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April, 1945
Vol. 2  No. 4

“A GOODE FLOWRE: THE PRIMROSE”  
Sgt. Samuel French Morse  
3500th AAF Base Unit, St. Louis, Missouri

Gardening and Army life were never meant to mix, as the alpines I left in Massachusetts know full well. Being cut off from my garden, then, I turned to the collection of old and modern engravings and prints of alpines begun some years ago. The following miscellany of notes on the subject is necessarily incomplete, separated as I am from my sources of reference. Access, however, to the major work of its kind, “Flower and Fruit Prints of the 18th and Early 19th Centuries” by Gordon Dunthorne, and to the Library of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been more than helpful. Print and book dealers, too, have put up with extraordinary, exacting, and eccentric requests.

Notes for a Background

The Primrose has long figured in English literature, and its career as a garden flower has been equally proud. Eleanour Sinclair Rohde in her able work on early garden books and herbals makes clear how rich the 17th century is in material concerning Primroses. For the historical background, such works as Gerard and Parkinson are invaluable; but the information they contain has an interest above and beyond that of the specialist, and the same is true of the early German and French gardening books and herbals. For the collector of prints, these volumes are a rare pleasure. One is not likely to find separate pages from these books; to think of cutting them up gives even the sweetest-tempered bibliophile a cold and hopeless feeling of despair. The collector, then, however exclusive his interest does well to accept the whole—when, and if, he can find such volumes.

Some of the early gardening books, and especially the work of Samuel Gilbert, John Rea, and Sir Thomas Hamner, although they contain no remarkable plates, are full of fascinating lists of Garden Auriculas, Polyanthus, and other plants, as well as a number of surprising and remarkable passages on the culture and care of these “exoticks.”* Such books are the precursors of the gardening magazines of the 19th century, and of the truly extraordinary volumes by Thomas Hogg and Isaac Emmerton. They are the backbone of Primrose and Auricula literature as of Tulip, Narcissus, and Carnation literature.

And they are something else. The first notable named varieties of Auriculas and Polyanthus appeared in the 17th century, when, in England at least, the violent disruptions of social patterns extinguished the last flickering flames of a concept of nature as the green pastoral world. The nymphs and shepherds that adorn Elizabethan poetry are not convincing rustic figures; but the comic characters who move through the plots of Shakespeare’s plays are, and the noor over which King Lear wanders in

* "The Garden Book" of Sir Thomas Hamner remained in manuscript until the twentieth century, when it was edited by Miss Rohde, and prepared for publication. Unfortunately it is out of print.
his madness, like the forest backdrop of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," are far more realistic than the gardens of Abraham Cowley and the occasional bits of rustic scenery that crop up in the poems and plays of John Dryden. In the 17th century, as Sacheverell Sitwell points out in his excellent book, "Old Fashioned Flowers" (Country Life, London, 1939), the concept of "man's triumph over nature" gained prestige—a prestige which has affected society permanently, and has made it do with the rise of modern scientific and social thought. For the 17th century gardener, the flower as it grew in the wild was a raw, uncouth cub to be licked into shape and beauty by careful crossings and refinements. The great Tulip man certainly partook of this impulse in its earliest stages; the possibility of almost endless variety must have been father to the speculative urge that caused such economic havoc later.

Intellectually, to an age which valued poetry for its elaborate conceits and its paradoxes, the most fantastically striped Carnation, or the Auricula with the heaviest meal, was a triumph suitable for the highest praise; the more "curious" the combination of colors, the better. Interest in the exotic and the strange, however, in paradox and irony, is something permanent, and, in the hands of a master, paradox and conceit became an integral part of the poem, and extended and illuminated the experience of the reader.

The poet who looked at his gardening as Andrew Marvell did in "The Garden" was no practical gardener. Here was the epicurean spirit, the Baroque vista, the point of view of the connoisseur of the finished product; and it had much in common with the flower and fruit pieces of J. L. Prevost, painted more than a century later, and with the 17th and early 18th century prints of Monnoyer, Tessier, and Robert Furber.

It was natural, too, that the prestige given to the idea that nature was a means and not an end, should lead to the creation not merely of the elaborately formal gardens of the 17th and 18th centuries, but also of the incredibly subtle and picayune rules that governed the raising and showing of plants. One thinks immediately of the attitude toward nature revealed in the work of Sir Thomas Browne—and even in the works of Francis Bacon, two generations earlier—whose interest in gardens was partly responsible for one of his most beautiful discourses, "The Garden of Cyrus"; and of the monumental work of John Evelyn. These were men of affairs and men of letters, great men in their time, to whom we look today for an understanding of the nature of the age in which they lived. And in the 18th century, when Linnaeus laid the permanent foundations of botany as a modern and exact science, other men carried the earlier impulses to fruition, although without the sense of discovery and excitement which typified the studies of Browne, Hamner, and Evelyn.

Most of the later works were still-born, in an attempt to lay down final rules of human behavior and of natural order; but even while this attempt was being made, a reaction against it had already begun: the first book of "The Seasons" by James Thomson appeared as early as 1726, and took a quiet and realistic view of the natural world; and Wordsworth had brought the reaction full circle when he published the ""Lyrical Ballads"" in 1798. But the poets never assented to the rules of the florist nor of the scientist, although Erasmus Darwin had attempted in a poetic effort to deal with nature scientifically, and Pope had solved the problem largely by ignoring it. Nevertheless, from the mid-17th century on, the two currents ran parallel courses, or crossed and re-crossed in ever-increasing conflict.

