To Introduce Our English Editor, Roland E. Cooper

Lord Elibank, CMG, DSO, Member of the House of Commons, presents to us his friend, Roland E. Cooper, our new English Editor.

It gives me much pleasure to say that, in my judgment, you could not wish for a better associate, as his knowledge of the world's primroses is quite exceptional and his interest is deeply ingrained. He is the only man, as far as I am aware, who has explored the Himalayas for Primulas and also has had the opportunity to cultivate them so extensively in this country, as he did during his long and distinguished service on the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. (Mr. Cooper is the discoverer of the unique feature of the American primulas, which puts them in a class of their own, namely the group Parryi. In fact, his discovery of the involution of their leaves was the reason that the section Parryi was formed.) He has an exceptional subtle instinct and insight into the nature and habits of plants, and possesses this characteristic for men too.

He is a Founder member and Vice-President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and whilst in Edinburgh he was elected to high rank of membership in other various societies in which his broad outlook on plants, geography, and archaeology proved of great utility. He certainly is not rusting out in retirement; his writings on Primulas and other botanical subjects, since he left his position as an outstanding curator of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, indicate this.

Mr. Cooper has other interests and activities which reach into those of my field, namely, the National Trust for Scotland and the National Trust for England. He is at present interested in helping to amass the material necessary to the drawing up of a guidebook for visitors to the Castle at Hadleigh which was built in 1231. Visitors to England are much impressed by the results which have been accomplished by these great Trusts. It was one of the half-a-dozen Members of the House of Commons who, shortly before the First World War, compelled, by legislative, the scheduling and taking over by the State for proper care and maintenance, ancient buildings, and grounds, pronounced by experts to be of real historic interest. It is because of this, and our mutual interest in plants and gardens, that I have come to know Mr. Cooper so well.

I am sure that in the association with the American Primrose Society Mr. Cooper has found a controlled objective which will serve both your Society and himself well indeed, as the years go by, I feel sure, that he is a man after your own heart, and if he were to urge you to greater endeavour — for that is his way — he would not be content with words, but would always be the first to offer help.
The opportunity of introducing Mr. Cooper to you makes it possible for me to congratulate your society on the great work which it is doing, and on having secured for its work the knowledge, assistance and good-will of such an excellent associate as Mr. Cooper.

The photograph below was taken in 1948 while Mr. Cooper was Curator at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. It is the garden of Arthur C. Murray, Viscount Elibank, called AnCala, on the Isle of Seil, Argyll, in Scotland. To the left and to the rear may be seen a specimen of Prunus Hokusai, behind the wall, Prunus Oka-Miyako, and to the right Prunus Shirleyagen and Prunus Mount Fuji. In the background are Larch, Scots Firs, and Sitka Spruce.

THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Roland E. Cooper

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society contains frequent articles on, and references to, the genus Primula.

The following six articles are of outstanding importance:

No. 20 "European Primulas" by Will Ingwersen, 34 pp. text, 9 plates.
No. 34 "Some Primulas of the Assam Himalaya" by E. Kingdon Ward, 6 pp. text.
No. 37 "Primulas from S.E. Tibet" by G. Sherriff and G. Taylor, 7 pp. text, 10 plates.
No. 40 "Some Himalayan Primulas" by G. Sherriff and G. Taylor, 7 pp. text, 9 plates, 1 coloured.
No. 42 "European Primula Crosses" by C. C. Mountfort, 10 pp. text.
No. 81 "Primulas: Petiolaris Section" by D. Livingstone, 17 pp. text, 7 plates.

The Society is prepared to offer up to 25 sets of the above six issues to Members of the American Primrose Society at the price of $2.50, per set, post free. Beyond this number the stock position may require the removal of Nos. 20 and 34 from the offer and an amendment in the price. Applications, together with remittance, should be sent to C. R. Worth, Groton, N.Y., who will order dispatch from England.

In a Scottish Rock Garden

A. B. Duguid

Silverwells, the home of the Misses Logan Home, lies in a sheltered hollow on the Berwickshire moors just over a mile west of Coldstream village on the main Edinburgh road. The house is an old converted farmhouse, surrounded on three sides by woodland, mainly beeches and Scots fir, some of the latter towering trunks of reddish colour surrounded by bluish green branches which only ancient specimens can achieve. The south is open to long views over the Border and the Northumbrian coast beyond, with Holy Island appearing as a smudge on the sea in the distance, where St. Cuthbert had founded the earliest Christian Church in the northeast.

Coldstream is of very ancient origin, being one of the oldest townships in Scotland, dating from A.D. 642 when it was mentioned by Oswy, King of Northumbria, as the site of a monastery. Right down the centuries Coldstream has centered around its Priory, and its priors were in ancient days linked with the old Scottish kings, holding charters from various kings over many hundreds of years. Cromwell destroyed the Priory, except for the north and east walls of the choir; later the walls were restored and extended to form a part of the present Parish Church, where each year the people of the district gather at midnight to celebrate Christ's birth.

Let us evoke the magic of Christmas to become spectators of the garden pantomime at Silverwells, and join in a walk along the peat walls that lie on the west side of the house surrounded by pine and alder trees. This is a new part of the garden, having all been trenchened and built out of old woodland since 1949. Some of you, no doubt, are wondering what is meant by "peat walls." Briefly, they are irregular walls built up of turf peat to form staggered terraces on a slope. The terraces are filled with various composts, with peat as a basis, some with plenty of sharp sand, others with barrowfuls of decayed pine needles and loam well mixed with peat. The latter is a fine mixture, I find, for such shrubs as dwarf rhododendron, cassiope, and phyllodice. When finished, the whole should have the appearance of a perfectly natural bank. One last word on construction: a moist place is best to build a successful peat garden, not too wet to become sour and boggy and where conditions can be reasonably cool even in hot weather.

Here we are, then, at the path through the wood, where grow Lilium Martagon, and sheets of Candelabra Primulas, and a fine bed of hardy heathers — one of the most valued parts of the whole garden, for here we can find color and interest all the year through. Now let us cross the small bridge and turn left through the trees.

The first plant we notice is a fine drift of Lilium formosanum, var. Pricei, which in early autumn will be like a mound of snow with its exquisite white trumpets. Further along there is a fine planting of that lovely Bellingham hybrid, Lilium Shukessan, which throws up its brilliant flowers on three-foot stems. Along the side of the path, planted on the face of the wall, are groups of Ramondia pyrenaica, with rosettes of hairy, dull green leaves surmounted by lilac-blue flowers eyes of orange and gold on four-inch stems. This plant enjoys such a situation as this, planted along the face of the wall facing north and sending its roots deep into the cool, peaty soil. Just above is a fine planting of Primula Reitto in fine sandy peat with a dash of leaf soil. The snowy white flowers, carried three to four inches above the soft, crinkled leaves, are delicately scented, especially in the morning and early evening, attracting night-flying moths which fertilize the flowers. This primula from high on the Himalayas has a reputation for being difficult, but here it is very much at home and consistently perennial; it is difficult to raise from seed, but if seed is sown early in the year very thinly and allowed to grow undisturbed until the little plants have made their true roots, success is usually assured. First roots are mere threads and do not anchor the plant, and if disturbed too soon will not re-establish when pricked out. Indeed, it is not a bad policy to leave
the plants until the following spring and prick out just as they begin to show signs of growth. This applies to many of the difficult primulas; once over the early stage they present fewer problems.

After this slight digression we will proceed with our walk, and note the fine batch of *Petiolaris Primula: sonchifolia*, which in March is covered with its lovely rich blue flowers; *scapigera*, a gem of clear, clean pink; *gracilipes*, deep mauve pink; *buitanica*, ice-blue and easily one of the loveliest; *Edgeworthii*, that used to be named *Winteri*, one of the easiest, with white-eyed lilac flowers, *sesilis*, with myriad small blue flowers in early spring; and *auricula*, cream splashed with deep orange-yellow. To the left, in similar soil, is a small patch of the rare and lovely *Primula Sherriffae*, with rounded faces of soft lilac carved horizontally on long, slender, curved tubes, unique in known primula flowers and to my mind very near to the *Omphalogramma*: it is not very hard but survives with the help of a small cloche in the winter. In a little niche on this level is a colony of that alpine growing *Primula: glabra*, a wee jewel no bigger than a crown piece and scarcely half an inch high; it has now survived two winters and produced good seed, from which a nice batch of seedlings have been raised. Here, too, is *Primula Normaniana*, very much at home, with round glossy leaves, bronze-green; the flowers are carried on five-inch stems in loose sprays of a warm, clear pink. This *Primula* is to all appearances a reasonable grower but thrives better with winter protection. *Primula reptans*, from Kashmir, creeps about quite happily and covers itself with mauve flowers forming wide mats prostrate on the ground. *Primula amoena* occupies a corner, and from its polyanthus-like leaves it throws up in April its heads of loose, purple flowers on three-inch stems. This plant from the Caucasus has long been confused with the Balkan form of the common primrose which has cheerful pink flowers from January onwards, a worthwhile plant in its own right but quite distinct from true *Primula amoena* now, the latter happily re-established in British gardens. A shy seed-setter here, it was with pleasure that, like *Primula aurantiaca*, I found it to be viviparous. On removal, the tiny plants thus produced soon made vigorous growth. Here, too, grow and thrive *Primula umbratilis*, with smoky blue flowers, and *Primula umbratilis*, var. *elba*, with five-inch stems and snowy flowers and so different in habit of growth from *Primula umbratilis*, that, in my opinion, it should be classed as a separate species. *Primula bellidifolia*, planted in clumps, thrives and gives generously of its powder-blue to deep blue flowers over a long period.

*Phyllocladus emeripiformis* looks very much at home, as do the Cassiopes—*lycopodioides*, var. *minor* and var. *major*, and *tetragona* and *Mertensiana*, covering themselves with their charming white bells, distinctive both in flower and habit.

