, Substance, Refinement (Pips & Truss):</i> All good. Foliage heavily mealed. Pin well hidden.....	10
Total	91

Description of Leaves: Obovate, spatulate, apex obtuse, margins moderately dentate. Heavily mealed.

Defects: Body color a bit narrow and somewhat mealed. Tube a bit scalloped and slightly pale in color. Anthers should be more golden and have better inward curvature. S.A.F. Judges voted unanimously in favor of naming: Ralph Balcom, Cyrus Happy, Ivanel Agee. 4/6/63.

Note: See page 111 for diagram of auricula parts.

People and Flowers

A Distinguished Visitor . . .

Dr. E. Lester Smith who lives near London, England, was a welcome visitor to the Pacific Northwest this last spring. During his stay he was the house guest of Ralph Balcom and was entertained quite extensively.

Although he is well known both abroad and in this country as a biochemist, he is almost as distinguished as a collector and grower of primulas, especially the double auricula and the gold laced polyanthus. Last year he won the Lindley Medal for his display of lovely double auriculas at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show in London.

Dr. Smith attended the Kirkland Primrose Show which was in progress at the time and also visited a number of primrose gardens in the Seattle and Portland areas. At Portland he was a guest at Barnhaven Gardens and at Mrs. A. C. U. Berry's home. He stated that it was well worth the long trip from England just to meet such a gracious lady as Mrs. Berry and to see her famous gardens. He met and made friends with many of the primula growers in this part of the country who will long remember him not only for his friendliness and kindly manners, but also for his knowledge of all phases of primula culture.

Mr. and Mrs. Burr Bronson . . .

Of Watertown, Mass., were visitors at the Kirkland Show this year. They spent six weeks visiting and plant viewing in the Pacific Northwest. When asked to write about their trip for the Quarterly Mr. Bronson replied, "How can I pos-



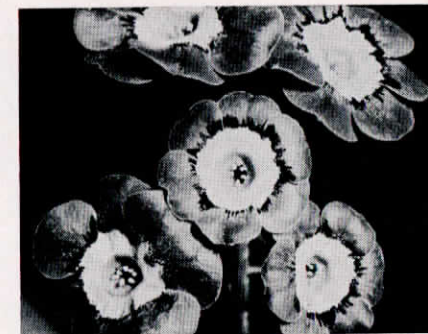
Dr. E. Lester Smith at the Kirkland, Wn. Show. Photo by R. W. Balcom.

sibly report on a six weeks trip where we saw so much and met so many fine people?" They did find many plants of interest, only a few of which they have been able to identify. They hope to find time to do a little research work next winter.

A. P. S. President . . .

Ralph W. Balcom has recently received the Award for Horticultural Achievement given by the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs. The award was given particularly for his hybridizing efforts with double auriculas, but also for other crosses he has made in the genus *Primula*.

1963 Bamford Trophy winner photo by Agee



New England Meeting

ANGIE M. PEASE, *Auburn, Maine*

The New England Unit of the American Rock Garden Society met at Sky Hook Farm, Vermont, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney H. Baylor on May 19, 1963 for their annual meeting. Members and guests present were from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Mass. and Conn. The weather performed perfectly as there was a severe storm the day before as well as the day after, but sunshine prevailed for the meeting. The Amelanchier was in bloom along the edge of the woodland, sheets of golden Marsh Marigold ran along the roadsides and Bluets in patches on the sunny side of the hills matched the snow on the mountains and in the deep ravines, as four inches of snow had fallen the week before. The three acres of green lawn at Sky Hook was fringed with hundreds of Narcissii in bloom with color showing in the tulip buds. The rock gardens rising from the lawn were lovely in color and the sky was reflected in the Grape Hyacinths, which have naturalized themselves. The primrose gardens were in the best of form as the cold weather had held back the Julianas, roseas, marginatas, alpines, acaulis and Denticulatas and the four warm days preceding the meeting brought the polyanthus, auriculas, chionanthas and luteolas into bloom. It was a pleasure to view the

thousands of plants in all hues of the rainbow, and members returned home with wonderful memories of Sky Hook and its primroses.