The interest in the "native" or "wild" plant, however, as a source of variations and experimentation sustained its power, and has sustained it in our own time. Science makes one kind of use of such experimentation; the horticulturist another. Only rarely do the two strains fuse. The new Roses and Irises—or Dahlias and Gladiolus—which fill the garden catalogues do not so much emphasize eccentricities of form and color as they do a combination of virtues aimed at pleasing the ordinary gardener. But "the fascination of what's difficult" is a powerful impulse, and explains much of the challenge of the "florist's flower". Carried to an extreme, it becomes an absurd rationalization, like the revival of the horse-hair sofa and the marble-topped table.

For most gardeners in 1914, however, these things are of little consequence. It is possible for us to grow Show Auriculas and some of the most tantalizing Asiatic species. And although Reginald Farrer figured so largely in the discovery of the latter, his interest in Show Auriculas and the old-fashioned Polyanthus was at best academic. But the average gardener is notoriously a potterer.

The Early Prints

France, in the 17th century, produced some magnificent floral engravings; and the work of Monnoyer requires little comment here, as does that of Tessier, Robert, and Bailly. These were the baskets or vases of flowers—the elaborate and lavish mixed bouquets, superbly colored, and composed with an abandon much more typical of Dutch flower paintings than of the usual still life. Dunthorne says of them that they are "the delight and torment of the modern tyro in flower arrangement in their perfect combination of container, space, line, rhythm and balance." Many of the bouquets are made up of exotics: Passion Flowers, Tuberoses, flaked Carnations, Hibiscus, double Anenomes, hundred-leaved Roses; a few of them include Auriculas.

But the first fine prints exclusively of Primroses appeared in the fifth part of the first volume of Johann Christoph Volckamer's "Nurnbergisches Hesperides", begun in 1708 and completed in 1714. Most of the engravings in the first volume were of citrus fruits; the second volume, however, contains greater variety. Usually found uncolored, the plates have an impressive three-dimensional quality even in black and white. When colored, the plates are even more attractive; usually the fruit itself is the only spot of color, the leaves and the landscape—most often a view of some garden seen from above and from a distance—being left uncolored. In the three plates of Primroses which are the backbone of my collection, the more than sixty blossoms (with occasional leaves) are scattered over the sheets. The blossoms themselves are brilliantly colored, for the most part in various shades of red, rose, orange, and lavender-pink; but there is enough relief with yellows, purples, and the green leaves, to give the composition real warmth and coherence. Volckamer plates are fairly rare in any state, and really rare in the colored state. It was only by a stroke of good fortune that I almost literally ran into them, in this country, at the present time. The Primrose engravings represent a number of types: P. veris, Poly...
Auricula, semi-double and double kinds.

Even more desirable than the Volckamer sheets are the plates from one of the earliest seed catalogues ever issued, plates which make our modern boasts about "the most beautiful catalogue ever issued" seem very small. These are the "Twelve Months of Flowers," published first in 1730, by Robert Furber. "The plates, after Peter Casteels, a Flemish painter living in London, show arrangements of flowers according to their month of blooming." Copies and re-engravings are available to the modern collector—and there are recent reproductions at least of the "Twelve Months of Fruits," which complemented the set of flower engravings—who, if especially interested in Auriculas, will find twenty-six varieties reproduced in dazzlingly convincing colors; varieties which are only names today, and perhaps as famous in their time as "Lancashire Hero" was in the 19th century, "Royal Widow," "Love's Master," "Semper Augustus," "Honour and Glory," and the usual group of varieties named for the peerage. Like the 17th century engravings, and particularly the plates in Crispin de Pas's "Hortus Floridus," the designs are florid and rich.

Other early and mid-18th century sources are many; but the plates are scattered throughout volumes devoted generally to many kinds of flowers. One of the finest sets is the "Phytanthoza Iconographia" of J. H. Weinmann, published in Amsterdam between 1736 and 1748, a book with more than a thousand plates. The "Plantae Selectae" and "Hortus Nitidissimus" of J. C. Trew contain some beautiful plates, many of them designed by G. D. Ehret, who worked for Weinmann, too. The French plates of the period are similarly fine; among the best Primrose plates are those in Pierre Joseph Buchoz's "Collection Precieuse et Enluminee" and de Seve's "Recueil de Vingtquatre Plantes et Fleurs." De Seve's "pot of auriculas" is typical of many prints of the period: a plant growing in a container, somewhat stylized, but convincing in detail, and in color.

The engravings showing the greatest refinement of technique in the early part of the 18th century were the work of French artists, for the most part, although some of the Italian "Icones" are very fine indeed. It is true, however, that as stipple engraving became more widely used in French engravings, the quality of such work became more and more etherealized. One sees the beginnings of this process in the work of J. L. Prevost and the wonderful plates of Redoute's major volumes, and particularly, in the treatment of such subjects as "Campanula carpatica" or the Fuchsia. The work of the Belgian artists of the 19th century followed a similar development, until the introduction of modern engraving and reproduction methods, when the quality of all such work declined, and a tendency toward impressionistic painting gained prestige.

