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The Men Who Gave Us Auriculas

Mr. Cooper really goes back to beginnings. This is, to most of us, the most fascinating part of the lore of Primula.

By Roland E. Cooper

We owe many of the quantity of lovely garden plants such as the Tulip, Iris, and others which came into our gardens in the sixteenth century from the countries east of Europe, to the activities of the Court diplomats of the Austrian Emperor Maximilian the 2nd, and to the merchants trading to and from his country.

They, knowing their Emperor's interest in all such beautiful things, diligently sought them wherever they were posted.

It was a diplomat named Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq who reported the existence in Constantinople of a copy dated 512 A.D. of the great standard work for the doctors, the De Materia Medica of Dioscorides who wrote it in the first century of our era; and which the Emperor acquired for his Imperial Library in 1569. The world is his debtor ever since. "...a manuscript extremely ancient, with drawings of plants and containing also if I am not mistaken some fragments of Crates...owing to its age is in a bad state being externally so worm-eaten that scarcely anyone if he saw it lying in the road would pick it up. It belongs to...the son of Hamon who while he was alive was physician to Soleiman."

Among the plants with curative properties mentioned in that manuscript were Auriculas, though not called by that name.

By such means did the Emperor create a broad collection of plants in his special garden near Vienna and central to that lovely Austrian country-side with its forested, snow-capped hills and its charming lakes surround-

Primula Clusiana

Photograph courtesy of Dr. Blasdale

ed with stretches of flower-decked sward with that fascinating "blue Danube" meandering through it.

The town's markets in early summer were gay with bunches of wild flowers (and whole plants too) including primroses and auriculas gathered from those glorious countrysides and their own little gardens by the cheerful peasantry and brought in for sale. They were bought by the ladies of the Court and the villagers alike who wore them threaded and garlanded in their hair. They danced.

This interest in flowers was basically pursued for the study of medicinal properties and the greatest interest was taken in the plants of the Emperor's garden by the physicians and other intellectuals who came from all parts of the then known world to do so.

They focussed about the Court Physician, a learned Italian named Pierandrea Mattioli who died of the plague in 1577, aged 76. He had made a "Commentary" upon Dioscorides and in it he had stated that one of his plants was the same as that known to him as auricula ursi. Incidentally he had found some new plants while on an expedition to the Tyrol. A well-known genus of garden plants, the wall-flowers, was named after him—Matthiolus.

Into this coterie of Physicians came a middle-aged man from the Low Countries named Jules-Charles de l'Ecluse, whom the world knows better as Clusius. A man of much accomplishment, a licensed physician, explorer, linguist, a teacher and, of course, a plantsman, for he had been invited by the Emperor to become associated with his garden and was entitled the Court Botanist. He visited the gardens of his friends and discussed their plant problems with them. Indeed he, like them, acquired a small garden in which he essayed to grow plants including auriculas and which doubtless had commenced with contributions of plants from them.

After studying at various universities, he had been to the great botany school run by Rondet (in whose honour the genus Rondeletia is named) who improved his health and imbued him with the ruling passion for the rest of his long and nomadic life, plants. These he studied more for their expressions than for any intrinsic medicinal virtues. He tutored the sons of many important people and it was with two of such pupils that he went on an adventurous trip to the Iberian Peninsula upon which he found two hundred new plants. He described these in his "History of some rare plants seen in Spain" (Rariorum aliquid stirpium per Hispanias observatorum historia, 1576).

He wandered over the mountains of "Pannonia", as Austria and Hungary were then called, while he was at Vienna and described the plants he found there with drawings to illustrate them in his next book in 1583. In this he noted varying lengths of styles in the primroses which may be the earliest mention of heterostylism.

He was about fourteen years as Court Botanist in Vienna and perhaps his most important contribution to gardens for a Society like the American Primrose Society was his discovery in the garden of his friend Professor & Doctor Koannis Aichholz of an auricula ursi whose seedlings came in a great variety of colours. He sent some to Belgium where they came to play the lion's part in the development of our garden Auriculas. This plant is now known as x P. pubescens and put under P. auricula in the Genus Primula. He describes this plant and many other primroses and auriculas in his 1583 book. From Vienna he went in 1587 to a professorship in Leyden University and there, in 1601, produced his magnum opus, a book combining all his discoveries called Rariorum plantarum historia... In this he describes all the then known primroses (except one), eight under numbers of auricula ursi, the cowslip and primrose and also the little "bird's eye". None of his descriptions seem to fit P. Palinuri which was known to Dioscorides.

A man of great accomplishment, he accomplished more, for he introduced the potato into Austria, France and the Low Countries, established a number of bulbous and tuberous plants in cultivation, by this means laying the foundation of the bulb industry in Holland. He visited England several times and testifies that English gardens then were very prolific in garden forms of primroses and mentions quite a number of double and otherwise monstrous forms in Vienna as imported from England and which were
greatly admired. The fact is rather striking as at that time there were many good gardens on the Continent with which he was familiar. In England he met with that great Elizabethan sailor, Sir Francis Drake, from whom he obtained plants of the New World. He met both on the Continent and in England, that graceful and accomplished poet of Elizabeth’s day, Sir Philip Sidney.