Rhododendrons, too, as may be expected, are very much at home on peat walls. *Calostrotum*, with large, magenta flowers and compact habit; *Williamstiana*, one of those accommodating plants that are always lovely, with orbicular foliage and especially lovely when tipped with reddish spring growth; *Dremanitu*, yet to flower, neat and compact; *injulidium*, a small, domed bush, smothered in May with soft purple; and *racemosum*, with masses of pretty pink flowers. There are many others, including *Rhododendron reptans*, surely one of the loveliest of all dwarf shrubs prostrate in growth, from the tips of which huge crimson bells blaze.

Amongst the rhododendrons, planted so as to enjoy their shade, grow clumps of *Primula Baileyana*. Like many alpine plants, this primula finds hot sunshine trying and responds to even a very little shade, there to produce amongst its highly powdered leaves heads of lavender-blue flowers. Again a shy seeder here, propagation is by division, which should be done when the plant is in full vigor of growth just after flowering. It should be noted that most primula roots of the asiatic section are annual, dying and being renewed each year; this accounts for the poor success of division "late in the season" and why so many established plants tend to throw themselves over during severe frost.

Sheets of gentian flower along the walls in autumn, quite small plants quickly spreading into wide mats. Especially to be noted is *Gentiana Farreri*, still without peer as a species, a lovely, luminous Cambridge blue shot with streaks of green. Mystery surrounds this plant, where we are concerned, for when first grown twenty odd years ago it set abundant seed, but now, for some curious reason, *Gentiana Farreri* seldom sets any seed and we have to rely on spring division to increase stock. *Gentiana decumbens* is an amiable plant, easy and generous with sprays of blue in August. *Gentiana ornata*, with prostrate stems radiating from the stock, is covered with pale blue bells with a dash of white in the throat, while *Veitchiorum* has flaunting trumpets of deep blue shot with purple, and *hexapthylla* shows its pale blue cups studded with white. Then there are two hybrids, glorious in their wealth of flower; one of the best, *Gentiana Glennederson*, which, when in flower, shines with brilliance, of a loveliness that mere words cannot describe; *Bernardi* also is good, as is the largest of all gentians, *Inverleith*, raised in the world-famous Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.

There are many more, but we will pass along and visit the *Meconopsis*, now enriched by *Meconopsis Sherriffii*, of a clear clean pink. This plant is not difficult on rich, sandy peat, and appears to be truly perennial. I have noted that plants flower one year, rest the next and make their growth. Here *Meconopsis Sherriffii* throws up a flowering stem of approximately three feet, producing a single flower on each stem, usually opening a bluish purple color changing to clear pink when fully expanded. It sets seed readily, and the seed germinates freely, so it ought to get widely known. *Meconopsis horrida*, another of the genus, forms a root exactly like a white carrot, from which it produces its prickly leaves and spire of intense sapphire-blue, white-eyed poppies. *Meconopsis Dhwojii*, valued for its finely divided, fern-like hairy leaves, with dark spots splattered throughout, dies after flowering but is easy to raise from its abundant seed. *Meconopsis superba*, another that is valued for its leaf growth, makes h Expressions of silver. It takes several years to grow to maturity, then throws up a stout spire whorled with satin-white flowers, sets profuse seeds, and then dies.

(Courtesy The Bulletin, Edinburgh)

"Silverwells"
Meconopsis quintuplinervia, on the other hand, is a true perennial and here in sandy peat grows in wide masses, surmounted by its foot high stems of nodding, violet flowers. Propagation is by division early in the season, immediately after flowering.

Several of the Lefrias from western North America grow freely here. *Leuotisia brachycalyx*, sheeted with paper-white flowers in April, seems very much at home, as do *Leuotisia cotyledon* and *Leuotisia Howelli*, covering themselves with their long-rayed flower stems. *Leuotisia Tweedyi* we do not have at present in this part of the garden, but this should also do well on the vertical wall face, provided excessive damp could be kept from settling round the collar.

On the top of the wall, very much at home, is *Diplorhabda Moraea*. The Kew Hand List of Alpine plants gives this as a native of Australia, but I know that the seed of this particular plant was gathered from plants on the northwest frontier of India, near Afghanistan, so perhaps should be more correctly *Diplorhabda* S.P. In my opinion it is first rate, with iris-like leaves in which is borne its lovely flowers of three rounded lobes of glistening white with golden centers faintly washed with blue. At first we grew this plant in the rock garden, but it looked miserable and flowered but sparingly, so it was dug up and planted in the peat wall; since then it has grown and thrived and produced its lovely flowers. So much so, that not content with flowering at its normal time, it produces a second crop of flowers in mid-December, which this year has been very mild.

Then we must not forget the *Cyananthus*, those cheerful flowers for autumn days, which have been enriched by the introduction of Ludlow and Sherriff’s form of *Cyananthus lobatus*, which sheets itself with wide-mouthed bottles of celestial blue; then *Cyananthus Sherriffii* itself, with hairy leaves and pale blue flowers, and *Cyananthus integer*, with slender, creeping stems and pale flowers.

Our walk for today must now end, as the early winter darkness falls, but we may renew our dreams by the fire side of the beauty that awaits just around the corner. Presently Spring will bring again all the flowers we have noted today, and their brothers and sisters, too, that this time were passed by.

In the picture to the left are Miss H. M. Logan Home, who with her sister owns and operates the Edrom Nurseries at Coldingham Berwickshire, Scotland, and Mr. A. B. Duguid, the head gardener. The Edrom Nurseries, well known to the members of the APS, have supplied American gardeners with fine seeds of the Primula species and other unusual plants.

The Editor's Column

The Editor's Column is now only a shadow of what it was intended to be. In spite of holding two articles over to the next issue and condensing the advertisements into less than the ordered space, there is not room enough. The Quarterly is supposed to run sixteen pages and the Year Book thirty-two pages, but there is so much to print that every effort has been made by the Staff to interest advertisers, so that they are willing to pay for an extra twenty-four pages each issue. Our faithful Advertising Director, Mrs. C. Y. Griffin, has resigned because of her position with the Multnomah County Tuberculosis Association, and it is even more important than ever that members remember to mention the Quarterly when ordering from advertisers. The Staff has almost no time to test new products and to get new advertisers. The size of the Quarterly is controlled by the success of the advertising and that success lies with the membership. Each product advertised has been tested thoroughly and has been found worthy.

It is with deep regret that we hear of the death of Mrs. R. H. Briggs. A cable was sent to Mr. Briggs, the Honorable Secretary of the Northern Section of the National Auricula Society, who has been such a great help to so many of our members. Mr. Briggs replied, “After 51 years of happy married life the future looks at the moment dark and dreary, fortunately my daughter and son-in-law have been a tower of strength to me. Will you please convey to all concerned my gratitude for the very comforting message received by cable today. The expression of affection it conveys means a great deal to me. I feel it very deeply and thank you all.”

THE SEED EXCHANGE is getting well under way in spite of the fact that it was not announced in the October issue. Some rare species seeds are on hand and it is hoped that members will send in all they can spare of those they have harvested from 1954. We are very lucky in that CHESTER K. STRONG, Box 126, Loveland, Colorado, will again be manager of our Seed Exchange for 1954 and 1955. It is hoped that this work is made so pleasant for him by the encouraging notes of members that he will want to continue in this capacity. This time-consuming enterprise should be a “thankful job” and not a “thankless one.”

CHESTER K. STRONG, the Assistant Editor for the Pictorial Dictionary of the Cultivated Species, is to be the new Chairman of Regional Editors. He is one of the pillars of strength in the Society and if the Regional Editors enjoy their correspondence with him as much as the Editor loves the work of the regional editor will help us. One of these days a whole column is going to be dedicated to those who help behind scenes to get the Quarterly to you. There is so much unsellish and seemingly unrecognized service which goes into a journal of this kind. MR. ROBERT LUSCHER, our Editor in Charge of Translations, has been of constant help and has prepared some very fine material from LEO JELITTO'S book which was written in German, as well as other translations from French and German texts on the Primula, which will be published in the near future. MR. ROLAND E. COOPER, our new English Editor, is preparing a very practical article which, if all goes according to plan, will run continuously through several issues. It will be a chronological History of the Primula which will give some of the original descriptions of the cultivated species as well as the field experiences of the men who found them. Mr. Cooper is well able to do this work, not only because of his experience in growing the rarer species at his old home in Edinburgh Botanic Garden, where he was curator for many years, but also because of his experience as a Plant Hunter. MR. VERNE BENEDICT, our Regional Editor for Washington, has been a “ghost writer” whenever needed. There are many more who help without thought of reward and these we will mention in the near future, because it is stimulating to hear of unsellishness and dedication to a service of this kind.

Several books have been added to the Library by members: PRIMROSES AND POLYANTHUS, by Roy Genders and H. C. Taylor was “Presented to the A.P.S. by J. Robinson, 37 Falkland Avenue, Rochdale, Lancashire, England.” PRIMULAS IN THE GARDEN by MacWatt, PRIMULAS FOR THE GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE. (Continued on Page 29)

(National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section) Announces:

The publication of the Society's 1954 YEAR BOOK which contains many items of interest to lovers of Primulas, with special emphasis on the Auricula. Price 5/-, postage paid, U.S.A. and Canada $1.00

R. H. Briggs, Hon. Secretary, "High Bank," Rawtenstail, Lanes, England.)

(Courtesy Scotsman Publications, Edinburgh)
Let Us Work Together
Dan Bamford

Part of an English Floriculturist's Collection

It might interest those of our members who have not had the opportunity of seeing an exhibit of Auriculas, to see the illustration of one side and one end of the greenhouse of my friend, Mr. Fred Buckley of Macclesfield. No arrangement of plants was made for this photograph, no thinning of trusses, and the majority of the trusses were rigid enough to carry themselves without stakes. There was nothing to choose between either side of the house, both benches were alike. This greenhouse lies in very windswept country, I have been in his district hundreds of times and on occasions the wind is strong enough to blow his greenhouse from Macclesfield to Oregon. I mention this to encourage members not to be deterred by wind or cold from acquiring an Auricula collection either by plants or from seeds.