*(To be concluded in the next issue wherein Sgt. Morse discusses The Golden Age: Decline and Fall; The Twentieth Century, and gives List of Plates from Curtis' "The Botanical Magazine".)*

*Volckamer engravings are usually unsigned; but although the second of the three Primrose engravings is signed—and apparently all three engravings were the work of a single artist—I cannot remember the name. One does not keep prints at hand in the Army; and time has not allowed me to investigate the text which should accompany the engravings. Each of the blossoms represented bears an identifying number; and as soon as possible, I hope to have a photostatic transcript made of the text in the copy belonging to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. This identification is of genuine importance historically, and from a scholarly point of view represents merely the routine work of the researching amateur.*
THE CHEMISTRY OF THE FARINA PRODUCED
BY CERTAIN PRIMULAS

Walter C. Blasdale

The paper by Donald O'Connell in the October issue of this Journal has prompted me to report briefly on the work which has occupied some of my spare time during the last fifteen years. A more comprehensive report will be published elsewhere at a later date.

Numerous incorrect statements regarding the nature of primula farina have appeared from time to time. In 1915 Hugo Mueller* published in England the first really satisfactory contribution to the subject. He showed that the white farina found on the scapes of P. pulverulenta consisted of nearly pure flavone, associated with a small amount of waxlike substance. Flavone is a white crystalline compound (C_{15}H_{10}O_3), first made artificially but not known to be produced by natural processes until Mueller's work. Certain of its derivatives, such as quercetin, chrysin, and luteolin have been found in the tissues of a variety of plants some of which, owing to the presence of these substances, were once used as a source of yellow and red dyes. Although a great variety of both simple and complex organic compounds are synthesized by plants the separation of such substances as solid secretions is unusual. Aside from a large percentage of the species of Primula and three of the closely related genus Dionysia solid secretions are produced by certain ferns, especially the genus Pityrogramma.

Primula secretions are due to minute, two-celled, gland-tipped hairs found on the leaves, scapes, calyces, and more rarely the petals. An examination of a leaf of certain of the varieties of the Auricula, such as the Dusty Miller, will reveal widely scattered, white specks, especially plentiful near the outer edges of the younger leaves. Under a compound microscope these specks take the form of snowball-like masses of variously shaped fragments. If the leaf-surface is rinsed with a few drops of alcohol or chloroform the snow dissolves and the terminal cell, that is the gland by which it is secreted, becomes visible. Examination of the edges of the treated leaf, or still better of a thin section of it, will reveal the second or supporting cell of the farina-producing hair. In this species the terminal cell is spherical and small, the supporting cell broad and stout. In certain other species the terminal cell is large, somewhat elliptical or pear-shaped while the supporting cell is narrow and stalk-like. Examination of the lower surface of a leaf of P. frondosa, or of a farina-bearing leaf of P. denticulata, will show nearly continuous coatings of white or yellow farina respectively. In these species the farina-producing hairs are so abundant as to nearly or completely conceal the main leaf surface. By studying a leaf bearing very young hairs it will be found that the secretions first appear as a series of strands, each of which shows widely varying cross-sections, and originate from the surface of the terminal cell at points below its apex. The wall of this cell is very thin but there is no detectable break in the continuity of its surface. These strands soon fall to the main surface of the leaf and break into fragments.

Several difficulties arise in studying the chemical nature of Primula secretions. The amount produced per plant varies from small to very

*Mueller, with umlaut u, is correct spelling.
A FEW COMPANIONATE PLANTINGS FOR PRIMULAS

J. G. Bacher

While garden Primulas have grace and charm aplenty in their wealth of rainbow colors, yet there still remains a field of garden art in which the yearnings of the artist-gardener can find solace in the weaving of exotic color patterns. There is, perhaps, a preponderance of yellow shades in our strains of Primula veris and its varieties—the butter and primrose yellows, buff, apricot, brilliant gold and orange—which form truly lovely mass effects when seen by themselves. But anyone who has tried a broad band of forgetmenots planted in front of them, or back of them according to situation, will discover that the beauty of the whole has become so accented, has been brought so sharply into focus as to more than double the pleasure to every eye.

This, however, does not hold true of the Blue Primroses, for their color calls for different company. To show them at their best one needs a foreground of the common Arabis albida, or white Rock Cress, as they bloom beautifully together.

Aubrietia, often called Purple Rock Cross, is a low, creeping, early spring flowering perennial worthy of space in every garden; and for rockeries it is of unsurpassed merit. The flowering season coincides with most of our early Primulas, lasts equally well, and soil requirements are nearly alike. The lovely white Primroses and Polyanthus' are greatly enhanced by the use of the especially intense deep purple, large-flowered variety of Aubrietia known as Carneval. But all Aubrietias, in their wide color range from white to purple, serve as excellent color mates for many of the Primulas, and keener gardeners are selecting forms for widely diverse uses.

One of the most stunningly beautiful Primrose garden pictures ever seen is a group of Primula rosea, that brilliant carmine, early flowering species from India, burning among clumps of the equally early blooming, equally vivid, almost gentian-blue Pulmonaria angustifolia. This sensational combination may not be the answer to a maiden's prayer for correctness, but it is guaranteed to lift the brows of all beholders—the approving as well as those who disapprove of such garden dazzlers. But, in addition to the exotic color pattern, there is complete compatibility between the two, for both plants thrive under similar conditions although one is native to Europe and the other to the Himalayas. With the necessary help in the matter of proximity, the gardener can watch a buoying flirtation bloom into a real spring romance.

One of the close relatives of the Primula family, Androsace sarmen-tosa chumbly, is especially valuable in rockery arrangements with its low, creeping habit and miniature umbels of pink flowers so like Primula farinosa. Of equal merit, yet perhaps less known, is the most outstanding Oregon native amongst earliest spring flowers, Synthiris reniformis, with its bright clusters of blue flowers. It tries to beat our earliest Primulas to the flowering, and when grouped with yellow or white, adds a color link of unexpected charm. Even the foliage has much to recommend the plant to a wider use, for the compact clusters are reminiscent of some of the dwarf forms of Heuchera sanguinea.