The program included a Primrose show. Members brought primroses in pots and these were judged for their perfection in each class. First award went to Mrs. Angie M. Pease of Auburn, Maine for the best *P. frondosa*, second to Mrs. Frances Wright of East Boothbay, Maine for the best *Denticulata*, the best garden auricula was white belonging to Alice Baylor, who did not enter competition, passing the award on to other members. Alice also had a display of several varieties of primulas, and her exhibit of double auriculas was greatly admired. There was a plant exchange and sale which added a nice sum to our treasury. The N.E. Unit voted to make inquiries into having the manuscript of the late James E. Mitchell, Barre, Vermont mimeographed for members who might be interested. They are the accounts of his plant hunts in the Gaspé and on the Mountains of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. They are priceless accounts of plant stations in difficult to reach places. Many of the members had the rare privilege of having had Mr. Mitchell lead them on several trips in the '50's.

"Springtime." Photo by Agee



Onondaga Garden Tour

GERALDINE H. GATES, *Syracuse, N.Y.*

The Onondaga Primrose Society held its Garden Tour on Saturday, May 10, 1963. The temperature was in the mid thirties, it was raining, and the wind was blowing some mighty cold air about our ears. However 15 hardy primrose lovers braved the elements and in galoshes, heavy coats and mittens we trudged through the wet grass and puddles just as happily as if the sun had been shining.

We certainly saw some beautiful flowers. The early varieties were a bit past their prime but the later Polyanthus, *Denticulatas*, and a few Japonicas more than made up for the loss of the earlier ones. We saw the greatest number of blossoms and the most variety in the garden of one of our new members,

that of Mr. Clinton Ziem, of West Monroe, N.Y. Every color of the rainbow seemed to be there and a few that the rainbow doesn't have!

A few of us, on returning home, stopped to see the primroses in the garden of our late President, Dr. Raymond Piper. All the plants he had so lovingly planted and cared for last year were in full bloom. It was with real sorrow we left this garden remembering that last year on our tour, Dr. Piper had been with us.

We ended our tour at the Baldwin home where a picnic supper, hot and appetizing, greeted us. The Garden Tour was over for another year and happily we relaxed over good food, good conversation and made plans for another time.

Primula sessilis of the section *Petiolares* (below) growing in a flat in the garden of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry in Portland, Oregon. The A.P.S. Pictorial Dictionary says of the flower: The corolla lobe usually has one slightly protruding tooth at its rounded apex, unlike *gracilipes* which usually has tridentate toothing. Flowers are of a bright pinkish-purple or pale mauve with a yellow eye, surrounded by a band of white, and are borne in a succession covering a period of several weeks. At rare intervals an albino form may appear. David Livingstone writes in the A. G.: "This species grows particularly well with me, both in the open ground and in a pot. Last Spring I had several (leaf) cuttings that I did not have room for them in a propagating box and dibbled them straight into the open ground where most of them rooted and have made good plants." They are easily increased by division in the spring.

Photo by Orval Agee



A New Book On . . .

THE POLYANTHUS: ITS HISTORY & CULTURE by our member, Roy Genders, is an excellent source of information on the Polyanthus. Published in England earlier this year this is the only major book on the subject now in print. (A little paperback by the same author and published in 1958, THE POLYANTHUS, is still in print.)

This book has 213 pages 8 1/2 x 5 1/4. A colored frontispiece of Sutton's "Triumph Brilliant Mixture" is duplicated on the plastic dust jacket. There are 45 excellent black and white plates.

Included in its sixteen chapters are those on Gold Laced Polyanthus, modern polyanthus, characteristics, raising from seed; growing, lifting and dividing, exhibiting, marketing and hybridizing. It has a handy index of six and a half pages.

American members will be pleased to see the names of Herbert Dickson, past president of the A. P. S., Ralph Balcom, Florence Bellis and others mentioned.

This new book sells for just \$4.95 if purchased through Lynn Ranger, 41 Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn, Mass. See his advertisement for other good books in this issue.

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President Ralph W. Balcom receiving congratulations from immediate past president Herbert H. Dickson at the Annual Election and A.P.S. Banquet

President's Message

RALPH BALCOM, *Seattle, Wn.*

It is an honor to be chosen the new president of the American Primrose Society but I also realize that it carries a great responsibility. Still, this responsibility is shared by the other officers, by the Board of Directors and even by the other members themselves. If our fine association of primrose enthusiasts is to prosper, its operation should be a team effort by all and each of us should do his share.