It is a pity this illustration could not have been in colour, the varieties could then have been picked out more easily. I will not go into detail about the Alpine varieties which include Joy, Argus, Golden Glory, etc., but among the Show varieties there are several good plants each of Acme, George Rudd, Grey Mantle, Shirley Hibberd, Harrison Werr, Mrs. Henwood, Mikado, Adonis, and Melody among others. On the extreme left is one of his own Green Edged seedlings, this was well up to standard, and it will be noted that it has a beautiful round tube and the correct proportions for the flower from the tube to the outer edge of the petals. Mr. Buckley is a member of the Northern Society, but did not show last year, but this plant would have been a sure winner if he had. It is a pity the whole of the bench could not have been taken; there is not quite half of it showing.

Although Mr. Buckley is an amateur, his father and grandfather were both Floriculturists, or "Florists" as we English call them, and naturally he has a love for the plants. What he has done should encourage our members in America to take up the cultivation of this beautiful and not too difficult plant. The trick is to raise a plant which shows a great degree of perfection; the perfect plant we will never see unless it is comes from the brush of a painter-floriculturist with a fine sense of form. However, it is great sport and we challenge you to do as Fred Buckley has done, and even better if you can. He has grown fine plants in spite of an inhospitable climate.

I know I have said that the number of outstanding plants produced today are not numerous in comparison to those of the previous generation. From the illustration only two, Melody and Grey Mantle — and the last is not common now — are the only two well known named varieties of this generation. We are not raising new varieties of equal merit fast enough to replace the old ones when they fade out. The Alpine Auriculas can very well take care of themselves; they are easier. Haysom has of course produced many really good Auriculas, but in the old days there were far more raisers, Lightbody, Headley, Hornier, Simontite, and many others, all producing first class Auriculas every year. That is why I am always stressing over here the importance of more raisers, and why I have appealed to you in America to help to keep the Auricula as a classic flower by building on what we have started and going on, with us, to try to carry out the inspiring dreams of those old Florists who came before us.

The Show Auricula Floriculturists of America

A committee composed of Ralph Balcom, Chairman; Mrs. John Shuman, Corresponding and Recording Secretary; Florence Levy (who, with Dr. Richard Bond, and Dr. Matthew Ridelle, compiled the official A.P.S. Point Scores); Mrs. O. Miller Babbit, John Shuman, and Dale B. Worthington has been formed to formulate the prospectus for the organization of the SHOW AURICULA FLORICULTURISTS OF AMERICA.

Mr. Ralph Balcom has been chosen by the committee to act as Chairman and spokesman for the group. It is he, who after long hours of consultation with the committee, has compiled the material gathered together by members of the committee into the articles which have been published in this issue to make up the Correspondence Judging School, the S.A.F.A. Score Points (which will be submitted to the A.P.S. for official status) and the Formulation of the Prospectus of the S.A.F.A. Mr. Ralph Balcom's address is 6216 25th N.E., Seattle 5, Washington.

The address of the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Mrs. John Shuman, is 5937 37th S.W., Seattle, Washington.

The committee has been guided in each step by the writings of Dan Bamford and Cyril Haysom of England, both acknowledged as Floriculturists of the highest standing. These good friends of the proposed S.A.F.A. are in constant correspondence with members of the committee.

THE NATIONAL AURICULA & PRIMULA SOCIETY (Southern Section), cordially invites you to join their Society, minimum subscription $1.50. Members receive an Annual Report and may participate in a seed exchange scheme.

Primrose Culture in Pennsylvania

*Percy W. Adams

I believe that poor timing in the matter of sowing seed as well as difficulties in growing conditions have kept many people in this section of the country from trying to grow Primrose seed. With our intensely hot and dry late summer and fall, the germination and care of the seedlings from seed sown in early fall or late summer is at best a very unsatisfactory undertaking. Not only will the seed get poor germination due to heat and drought, but if they are lucky and succeed in getting fair germinations, the seedlings will not have sufficient time to make the necessary root growth to carry them over our eastern winters with the repeated freezings and thawings. If an attempt is made to overcome this by covering the seed bed with leaves or salt hay, the seedlings are liable to be lost through dampness. Primula seedlings are most susceptible to damping off.

My cultural procedures are quite simple and should be easy to follow successfully by anyone really interested in growing primulas.

Obviously, the first step is to make sure the seed is from a reliable source.

During the first week in February is an ideal time to plant seed, as with this early start the seedlings should be ready for the nursery bed by the first week in May. I realize that the majority of Primrose lovers do not have the advantages of a greenhouse, as I have. However, good results may be obtained by starting the seed in the house, keeping the temperature around 70 till germination and around 60 until ready for transplanting outdoors in May.

SOIL MIXTURE: One third fine sphagnum moss, one third vermiculite, and one third loam and sand—all well mixed together.

SEED FLATS: I use pans six and three-quarters inch square which I crock with broken pots to a depth of one inch to secure good drainage. The pan is then filled with the above mixture to one-half inch of the top.

SOWING: First carefully firm soil. The next step is to make five drills or rows across each flat, one-eighth inch deep. I find this is preferable to broadcasting the seed. Seed sown in this manner is less liable to dampering off, due to a better circulation of air. Seed should be sown rather thickly in the drills as this assures better germination than when seed is sown thinly, for in the event of soil baking or caking, the thick-sown seed has a better chance of breaking through. Seed should be covered about one-eighth inch with the same mixture. Soil should be kept fairly moist at all times. This is done by placing container in pan of water until there is evidence that the moisture has worked up to the surface. To retain moisture on the surface, I cut a piece of newspaper the exact size of the inside of the container. This is laid in direct contact with the soil and is not removed until the seedlings start to break through the surface of the seed bed. In the case of rehia (acaulis) and polyanthus, this takes approximately fifteen days where the temperature has been held around fifty degrees.

When seedlings are one-half inch tall prick off into flats using a good mixture of soil consisting of 50% loam, 25% well decayed cow manure and 25% leaf soil or oak or beach), never use maple leaf soil. Space 2" apart.

By the first week in May, plants should be ready for the nursery bed. My beds are seven by twelve feet which take three to four hundred plants. A good application of well rotted cow manure is worked into these beds. Care should be taken to avoid too light a soil, and it is equally important that the soil is very well firmed before planting. Loose or light soil soil dries out quickly and this is always fatal in hot weather. After firming soil, top dressing a mixture of peat and leaf soil about one-half inch thick is applied before planting.

Space plants three to four inches apart in rows. There should be four inches between rows. This may seem rather close planting, but the fact is when plants are close together their foliage shades the soil and helps to protect the roots from the hot summer sun.

The first week in July I build a lath frame over the beds. These frames are made of builder's lath and are six by four feet for the sides and seven by three feet for the top. This takes four frames for the top (two for each side) and one for each end. As the beds are seven feet at the end, the six foot frame allows six inches open space at each corner for circulation and light.

The supports for these frames are a permanent structure. The side and end frames are tied at the top to a permanent support with rope which serves as a hinge and permits their being raised for watering and weeding.

Watering should be done at sunrise as this is a prevention against black spot. A further protection against black spot is a spray with ferrate as per directions.

Plants should be ready for moving to permanent location around the first of October.

When your Regional Vice-President, Mr. Carl W. Fenninger asked me to write this article for the A.P.S. Quarterly he also asked me about using coldframes in this locality. The use of coldframes is not necessary or even desirable, since on warm, sunny days in the winter the plants become too far advanced to give a good showing of bloom when planted into the permanent position. Primroses will stand our eastern winters entirely successfully.

**"Mr. Percy W. Adams is the head gardener for Mr. and Mrs. Lessing J. Rosenwald, of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, which is near Philadelphia. Mrs. Rosenwald always has a very splendid exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show and always features Primulas, so that Mr. Adams' statement comes from a good bit of experience." Carl W. Fenninger, A.P.S. Regional Editor for Pennsylvania and neighboring states.**

(Courtesy The Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia)

*I Plant Primrose Seed in February*

PERCY W. ADAMS
The Shipment of Rare Plants

It is our pleasure at the Quarterly garden to ship plants to friends. This practice would be a habit if only there were more time. Many amateurs, such as Rae Berry, ship plants, such as our own rare Primula species, to England and the continent to friends and botanical gardens. Kenneth Corsar has just written us that he flowered plants of PrimulaCUSICKIANA, which originated from those found in our own Willowa Mountains by Mrs. Berry. Sir William was so much impressed by the flowering of this rare species that he had the plant photographed in color for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh.

We have received two shipments which have given us a great deal of grateful pleasure. One was a perfectly packed order of named English Show Auriculas and Alpines in paper pots from Alpenglow Gardens. They could not have been in better condition on arrival than they were when they left the careful and respectful hands of Mr. Michael. The plants were in no way affected by their transportation and have given eighteen offsets, since their arrival in September, which are planted now in separate pots and there are twenty offsets which could be removed. The second shipment was a gift from Elmer Baldwin of Syracuse, N.Y., of four named Auriculas which we hope to show in April as having come from one of the founders of our affiliated group, The Onandaga Primrose Society. They were the most beautifully packed plants ever received at the Garden. The roots were packed as firmly in excelsior as they were when growing in the earth. The leaves were uncovered but the plants were so braced that they did not fall out of position. The top of the cardboard box was replaced by a simple covering of screen wire, to serve instead of air holes, and to enable the Postman to know it was the top of the package and to peek in to see that he was handling a precious and perishable cargo. They were sent Insured Air Mail, Special Delivery and were in Portland, Oregon the next day none the worse for their flight. This cost Mr. Baldwin a little over three dollars.