Another dweller of the shadeland, where so many Primulas are at home, is the Anemone hepatica, itself a treasure in any garden and ad-

Primula angustifolia growing in association with Eritrichium argenteum

This is unusual, as P. angustifolia, the Fairy Primrose, is found in damp situations while Eritrichium is a plant of the fell fields, seemingly the drier the situation the better it is satisfied.

P. angustifolia grows to a height of about two inches while the forget-me-not is probably never quite that tall. Theodore Holm in "The Vegetation of the Alpine Region of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado", states that Primula angustifolia is found on dry slopes. Other authors place the plant in dry meadow or mesophytic meadow associations. Close observation indicates that although it does grow on dry slopes, it is always found in depressions, which act as catch-basins for water, or at the edge of boulders where water drains to it. A favored place to find it is in the moraines below melting snow banks. The plant demands moisture early in the season, but if drought overtakes it after mid-August it is able to draw sufficient moisture from its moisture-storing root to make its seeds.

Its habit of growth is almost rigidly upright, with bright rose flowers, one to a stalk. It is a beautiful miniature throughout the growing season, its neat seed pods not being unsightly.

The photograph above was made on Loveland Pass on the Continental Divide, at about 11,000 feet.—Chester K. Strong, Denver.
THE PREPARATION OF HERBARIUM SPECIMENS

Chester K. Strong, Denver, Colorado

The object in preparing specimens for an herbarium is to preserve them for future study. With this in mind it can be readily understood that the nearer intact the subjects are preserved and in the most natural way, the more their value. Excessive pressure while drying defeats the purpose.

It is first necessary to get the plants. They are best carried in a vessel which may be any metal container that can be closed air-tight. In such a container they can be left for twenty-four hours or longer with no damage resulting. Before setting to press, the plants should be thoroughly washed. This sometimes requires considerable patience.

The equipment used in pressing may be any contrivance which will exert a gentle pressure. Blocks of wood, 2 inches thick, 12 inches broad, and from a foot to 18 inches in length can be used to make a simple press.

The bottom block should be padded with one or two old magazines. Of course, for very large specimens a larger press would have to be used, or the specimens cut into parts.

The plants are spread on sheets of newspaper and these can be piled one upon the other, if the specimens are not too large. When a half dozen or more specimens are thus spread out the sheets are placed one on top of the other, laid on the bottom board and the other board placed atop the pile. On this top board stones or bricks can be placed. This makes a very good press. The pressure exerted by an office copying press crushes the plants, destroying those plant parts which must be preserved.

The operator must learn through experience what can and what cannot be done. As no two specimens are of the exact thickness it is clear that they cannot be handled in an identical manner. As an example, the members of the genus Erigeron are not difficult, but it must be remembered that they are constituted of flowers, a relatively thin part; a rosette of leaves, often quite thick; and a strong root, which is in thickness somewhere between the other parts. Something must be done to compensate for this varying thickness of the subject.

The leaves often can be arranged so that they are not so bunched, the tap root can be sliced off on the underside, and the flowers can be laid upon several thicknesses of cellulose absorbent material. When a specimen so treated comes under pressure all parts will receive approximately the same amount of pressure.

Oftentimes, when an effort is being made to arrange roots in the position which they had when in the earth it is helpful to place the plant in clear water. The roots will assume their natural position and thus can be observed.

In handling members of the Compositae it is well to secure plants

Note: It is perhaps superfluous to point out that there is a field of purely personal pleasure for gardeners who wish to preserve some favorite cultivated flower—a rarity, an especially beautiful specimen, a curious form, those forms which mark a triumph over cultural difficulties. After the natural increase has been taken, to use one plant for this purpose is to have it, and the thoughts which surround it, always. The experience of coming upon a simple little flower pressed between the pages of a book is known to many. How much larger in scope would be the careful and systematic storing up of garden treasures.
blossoming. Or the Primroses may be lifted after blooming and placed in an out-of-the-way spot for the summer, provided they are shaded and kept moist. But if the plants are to be left where they are for the summer, around the latter part of May the leaves may be cut off about two inches above the crown and the soil cultivated and kept watered. If the plants are large, and the roots are crowding out of the soil, they should be divided and re-planted in prepared, manured soil (if manure is available) with a handful of bonemeal and a little garden sulphur to each plant. Usually, dividing is necessary only every second or third year depending upon the rapidity of growth. A cool, cloudy day just before the June rains is an ideal time for dividing. When the plant is lifted, each strong growing section should be broken away from the main root, saving only the small piece with new rootlets. Cut the leaves two inches above the crown, place well down in the deeply-worked soil which has been enriched in the manner mentioned above, and firm the soil around the plant keeping the crowns clean. Keep shaded and moist until the rich, new leaf growth appears, at which time artificial shade should be removed but watering continued for strong, sturdy plants the coming spring.