Do you wonder how you as just an individual member can help? Here are some of the ways:

First: Be an emissary and a salesman of the society and try to make new members out of friends and neighbors who may become interested in primulas. Our expenses are paid almost entirely by the money received in dues and the more members we have, the less financial stress there is on each individual.

Second: Be sure and pay your dues promptly. Bills must be paid on time but this cannot be done if dues are delinquent.

The Quarterly Magazine is probably our greatest asset and it is in fine hands with Mrs. Nancy Ford, its editor. But often she is hard put for material to fill

its pages. Then she must call on the same old reliable writers to come to the rescue. You who can write and even you who have not written for publication before can help Mrs. Ford so much if you let her know that you are willing to try. You may be surprised how well you can do if you have something of interest to say and are willing to make the attempt.

Another big asset to our society is the Seed Exchange. It is also very well managed. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Baldwin are doing us all a wonderful service in distributing the many kinds of seed sent to them from all parts of the world. You can help with this exchange by planning ahead and growing some rarer primulas or even good common ones, just for seed to send to the Baldwins.

So it is that we all can find the opportunity to share in the work of making this a good society if we but look for it.

In planning for the coming year, it seems wise to continue as far as possible with the plans made by Mr. Herbert Dickson, our retiring president, when he first took office. Many of these have not yet been consummated and his goals were all worthy ones. One of his objec-

tives was to substantially increase the membership. This should be our number one project and is of great importance. He next suggested a concerted effort be made to add new local groups as affiliated societies. This effort certainly should be carried on. Finally, we should also continue to try to interest our members in growing a wider variety of primulas in their gardens and also in trying their hand in cross-pollinating the various sorts and thereby creating new kinds.

In addition to continuing these old plans, new ones will be formulated as we move into the new fiscal year.

If any member, no matter where, should need information or help on any primula problem, do not hesitate to write either to The Quarterly, Mrs. Alice Baylor, our corresponding secretary, to me or any of the other officers. If we do not know the proper answer, we will do our best to get it for you from some other source. We are in office for the purpose of serving you in these matters.

Ralph W. Balcom, president

Delinquent Members

Treasurer, Mrs. L. G. Tait, has sent final delinquent statements to those who have not paid their 1963 dues. Fall Quarterlies will not be sent to those who do not send their dues in before September 15. Yearly dues are payable before January 15 and the treasurer appreciates not having to bill members individually. It all takes a great deal of time and postage.

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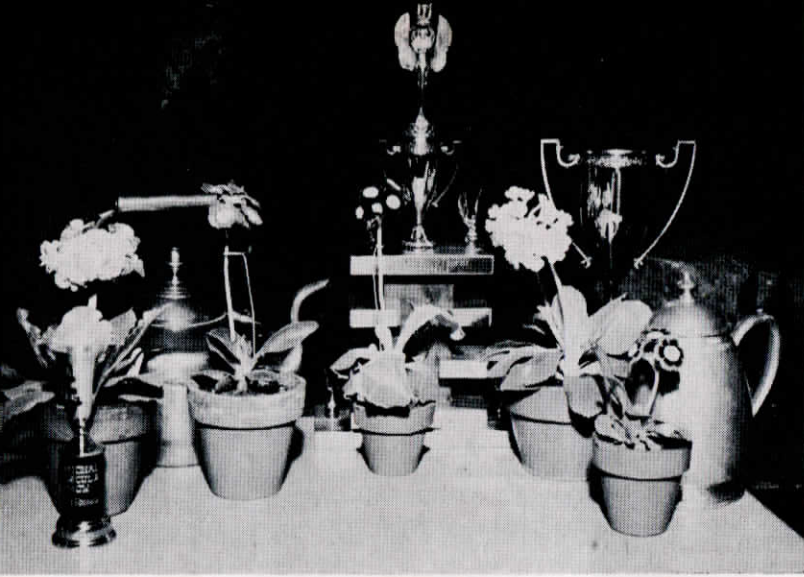
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A section of the trophy table at the National Primrose Show. Directly behind the pewter pot at right is the new Captain Comley Hawkes Trophy for the best Gold laced Polyanthus. It was won for the first time by Herbert Dickson. Photo by Orval Agee

National Primrose Show

LOU DINES, *Show Chairman*

The National Show was an all-auricula show this year and a surprising number of viewers turned out. The staging was well done and a mountain scene skillfully constructed on the small stage gave an interesting background to Southern Cross *Sieboldii*, Red *japonica* and double auriculas. Ralph Balcom's double auriculas displayed in raised planter boxes accompanied by well grown garden auriculas brought by Anton Schwarz caused favorable comments from the visitors.

