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Primroses "In-the-Woods" at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Dowling

Beginning CONCERNING PRIMULAS
by Grace Dowling
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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Concerning Primulas
GRACE DOWLING, Seattle, Washington

Mrs. Dowling has kindly consented to the publication of her book "Concerning Primulas" in the Primrose Quarterly. Mrs. Dowling organized the first Arboretum Unit on Bainbridge Island many years ago and it was here that she grew her primulas in a natural setting."In-the-Woods." Although there have been some new developments in classification and good improvement in existing strains since the book was completed in 1941 it will be presented exactly as written. I am sure that you will look forward to each installment of this book written by a woman who loves primula and used them in their proper place in her gardens.

INTRODUCTION

There are definite stages in gardening which every normal grower is sure to encounter. First, when the incipient gardener wants every beautiful plant and takes everything that is offered to him. This is the stage when a garden catalog produces an intoxication almost uncontrollable. Not until the end of the summer, or possibly not until the end of two or three summers, he finds himself hesitating before accepting some gifts. He has discovered that here is a plant with such pushing habits it is absolutely obnoxious and another one that sulks and refuses to respond to all overtures. However, there are some plants which satisfy the aesthetic sense and seem grateful for all kindnesses, and almost unconsciously the gardener begins to pick and choose. This is the second stage and in the third stage he definitely takes one group of plants to his heart, loving many but choosing this group for his special adoration.

Of all the plant families there are few that can furnish such varied adornments to gardens, large and small, as the Primulaeaceae Family. There are primulas to suit every type of soil, acid, neutral, or alkaline, and there are primulas for every location, shady, sunny, or partly shady. By intelligently choosing primulas which will be happy in the particular soil or place that happens to be in the garden where they are to grow, instead of choosing a beautiful primula and trying to make it grow in a place it loathes, primula collections and primula plantings of great beauty are entirely possible from one end of the country to another.

Primulas, probably because many are native to England, have been used by the English people in many capacities. Besides being prominent in the practice of medicine for many generations, they have taken their place in politics. Every year, in England, the nineteenth of April is Primrose Day. Primroses are sold on the street corners and virtually every other person on the street wears a primrose. This custom has been inaugurated by the Primrose League, a society established in 1883 to perpetuate the principles of Lord Beaconsfield (Benjamin Disraeli). Primroses were Disraeli's favorite flower, and as the date of his death, April 19th, coincides with the height of the primrose season, this day was chosen in commemoration.

There are special charms about primulas that set them apart from all other garden plants. They range from the serene simplicity and tolerance of the true primroses, to the ostentation and pageantry of many of the alpines. This irritability has, for many years, been irresistible to many growers and numerous varieties, those that require simple as well as difficult culture, have been grown on the Pacific Coast.

From this tremendously vast tribe of primulas, there was necessarily, because of the numbers that are in cultivation, a reason for selecting varieties to be described. To list only those I have grown myself would not include many of the difficult and rare varieties that the more advanced primula grower knows to know about. For this reason I have finally chosen a list of species and hybrids including only those that have been grown in my own garden and those grown in the gardens of three growers on Vancouver Island, Mrs. Hibberd and Mr. Lohbrunner in Victoria, Mr. Ashton in Duncan, and a few of the most interesting species grown by Mrs. Berry in Portland. Every species I have described, with the exception of a few Americans, I have actually seen growing, have discussed its virtues and frailties with its grower, and with great friendliness pass on these tiny character sketches.

The arrangement of the chapters containing the different sections of primulas is entirely arbitrary. There has been an effort to pass gradually from those primulas of easy culture to those requiring more specialized treatment, with the hope that gardeners who are being introduced to the growing of primulas will not become discouraged, but, by degrees, become interested in them all.

To Mrs. Berry I owe a great debt of gratitude. From her long experience and her scientific and patient research, she has allowed me to use some of the information she has gained while growing innumerable varieties of primulas, as well as other alpines, from all over the world. I have watched her mix her formulas and noted her technique, and with the hope that more people may become as interested in this hobby as she has become, she has given me permission to pass on her experiences that each year are proving more and more successful.

I have used many of her suggestions concerning the form of the book and her interest and encouragement have been very valuable.

I have been particularly fortunate to have been able to have Mrs. Elliott DeForest, with her botanical experience and her good taste, check over my manuscript for technical and structural errors.