He translated the Flemish Herbal of Rembert Dodoens into French, made Latin versions of the Portuguese work of Garcia de Orta dealing with the plants of India and the Spanish writings of Christova Acosta and Nicolas Monardes (who had the genus Monarda named after him) dealing with the Americas. At Leyden he planned the botanical garden in 1594 and a reconstruction of his old garden made recently perpetuates his memory. There exists a copy of an old Herbal (Lyte’s of 1578) with his handwriting in it, “a small and delicate hand.” In the preface of his book of 1601, he states:

“At 76, with failing health, I am content to hand on the torch to the younger generation, hoping that they may be excited to similar or greater efforts.” He died in 1609.

The genus Clusia of tropical plants from tropical America, is named by Linnaeus in his honour, with thirty species all very interesting from their absence of bud scales and the presence of yellow latex (gamboge) in their tissues, used for a variety of purposes according to the species, as a medicine, as a pitch for caulking their boats (by the Caribs) and as an incense for burning.

Over two hundred years after his death, one of his auricula ursi, described and figured in his 1583 book, was named in his honour, Primula Clusiana; a good plant in cultivation with flowers said to be as large as a florin.

In Memoriam

From The Canadian Primula and Alpine Society May Bulletin

F. Kingdon-Ward

Engraving

Courtesy Royal Horticultural Society and Jonathan Cope, Publishers

(Reprinted from the Quarterly, Summer, 1953)

It is with regret that notice has come of the passing, on April 8th, of one of our most famous plant hunters, Mr. F. Kingdon-Ward. There will be a lasting Memorial to him in many parts of the world, where in gardens grow lovely Meconopsis betonicifolia, the Himalayan Blue Poppy, and perfumed Primulas floriniae. It has been said that, had he never introduced anything else, he would be remembered for these two plants. But he also introduced many beautiful species Rhododendron, Alpine Gentiana, and many other worthwhile garden subjects.

Of special interest to me this year is one of his most recent introductions (1946) Lilium Mackliniae, which he named after his wife Jean Macklin. I am growing it this year—have hopefully watched the tender shoot expand and produce a bud which I believe will be open for our May meeting! So hope you all will share the joy of a lovely new plant, which would not be ours but for the dangers and hardships endured by great collectors—as was Kingdon-Ward.

Grace M. Conboy

Editor’s Note—For an article about Mr. Kingdon-Ward and an article from his pen, see the Summer 1953 APS Quarterly.
Maude Hannon Wins American Primrose Society's 1958 Hybridizing Award

From the Presentation Speech at the National Primrose Society Banquet, Chehalis, Washington

FLORENC E LEV Y

We are gathered here this evening to take our hats off to Mrs. John Patrick Hannon, known to her friends and fellow growers as Maude and to me as Maudie.

I hold Maudie in the highest esteem as a woman, as a friend, and as a grower. And because I know how wonderful she is, I will have to tell you about her in a light vein for fear the awardee may be overtaken by emotion.

I remember well my first meeting with Maude Hannon fifteen years ago.

She came to Barnhaven with a friend and bought her first seed, went home and started her Pagoda strain. Over the years as she worked with these plants, she lived and relived her Oriental experiences. She had been in the Orient as a girl where she worked for the Remington Typewriter Company. She was in Peking at the time of the 1911 Revolution and was on the first steamer that sailed up the Yangtze flying the American flag.

She travelled in three western provinces of China that bordered on Tibet — Czechwan, Kansu, and Yunan. Yunan is known as the “land of the Southern Cloud,” and this province is the province where most of the candelabra species of primula are found.

It is this background of familiarity and the remembrance of the architecture of China that gave Mrs. Hannon the idea for the name of Pagoda for the strain of candelabra primroses she developed from the seed she bought from Barnhaven those fifteen years ago. These plants are now in the seventh generation of the Pagoda strain.

The species used in the development of the Pagoda strain are Pulverulenta, Bulleyana, Bessiana, aurantiaca, changensis and Cockburniana.

She found a light pure yellow Pagoda seed parent, unmealed, which resembled a japonica. From this came the Imperial Red Pagodas, Burmese Opal, Burnt Orange, clear light pink rose, and two with pure white flowers.
From these two white flowers, Maude now has her fifth generation of "Fujiyama"—a name that also reflects her love and understanding of the Orient.

It is with great pride and personal affection that I present Maude Hann with the American Primrose Society's 1958 Hybridizing Award.

"Step by step since time began...

It is difficult to imagine where improvement could be made in the new candelabra hybrid "Fujiyama." This is the first white in the candelabra class that will be in demand as background material on account of its rugged size, texture, and height.

"Fujiyama" is thought to be a tetraploid, with japonica characteristics predominating. A tetraploid is a plant with twice the number of chromosomes normal to the species and account for the size and ruggedness of "Fujiyama." The chromosome count may have something to do with its pleasant habit of blooming both spring and fall.

Whenever a "break" occurs in the garden there is mystery as to how it came to be and who the parents are. Such is the case with the seed parent that produced "Fujiyama." Maude Hann was working with Primula pulverulenta, Bulleyana, Beesiana, aurantiaca, chungensis, and Cockburniana, and among the thousands of seedlings she found one plant without powder, and showing all the characteristics of japonica. Where or when the japonica blood was introduced is anyone's guess. This plant was outstanding in every way with pale yellow flowers of good size and texture. This was chosen as the seed parent, and among the many seedlings of burnt orange, pink, and rose shades, there were two duplicates of the mother plant in rugged size, heavy texture, light green long foot-stalked leaves, and the flowers were snow white with a yellow eye.