Treasurer Beth Tait, in charge of staging, was hospitalized the day before the show with a serious back injury, but her co-chairmen, Mary Baxter and Fern Latimer, assisted by Ruth Smith and other helpful members of the Washington State Primrose Society, came to the rescue and did a remarkable job.

Sweepstakes winner in the Horticulture Division was Ralph Balcom. Mr. Balcom also won trophies for the best double auricula and best border alpine auricula.

Runner-up for sweepstakes in horticulture was Nancy Ford, whose green

seedling auricula won the Bamford Trophy. Mrs. Ford also won trophies for the best garden auricula and Species Hybrid.

Anton Schwarz won sweepstakes in the Decorative Division. It is most unusual for a man to be so talented in flower arrangements, but then he is a remarkable fellow. He grows many choice primula species as well as a large collection of auriculas and polyanthus. June Harp won the award for the best floral arrangement.

John Shuman won three perpetual trophies: The Haddock trophy for the best alpine seedling; The Michaud trophy for the best named Show Auricula; and the Shuman trophy for the Best named alpine auricula.

Herbert Dickson was the first to be awarded the new Captain Hawkes Perpetual Trophy for the best Gold Laced Polyanthus.

Mrs. Anton Schwarz won the award for the best species auricula.

In the Junior Division Bette Dines was the Sweepstakes winner.



Some winners at the National Show in Seattle. Left to right, standing: Herbert Dickson, Anton Schwarz, Ralph Balcom, John Shuman. Seated, left to right: Nancy Ford, Catherine Schwarz, Bette Dines. Photo by Agee.

East Side Garden Club

By EVELYN PUTNAM

Winners at the Kirkland 1963 Show were:

Horticulture Division

Sweepstakes, Professional—A.J. Schwarz
 Runner-up—Robert Putnam
 Sweepstakes, Amateur—Nancy Ford
 Runner-up—Ludie Dines
 Sweepstakes, Junior Amateur—Bettie Dines
 Runner-up—Mary Lu Massey
 Junior (Best Plant)—Candy Clark

Decorative Division

Sweepstakes—Mrs. Donald Mac Donald
 Sweepstakes, Junior—Margie Barth
Division Winners

Best Acaulis-Prof.—A.J. Schwarz
 Adv. Amateur—Anne Siepman
 Amateur—Lucille Massey
 Best Polyanthus-Prof.—A.J. Schwarz
 Adv. Amat.—Mrs. De Young
 Amateur—Cathy Cook
 Acaulis-Polyanthus, Prof.—Ralph Balcom
 Amateur—Mrs. John Harnish
 Double Auricula-Prof.—Robert Putnam
 Amateur—Nancy Ford
 Denticulata—Amateur—R.A. Fleming
 Best Species-Prof.—Robert Putnam
 Amateur—Mary Baxter
 Best Plot by Grower—Pete Schoolcraft
 Best Plot by Nursery—Perrine's & Assoc.
 Best Garden Club Plot—Hilltoppers Garden Club

Juliae-Prof.—Beth Tait
 Amateur—Ludie Dines
 Show Auricula-Prof.—John Shuman
 Exhibition Alpine Auricula-Prof.—A.J. Schwarz
 Amateur—Mrs. Orval Agee
 Border Alpine Auricula-Prof.—A.J. Schwarz
 Garden Auricula-Prof.—Ralph Balcom
 Adv. Amateur—Ludie Dines
 Pubescens-Prof.—Robert Putnam

Oregon Primrose Show

By ANITA ALEXANDER, *Show Chairman*

Sweepstakes—Mrs. Ivel Agee
 Perpetual trophies for best seedlings:
 Amateur—Mrs. Etha Tate; Commercial—Bob Funkner.