If, in the older plants in early spring, you find some of them crowded down in the soil trying to bloom deep in the crown of the plant, you may suspect strawberry root weevil, the creamy-white grub that feeds on roots of Primroses and other plants. About May this grub develops into a small, gray beetle that feeds at night on the foliage of Primroses and many broadleafed evergreens. Many mixtures and solutions are advocated to kill the grub and expel the beetle. I have found a solution of sheep dip and naphtha soap suds, using the sheep dip as directed on the container for chickens. Pour this in the soil close around the plant. Garden Volck, one pint to three gallons of water, is also advised by one grower I know. Arsenate of lead, a strong stomach poison, sprayed on the foliage and on the broadleafed evergreens near the planting will kill the beetle thus eliminating egg laying. There is also a good poison apple bait that may be placed around the crown of the plant in May and June to attract and kill the beetle.

Slugs are a voracious lot, eating the flowers and leaves, but meta baits take pretty good care of them—although one never seems able to get the last one. Arsenate of lead is also effective.

Aside from these two pests, which are readily kept in check by taking action as soon as they appear, Primroses in the garden are quite free from attack. If the plants are kept moist all summer, red spider will be no menace. Gardeners are rapidly finding that Primroses, when planted in situations akin to their native environment and provided with the necessary water throughout the summer, pay high dividends in beauty for a small investment of time. Have you seen them in the spring-time under an old apple tree?

Additional seeding methods on page 118, volume 1.
I would like to mention that the instructions from Mr. Van Allen's article on how to
enrich seeds proved very successful in the result. I got out of a packet of Primula florindae
received from the Society this spring. I am really going at it this fall with the fresh start of
plants from the March 1971 sowing and I am very anxious to watch their behavior next year.
I believe I am fast becoming a true Primula fan, taking snaps and stills of my favorite
plants, ones I think are the most successful, keeping records and comparing crops. I want
to try my best to cooperate with the Society in any way that is suitable as to information,
pictures, etc.

P. E. Keeping, Kentville, Nova Scotia

About growing Primroses in Nova Scotia I think we can probably grow all the easier
and harder kinds without any difficulty, and probably most of the others. We have a good snow
coverages in winter, our summers are generally dry, and always we have full rains for a
month or more that send everything into winter well watered. In the Annapolis Valley (where
the apples grow) the summers are generally dry than in the rest of the province, and watering
gardens is sometimes needed. The coastal western part of the province, Yarmouth and Shelburne
counties, is a little milder and wetter than the other parts, and there they grow Polyanthus to
perfection. Aurelian also do well. I have friends, in addition to myself in "the Valley" here
who grow Japonica, Denticulata, sieboldii, Julia hybrids; and there are doubtless other kinds
that I've yet to find, as I just became interested in Primrose, apart from Polyanthus, recently.
We have to give all Primroses some shade to keep them going, even Polyanthus. The best
collected I have left in the rock garden in dappled shade from small birches and maples.
These have been going for four or five years and are apparently all persisting. Polyanthus

don't like to have their roots from being cast out of the ground in winter thaws, from being dried out by
summer droughts, and the leaves from burning in the hot sun. During one of the periods this
summer I had to change the covers of their beds. I was able to examine the Primrose
for the first time in weeks as they emerged from their blankets and sheets of snow and
rocks. I found them as green and fresh as Swiss Chard after a summer rain. New little leaves
were forming at the one end of my plants. I don't have any more Primroses, and that was when I called them by neglecting their needs and I
have reproached myself ever since.

There are, of course, varieties of Primroses which are not easy for the average gardener
to grow and keep from year to year especially under such conditions as these. But there are
a great many which, with care and attention, will continue in our garden for ten years or more,
and often for years and years and stay hardy, but the soil is gravelly, they are doing well.

We do not seem to have any pets whatever—at least I haven't noticed or heard of any
yet—but it is probably a little early to pronounce on this yet. However, our Polyanths seem
to last for years and years and stay healthy, but I'm inclined to think I'll have to go slowly
with Primroses until I can get some shade.

Mrs. W. H. Haydon, Eldredge, Maryland

The giant Cowslip of Tibet—Primula florindae—whose fragrant
yellow bells now perfume many American gardens.
bloom very freely with a little more sun than flat. In my own garden, full sun, I had to move
my Primroses to the south and east sides of large rocks in the rock garden, and there, though
the soil is gravelly, they are doing well.

While the climate and weather conditions are generally the same in this section of the
country, yet they are different parts of even one state. I am situated nine miles north
of Baltimore, not so far from southern Pennsylvania, and weather conditions vary from hour
to hour, day to day. The only steadiness seems to exist in our droughts, which continue
unabated sometimes for weeks, sometimes months. Even the washers, for the past three
years, have brought little rain or snow, but this winter, at last, has brought snow and ice
overever and again. Nature here is very much of an apple—unsuitable and changeable. I remember
one February when the temperature varied 50 degrees for two days, bringing up the top in
shrubs and plants, then dropped over night to below freezing. Some winters are so mild that
weeds must be chocked up constantly, and others so cold the ground freezes to four feet.

Now, with regard to the Primroses under these trying and erratic antics, I think my
experience gives me the right to say that they can weather anything if you watch them and
keep their roots from being cast out of the ground in winter thaws, from being dried out by
summer droughts, and the leaves from burning in the hot sun. During one of the periods this
summer when Nature was changing the covers of their beds, I was able to examine the Primrose
for the first time in weeks as they emerged from their blankets and sheets of snow and
rocks. I found them as green and fresh as Swiss Chard after a summer rain. New little leaves
were forming at the one end of my plants. I don't have any more Primroses, and that was when I called them by neglecting their needs and I
have reproached myself ever since.