The plants we pack for shipment, with the idea of cutting shipping costs without sacrificing safety, are grown in 1/3 Blue Whale, 1/3 fine Canadian Peat, and 1/3 rotten wood and humus. Drainage is provided with about an inch of gravel which covers the crock over the hole in the bottom of the pot. These plants are easily transferred at time of shipment to a paper pot leaving the heavy drainage material in the clay pot. (The plant pictured was grown in this manner.) The roots are not materially disturbed and enough natural moisture remains to last them for at least two days. In case the plants are sent by surface mail the moisture content has to be increased. The plants are packed securely in a cardboard box, so that they cannot be budged from position. It is essential that air gets to the plant and the ordinary way to obtain this condition is to punch air holes in the box. The use of the screen seems an even better idea, especially for the amateur who is supposed to have more time than the professional grower. The plants from Mr. Baldwin were packed so well that had they been in bloom they could have been shown in a Show as well as those transported for a mile. His method is especially practical for those who wish to show their prized plants in a National Show, and who live too far away to attend. It is well to remember that rotting leaves are caused by moisture coming into contact with them. If the roots are packed bare, as they must be for shipment to some countries, the wet wrapping material should be confined to the root of the plant being sure that the leaves have plenty of air so that they will not rot. The "Special Handling" privilege offered by the Postal Department is a safeguard for plants sent by surface mail.

Notes on Seed Distribution

There will be a distribution of seed for the 1954-55 season. Those who care to contribute seed to the project again have an opportunity. Lists of available seed will be mailed sometime in January. Cost of seed will be as last year, six packets for 25 cents (stamps acceptable). A strong, stamped return envelope should be included with requests. This year no seed will be mailed after May 1st. Requests for seed will be filled as accurately as possible, conformity and size of packets being contingent upon the supply.

Contributions of seed of all Primulas and plants companionable to them are solicited. Seed, as well as any inquiries, should be sent to

CHESTER K. STRONG  Box 126  LOVELAND, COLORADO
The Auricula Floriculturist

A PROSPECTUS compiled by RALPH BALCOM from S.A.F.A. committee conference notes. (see page 9)

It is no longer an impossibility to raise Show Auriculas of the named English varieties in the U.S. Plants may be purchased in this country and in Canada in limited numbers and those plants can be made to produce seed which can bring forth fine plants. As Dan Bamford has pointed out, Floriculture is quite apart from Horticulture in that it is a fast developing science in the attempt to perfection, or rather the evolution toward perfection of a Florist's Flower, which in our case is the Show Auricula. Although the perfect Auricula has never been grown, the standards of perfection are held as an ideal, and every true Floriculturist keeps only the plants which are perfect enough to help bring that ideal nearer to fruition. Perhaps an exactly perfect row of perfect Auriculas with evenly divided edges, pastes, and ground colors, would be monotonous, but we need never fear, any more than we need fear envying a perfect individual. Just as man strives for perfection, knowing that it will never be wholly his, so the Floriculturist strives for that even development in the Auricula.

There are only a few people in the U.S. at the present time who are recognized Auricula Floriculturists in that they not only raise Show Auriculas and have passed the Judging Schools with high rating, but that they do not give away, sell, or in any way sponsor a Show Auricula which is not a very good specimen. If a Floriculturist should raise "Fancies," and this is beyond the belief of people like Cyril Hayson and Dan Bamford, they would be as far apart from Show Auriculas in their minds and conversation, as the Garden Auricula. The fine Garden Auricula can be a very beautiful and decorative plant as can the Polyanthus and other plants interesting to Horticulturists, and these fill needs that the Show Auricula would never hope to fill.

There is nothing to prevent a gardener from being both a fine Floriculturist and a fine Horticulturist. However, it is the tendency perhaps for a Horticulturist to imagine himself a Floriculturist before he understands the full meaning of the term. The Floriculturist, like all scientists, is a man of ideals, of infinite patience and faith. He has imagination to sustain him through the long years of hybridization and partial failure when his "croses" or the expensive seeds of another dedicated grower have matured into healthy plants fit only for the compost heap. The Floriculturist understands that the odds are great, that the calculated risk is great, and that the rare rewards are great and sustaining. The Floriculturist has an intellectual and heartfelt appreciation of the traditional values which have gone into that plant which has never existed, except as necessary ideal, the Perfect Show Auricula. He knows a fine plant without recourse to the point score, but he also has the ability to quickly assess the plant according to the rule. Again, it is like the good man obeying the law—of course he obeys, but the law is there, made up of the combined judgment and traditions of the people.

Since the Bamford Award has been placed in the trust of the Quarterly Editor, it has been decided that the Staff will now have a Judging Chairman for each of the interested localities. It will be the duty of this Chairman to conduct Judging Schools whenever there is sufficient demand. These Judges will be the nucleus of the group which will be called the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America. This group will be very small and restricted in that there will be no way to join, except as an associate member, until the applicant has the qualifications of a Floriculturist.

The American Primrose Society offers a great deal to its members, and this group will in no way attempt to preempt any of its services; indeed, it will be at the service of the A.P.S., ready and open for those who are willing to study and apply themselves sufficiently to the work and the ideals of Floriculture. By keeping the ideals high, and the members restricted to those who have the ability to judge objectively, precisely and justly, we are protecting the future of the Show Auricula at least to that extent.

The Judging Course on the Auricula, which is given in this January Quarterly, may be followed (upon request) by examinations which will be sent to a qualified agent who will in turn supervise the examination and return it to the Secretary. A grade point of 90% or better will entitle the student to the title "Associate Judge" of the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America and will allow him to join the S.A.F.A. as an Associate Member. His vocabulary will then be adequate and his intellectual knowledge sufficient to help him appreciate a Visual Course which may be given at any National A.P.S. show if there is a demand. When he finishes the visual course to the satisfaction of the teachers, he will have qualified as a "Junior Judge" of the S.A.F.A. and will be eligible to judge Show Auriculas as the third man on a team with two members of the Show Auricula Floriculturists group, who will not only judge the flowers but will watch the judgments of the "Junior Judge" to see if he is qualified for Senior status. It is only with the recommendations of these two Senior Judges that he can become a qualified Senior Judge. If he should fail, he can again try as Junior Judge unless it is agreed that he does not have the necessary qualities of objective viewing.

The amount of "dues" has not been set, but they will be so small as not to be an item of consideration until it is thought by the members that money is needed to further the purposes of the Society. The Quarterly, in recognition of the availability of the services of the S.A.F.A. Judges, will give the necessary space to promote their objectives in print.

It will be understood that the S.A.F.A. teams will be qualified and ready if they are needed. Their first responsibility is to judge for the Annual Award of the Bamford Trophy and any other trophies which are given the Quarterly for Show Auriculas or for Horticultural Awards. The Bamford Trophy may be given to anyone in the U.S. or Canada whether they are a member of the A.P.S. or not, whether they are commercial growers or amateurs. This award, with the exception of next year, when it is to be given to the "one who has done the most to further the culture of the Auricula in the U.S. and Canada" in 1954, will be given for the most perfect seedling, until such time as several growers will have had time (3-5 years perhaps) to show mature plants which will have won Preliminary Awards as seedlings. However, the term "seedling" in Show Auricula connotation, does not necessarily mean a plant with a maiden bloom; in fact, the plant may be of any age, just so that it has never been shown before.

The Bamford Trophy is a Floricultural Award and will be very highly prized as the highest point in achievement, because it will be open to everyone, and to all plants whether they be raised in a window box or a commercial greenhouse. The main purpose of this Award and the Quarterly Awards is to help in the evolution of the Show Auricula toward the highest perfection possible. The American Primrose Society, through the cooperation of several shows, prizes to stimulate the interest of amateur growers. We feel that this interest has reached a point where many amateurs would appreciate a few prizes which would go to the best plant shown regardless of the status of the grower. The best plants grown must be shown in order that the fullest advantage be taken to further the evolution and progress of the Show Auricula and the Quarterly is hoping that this Award and this hope of service will bring forth the work of the best hybridizers in this country and Canada. Those who have no desire to compete from a personal point of view are asked to examine our request and share in the realization that the evolution of the plant is more important than the innuence or modesty of a grower.

The Show Auricula Floriculturists of America Judges will help to set up rules by which Show Auriculas can be named, described and copyrighted. Mr. Bamford is now making a chart by which we will be able to tell when a plant scores sufficiently to merit a name. A maiden bloom will probably be given a preliminary award which can be supplemented by a blue ribbon in the regular fashion. After the plant has bloomed
satisfactorily for three years, it will then be entitled to a name, or if a plant is certified
to have flowered to a satisfactory degree for two previous flowerings, then it is probable
that it will merit a name. At the present time it is thought that the plants will be entered
under the three initials of the grower's name, together with a number, the type of
Auricula, and the proposed name in parenthesis; e.g. Mr. John Doe enters his first
plant as J.D.—1, Green Edge, (Green Beauty). If a name is given a plant it will merit
the Royal Purple Ribbon, and it's picture will be published in the Quarterly, together
with its full description. The name will in this way be copyrighted to the extent of the
copyright of the Quarterly. The plant then will be recognized internationally and have
a world-wide value even in a monetary sense. Extraordinary care will be taken that only
worthy plants are named.

During the two wars and for a few years after each, the Auricula had a severe set
back in its home in England but now the old enthusiasm is reviving again. We in
America have now entered the field and it is the hope of many in England that the
rivalry between us will be keen and friendly. We cannot now relax our efforts, we must
strive to reach the high standards of perfection attained by the devoted florists of the
small green island across the water.

Horticulture is a pleasant and delightful hobby. Floriculture possesses not only both
these virtues, it is also fascinating and as we reach nearer and nearer towards perfection,
it becomes so absorbing that it almost becomes a part of one's self. Our friends in Eng-
land will view with no envious eye or petty jealousy any progress we make, even if we
are eventually abreast with them or take the lead. From letters the Committee has re-
ceived from many friends there, there is always manifest a friendly, helpful and hospitable
note running through them. What we want now are more growers full of enthusiasm
which we can only hope will continue to match that of the Old Florists set our
treasured traditions.