Division I

Best Polyanthus—Earl Branham
 Best Polyanthus, Div. 2—Mrs. Mary McNeil
 Best Acaulis—Bob Funkner
 Best Julianna—Ivel Agee
 Novice, Best plant—Mrs. Earnest Ryan
 Best Auricula—Ivel Agee
 Best Species—Ivel Agee
 Best greenhouse primula—Mrs. John P. Hannon
 Decorative—Don Skogeth
 Best plant, Junior Division—Susan Alexander

The Canadian Primula and Alpine Society Show

(As reported in their May Bulletin)

Winner of Trophies as follows:
 Highest Aggregate Points (All Classes)
 Mrs. G.M. Conboy
 Highest Aggregate Points for a Novice
 Mrs. R.C. Robson
 Best Alpine Mrs. C.A. Ross
 Best Primula Mrs. G.M. Conboy
 Best Planted Tufa
 Mr. Cambell Henderson
 Best Bulbous Plant Mrs. W. Thomas
 Best Cushion Plant
 Mrs. G. M. Conboy
 Best Woodland Plant
 Mr. A.G. Guppy
 Best Native (B.C.) Plant
 Mrs. E.C. Darts

- Best Dwarf Tree or Shrub
..... Mr. Karl Wrase
- Best Trough or Miniature Garden
..... Mrs. R. Boyes
- Best Collection.... Mr Cambell Henderson
- Best Primula Species
..... Mr. A.G. Guppy
- Best Primula Hybrid
..... Mr Cambell Henderson
- Best Decorative Arrangement
..... Mrs S. Brockenborough
- 2nd Prize Decorative
..... Mrs. R. Nunn
- 1st Prize Dec. Novice
..... Mrs. D. Tabateau Herrick
- 2nd Prize Dec. Novice
..... Mrs. C. Dubberley

Tacoma Primrose Show

By COL. LOUIS M. HAAS, *Show Chairman*

- Sweepstakes—Ralph Balcom
- Runner-up—Dorothy Dickson
- Best Gold Laced Polyanthus—Cy Happy
- Best Species (Froncosa)—Ralph Balcom
- Best Soldanelloides—Floyd Keller
- Best Seedling Polyanthus—Margie Fallstrom
- Best Polyanthus—Rosa Peterson
- Best Juliae—Dorothy Dickson
- Best Junior—Marilyn Hallowell
- Runner-up Junior—Mary Fortin
- Best Show Auricula—Cy Happy
- Best Acaulis-Polyanths—Rosa Peterson
- Best Cowichan—James Griffin
- Best Decorative—Bernice Haas
- Best Floor Display—Dryer Mortuary of Parkland, Wn.

Clark County

Sweepstakes winner—Maude McPherson
 Runner-up Sweepstakes—Lucile Tippit
 Third place—Laura Jensen
 Fourth place—Velma Wischnesky
 Best plant in show—Lucile Tippit

Mt. Angel Primrose Show

By MARY CHAPMAN

The 16th annual Primrose Show at Mt. Angel, Sunday, April 21, was a great success despite the fears of the sponsoring Mt. Angel Garden Club because of weather conditions. There were a record number of exhibits in both plant and arrangement divisions, with 243 plants and 87 arrangements entered.

Quality was likewise reported high though variety was less than in years when weather was not so arbitrary.

The grand sweepstakes award for the most points for primroses, a three-foot outdoor St. Francis statue, went to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Sheperd of Mt. Angel. The runner-up for sweepstakes went to Miss Juliana Dehler, the 1962 sweepstakes winner. Miss Dehler also won the \$25 gold bowl donated by Governor Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon as a revolving prize for the best polyanthus in the show. Her plant was a magnificent glowing orange flower with ruffy petals.

The sweepstakes in the Novice class was won by Mrs. John Jennings with Mrs. Leon Berning as runner-up, both Mt. Angel. In addition to winning the sweepstakes, Mr. and Mrs. Shepard also captured the awards for the best poly-

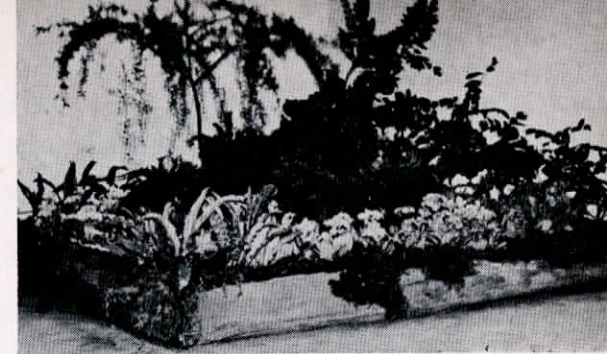
anthus and auricula seedlings. Seedling exhibits outnumbered the regular plants in the polyanthus division this year.