There are, of course, varieties of Primroses which are not easy for the average gardener
to grow and keep from year to year especially under such conditions as these. But there are
a great many which, with care and attention, will continue in our garden for ten years or more,
and often for years and years and stay healthy, but the soil is gravelly, they are doing well.

While we do not seem to have any pets whatever—at least I haven't noticed or heard of any
yet—but it is probably a little early to pronounce on this yet. However, our Polyanths seem
}
This primrose all bepearled with dew.

Australia's land was swarming
With myriads, tier on tier,
Like bees, they clung and cluster'd
On wall and pile and pier.

The wanderer and the outcast—
Hope — Penitence — Despair—
The felon and the freeman,
Were intermingling there.

There ran a restless murmur,
A murmur deep, not loud;
For every heart was thrilling
Through all that motley crowd;

And every eye was straining
To where a good ship lay,
With England's red-cross waving
Above her decks that day.

And comes she, deeply freighted
With human guilt and shame?
And wait those crowds expectant,
To greet with loud acclaim?

Or, comes she treasure-laden,
And ache those anxious eyes,
For sight of her rich cargo,
Her goodly merchandise?

See, see! they lower the long-boat,
And now they man the barge;
Trick'd out and manned so bravely
For no ignoble charge.

Gold gleams on breast and shoulder
Of England's own true-blue;
That sure must be the captain,
Salutes his gallant crew.

And that the captain's Lady
They're handing down the side;
"Steady, my hearts, now, steady!"
Was that the coxswain cried.

"Hold on", she's safely seated,
"In oars"—a sparkling splash,

Hats off on deck—one cheer now
"Pull, hearties!" off they dash.

And now the lines long stretching
Of earnest gazers, strain
(Converging to one center)
The landing place to gain.

"A guard, a guard!" in haste then
The governor calls out;
"Protect the Lady's landing
From all that rabble rout."

Her foot is on the gunwale,
Her eye on that turmoil;
A moment so she lingers,
Then treads Australia's soil.

With looks of humbly wonder
She gazes all about;
And oh! her woman's nature
Calls that no "rabble rout."

For well she reads the feeling
Each face expressive wears;
And well she knows what wakes
That precious thing she bears.

That precious thing—oh wondrous!
A spell of potent power;
From English earth transported,
A little lowly flower.

Be blessings on that Lady,
Be blessings on that hand;
The first to plant the Primrose
Upon the Exile's land!

The sound had gone before her,
No eye had closed that night;
So yearned they for the morrow,
So longed they for the light.

She smiles while tears are dropping,
She holds the treasure high;
And land and sea resounding,
Ring out with one wild cry.

And sobs at its subsiding,
From many breasts are heard;
Stern nature's hearts guilt-hardened,
To woman's softness stirred.

One gazes all intentness,
That felon-boy—and lo
The bold, bright eyes glistening,
Long, long unmoistened so.

The woman holds her child up;
"Look, little one!" cries she,
"I pulled such when as blithesome
And innocent as thee!"

No word the old man utters,—
His earnest eyes grow dim;
One spot behind the salt sea
Is present now to him.

There blooms the earliest Primrose,
His father's grave hard by;
There lieth all his kindred,
There he shall never die.

The living mass moves onward,
The Lady and her train;
They press upon her path still,
To look and look again.

And yet she moves securely,
No guards are needed there;
Of her they hem so closely
They would not harm a hair.

Be blessings on that Lady!
Be blessings on that hand,
The first to plant the Primrose
Upon the Exile's land.

From "English Sacred Poetry of the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries". Selected and edited by Robert Aris Willmott, MA., 1881.

Sent in by Miss Linda Eickman, Dayton, Oregon.

Dues Reminder

$1.50 is a small matter and can easily be overlooked. If sent in at once, the Treasurer will be saved much time and the Society extra expense. If you wish to particularly aid the Society in its work this year, Sustaining Memberships are $5.00. Please send dues to the Treasurer, Mrs. O. J. Zach, Route 2, Box 155, Portland 10, Oregon.

Primula Parryi Seed

When Mr. and Mrs. Chester K. Strong were in the Rockies last summer they collected seed of P. Parryi and sent it to the Society for distribution among those who wish to accept its challenge. It is pictured and described in Lt. Comdr. Worth's "North American Primulas", October 1944 Quarterly. Not difficult to germinate the seeds when frozen or scarified, the problem lies in giving the plants sufficient coolness and moisture at the roots. So provided, it does well in a humic soil with sharp drainage. Mrs. S. R. Smith will send seeds upon receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Time Change

Regular meetings, held the third Tuesday of every month in the Men's Lounge of the Public Service Bldg. in Portland are from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., to correspond with bus schedules of commuters.

The flowers should be spread to show the flower-parts so that they may be studied with a hand lens. Sometimes it is necessary to split the corolla to do this, or make other adjustments. In the case of plants with ray flowers it is well to turn some of the flowers so that the involucre is shown, for in some members of this group the identifying features are there. Try to show as much of the plant, its flower, and its roots as possible.

After the plants have been under pressure twenty-four hours they should be exposed to the air for a little while and the paper sheets changed. After the elapse of this much time it is good practice, in most cases, to expose them to mild oven heat for an hour, or if possible, for several hours each day. This prevents molding and hastens drying.

Unless conditions make it necessary, it is best not to attempt to handle too many specimens at one time. In fact the very best results are obtained by having but one well arranged and well packed specimen in one press at one time.