The Need for Judges Educated in the
Lore of Auricula Floriculture

Ralph Balcom

It is the opinion of the committee of the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America
that there is now a real need for an association of judges in our country which would
be dedicated to the same purposes and ideals as those prescribed and maintained by the
Auricula Floriculturists of England and Scotland, many of whom have banded together
with others interested in the Primula under the name The National Auricula and
Primula Society, of which there is a Southern and a Northern division.

In order better to acquaint those interested with the Show Auricula, and to inform
and train Judges who will be qualified and available, if needed, for the judging of the
Show Auricula division of any show which may be held by any society, a Correspondence
Course on the Qualities of the Show Auricula is given in this issue of the Quarterly.
Those graduating from this course will be welcomed as Associate Members of the
S.A.F.A. The next step is the Visual Course which, when given by an established
Florculturist at any of the A.P.S. shows where a need is shown, will provide its
"graduates" with the title, Junior Judge of the S.A.F.A. The final test will be that of
Judging as third man on a team with two Senior Judges. This subject has been developed
in the prospectus.

Of course all this will in no way affect the status of any qualified judge of the A.P.S.
or any society, and their services will always be in demand. However, it has been made
plain to the Committee that judging a Floricultural subject demands further study than
that generally provided in a general judging course. In order that our Point Judging
Standards coincide with those used by the Old Florists the S.A.F.A. will use the Dan
Bamford Score on page eleven of the 1953 A.P.S. Year Book. Those who have already
qualified in the various Judging Schools previously given under the auspices of the
A.P.S. are especially requested to take this series of courses, so that they may
help the committee to help those who have become interested since the last course
was given. (Points for Edged Show Auriculas reprinted on page 20 of this issue).

The names of the Judges who will give S.A.F.A. Visual Courses will be announced
in the April Quarterly. The places where these courses will be given will depend upon
the number of requests. The Tacoma Primrose Society has decided to hold a Visual
Judging School during its April Show. The fiscal year of the A.P.S. begins January 1st,
and at that time announcements will probably be made for the A.P.S.

The judges who give a Royal Purple Ribbon (which indicates that S.A.F.A. Judges
consider the plant as worthy of a name) to a plant must be capable of writing a precise
description of the plant so that it, together with its picture, may be published as a
public service, in the Quarterly. The plant in the case of a Name Award, will thus
have a certain degree of recognized and certified identity due to the copyright on the
contents of the Quarterly. For this reason the judge must be familiar with the
nomencclature of precise terms as well as have the ability to translate that precise
evaluation into more general descriptions so that both the botanist and the unsceintific
gardener may be satisfied according to his needs. The paragraph entitled LEAVES,
contained in the Essay Questions, is an example.

A Few Suggestions on Judging the Auricula

by Dan Bamford, Middleton, W. Manchester, England

In judging this flower we must, for a time, obliterate from our mind the bright
gay border of polyanthus which fringe the garden path and the brilliant imposing
herbaceous borders of Delphiniums, Hollyhocks, Gladiolus, Paeonias, Iris, etc., which
have their most charming setting leading to the doors of the lowly thatched cottages
which are the charm of this Island. For a time we must enter the domain of Horticulture
where perfection alone is the goal and where departure from the true faith is not
 tolerated.

How must we judge that florist flower which is called the Auricula: First I would
stress that we must set about the job systematically. It is no use looking at the flower
in its entirety and trying to judge it that way. Each part of the flower has its own
standards of perfection prescribed and we must deal with each part in order. The
properties of this flower have already been described and I will try as simply as I can
to help you to judge, however you must appreciate that it is not by any means easy
to judge a flower by writing about it. I can only hope that these few notes will remove
most of your difficulties.

First we will start with the tube. When you are judging the tube concentrate on the
tube only and forget every other part of the flower:

1. Is it quite circular?
2. Is it well filled with anthers?
3. Do the anthers curl over evenly, completely covering the stigma?
4. Is it golden yellow in colour?
5. Is it the correct size.
6. Does it stand exactly in the centre of the flower.
If the tube fails in any of these parts it is not perfect.

Now we move forward to the centre and forget about the tube, or any other part
of the flower.

1. Is the tube dense and smooth without any trace of granular or rough appearance?
2. Is the paste free from any minute cracks or flaws anywhere?
Is it perfectly circular where it joins the body colour?
Does any part of the paste flash into the body colour in any degree whatsoever?
Is it the correct size?
Does it stand exactly in the centre of the flower?
If the centre fails in any one part it is not perfect.

Now we reach the body colour.
Is it the correct width? This will have to be on the average, because, although the inner edge must be circular, the outer edge can flash or streak into the edge colour. This flashing should not be excessive. You can learn to judge whether the flashing is refined or not by comparing the pictures of the old named favorites. (But don’t get quarreling about this).

Does any part of the flashing strike through to the outer edge of the petal?
Does it fail to fill up, ever so slightly, where it joins the round centre? This sometimes occurs when the body colour is too narrow or is not quite continuous round its circumference.

Does any part flash into the white centre? This is a serious defect.
Is the flashing so light in colour that it does not appear almost black?
If there are any of these defects in the body colour the Auricula is not perfect. A really refined, well proportioned body colour is not one of the easiest things for a raiser to produce.

Next the Edge colour, and still forget that any other part of the flower exists.
Is it the correct proportion?
Is every petal broad enough to make a well filled outline?
Are the petals perfectly round at the edges without any trace of pointing, notching or serrature?
Are they of equal width?
Is the outline of the flower circular?
Is it exactly central with the eye?
In the Green Edge variety is it a rich dark green?
In the Grey Edge is the stippling of meal even and sufficient to give a grey appearance over the green petals?
If the Edge Colour fails in any part it is not perfect.

Finally you look at the flower as a whole.
Does the pip lie flat as it ought to do?
Does it carry the correct number of petals?
Is any part of the surface wavy?
Does the flower cup inwards or curl backwards? If the flower curls backwards I think it gives a less refined appearance than if it is slightly cupped. If the flower as a whole has any of these defects it is not perfect.

There are one or two points I have not mentioned but I think I had better do so. First the footstalks. These should be long enough to allow the truss to fill without overcrowding and rigid enough to carry the pip without allowing it to flop over. If the footstalks are weak it certainly does reduce the refinement of the truss, but if the pips are almost perfect in proportion and refinement, I would not be too drastic on the flower on that account. You will get far more flowers with the good footstalks but rubbish in other ways than perfect flowers and weak footstalks. Nevertheless it is a fault. I could name one Auricula now (but I will mention no names and suffer no censure) which is really good but it has the fault of short footstalks with the result that the truss, when set, looks almost like Primula denticulata, but it looks so beautiful with its high quality flowers that I could not bring myself to deduct many points for this fault. Second there is the stem itself which should be rigid enough to carry itself without support. The same remarks apply to this also. In England it is permissible to use a thin stake as a support and this covers the dual purpose of placing the truss vertical, a position where the flower is seen to the best advantage. The staking is supposed to be very inconspicuous and exhibitors are warned about this prior to the staging as we feel it a pity to down grade a plant owing to slovenly staging. (It is well to keep a truss staked at least in transport as even the strongest trusses are sometimes quite brittle.)

Perhaps a word on the number of petals would not be out of order. These as has already been prescribed, should be seven in number, but in a large flower 8 is not too many. Six, if large enough to fill in the design, is a fault. If there are too few petals the outline of the flower does not fill in too well round the circumference and this gives the flower a starry appearance. If there are too many petals they become crowded and jumbled together at the outer edge, which removes much of the refinement from the flower. It is necessary to keep a watch for these faults and deduct your points accordingly.

By this time you will have deducted your points in accordance with the defects in each flower and ought to be in a position to reach a judgment. The difficulty will be, if you are judging four or six plants which have been selected, from which to pick one for the premier award when all carry practically the same number of points. Here you will be in a dilemma. The thing to do is to stand back a pace and view all the flowers from a slight distance. One might be faulty in the tube, another carry too much body colour, another have a rough outline to the centre and so on. The award has to be given to the one which looks the most refined, that is where your judgment will come into the picture, that is where you can start quarrelling if you are not careful. It is difficult, but the decision must go two against one if there are three judges. Even with all this precaution the judgment might not be popular with the exhibitors, and my advice to the judges is to get out for lunch as quickly as possible when the judging is finished, and spend as much time as possible over it until the storm has blown over.

There is one thing you will have learned by this time and that is that there is not a perfect Auricula in the room and they will see where every flower falls short of perfection. They will appreciate that there has never been a perfect Auricula raised and never will be. They will understand too, why we must alter "perfect as is possible." For a time your winners may be getting lower points than the Auriculas raised by the Old Florists, but you will find that the winners points get higher each year that the growers stick to the ideals and practices of the Old Florists. Even when you reach that point, which has seemed to me to be the highest possible point a human being will ever reach, you can still raise your sights and strive on and on. It is so in the domain of Science, it is so in the domain of floriculture. The nearer we reach perfection the more intense becomes our ambition to reach higher in our endeavour to plant our feet in the "promised land." Man has always had this longing for something better, hence what is known as progress, hence the fascination of Auricula raising.

Look at any Primula ever introduced from the uplands of Europe and you will see little approach to the marvellous edged Auriculas of today. But pause for a time and in this flower you will see an amazing example of man's mastery in moulding a remote wildling into a flower he was determined it should become. The Old Florists of my country knew what they were after. 'Alas' they had no science, no education to guide them, only their instinct and this seemed to soar to almost uncanny heights.

You in America have joined that band and with well planned and enthusiastic development we can look forward to an era where one of the old arts will triumph again. You will naturally have to build up from a lower standard to a higher and yet higher standard until ere long you will stand in the vanguard of a noble and uplifting pursuit. Let us never undermine the noble foundation the Old Florists laid down for us.