From her many years in the Orient, Maude knew as soon as she saw the beautiful snow white blooms that this was Fujiyama. These plants bloomed for the first time in the fall. That fall was very rainy with very little sunshine and the prospect of ripening seed very discouraging. In desperation, after the seed pods formed, the scapes were cut and placed in a glass of water kept sweet with charcoal. The pods matured and ripened and were planted in January. The resulting plants were pictured on the cover of the 1956 Summer Quarterly. From these only the most outstanding plants have been used for pollinating.

The color alone makes this an outstanding achievement in hybridizing and well deserving of the A.P.S. award.

The importance of Primula obconica, the result of German plant breeding, cannot be dismissed within the floriculture of any country in the world. The first seed of the species were sent from China by the collector Maries of the firm Veitch and Sons, and they flowered in the fall of 1880. Georg Arends, Wuppertal-Ronsdorf, saw this new introduction in 1885 at the firm of Th. S. Ware in Tottenham near London, England, and was greatly impressed by this neat, compact flowering plant with lilac blossoms. When in the spring of 1888 Georg Arends started his own establishment, he grew as his first species, P. obconica from seed sown during the winter before in his father's greenhouses. We must emphasize the fact that the house of Arends has taken into their own hands the improvement of this plant ever since the introduction of the wild form from the Chinese mountains (West-Hupeh). The results of seventy years of breeding are shown in the magnificent bloom we have today.

The size of the flowers alone was increased not only twice, nor thrice, but four times. With the enrichment...
of the colour scale from pale lilac to white, pink, red, blue, and salmon was combined the experiment to obtain a type free from the skin irritant primin, affecting relatively few people. All these experiments did not culminate in lasting results. During long years, the marriage of P. obconica with P. sinensis and other related species were unsuccessful. It appeared as if this plant could not be crossed with any other species. Despite it the breeding continued.

After many years and seemingly impossible tests, the efforts of the firm of George Arends were rewarded. At last during 1932 a repeated intercrossing with P. sinolisteri was successful. The one capsule contained two seeds, and from one of them emerged a hybrid with equal characteristics of both parents. Unfortunately this plant had the irritant primin. Continued inter and back crossing gave at last a primin-free type. This new hybrid made its debut in the summer of 1939 on the occasion of the florists' exhibition in Stuttgart, where it was much admired.

The experimental institutes in Berlin—Dahlem and Geisenheim—received material to continue on their own further breeding work which resulted shortly after in the discovery of an easy means of any trace of primin detection. This fact proved of great help to the firm of Arends in their breeding efforts.

The war disrupted all promising experiments. Almost the entire plant material was destroyed by bombings in Ronsdorf, whereas in Berlin, at Dahl- em and Geisenheim, total destruction took place. Mr. Arends succeeded in rescuing only a few miserable specimens which were the means of a fresh start, once more normal conditions returned.

Only in 1958, twenty-five years after making the first hybrid, is it possible that the firm of Georg Arends can offer seeds of this new Primula x Arendssii "Multiflora." The distinguishing parental features are united in this plant almost equally, retaining the soft, small leaves of P. sinolisteri, and bringing forth many flowering stalks in the early spring as in P. obconica. Such successive flowering similar to P. obconica is nevertheless not the case here. The pink and red colours are inherent in P. obconica, while P. sinolisteri blossoms in white to lilac-pink.

Primula x Arendssii "Multiflora" does not attain the size of P. obconica, but is stronger than P. sinolisteri. Compared with P. sinensis, or P. malacoides, the circumference of the mature plant is identical. In contrast to the last mentioned, it possesses a remarkable toughness in heated rooms.

This new breeding selection is primarily a pot plant and should find, for instance, a ready market for Mother's Day, being practically free of the skin irritant. The cultivation is about the same as with P. malacoides. Because it flowers so bountifully in early spring, the seeds should be sown during the first part of June to the end of July. However, any other time will do, but the willingness to flower is much less evident. Twice transplanted the plants come into 2½" to 2¾" pots, and later into their permanent pots, which should be small, 3½" not more than 4". The tolerant pH value is 6 to 6.5; with soil a little lighter than with P. obconica, and a temperature of 50° to 60° Farenheit.

Editor's Note: (See Arends ad on page 111.) To avoid any trouble with the exchange between dollars and marks, and with language difficulties, send all inquiries or orders to Mr. Luscher. (Bob Luscher is an amateur stamp collector, so please adorn envelopes with commemorative stamps).

Primula Denticulata
The pictures show the difference between P. denticulata and P. cashmiriana.

By T. C. Clare

Primula denticulata is a very variable plant from the colour point of view; and in the last twenty or thirty years many beautiful varieties have been developed from the original lavender coloured plant, and its white form. Mr. George Welch of Cambridge was one of the earliest colour selectors and developed a firm strain of almost violet coloured ones in his Cambria strain in the late 1920s and early '30s.

Since then, pinks and reds have appeared, and Messrs. Richards of Christchurch received an R.H.S. Award of Merit for their P. d. Richards Ruby a couple of years ago. This is a deep carmine red. My own firm's...
Our method is to dig up a plant and remove some of its best anchor roots (the thick thongs), cut them into about one inch lengths, and lay them flat about a quarter to one half inch apart in a large seed tray. Compost as follows: John Innes No. 1 covered with half an inch of sand. Lay the thongs on this and cover them with sand. Make the whole thoroughly moist, put a pane of glass on top and place in a warm spot. Bottom heat is an advantage. The joy of this method is that the thongs usually produce two, three, or four rosettes, so that one can very quickly build up a good stock of any particular variety. When the rosettes are well developed, they can be carefully lifted and pricked off or, if one wishes, they can be hardened off and planted straight out. They will mostly give small flowers the following spring, and be fine large plants in their second season.