Mounting can be carried out to suit the desires of the worker. Mounting sheet sizes are fairly well standardized. Whether a standard size sheet is adopted or not, the sheet sizes in an herbarium should be of uniform size to aid in filing or storing. Many odd sizes are a nuisance. Each sheet should contain certain facts, such as where and when the specimen was collected, by whom, and the name of the identifier. Other data can be added to suit the worker.

Sent in by Miss Dora Broetje, Oak Grove 3-7871, if they wish accommodations in the homes of local members, or if they cannot be accommodated by hotels. Miss Broetje's listings promise to be adequate for the occasion.

Amateur exhibitors are taking a keener interest in showing their favorite plants and blooms each year, and this year promises to be no exception. Those who have never exhibited before are being given special privileges in the Novice Division which proved such a success last year. Professional growers and garden clubs are cooperating as usual. Exhibitors need not be members of the Society to exhibit. The rules governing entries and the classification remain the same as for 1944 with one or two minor additions and may be had from the Secretary, Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon. Under able leadership and with willing committees, the plans have already reached a stage of maturity seldom hoped for in events of this kind.
Plant Sale Held In February

There has never been quite so much fun as was had at the February meeting when members came with geniality and loosened purse strings to an impromptu sale of rare and choice Primrose plants and seeds. Last minute affairs, such as this happened to be, are seldom wreathed in success. Members called upon for plants stunted neither on quantity nor quality, they gave their best—a fact realized on the buying end to the sum of $90. Allen W. Davis auctioneered with ability. So many expressions of pleasure have been made regarding the evening, such a sale may become an annual event.

The Society thanks everyone, and especially those who made the evening possible by bringing such outstanding plants and seeds.

*On The Horizon*

* Lilac-rose *P. glaucescens* from the alps of Lombardy, northern Italy

*Lilac-rose P. glaucescens from the alps of Lombardy, northern Italy*

*Photo by J. G. Bulcher*

Articles in the offering would seem to be rich in interest for everyone. The conclusion of Sgt. Morse’s work on old flower prints; *Primula Allioni*, beautiful alpine from the Maritimes, will be presented; a review of Capt. F. Kingdon Ward’s plant explorations in China, Tibet and Burma; weevil and controls; cause and control of crown rot in Asiatic Primulas; picking and curing of seeds; curious old Primrose forms; Sections of the Genus Primula; hybridizing for higher percentage of doubles in the third generation; and soils.

*Enough Seed for Seconds If Wanted*

Seeds of three candelabras for shady gardens—*Primula pulverulenta*, *japonica rosea* and *japonica Elina*—and the European alpine for sunnier, leaner situations, *P. marginata*, are on hand for anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon. Description and cultural directions for the latter given on page 29, October, 1944 issue.
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Along with twelve months of highly accelerated activities during a period of momentous import in the history of our nation, time has been made by our people to keep faith and communion with the soil. As we close the record for the past year we find that it glows with the energy and unfailing effort of our officers, editor, and committees in the cause of horticultural beauty generally, and in this instance, Primrose specifically. That the Society has just completed its most successful year is due, in large part, to their work, and to them I extend my heartfelt appreciation. But motive power without use is of little or no value, therefore, to the bulk of the membership which has utilized this energy, converting it into enthusiasm and cooperative response, go my thanks for its special part in completing the circuit.

The phenomenal growth and healthy activity of this Society at a time when our efforts are strained in many directions, confirms anew that which we all know—that in the course of human affairs there is no season when we can afford to relinquish our hold on beauty and the pursuits engendering quiet reflection.—Robert W. Ewell.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The work of the corresponding secretary has grown to rather large proportions this last year, but it has been work from which I have known a great many pleasant hours. Friendliness and appreciation play a prominent part in all of your letters, with the rapid increase in membership and the reports on seed, come to me in numbers daily. My thanks to your triumps, and endeavor to help with your problems by answering questions to the best of my ability.

In the temporary absence of the Recording Secretary, I should like to comment briefly on the regular meetings of the society. Attendance rises and each month new faces are seen and welcomed. Many speakers of horticultural note have appeared on our programs the past year, and round table discussions have included all and have been of great benefit. The recent incorporation of the study group with the regular meeting has met with general approval and is proving entertaining and instructive. Volunteers from particular fields of Primrose interest discuss the history and development of their favorite types.

I feel that in the past year great progress has been made in friendship as well as the Society's prosperity.—Mrs. S. R. Smith.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

My report is, for the most part, a note of thanks. This issue completes two volumes of Quarterly over a period of two years. At the outset, authentic material was not so easily procured—Primrose hobbyists were fewer than now. But among those who were experienced in the cultivation of Primula, requests for articles were steadfastly met with a willingness that will remain a bright spot in the annals of the Society. With organized growth, those who stand on common ground unite in mutual enterprise. The result is an ever-widening field, and articles of greater variety on the one inexhaustible subject are being contributed on request; and, to the praise of the contributors, are being offered without solicitation, so that, now, excellent manuscripts and pictures begin to accumulate for future issues. The readers of the Quarterly give the guide the use of this material by their requests.