There is one more admonition; in judging the Auricula you must be strictly impartial and forget everything else but the flower before you. What I am about to say might not be to your liking, but it must be said, after all we are all broadminded and fair. It does not matter two hoots whether the plant has been raised in England, America, or the South Sea Islands, neither does it matter whether it has been exhibited by Emperor A, King B, Lord C, or plain Mr. D, the street sweeper. (I must keep the President out.) If Mr. D puts up the best seedling, with ever so few points as a margin, then Mr. D (even if he is the most unpopular member) must have his award and you
are justified in acclaiming him or her as the best person in that sphere, at least. It must always be remembered that it is the plant that we are considering, only too often has this pertinent fact been put aside. Besides all this, no matter who wins, let the winner have all the honor due to it and let us be sports and praise it.

There is a moral responsibility in judging, and this should be considered well before you embark on this career. I know from personal experience that this occupation is both rewarding and fascinating.

I have been asked how many points a seedling might attain at this time. It is possible that a seedling might achieve 90 points, and this would obviously be a winner. At the other end there might be one carrying only 55 points. The 90 points gets your compliments and its award, the 55 points must at least get your encouragement and thanks for bringing along his or her exhibit and further your advice as to where it has failed. So you will make progress, so you will become a happy band.

Eventually you may, I hope you will—who knows—see the likes of the creations of the Old Masters rise again in America and with them will be felt the spirits of those fine men who dedicated their hopes to the improvement of this lovely flower.

I should like to say, that it has always been a great pleasure and privilege to do what little a humble gardener like myself could do for a most enthusiastic group of gardeners in America. The expressions of appreciation and little acts of kindness I have received from unseen friends in America and those who have visited me here are such that there will always be an unbroken link between me and the A.P.S.

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**QUALIFICATIONS FOR BENCHING: EDGED SHOW AURICULAS**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR BENCHING:**

A. The "pin" or pistil shall not be visible above or among the anthers.

B. All must have at least five fully expanded pips unless it is a plant showing its maiden bloom.

C. The paste in all varieties shall be white.

D. All pots shall be clean, plants properly groomed, and carrying but one stalk.

E. Meal in grey-edged Auriculas dense enough to give a grey appearance.

F. White-edged varieties must be dense enough to be pure white without showing any green petal.

G. Green-edged varieties must be free from meal and preferably a dark green.

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**QUALIFICATIONS AND POINT SCALE FOR SELF SHOW AURICULAS**

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BENCHING A, B, C, D, are the same as for Edged Show Auriculas. It is understood that a "self" is unshaded in color.

The POINT SCALE is the same as for Show Auriculas, except that points 4 and 6 shall read:

4. **Ground Color** — Any bright clear color, must be devoid of farina, unshaded, and twice the width of the paste

6. **Pip** — Round and flat, composed of 7 symmetrical petals, neither notched or pointed

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**QUALIFICATIONS AND POINT SCALE FOR ALPINE AURICULAS**

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BENCHING A, B, D, are the same as for Edged Show Auriculas. It is understood that an Alpine is free of meal and the body color shades to a paler tint.

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**POINT SCALE**

**FLOWER** 60 points

1. Flat, fully open, well balanced pips

2. Circular florets, composed of 6, 7, or 8 unnotched petals

3. Bright, clear, rich color, shading to paler tint

4. Center (eye) round and clear — yellow, cream or white, destitute of farina

5. Anthers to fill circular tube and to cover stigma

**PLANT HABIT** 40 points

6. Umbel symmetrical — pips well displayed without crowding

7. Stalk sturdy and round, tall enough to hold umbel above the foliage

8. Handsome, well balanced, healthy foliage

TOTAL points
Miscellaneous Notes on the Judging of Show Auriculas

Ralph Balcom

In the old days before the Old Florists made up their rules, stripping of the colors was considered an attribute. Now there is no stripping allowed in a Floricultural type of Auricula. (Even the flashing of the ground color in Edged Auriculas is not allowed to enter the pastel or extend to the edge of the petal).

The petals, whether 6, 7, or 8, (7 on the point score) should be of such size as to overlap and give a clear circular outline. It would be well for the student to examine all Show Auricula pictures available so as to determine how the number of petals may affect the circular outline of the corolla.

An umbel should be uncrowded so that each corolla or pip has a chance to expand to perfect flatness and not be hidden from view by other pips. The length of the pedicels determine how many pips may be accommodated in an umbel without crowding.

There are discussions as to the desirability of the body color being black, and in the final analysis of two high ranking plants, the preference should be given the one with the darkest color. The "black" is usually a very dark red, violet, or brown.

There are some Auriculas which have a leaf formation where the pedicels fit onto the peduncle. These are called leafy bracts and may add beauty as they form a "backing to the group of flowers much as a leaf does to the conventional bunch of violets." They may take the form of a single shield, or form a rosette of foliage leaves of almost any shape.

Any grower of the Floriculturist type will not neglect the foliage, and any exhibitor who brings in plants which show lack of care by the evidences of being chewed by insects, or having the meal ruined by rain or improper watering, will be penalized by sacrificing point 7 of the Score, "Size, substance and general refinement."

When an Auricula is groomed for showing, it should have but one stem and umbel with a single rosette to a pot. However, Auriculas will have offsets at odd times and this feature cannot be penalized except as it affects items 7 and 8. The petals may be carefully arranged so that they overlap and form a wheel. This must be done with infinite care and a steady hand, as a torn pip is penalized to the degree it affects points number 3 of the Points for Show Auriculas on page 20. This may be done with the help of half of a large bone hairpin.

The pips must be reduced to the number which will avoid overlapping. Dan Bamford was much impressed with the quality of Mrs. Torpen’s White Edged seedling which was pictured on the Fall 1952 A.P.S. Quarterly cover, but cautioned her to thin out the pips for the Show Bench to the point where those remaining have a full chance to develop flatness. It is interesting to note that this plant in its second year of bloom was not a White Edge but had changed its type. This illustrates one of the reasons why only a preliminary award, a Blue Ribbon or Trophy may be given to a maiden bloom, and the same for the second blooming. The third successful year merits the naming of a first class plant.

The first American or Canadian growers to raise named English varieties successfully, to the Royal Purple Quality, may have photographs taken of their plants and may have them pictured in the Quarterly. This last is very important as beginners will want to know which plants to buy and how they look and how much has been scored by record on a certain plant. It will be interesting to note the different scores attained on one named variety, as owned by more than one competitor. So many considerations go into the grooming of the Show Auricula for a high point score. Nothing will test growing ability as much as competing with other growers who have the same named varieties.

Vocabulary Division

Fill-in test, answers on page 27

1. The underground stem is known colloquially as the ____________, and is the main root.
2. The cluster, or truss of flowers on a stalk is an _____________. Each little flower ____________, or footstalk comes out from a central point on the main stalk or _____________.
3. The leaf stalk is the ____________, while the wider part of the leaf is the _____________.
4. The petals of the flower, with the tube, together form the ____________, or pip on the Auricula.
The upper spreading portion or "flattened disk" of the corolla is the
and the narrow or open part, the

The is the green cup below the corolla, its petal-like points
are called

The pollen bearing are held in the tube on a little stalk called the

The two named together above are called the

The pistil is composed of the , the round sticky top, the style,
and the seed bearing ovary which is located at the base of the tube.

The is the stalk of the plant, which holds up the inflorescence;
it is sometimes called the scape.

The cluster, or truss of flowers on a stalk is an

It would be well for the student to study pages 14 and 15 of the Auricula Handbook,
Fall 1952 although much of the material has been repeated here in another form. The
Auricula pictured on page 15 is not suggestive of the perfect Show but rather of
auriculas in general, as it has more petals than prescribed.

Types of Show and Alpine Auriculas

There are two types of Show Auriculas, Edged and Selfs. The Edged all have leaf
tissue in their petals and fall into three groups, Green Edge, Grey Edge, and White Edge,
which are classed according to type determined by well-defined characteristics of their
respective flowers, characteristics so well defined that there is no difficulty in
recognizing them.

The Green Edge has no meal on the leaf tissue of its edge.
The Grey Edge has enough meal to give a striped appearance which causes the
green color to be greyed.
The White Edge leaf tissue should be so covered with meal on the edge that the
green edge is a dense smooth white. "They are extremely fair and lovely. The whole
face of the flower, except the dark velvet rim of ground color, must be deep under a
snowy meal, usually of finer grain on the edge than on the middle of the flower."
The Self Show is not mealed except for the paste center which is typical of all
Show Auriculas. There is no edge in the Self Show Auriculas and the velvet textured
color joins the white paste in a perfect circle. They are unshaded and may be any color,
light or dark, excepting green. The edge, in the ideal plant, is approximately twice as
deep as the center, in other words it takes the same area as the edge and body color in
the Edged Shows.

The Alpine Auricula has no farina on the petals or center. For this reason the
center is not called a paste in the Alpine Auricula. The white or cream to gold centers
have a velvet texture which look entirely different, even to the naked eye, than paste
centers of the Edged or Self Auriculas. "The throat of the tube is usually the same
color as the center. The body color is dark, next to the center and shades out to the
dge of the petals. This shading is gradual in some cases, and in others there is a more
definite change from dark to light." (Ivanel Agee) "This gradation, when associated with a pronounced overlapping, gives the
flower the appearance of a Catherine wheel, for the light-coloured margins of the petals stand out in sharp relief from
the deeper tones of the inner portions of the colour zone like curved spokes." (Biffen)

It must be remembered that the Alpine is quite distinct
in class from any Show Auricula.

Fill-in text, answers on page 27

1. The Green Edge Show Auricula holds the highest rank of all, and is the only class
in which a mealy habit of foliage never occurs. Its pip has a pure green edge
which is absolutely devoid of meal or .................. ...........

2. Next to the edge, and flashing into it, is the usually dark,
preferably black. This must join the white paste center in a perfect circle.

3. The , as in all Edged Show Auriculas, is smooth, round and
pure white.

4. The tube, or throat, like all Show Auriculas, should be so filled with
as to appear to be a rich yellow.

5. The stamens should of course completely hide the

6. The body color of an Alpine Auricula is , while the body
color of an Edged Show Auricula is usually dark, preferably black.