In conclusion, may I suggest the following as a planting association for P. denticulata. To those who have natural water, or rock gardens with pond or bog sections, plant a good dark form of P. denticulata in association with Primula rosea grandiflora and the double Kingcup, Caltha palustris flore pleno. The Caltha is planted with its feet in the water, P. rosea where it remains pretty moist all the time, and P. denticulata where it can get its deep roots always down to moisture. The three plants all flower together and make a wonderful show here in April and early May.

My second photograph is of P. cashmiriana, which, according to the 1928 Primula Conference report, was a garden variety. In any case, it is quite a distinct plant and not nearly so showy as P. denticulata, having much smaller pips in the flower head.

As one looks down at the large, leathery, upturned leaves and the daintily down-faced blooms of the hardy cyclamens, surely one must ask himself if there is a lovelier plant to cover the ground. What a pity that shady nooks in all gardens are not peopled with these easily grown plants of such exquisite beauty.

In every way but size and hardiness these cyclamen resemble their tender cousins, the hot house plant of the florist's shop, Cyclamen persicum. They are an outdoor plant not of one but a number of species, each of which species makes its own impersonation and comes upon the garden stage at its own appointed time. Upheld by all of its species actors, the show goes on for eight or more months of the year.

In July or August, C. europaeum thrusts its leaves and crimson blooms into the air and scents its immediate surroundings with an odd, but delightful fragrance. In one of its native homes, the Swiss Alps, it is known as the Alpine Violet. It is one of the hardiest of all and one worthy of the greatest consideration. Its leaves persist for the greater part of the year and its flowers give fragrance and color from summer to winter. Its leaves are broadly heart-shaped, dark green in color mottled with a lighter green between the center of the leaf and its edge. Underneath, the leaf is light green mottled purple.
About a month later, C. neapolitanum sends its pink or white bloom straight out of the bare ground. Then, often two weeks later, it pushes through its large, arrowhead-shaped leaves which are larger and more beautiful than those of any other member of the tribe. The underlying color is a medium green with mottlings of darker green bordered with light, silvery green. This, also, is a very hardy kind. One of its peculiarities is in having big tubers with a hard outer rind. C. neapolitanum will continue well into November. It is a native of Southern and Western France, Corsica, and Italy.

Coming into growth at the same time as C. neapolitanum is C. cilicium, possibly the smallest of the hardy cyclamen. Its dark, glossy green leaf mottled with silver-green is about half the size of the leaf of C. europeum and about one-third the size of that of C. neapolitanum. It is heart-shaped and purple on the underside. The pink, short-stemmed flowers are smaller but more numerous than those of the other cyclamens. C. cilicium’s native habitat is the Cicilian Mountains of Asia Minor.

Before C. europeum has ceased blooming, C. comus is apt to be pushing out of its leaves in preparation for its January show of flowers. Its leaves are round and dark green on top, light, glossy-green underneath. Its flowers may be either red, white, or pink. Neither rain, snow, nor winter blasts deter its blooming. What a sight it is to look out of one’s living room window and see the ground under a large rhododendron covered with its bloom in the dead of winter.

One cannot be too precise about the blooming date of the various cyclamen, for they vary from season to season. I know, however, that it was February last when I held in my hand the loveliest of all the hardy cyclamen blooms, that of C. libanoticum. Its flowers are large with broad, overlapping petals of clear pink which shades to white at the base of the petals. Here at the petal base are purple-red marks surrounding the cup in the center of the flower.

Soon afterwards, in March, C. repandum became a riot of color. Its petals are red shading to a deeper and brighter red at the base of the petals. Its petals are long and narrow and flare up and outward from their narrow base. Its leaves are heart-shaped with broadly serrated edges and are of a dark green mottled with light green.

Later in spring, C. Atkinsonii puts forth crimson, white, or pink flowers. Its leaf is a rounded heart-shape, dark green mottled with lighter green.

C. pseud-libanoticum has large crimson flowers in April.

The hardy cyclamen are long-lived plants which, when once properly planted, need nothing more than a mulch of rotted manure once a year during the dormant season when the ground is bare. The soil requirement is a mixture of coarse sand, garden loam, and humus in equal proportions. The depth of planting for C. europeum is two inches below the surface. For all other species the tops of the tubers should be at the surface of the soil.

Oddenda

Pacific Northwest is not the only part of the world where primroses were blooming all winter in an unusually mild season. The following item was noted in the New York Times, Sunday, February 9th, with a date line Honiton, England (Canadian Press): “Primroses and wild strawberries are picked in midwinter in this Devon community.”

The Julianas

Of all the Primulas in the Vernales section, Primula juliae and its hybrids have the most heart-warming appeal.

By Rosella B. Schmidt

The first Primula juliae was discovered in 1900 by Julia Mlokosjewicz (I know, I can’t pronounce it either) in the Caucasus. I am glad she had such a pretty name as julia, for somehow it just suits this dainty little Primula, and, by it, we remember the one who brought it to us. Primula juliae has a herbaceous habit, creeping rhizomes, tiny round or kidney shaped leaves, and spreads out into a mat-like carpet when happy. Its flowers are borne on one inch stems, singly, and are of a rosy purple hue.