It has seemed more natural and friendly to follow the examples of those writers about primulas who have employed the common usage of the plurals of such words as primula, polyanthus, auricula and others. High-sounding usual names often may repulse that might otherwise become a delightful intimacy. "In-the-Woods"
March, 1941

CHAPTER 1
VERNALES SECTION

Of all this vast tribe with its almost numberless members there is only one that bears the authentic title of primrose. _P. vulgaris_ was suggested by William Hudson, an English botanist and contemporary with Linnaeus, as the best name for the primrose and it has been used extensively, but Linnaeus named it _P. acutella_, therefore this is the name that has finally been adopted. Primrose is a loving name given to a native variety that grows here and there in most countries of Europe, especially in the British Isles. The name comes from an old Middle-English word, prymrose, a derivative from the Latin primus, first, and the flower is a favorite character which is mentioned constantly in English literature.

To find the origin of the name primrose has been a diversion for writers and gardeners for many years. Even today there are many flowers, unrelated to the primrose family, called primroses, different flowers in different localities. In the earliest writings there was this same confusion. _P. acutella_ has, apparently, always been well known and well loved and most early writers mention it frequently thus showing it has ever been a constant companion of mankind. The little children were taught legends concerning the primrose; brides carried primroses to bring them happiness; primroses were scattered on graves to insure immortality, but its specific function was in its supposed medicinal qualities.

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Gerard, listing the virtues of the primroses in 1557 shows their importance in the early practice of medicine. "The roots of primrose stamped and strained, and the juice sniffed into the nose with a quill or such like, purgeth the brain and qualifieth the pain of megrim." Today, decorations from the roots and leaves are used for various maladies in different parts of the British Isles. The country people still make a wine from the primrose blossoms,* and a few years ago I found the following in an English magazine describing a "Health Garden." "Stuffy colds in the head are quickly relieved by primrose roots gathered during the winter, dried and reduced to powder and then mixed with honey or boiled in wine. Chronic headaches may be treated with the same medicine. Infusions are made both with primrose leaves and flowers. The former allays feverishness and the latter is used extensively in France for biliousness, indigestion and nervous disorders such as St. Vitus dance, epilepsy and palpitation. Bohled primrose leaves applied when very hot speedily relieve rheumatism."

Mr. Earnest Wilson, our own plant explorer who has introduced so many fine Asiatic primulas says, "Looking backward and appraising the garden value of different plants, I now think that no primrose in all the world is fairer or more lovely than the common P. vulgaris (acaulis) which bedeck moisture lovers, thickets and sloping banks of Northern Europe." And Mr. Clarence Elliott, one of the most important growers of primulas in England today, thinks "The common primrose (P. acaulis) is the best primula in the world.

The primrose plant has a lush rosette of leaves and each blossom has a single stem of its own that comes from the heart of the plant. All primulas that grow in this manner, with a stem for each single bloom, are classified as the primrose type. The wild varieties in the British Isles are in shades of yellow and white but in the Caucasus mountains there is an early blooming deep pink variety called P. acaulis rubra. This same plant grows in Greece and Northern Persia where it is called P. sibthorpi"ei, a change in name which leads to some confusion. The crossing of the English yellow and the Caucasian pink is probably responsible for the various colors in our gardens today. The primrose is early blooming before the polyanthus. It plays a large part in the spring garden, holding the stage for some time before the polyanthus takes its place. The wild variety generally has a starry bloom with the petals somewhat pointed, but hybridizers have changed the shape and size, making large, round flowers. This English native, single and yellow, is planted in drifts through my woods, one of the most satisfying plantings of all. They drift down a slight slope under the dogwoods and the firs and I think with Robert Browning

"If you get simple beauty and naught else
You get about the best thing God invents."

There is nearly every possible shade of color included in this classification. Pinks have been among the rarer colors but now it is not too surprising to find a good pink among the seedlings. I rather like a Joseph's coat planting of all the colors, it is friendly and homely, but, no doubt the best effects in arrangement are found when those of one color are kept together. Seeds of individual colors are now obtainable; scarlets, crimson, yellows, whites, bronze, and others, fairly true to name, and if plants are closely planted it is a simple task, toewel in hand, to remove an interloper of the wrong color when it comes into bloom, without leaving an empty space of any size. After the second year, P. acaulis often has an inclination to become polyanthus in form of flowering.

Primroses are not especially particular. They like partial shade in rich, moist, peaty soil, which may be sandy or clayey, but they must be kept from being bone dry in summer. Wood ashes scattered over the ground occasionally adds much to their complacency. Well rotted manure and leaf mold dug into the soil when the beds are prepared and a small trowel-full of bone meal added when planting in late summer insures good growth and bloom. They naturally respond to affection and attention in the forms of food and water and an occasional hoing. They should be divided nearly every year and an especially fine plant is able to reproduce itself, until in a surprising few years one may have a choice planting. They make satisfactory plants.

Primulus acaulis blue

The blue primrose (P. acaulis again), as well as P. acaulis rubra, blooms very early in the spring, generally in January and February. Even on the Atlantic Coast, Mrs. Wilder tells of them blooming with crocus and hepatica.