7. The foliage of an Alpine Auricula is

8. Two of the qualifications for benching Alpine Auriculas and Edged Show Auriculas are
(1) (2)

9. In Show Auriculas the proportion of the paste, body color and edge should be

10. The greatest difference between the Grey and the Green Edges occurs in the
of the floret.

11. The center of an Alpine Auricula is either gold or white or cream. The center of a Grey Edge Auricula is

12. The number of pips on a Green, Grey or White Edge or Alpine Auricula is not
to be less than , for benching purposes.

13. The ground color of a White Edge is , this is also characteristic
of the Grey Edge.

14. The Self Show Auriculas have no leaf tissue in their petals. They do have the
same beautifully mealed, densely white center which is called the

15. A eyed Auricula is not allowed to be shown in the Edged,
Self or Alpine classes.

16. An unmealed eye, a deeper tint in the body color and a lighter shading of the
same tint toward the edge indicates an Auricula.
EXAMINATION FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE

Those who have studied the Correspondence Course, the Point Scores, and the articles on Show Auriculas, and wish to take the examinations for an "Associate" standing, will please write a paper on the Essay Questions as given below, and send it to Mr. Ralph Balcom, 6216 25th N.E., Seattle 5, Washington. Arrangements can then be made for the completion of the examination.

Essay Questions:

1. Define and differentiate between the two terms "Floriculture" and "Horticulture" giving to each its full attributes.

2. If you were building up score sheets for the judging of Edged Shows, Selfs and Alpines, in which way would you differ with the prescribed rules? It must be remembered that Floriculturists do not object to the saving of interesting forms so long as they are relegated to horticultural status and not qualified as "Shows" or "Alpines." (It is true, however, that a hybridizing Floriculturist may save seemingly poor plants of the second generation crossing for breeding purposes.)

3. What would you consider a good thesis for the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America to adopt to emphasize and formulate their standards of responsibility.

4. Do you feel that you could judge objectively? That you would not be swayed by a plant which was of a favorite color over a better plant of a color you did not like personally or by a plant which "looks better" to you than one which measures up to more points? What gives you this assurance?

5. Name at least four distinguishing features which are alike in the White, Grey, and Green Auricula classifications.

6. The following paragraph is an example of how leaves may be described. Find an Auricula picture in one of the Quarterlies and note the page and volume number, and write a paragraph describing the leaves. Do this exercise twice, once in language understandable to an eighth grader, and secondly in botanical terms.

LEAVES: "More or less egg-shaped with the broad end of the egg uppermost. (In the broadest forms the shape is obovate and in the narrowest spatulate). The leaf raphes for about two-thirds of its length to its junction with the stem, but has no distinct stalk. The apex, as a rule, is pointed (acute). The blade is thick and fleshy (cartilaginous) with the midrib and lateral veins so imbedded that the surface is practically smooth. The margin of the leaf may be simple (entire), that is, its outline can be drawn with one sweep of a pencil, or it may be toothed like a saw (serrate, denticulate, double dentate, or incised). The extent of the serration provides a useful feature for identification purposes and nurserymen often acquire an enviable degree of skill in making use of it." (Britten) Examples may be found under "leaves" in Webster's Dictionary.

7. Do you understand that the Point Score of 100 is absolutely arbitrary and concerns a plant which is just an ideal and has never existed? It is the statement of perfection we strive for and it is not expected that such a group of attributes may be gathered together except in one of the color zones being of equal width in an edged Auricula. The trick is trying to get all these possibilities together in one plant. In other words there is nothing unreasonable or unattainable in any one point in the score.

8. Have you any suggestions which might help to educate future S.A.F.A. judges? It must be remembered, that this is only a beginning, there is a great deal more to be known about a Show Auricula than is contained in this volume. Those of you who are taking this course and who will follow through to the end will be the ones who will shape the policies and evidence the ideals of the Floriculturists in America.


Why I Am A Member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club

Major-General D. M. Murray-Lyon

I am a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club because I am a lover of Rock and Alpine plants in general and of Primulas in particular. By being a member I meet other people in my own country with similar tastes, and I get to know by correspondence enthusiasts in other countries. We are a club, not a society, and we like to think that is perhaps a more friendly and intimate form of association. Another benefit I get from the Club is the Journal in which there are always many interesting and informative articles and plant notes, helpful both to beginners and to more advanced growers. Even the advertisements are good reading for many well known nurseries advertise in the club's publications. Then too the special "small advertisements" are most useful when one wants to get in touch with someone who can supply, or send to, members from as far away as India, Japan and America. Then the Club itself runs an excellent seed exchange which usually has a thousand or so different kinds of seed on its list each year.

When overseas members are in Scotland and come to any of our shows or other functions it is a delight to meet them. They are invited to visit many gardens, both public and private, and arrangements are often made for them to attend discussions, lectures, etc., which are arranged by County Representatives. The Club is sociable on an international level whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Anyone wishing information about the Club, should write to the Honorary Secretary, S|quadron Leader J. J. Boyd-Harvey, Dirlton, East Lothian, Scotland, or just send him a money order for ten shillings, $1.50.

Officers Washington State Primrose Society

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Welcome to Tacoma

HERBERT DICKSON, Chairman for the TACOMA A.P.S. SHOW

Let's make a date, all you growers and admirers of Primroses, to be in Tacoma, Washington, with your favorite plants for the Tacoma A.P.S. Show, April 23rd and 24th. We of the Tacoma Primrose Society, as hosts to the A.P.S., will do our best to provide an interesting and pleasant weekend. Visitors may be our guests on guided tours of gardens and local spots of interest, and of course to see our free and wonderful national Show.

One of the highlights of the Show Schedule will be the first Judging School of the Show Auricula Floriculture of America, and this will be conducted by Mrs. Florence Levy. We are expecting to bench the finest display of Show Auriculas ever shown in the United States. We are planning a sale of plants and a plant auction which will interest those of you who always want "to go home with a plant." A no-host dinner will be held for the purposes of getting together with a lot of wonderful people from different sections of the country to exchange information and good will.

I can't resist a pat on the back to the American Primrose Society and all its affiliated local societies for their phenomenal growth and success in spreading the enthusiasm for, and knowledge of the culture of Primulas throughout the U.S. and even abroad. The A.P.S. has grown to be a truly international organization. The Tacoma Primrose Society feels very proud and honored that we were allowed to have a National Show. We hope that it will grow to be a tradition of the A.P.S. to have a National Show each year some place in the U.S. or Canada with a different local society as host, with at least five year lapse before the same city and club can again be host to the A.P.S.

Individual plant competition will be all in the standard divisions according to types of plants, with divisions for mass displays and arrangements. Each division champion will receive an engraved trophy with a special away with it. The best plant, the best Polyanthus, the best Show Auricula, the best Alpine Auricula, the rarest species, and several others.

Those far-away members who cannot present at the show should start making plans to exhibit. We invite anyone in the U.S. and Canada, both members and non-members, to send fine Primrose and Primula plants to the show, by air express if possible. Altho the Society cannot assume responsibility, each plant will be unpacked and cared for as if it were our very own grand champion winner. After the show we will repack it very carefully, seeing to it being returned in good condition to its proper owner, transportation charges, C.O.D.

We would be glad to assume the transportation charges but feel that the aggregate expense might be beyond our means. Of course all ribbons and trophies won by the plant would be sent to the exhibitor.

A police guard will be maintained over the Show Auriculas and other valuable plants and every effort will be made to see that they are in a well ventilated position. We know that the best named Auriculas have seldom been shown because of the poor accommodations which have attended the benches and areas we are determined to provide a worthy condition for these pristina donnas of the Primula world.

For less valuable entries it would be appreciated if plants were donated to the Tacoma Primrose Society to be sold at auction after the Show. We are anxious to make this auction serve a dual purpose, that of helping to pay for our Show and also a means of distributing plants which ordinarily are not on the market. However, this is only a suggestion as many of the plants which will be entered will be one-of-a-kind and more valuable to their owners than any plant that they could buy.

In our planned educational display we would like to have a representative plant of every species in cultivation in bloom or out of bloom. This is a big task and will take the cooperation of every member of the A.P.S. Please let us hear from you as to what you have and would be willing to send. If you cannot send that rare plant perhaps you could send a picture of it in color, or in a white and cross print which would help us in our publicity and be on display in the "picture gallery" at the show. Show Schedules will be ready March 1st and we will be glad to send one to you.

Tacoma is well prepared to accommodate a group of convention size, its hotels and motels are among the best in the country. The country surrounding Tacoma is as beautiful as any in the world. We feel that our gardens are well worth coming across a continent to see as we have the best possible conditions for the growing of Primulas. We are fortunate, not only in having an excellent working group, but in being able to get a downtown location for our show with good parking facilities. An announcement of the address, which we assure you is easy to find or to reach by several busses, will be given in the April Quarterly. In the meantime any inquiries will be cheerfully answered if they are forwarded to me.

While we meet in Tacoma it may be well to consider a National or even an International Convention to be held in the northwest. We would like to appeal to the Executive Board but know that such plans must be laid at least a year ahead as the Society's scope is international. The last convention was held in England in 1928, and the first large convention, sponsored by the R.H.S., was held in 1888. It is just about time for another one but the plans must be well laid. We feel, however, that enough of us should gather this year at Tacoma to consider this idea seriously. We can have an informal convention of members if you will plan your vacations, or at least the weekend, to fall on that important date, April 23-24, 1955, at that city of cities, Tacoma.

"Be seeing you" and your plants. Herbert Dickson, Rt. 3, Box 789, Puyallup, Washington.

* Special packing suggestions may be found on page 12.