This tiny species is the mother, grandmother, and great grandmother of all the hybrids listed under the name juliana, P. juliae was first crossed with P. elatior in 1917 and later with P. vulgaris. This was only the beginning as it was found to be so compatible it was crossed and re-crossed many times and, through careful selection, has produced some glorious hybrids and attained a position of real importance. Hybridizers all over the world have become fascinated with them, as many of the names suggest. There are now obtainable a wide range of rich colors as well as delicate hues.

My first acquaintance with the juliana hybrids took place when I was just married. I had always been fascinated with the wild flowers that God had created, and remembered how, as a child, I had roamed the open fields gathering up armfuls of crocuses and buttercups which literally covered the prairie soil like a blanket of snow in color. Now I wanted my own little flower bed and proceeded to make it a reality. Around the base of the tall fir tree that stood guard near the door, I had my husband bring in some leaf-mold and rotted cow dung which served as fertilizer. We carefully built this up and placed the rocks that we had gathered on our outings in a large circle around the base. I don’t remember who provided me with my first Primroses; they could have come from my mother who was also very fond of flowers. At any rate, it was the juliana hybrid, Wanda, that went into the making of my first flower bed. Anyone who has Primroses, generally has Wanda as it will grow in almost any situation without very much attention, so these is a tendency to look down on this purple Julianas as being "common." But Wanda has been the door-opener for many a well-known hybridizer and is the parent of many worthwhile hybrids, including Primrose Lodge, so let us give credit where credit is due. The way it flourished in my little garden was remarkable. Through it I began to recognize other hybrids and in the years to follow I became so fascinated by them they practically became an obsession. I have grown over sixty named varieties that I can recall at the moment, besides having raised some meritorious seedlings from my own crosses. In obtaining Julianas commercially I have sometimes come across the same one under a different name. The best instance of this is such as Schneckissen and Snow Cushion which I feel the same thing."

*Editor’s Note—Snow Cushion is the literal translation of Schneckissen so both names refer to the same plant.
Among the more meritorious hybrids you will find the cushion-forming type, such as beautiful Schneekissen just mentioned, which forms a cushion of pure white snow, and Blaukissen which is much the same, only in blue with a touch of violet. Irish Gem comes from Ireland as the name implies, as do the colorful foliaged Garryardes with their soft violet and pink blooms. Then there is the unique colored E. R. Jones which is described as an orange-flame with a slight infusion of rose. This has done so wonderfully for the people in England that I cannot understand why it will not increase more rapidly for me. I have never been able to get a real mass of color in it. My hope lies in a seedling that I produced from this lovely little gem. The color is just as unique and I am hoping that it will be more robust. Another seedling which looks very promising (I will call it 'Silverette') is a free-flowering dusty rose in color, with a shining silver edge.

One that has given me a great deal of pleasure is the free flowering Kinloch Beauty. This is truly a treasure with its mellow pink heads and forms a lovely picture alongside of Lady Green in her pale yellow attire. I have always been attracted to Betty Green in her velvety crimson gown as well as Dinah which is darker and almost eyeless. I have crossed these with the hybrid Cowichan and have obtained some very lovely eyeless beauties. Some time I would like to acquire the 'Morton Hybrid' since this seems to have such a place of honor among the English gardeners.

The charming miniature Pam is a quaint little thing and will fascinate you as it did me, with its tiny foliage and small petunia purple blooms outlined in white. Another I must share with you is Lolipopp, a stout little gem in burgundy red with a faint stripe down each petal. This has produced some very pretty and meritorious seedlings for me. One that we named Vesper at our annual show in Vancouver last year attracted everyone's attention.

Jewel came to me through the mail, had been handled with no respect and arrived very sickly indeed. I quickly planted it on the north side of my house where I still have some natural leaf mold mixed with my clay and sand, with some Blue Whale added. After planting, I covered it with a glass jar from my kitchen which served as a little greenhouse all of its own. In no time at all it seemed, it recovered and came along nicely. This method of treating these abused gems works very well for me and I pass it along to you in the hope that it will be helpful to someone else.

I have mentioned only a few of those I have grown and loved. Some I feel are so rugged that I wonder where the Juliana blood is supposed to be. I find that actually there is nothing to equal the Julianas for color, time of bloom, and length of blooming period in the spring garden. They just seem to have it all and will stay with you as long as you give them a favorable spot and will just take a peek at them now and then. However, you better make it a quick peek, as you will find that you can't take your eyes off them if you give them a longer look. So beware!

Editor's Note—From Mr. Duncan we learn that Rosella Schmidt has four daughters, teaches ceramics, has probably the largest collection of named Juliana hybrids in the Northwest and is probably the leading hybridizer of this section of Primula.

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Hybrid Juliana Mrs. McGillivray

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The official organ of the American Primrose Society

**The Quarterly**

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

101
Spring Comes Early In Connecticut
MRS. JOSEPH ELLIAS

A small miracle happened in the Chapel Street School, Stratford, Connecticut, during the height of a snowstorm in late March. In a matter of about three and a half hours, a garden bloomed where none had been before.

My husband and I introduced it there in presenting to the Stratford Home Gardeners the program, "Primulas, the Breath of Spring." The idea behind the ten foot by six foot garden was to display various primulas and plants which can be grown with them in an appropriate setting.