Our goal has been to give accurate information and pleasure to the beginner as well as the specialist, and it is hoped that this balance has been maintained. Reports and letters from members scattered throughout the States and Canada are of interest to all, and of particular value to other Primrose growers in each geographical section. It is largely through such letters and reports, in addition to the articles, that Primroses are being successfully established where once it was thought they would never grow, and that gardeners are realizing some of the joys attendant upon this flower family comprising so many favorites both new and old.—Florence Hurtig Levy.
AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

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Weaver, Mrs. W. A. 5111 N. E. 72nd Ave., Portland, 13
Weinheimer, Mrs. Robert 331 S. W. Edgecliff Road, Portland
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<thead>
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<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Peters, Mrs. Harry A.</td>
<td>533 Lincoln Ave., Glocense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Harshbarger, Mrs. Gretchen</td>
<td>Box 85, Iowa City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Turner, Mabel E.</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
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### EXTRA-AMERICA

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<tbody>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Shorett, Mrs. John B.</td>
<td>Route 2, Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Miller, Mrs. Harry</td>
<td>301 Main St., Yamhill</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Snelson, Mrs. Alda</td>
<td>Route 3, Arlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Bueck, Mrs. Elva</td>
<td>Box 480, Belfair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Barton, Mrs. J. H.</td>
<td>339th Service Sqn., APO 526, c/o Postmaster, New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Fox, Mrs. M. J.</td>
<td>Scarsdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Hurley, Mrs. Fred O.</td>
<td>East Islip, Long Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Shearer, Norman J.</td>
<td>39 New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx Park, Fordham Branch P.O., New York City</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>64 South St., Bogota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Baldwin, Elmer</td>
<td>400 Tecumseh Road, Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Tarrytown</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Eugen, Mrs. Elva</td>
<td>East Islip, Long Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Barton, Mrs. J. H.</td>
<td>Box 480, Belfair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Dress, S-Sgt. Wm. J.</td>
<td>339th Service Sqn., APO 526, c/o Postmaster, New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Lee, Mrs. Bertha</td>
<td>Scarsdale</td>
</tr>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Livingstone, Miss Alda</td>
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<td>Lyle, Dr. Henry H. M.</td>
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<td>MacAndrews, A. H.</td>
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<td>103 Norwood Ave., Ashville</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>324 Kentworth Drive, Akron</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Elliott W. L.</td>
<td>3691 Columbia Road, Westlake</td>
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<td>Hayes, Mrs. Geo. L.</td>
<td>601 Copley Road, Akron</td>
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<td>4901 Detroit Ave., Cleveland</td>
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<td>1898 Chelsea Road, Columbus</td>
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<td>Sluss, Mrs. L. D.</td>
<td>110 Bennington Road, Akron</td>
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<td>Wecker, Mrs. F. A.</td>
<td>2247 Braddock Ave., Swisvale</td>
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<td>139 Nyatt Road, West Harrison</td>
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<td>Becker, Mrs. James</td>
<td>Route 6, Knoxville</td>
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<td>737 Cherry St., Chattanooga</td>
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<td>New York</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>Christian, Mrs. P. J.</td>
<td>3714 Huntington St., Washington 15, D. C.</td>
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<td>128 North Ave., Bluefield</td>
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<td>Jones, Llewellyn W.</td>
<td>2307 Jefferson St., Bluefield</td>
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### ACTIVE MEMBERS IN CANADA, ALASKA, AND THE CANAL ZONE

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<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Allen, Mrs. H. P.</td>
<td>1204 Keith Road, Holyburn, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Andrews, Harold</td>
<td>Brewood P.O., Vancouver Island, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Beattie, Frank P.</td>
<td>R. R. 3, Dundas, Ontario, Canada</td>
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<td>Brandes, Mrs. Fred</td>
<td>Box 145, Gatun, Canal Zone</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Bunnell, Mrs. Roy J.</td>
<td>R. R. 3, Victoria, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Christiansen, Mrs. C. A.</td>
<td>365 G sewage Ave., W. Toro, 12, Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
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<td>North Road, Colquitz P.O., Victoria, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Cruikshank, Mrs. C. A.</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Goddard, William</td>
<td>1241 Union Ave., Victoria, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Hibbs, Mrs. Mable</td>
<td>&quot;The Cotswold&quot;, Galiano Island, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Legare, Jacques</td>
<td>&quot;The Cotswold&quot;, Galiano Island, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Lohbrunner, E. H.</td>
<td>1241 Union Ave., Victoria, B. C. Canada</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Morgan, Mrs. Cyril</td>
<td>30 New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx Park, Fordham Branch P.O., New York City</td>
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<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Shearer, Norman J.</td>
<td>&quot;Narkeena&quot;, Mount Lofty, South Australia</td>
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### EXTRA-AMERICA

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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Beets, Miss Julia A.</td>
<td>223-3rd St., Beach Haven</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Bobbin, L. C.</td>
<td>East Rutherford</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Gerhard, F. B.</td>
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The American Primrose Society is a national horticultural society organized for the purpose of enjoying primroses mutually and as a center for the dissemination of knowledge. The Society offers to every member the opportunity to work in research and experiments; a voice in its government; the publications issued in January, April, July and October; especially fine or unusual seeds; the privilege of requesting information or articles of special interest; the beauty of shows and the enjoyment of private primrose gardens.

The publications are planned for the intimate reading pleasure of primrose hobbyists in all parts of the United States, Canada and Alaska and carry authentic articles from these portions. They are issued at advantageous periods for the primrose gardener and carry seasonal cultural information as well as articles of sentiment, travel and exploration and more scientific pieces. They outline and illustrate how to use primroses in the garden and in arrangements; describe old European favorites as well as newly found species from Asia and America; its readers are guided to growers and firms of high repute. The design is as informal and friendly as primroses themselves to encourage friendships among those who share a mutual hobby.

The American Primrose Society also invites groups of primrose enthusiasts to organize and affiliate with the national group in Portland, Oregon.

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