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN — (Continued from Page 7)

by Cox and Taylor, and PLANT HUNTING IN TIBET by Cox, were presented by Mrs. A. W. House, a charter member and a third generation Auricula enthusiast. Roland E. Cooper gave a book which contains the Biographies of those to whom the Curtis Botanical Magazine had been dedicated. Mr. Robert Luscher gave a MCGOULDALL'S ATLAS and some other valuable books and papers. Dr. Walter Blasdale gave several of the older Northern and Southern NATIONAL AURICULA SOCIETY YEARBOOKS which show some of the older varieties of Auriculas. Norman Lawfield, our British Representative and Treasurer, has sent the valuable Conference Reports from 1888 and 1913 to the Editor for reference material and they will be turned over to the Library as soon as duplicates can be purchased. He sent the 1928 Conference report which will be turned over to the Library before January 1955. Other books which have been received will be announced later, all have four of their way either to the Reference Room or Circulating Department in the Portland Public Library, Main Branch. 10th and Yamhill will be given to either West, Portland, Oregon and may be borrowed through inter-library loan from any public library in the United States. The circulation figures of these books should be rewarding to the donors and an inspiration to others who might wish to give books to the A.P.S.

It is hoped that the COMMITTEE of the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America will be able to enlist the support of all those who have been instrumental in popularizing the Auricula. While it is hardly policy to start a list of names, the one to head the list might very well be MRS. BEN TORPEN, an acknowledged Floriculturist, who probably has the best collection of Auriculas in America, DR. MATTHEW RIDDEL, who was co-author of the official point scores, and MRS. JOHN KARNOPP, the A.P.S. Educational Chairman, the leader of the Study group, and the winner of the Bamford Trophy for 1964. (Please See Second Paragraph Page 17)
Show News

After reading of the definite plans for the Tacoma A.P.S. Show it is obvious that it would be well to appoint show committees a year in advance of the event. The executive Officers of one year have hesitated to infringe on the right of decision for the next year's show and so have appointed an "investigating committee" to arrange for a possible site for the Early Spring Show to be held April 16th and 17th, 1955. This committee, whose chairman is Mrs. O. Miller Babbitt, has procured the beautiful building, which has just been opened by the Portland Garden Club, for the Late Spring Show, May 8th, 1955. The Early Spring Show features the early blooming species, Polyanthus, Acaulis, Julianas, Miniatures and other hybrids. The Late Spring Show, as planned by the investigating committee will make Tacoma earn its right to hope "that we are expecting to bench the finest display of Show Auriculas ever to have been shown in the U.S." Constance Babbitt feels that she wants Tacoma to try its hardest and to have the most beautiful show in its history, but she expects the A.P.S. in Portland to do even better. What a wonderful year has come to the U.S. when three cities each expect to hold the 'Best' Show Auricula Show! The A.P.S. annual Candelabra Picnic at Hannon Acres, while not a bench show, is open to those who are interested in the Candelabra in all its cultivated forms. This picnic, held last year in May, was an inspiration to those gardeners who had never seen Candelabras growing in a natural environment, and a revelation to those who had known only a few of the many variations.

The A.P.S. SHOW last year was a success because of the great numbers of people who viewed it and because it was beautifully staged by Mrs. Blakeney and her committee. D.B.W. was the Sweepstakes winner and Mrs. Blakeney was a close second. Mrs. Blakeney showed the best Polyanthus, a magnificent pot of well-grown blue, a blue as large as a florist's pot of cineraria and much more beautiful. The GRESHAM SHOW did not have any bunched plants, but it did have a very beautiful garden scene which featured the garden uses of the Border Auricula, the Polyanthus, the Candelabra, and other Primulas, together with Pansies from The Clarkes and background material of Japanese flowering trees and various shrubs. The GRESHAM PRIMROSE SALE, under the direction of Mrs. C. Y. Griffin, was very successful in that the revenue paid all the expenses of the A.P.S. Shows for the year.

The WASHINGTO N STATE PRIMROSE SOCIETY has always had its exhibit in the Eastside Garden Club of Kirkland Primrose Show and this association has produced some of the most beautiful shows ever presented on the Pacific Coast. A list of winners and trophies has been sent in but we do not have the space this year for lists. Sweepstakes winner for the show was R. E. Willingham of Seattle; runner up was one of the community's pioneer citizens, Mrs. J. C. Cathcart. Mrs. Nora Norris, Purdy Gardens, Gig Harbor, is shown with the plant which won top honors in the commercial division. The 1954 TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW was such a good one that even the workers thought it was fun. Peter Klein won the President's trophy, the trophy for the best acaulis-polyanthus, the best Juliae, the best Alpine Auricula, the best Cortusoides, the best species, the rarest primula, and the best blue Polyanthus. Mr. Cyrus Happy (the new 1955 President) won the trophy for the best Show Auricula. H. H. Dixon of McNeil Island won with the best Polyanthus. Mrs. George Franklin benched the best Garden Auricula and Howard Larkin won with his gorgeous specimen acaulis. Mrs. Fred Gordon had the best arrangement. It was a nice show. We all enjoyed having Mrs. Boyd Meyers, and Mrs. Otto Zack with us as Judges." Myrtle M. Turner, Secretary 1954.
Catalog time for the nurseryman precedes catalog time for the gardener by several months, in fact there is reserved in the nurseryman's brain a cell in which he files ideas about catalogs the year round. To most people the life of a nurseryman can be divided into two parts. The first is the life of the plants he grows and it comes as a distinct shock to them when they learn he cannot enter a state of semi-dormancy along with his stock. Some day someone may lift the curtain on the annual catalog-and-mailing-list to reveal the steps which place these temptations in your path.

If the nurseryman wishes to stay in business, he must first do an honest job with his advertisements. He must, at all costs, avoid disappointments to the purchasers at any price. He must follow his business, his permanent patrons. In addition to honesty of presentation must be the nurseryman's integrity, his desire to bring pleasure to his customers and to protect their investment, imagination in his work for the development of new varieties, constant improvement of his standard stock, and advancement of new methods which he may pass on to his customers so that his stock can be grown well and enjoyed to the fullest. In short, he must love his work for the sake of his customers as himself.

Nurserymen work on a rather long range program, mapping a general course for two and three years in advance. You can judge the tightness of his schedule by whether or not he issues a catalog every year or every other year with a supplementary sheet to bring listings current. Such is the case at Barnhaven Nurseries, whose Supplement to their 1954-55 catalog should be in your hands shortly after the first of the year.

There is a little hidden regret edging the extra time gained by a supplementary listing because this simple task calls forth no mental exhilaration nor does it allow for the use of another Birke t Foster picture. The front and back cover of our latest catalog has caused enough favorable comment here and abroad to warrant a few remarks about it and the artist.

It must have been all of ten years ago that Mrs. Charles N. Hutchinson of Gir ard, Pennsylvania discovered the engraving called Primrose Gatherers in an ancient trunk in the attic of her equally ancient home and sent it to the Society as one of her contributions. Prints were made of it and circulated among Society members for a small fee. Some touched with color, others left them black and white. Most of Birke t Foster pictures were originally in color as he practically abandoned pencil drawings for wood engraving after 1850. It was in this year that he began this type of art in 1841, at the age of sixteen, when his employer Landels, together with Henry Mayhew and Mark Lenthall, left for Oregon. Some day perhaps we may lift the curtain on the unusual catalog-and-mailing-list to reveal the steps which place these temptations in your path.

Since using Primrose Gatherers, we have been able to choose Foster pictures photographed from a New York collection and which will appear on the covers of future Barnhaven catalogs. It is quite thrilling to find a method which suits a painting to the country children in their normal pursuits, and it is in this way that we are made richer by a series of scenes in which Victorian boys and girls are gathering primroses and cowslips.

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is the most complete book on the Primula ever published in the U.S. It is now offered at the J. K. Gill Company exclusively, for $1.98. It was published at $7.50.

A definitive work on the Primula, including information on such favorites as the Polyanthus, acaulis and the cowslip. This book will interest garden lovers as well as students of the plant sciences. The author gives facts on the successful cultivation of many species and hybrids gleaned from his own long experience in growing Primulas. The book is illustrated with numerous line drawings, a color frontispiece, and 88 photographs. It is exceptionally well bound and the paper is of excellent quality.

This book is more than a historical and systematic work on the genus Primula. It is a testimony of the experiences and labor of one who has discovered the secrets of growing these rare and much desired flowers. Really very few works have been prepared for publication by so thoroughly experienced and authoritative a source as is the case at hand. Dr. Blasdale has collected, propagated, hybridized, studied, photographed, and lived with a great many species of primulas from all parts of the world for more than twenty years. During this time he has learned how to grow these beautiful flowers under conditions widely different from their rather specialized natural requirements. (E. O. Essig, Journal of the California Horticultural Society).

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The Story of Fertosan

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Mr. Dawson also concluded that only about 10% of grown vegetation comprised the harvest, the remainder being waste, but capable of being returned to the earth as compost with the necessary plant foods for further growth.

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ASHLEY, grey edge          8  HOMSLEY, green               10  OLD GOLD, old gold self     8
CHAMPNEY, grey edge        8  HORN, white edge            8  RHINEFIELD, grey edge       8
CULVERLEY, green          10  HYTHE, white edge         8  SELF EDGE, grey edge       10
DEERLEAP, self yellow       7  LADYCROSS, grey edge           8  SHIERFIELD, grey edge       8
DOVE, grey edge            8  LANGLEY, bright self red 7  SLODEN, green            10
EMBLY, grey edge           8  MALWOOD, grey edge          10  SMERLEY, grey edge         8
FLORENS M. MEEK, green, 10  MARCHWOOD, green         10  "  "          8
Gen. Jeffrey, fancy green   10  J. W. MIDGELEY, white edge    7  SUNFLOWER, yellow self   7
GREEN PARROT, green        10  MIST, grey edge            8  WOODLANDS, white edge     8

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* Editor's Note: A serious collector has a chance to get that out of the way with Mr. Michaud & Co. Write and ask for their list, and mention the names of those plants you are trying to find and Mr. Michaud will, I know, do his best to help you.

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