Last summer the idea for the garden was sketched on paper. Then the bulbs had to be ordered and planted in pots in the fall and plants had to be dug from the garden and potted. All during the late fall and winter they were grown in a sun heated pit where, without artificial heat, the plants grew green and healthy. The "pit", as we call our cold greenhouse, is dug into the ground and covered on the south side at a 45 degree angle with coldframe sash, with a solid roof on the north side. To retain heat that has been absorbed from the sun by day, mats and a plastic covering are placed over the glass at night and in stormy weather. Even in zero weather the indoor temperature in the sun-heated pit is about 32-35 degrees at night.

The background fence of cedar poles was built and loaned by Joseph Kubic, of James Farm Road, Stratford, and the lovely little Italian marble figure was loaned through the courtesy of the Lola Flower shop of Bridgeport. All plants were in pots, set in peat moss to give the feeling of growing directly in soil. Mrs. John Maslen, president of the Stratford Home Gardeners, assisted me in transporting and setting in place of the approximately 150 pots of plants, including azaleas, daffodils, narcissus, tulips, mille, muscar, snowdrops, and primulas.

Mrs. Elias' display proves once again how indispensable are Primroses for early Spring color in the garden.

Account of This Year's Shows

The National Primrose Show
Chehalis, Washington

The quality of the plants at the National Show in Chehalis was surprisingly high, coming so late in April as to be almost May. After a very open winter and a very early spring, it was feared there would be nothing left of show quality by the 26th and 27th. The show was blessed with good weather and attracted visitors from Vancouver, B.C., to Salem, Oregon. Bob Saxe of San Francisco had been scheduled to speak at the banquet but an automobile accident a few days before the show prevented him from attending.

Most of the interest at the National Show is centered on the competition for the best Auricula seedling and the Bamford Trophy was won for the second time by Cy Happy. His green-edged Auricula seedling is just as good as the best that has been produced here thus far and we feel would rank well up with those produced in England. This is the second win for this green edge and a third win will bring it a name. Cy Happy assures us that in that event the name will be "Pete Klein" of which we all approve.

Sweepstakes winner was Herb Dickson, with Wesley Bottoms the runner-up.

The banquet at the St. Helens Hotel was a sell-out. Nancy Hagerman, Show Chairman, did a very gracious job as M.C. Peter Klein's son made the trip from Mendota, Illinois, especially to present the Bamford Trophy to Cy Happy. Peter Klein's son, Leonard, and his daughter, Mrs. Cilento, of Tacoma, also presented Maude Hannon with a framed picture of x Kleinii. The picture was done by Ivy Agee, was very lovely, and the gesture was one of the nicest things we have seen. The presentation of the Society's hybridizing award to Maude Hannon is recorded on page 90.

East Side Garden Club,
Kirkland, Wash.

BY ALICE WARNNECK

The show is ended, but the memory lingers on. We are sure it is a happy memory for many people. First of all, for the trophy winners.

Mrs. William Dines was the winner of the Horticulture Sweepstakes award, Miss Ida Magnus, the runner-up award in the amateur division. In the professional division, the sweepstakes went to Mr. Ralph Balcom and the runner-up to Mr. Wesley Bottoms.
Junior horticulture professional sweepstakes was won by Eddie Willingham, runner-up Marnie Tindall. Amateur sweepstakes Charlotte Johnson, runner-up, Peter Dines. In the Decorative Division, sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Stanford Lindstrom, runner-up, Mrs. June Harp, Junior sweepstakes, Faith Warneke, runner-up Mary Lu Massey. In the Garden Clubs under 25 members the trophy was won by Eastgate Garden Club No. 1; and over 25 members by Yarrow Point Garden Club. Mr. Ross Willingham won for the growers, and the Pacific Northwest Nursery of Bellevue for Nurseries.

For the first time, the greenhouse was won by a Kirkland resident, Mrs. J. Parchesi. Congratulations to all of you, and happy days!

The theme of the Show, "A Woodland Garden," was carried out beautifully by all entrants. The lovely trees and native shrubs were at their best this year. The early season had the committees worried a bit, and it did change the over-all look of the show somewhat. Many of the Acaulis and Juliae Divisions that formerly have been prominent in the show were missing, but the Auricula Division came into its own this year.

The outstanding organ music furnished for the Show by Mr. Don Adler of Redmond added much to the enjoyment of those attending the show. From the comments in the guest book we know that our visitors took home with them new ideas about Primroses and how to make the best use of them in their own gardens.

The show is ended, but we know that the hard-working chairman, Mrs. Robert Putnam, is still tying up loose ends. May she have nothing but pleasant memories of the 1958 Show!

Tacoma Primrose Society, Tacoma, Washington

Although competing for attention with a large Daffodil parade, the show at Tacoma on April 12 and 13 was very successful, which pleased the committee no end as there had been grave doubts because of the open winter and very early season.

The theme of the show "Primroses Around the World" was graphically carried out in displays by the professional growers, Western State Hospital and the Tacoma Park Board, which were all outstanding. One of the most interesting displays was "Switzerland" by Dick Backeborg who won him the Poole Seed & Nursery plaque. Among the professional growers displays we saw some nice things in Ruth Bartlett's plot from Spring Hill Farm.

Mrs. Dines of Redmond won the President's Trophy for her polyanthus which was the best in the show. Other individual winners were Wesley Bottoms, Mr. Larsen, Cy Happy, Mrs. Fallstrom, Ross Willingham, Mrs. Franz, John Haddock, Mrs. Knack, Ralph Balcom, Ruth Hofto, Howard Larkin, Claude Schutt, Karl Stedt, and Floyd Keller.