The Junior sweepstakes prize was won by Richard Rees of Salem (13 to 16 years), and the 12 year and under sweepstakes went to Barbara Schiedler of Mt. Angel.

In the arrangement division, the major number of prizes went to Salem. The arrangements could include any type of flower if some primroses were used. The sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Dexter Smith. Don Strausbaugh was runner-up. He also won the award for Men Only with Ronald Hall as the runner-up and Mrs. C. French the prize for the best arrangement in the show. All were from Salem.

Garden Club winners were: Labish Meadows, first; Salem Show and Garden Club, second; and Silverton Chrysanthemum Society, third.

The plant sale was also very successful and netted much more than cost of staging the show.



Albert Funker of the Lath House, Boring, Oregon, designed this plot and displayed it at the 1963 Oregon Primrose Soc. Show. Photo by Orval Agee.



x P. Barbara Barker, a hybrid obtained by crossing x P. Linda Pope with the hybrid x P. Pubescens var. Zuleika Dobson. Corsar describes it as follows: The leaves are stiff and light green; the flowers, large and fine and carried in great heads, are a clear bluish-mauve with a white ring near the centre. Photographed in the garden of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry by Orval Agee.



Etha Tate was another winner at the Oregon Primrose Soc. Show. She designed and made the plot below. Photo by Orval Agee.

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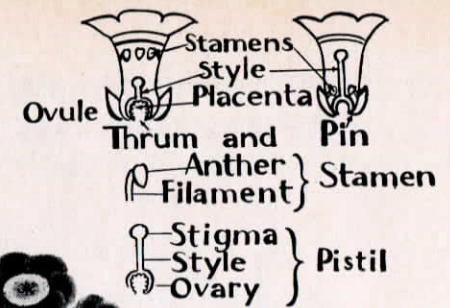
The Annual Subscription, dating from the 1st of January, is £1, payable to the Secretary, C. B. Saunders, Husseys, Green Street Green, Farnborough, Kent, England, but American members may find it more convenient to send \$2.80 to Dr. C. R. Worth, Groton, New York, the Society's Hon. Assistant Secretary in the U.S.A., who is empowered to receive subscriptions and to issue receipts on behalf of the Society.

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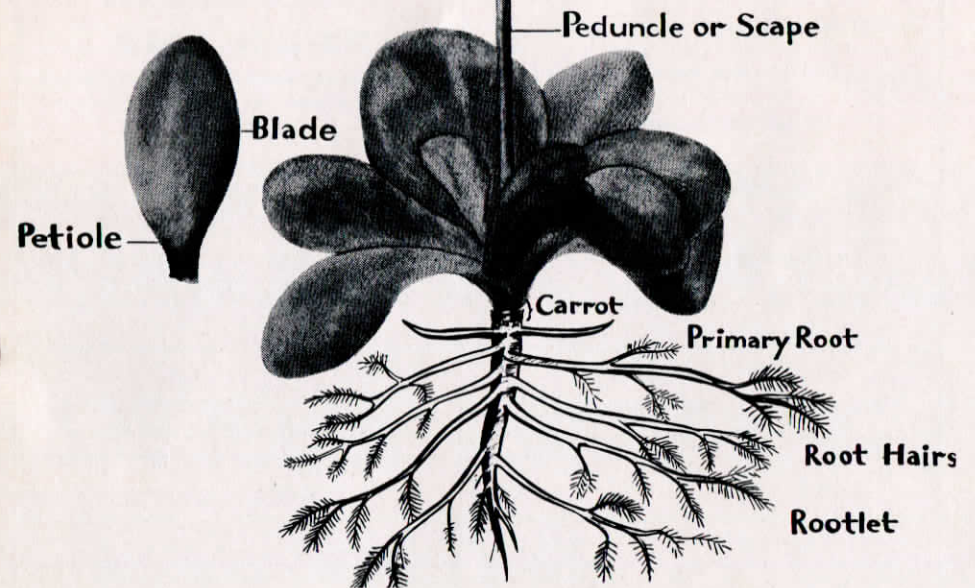
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