Ondandaga Primrose Society, Syracuse, New York

Hilda M. Baldwin

The Ondandaga Primrose Society held a "Primrose Tour" on Sunday, May 11. The members gathered here and after looking at our collection, we toured around to the gardens of four other members—all that had any number of plants left them by rodoms who grew sleek under the snow, on primroses among other things.

Our own pride and joy this year is a bed of polyanthus grown from Swedish seed. There were about a hundred plants in the small patch, all very sturdy with as many as five thick stems of large flowers in varying shades of blue. They excited much enthusiasm because it is a rare thing to see more than two or three blues at a time here.

Dr. Piper showed us a bed of colorful polyanthus, some good P. denticulata and the old-fashioned officinalis. Mr. and Mrs. Ritzler's polyanthus wintered well and provided a good show of color, as did Mrs. Camp's. We visited last Dr. and Mrs. Jordan's home. In spite of winter losses, he had good polyanthus, denticulatas, and auriculas, and generously gave each household a well-grown seedling of "Glen Dobie" and of "Searchlight." In his greenhouse, in addition to old laced pinks, there was a wonderful collection of pelargoniums in bloom.

During the four hours of the "tour" we experienced an wide variety of weather, including uncomfortable heat—rain, cold, and hail.

For a small club such as ours, this was more enjoyable than an indoor show. Any work that was done for it did not disturb the primroses, but did get the spring clean-up accomplished much earlier than it otherwise would have. Our shows never were competitive, so a garden show could be worked up to interest almost as many visitors as an indoor one (weather permitting)! If it were organized and publicized. It could prove to be instrumental in interesting and educating more people in growing primroses when they see them in their actual setting.

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Syracuse, New York

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Secretary .................. Mrs. Elmer C. Baldwin
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Clark County Primrose Show, Vancouver, Washington

By Mrs. Seth Barnett

The Clark County Primrose Society held their show March 29th and 30th at the Experiment Station. A plant sale and Silver Tea were held with the show. The Club received many compliments on the floor display that was made up of different colors and types of primroses and companion plants. Mrs. Lucile Tippit won sweepstakes with a pink Polyanthus.

Friday Harbor Primrose Club
Friday Harbor, Washington

By Florence Blashfield

The 1958 Primrose Show was patterned after an English garden. A replica of Ann Hathaway's cottage nestled in the trees with a white picket fence enclosing the garden in the foreground. The visitors entered through an ivy-covered gate and followed the path which was lined with beds of primroses and flowering bulbs, with trees and flowering shrubs in the background. Miniature imitation pools added to the pleasing effect, and many compliments were received on the exhibits and the arrangement. Much interest was shown in the old-fashioned well beside the kitchen door, complete with sweep and moss-covered bucket; and the thatch-covered dove cote was also much admired.

This year's show also had an Educational table, in charge of Gertrude Dearborn, with several dozen different varieties of primroses on exhibit, labeled, for the benefit of those interested. Several of Mollie Winn's attractive watercolors of primroses were also on display. The Tea Committee, of which Bunie Haubner was chairman, had the tea tables covered with pink tablecloths and tastefully deco-
rated with fresh flower bouquets. The tea room was decorated with lilies, forsythia, and apple blossoms, and the waitresses were very attractive in their net aprons and caps.

The show was well attended with guests coming from as far away as Hoquiam, Bellingham, Seattle, and the other San Juan Islands.

Mt. Angel Primrose Society,
Mt. Angel, Oregon

By LORETTA E. DEHLER

Mt. Angel's Eleventh Annual Primrose Show, held Sunday, April 13th in the American Legion Hall, was easily its largest in point of exhibits as well as in visitors. Quality of the primroses was likewise very high and all the divisions, except the very early Julias and the late candelabra, were well represented. The Show was sponsored by the Mt. Angel Garden Club.

Miss JULIANA DEHLER won the sweepstakes cup donated by the City Council for the greatest number of points in prizes. The Junior sweepstakes prize for the greatest number of points in the children's division went to Mike Palmer of Mt. Angel. Mrs. Dave Shepherd of Mt. Angel, runner-up for the sweepstakes, won the special award for the best auricula scedling with a tawny, golden-buff flower that led a good selection of tans, browns, and coppery shades.

A distinguishing feature of this year's show was the great variety of colors and shades and the exceptionally fine true pinks, ranging from apple blossom to real wild rose. There were also very good reds.

An encouraging note to the Garden Club was the fact that exhibits were received from five or six surrounding towns in addition to Mt. Angel and that visitors were registered from many parts of the State and also from out of State.

The Canadian Primula and Alpine Society, Vancouver, B. C.

By GRACE CONBOY

Our Spring Show, April 18th and 19th, was not a large show but the quality was of a very high standard. There were fine displays of Polyanthus and Julias hybrids—pans of Primula Sieboldii, Veitchii, and Pubescens hybrids. Mr. Brown's choice Alpine display included Calceolaria Darwinii, Pleione Priceii, Androsace Lacera, Phyteuma Compsum, to mention a few lovelies. Mr. Angerman staged a delightful display of dwarf evergreen and flowering shrubs interplanted with pans of Primulas and Alpines.

An especially choice feature of our show were three plant troughs containing various minute Alpines, much in their element; and in a woodland trough backed with ferns, Kolintia, Rhododendron Blue Tit, and containing many of our young lovely woodland natives.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY
(Northern Section)

The 1958 Year Book contains articles by growers specializing in the culture of these flowers as well as the Primrose and Polyanthus. A full list of Prize-winning exhibits at the 1957 Shows of the three sections of the Society serves as a guide to those wishing to start—or augment—a collection. A special feature of the issue is the inclusion of a Coloured Plate of Premier Auricula "Lady Daresbury" from a painting by Alan Coupe.

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HON. Sec. R. H. BRIGGS
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A Letter from Ottawa, Kansas

Primroses and Kansas are often considered incompatible but Mrs. Geiler tells how easy it is to make conditions ideal.

By MRS. W. H. GEILER

Am very glad to give you any information as to soils, culture, etc., in this locality. I had admired the primroses and azaleas in Washington, D.C., several years ago but was always of the impression they could not be grown here.

We discovered and made the acquaintance of a nurseryman here in Ottawa who grows azaleas, rhododendrons, etc., by the hundreds. He told us to remove part of the sticky black loam and incorporate rotted sawdust and sand and said that if planted in shade and kept watered, azaleas could be raised here. So we prepared a bed on the north side of our one-story house, about 35 or 40 feet long, digging in quantities of rotted cow manure, sawdust, and sand, and the azaleas have done very well. The bed gets sun early and late in the day and the outer edge in midsummer gets more as the shade from the house recedes. As the sun travels north, I thought this would be an ideal place for primroses and it has proved to be if they are kept damp in dry summer weather. As the azaleas, yews, box holly, etc., are kept damp and get frequent spraying with the hose, the primroses just revel in this atmosphere.

That spring, being very cool, they bloomed for a month and a half. The next winter was mild and dry with no snow covering to speak of, so I mulched them lightly with excelsior. The first primroses I attempted to grow, I raised from seed and I remember I was terribly worried the first winter when (Continued on page 109)
Seasonal Notes From Barnhaven
Timely hints from the pen of our Editor Emeritus from earlier copies of the Quarterly.

By Florence Levy

Summer Water, Broad-leaved Trees, and Primulas

There are more primroses lost through insufficient water during the summer growing season than from winter cold. Where some types may get by in some climates, there are those, much as many of the candelabras, which will not gain the relative safety of winter but will dissolve into mush unless water is regularly and thoroughly given throughout the summer when old roots begin to disappear almost before the new roots have dug into the ground. The warmer and dryer the climate, the more shade and moisture primulas must have and, since shade trees provide welcome refuge, they are favored in planting situations. And rightly so, but there is the danger of underestimating the amount of water such large broad-leaved trees will take from the ground by evaporation on a hot day. Samuel B. Green in his "Principles of American Forestry" states that such trees will give off a barrel of water a day in dry summer weather. A higher figure is given as a result of a European experiment which found that the amount of water transpired by the average deciduous tree per pound of dry matter on a hot day was 470 pounds and the average evergreen, 43 pounds. Some trees were found to evaporate more than others, the birch and linden up to 700 pounds per day; ash, 600; beech, 500; maple, 450; oak, 300. In another experiment a birch which was calculated to have transpired not more than 2 1/2 gallons of water on ordinary days evaporated 112 gallons on a hot day.

Summer Seeding

Speed is the guardian angel of summer sown seedlings. Fresh seed will germinate in about 2 weeks, but sow thinly to guarantee a good air circulation and to allow space for unhampered growth; keep moist by watering from the bottom, give a limited amount of dappled sun instead of direct; transplant to permanent positions six to eight weeks later and keep growing constantly to develop as a root system as possible before freezing weather sets in. In climates with limited Fall growing weather it is safer to transplant to flats and give winter protection.

From Vol. 2, No. 1

Large, Crowded Plants Need Dividing

Although some favor fall dividing to take advantage of the seasonal rains, the majority like to divide in summer after the seed harvest, if seeds are desired. This insures the longest possible undisturbed growing season, making for winter safety and early, heavy bloom. With rare exception, as with those few types that lose their leaves after blooming, Primulas of all kinds want ample summer moisture inasmuch as at this time they send down new roots from the crown, growing, storing energy, and anchoring. They can do it only with the aid of water.

For those who can water artificially in the summer—and in most cases and places it is a necessity—and who wish to divide at this time, lift the plants, shake the dirt from the roots better yet, hose it off—and most of the divisions will fall free. If all the crowns do not come apart, take a sharp knife and cut each rosette with its complement of roots from the parent plant. Cut the roots back to about four inches, or the width of the hand as the plant is held, and all the old leaves, leaving only the newest growth. PRuning the roots encourages many new feeder rootlets and the leaves are taken off to retard evaporation. If the number of roots on the division is very limited, or the time of dividing very hot, take off more leaves than otherwise.

Toss the trimmed divisions in a pail of water, which may or may not contain vitamin or hormone powder, allowing them to remain several hours to absorb all the moisture they can before planting. If new beds cannot be readied for them in half a day, take the divisions out of the soil and throw moist sacking over them in a shaded place and they will take no harm for a day, even two. The above for English types and the more common Asiatic species.

From Vol. 1, No. 1

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

A rock garden without Primulas is like Roast Lamb without mint sauce or a kiss without lipstick.

May we suggest that a lover of Primulas who is not a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club is also missing something.

To Overseas members we offer two journals and the seed exchange. The annual subscription is 10/ ($1.50 plus 25c handling).

We think you will enjoy membership.

J. T. Aitken, 75 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh 4, Scotland—Honorary Publicity Manager.

LETTER FROM OTTAWA, KANSAS

(Continued from page 107)
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