Their colors are deeper if planted in the shade and a sizeable group of dark blue primroses planted in a shady corner gives depth to the garden landscape, much the same effect that shadows give. The blue P. acaulis is improving constantly through the efforts of hybridizers. The love of the gardener for blue flowers of every kind makes blue primroses deserved a place in the spring garden. There are some fine, especially named varieties only procurable through division, but each year seeds are becoming more fixed, in that they reproduce themselves virtually true to name. Mr. G. F. Wilson in England in the 1880's was the first grower to establish a blue strain. Long it had been a problem of hybridizers but finally from "a purple primrose with a color inclining to violet" a blue primrose evolved. Now a package of seeds of P. acaulis will produce colors from an exquisite gray blue to a deep navy or midnight blue, and the owner can name his own. Sometimes there is a distinct red line about the yellow eye that is interesting, but does not adapt itself to the general aspect of the plantation. By immediately removing all plants with blossoms of a muddy blue as they come into flower, a fine strain may be developed from which seeds may be gathered with confidence that many good colors will emerge.

With blue primroses advantageously placed, many lovely pictures may be made in the spring garden. I have a blue primrose that blooms with Iris reticulata and another just the shade to plant with deep blue pulmonaria. Other blues edge a group of Soldiers and Sailors (Pulmonaria officinalis). Nice plantings of the right shades of blue with the Muscaris are interesting, both Heavenly Blue and M. azureum, and I like pale blues with no touch of purple grouped with P. kuliana Wanda. When the primroses start to bloom, colors can be chosen and the plants lifted and placed where they are wanted with no apparent setback. The right shade of blue, as well as other carefully chosen colors, planted under Magnolia stellata makes a memorable picture.

Double Primroses

Also in the acaulis group belong the coveted double varieties. The white and lavender, as well as the pale yellow doubles have been in our gardens, here in America, for many years, but the deep

of green in the yellow of the primroses. 

Ireland is the present day home of many of the double primroses, and descriptions of them never fail to make a primrose grower fairly faint with envy. The names of double primroses are especially intriguing. Red Daddy, a deep rose, and Our Pat, a “sapphire blue,” are nice Irish kinds: Rex Theodore, royal in name, has petals red and white with touches of black. Then Madame Pompadour, “ruby velvet,” conceded by all to be the best, the most beautiful and the most difficult, also suggests aristocratic associations. Marie Crouse has all varieties of press notices, favorable and unfavorable criticism of her beauty. She is what one might call, with reservations, a pale violet with dots of white on the edges of her petals and she is supposed to have “fewer dislikes than most.” Mrs. Barlee, a grower of doubles in Ireland, says Marie Crouse lives under a gooseberry bush in her garden and I never pass her in my garden without scanning her lovingly to see if I can discover if she is longing for a gooseberry bush.

Those doubles named Bon Accords and Crackers, are fairly new varieties and are not among the antiques of old English gardens that collectors are hunting today. Mr. Crocker originated this new strain, which is supposed to be harder and to have a longer season of bloom. Blooming early, with *P. acalis*, they often send out stray blooms, far into the fall.

Apparently doubles prefer a rather mild, damp climate, such as Ireland’s, and while some growers think they like a heavy soil others tell of perfect success in a very light soil with plenty of well-rotted cow manure and leafmold. I have done fairly well with my few varieties planted in almost pure leafmold, only a very small proportion of loam and, in the spring, a dressing of sifted old manure. To say they prefer a “mild climate” does not mean they are not perfectly hardy and cannot stand the more severe winters. Nevertheless they appreciate a little protection to keep them from being upheaved and their roots exposed in a climate where frost and thaw alternate.

Many named varieties of doubles are featured in gardens on Vancouver Island. Of course named varieties can only be multiplied by division and frequent division is most necessary to this especial group. If left for any length of time the leaves get small and the plant seems to be entirely composed of a knotty tuberous growth with only puny shoots. Before this stage is reached the plant should be taken up and separated, cutting away as much as possible of this woody growth, leaving a tuft of leaves and some roots on each piece. However, if firm and solid, these pieces of old growth should be saved, dusted with powdered charcoal and planted when it is quite possible new shoots will start. Cuttings may be made of the scraps that are left with no roots if dipped in one of the root-developing mixtures, and treated as other temperamental cuttings are treated in a closed frame.

Seeds of double primroses are now sold by several English seed firms. I have grown seeds from Mrs. A. Barlee in Ireland and from the Stormonth and Son of Kirkbride, Cumberland, in England, and while I have not had a large percentage of doubles, the colors in the single varieties are interesting and there is the especial excitement of expectation when they begin to bloom. As the seeds germinate unevenly it is important to sow them thinly in order to transplant those that are ready to be taken from the seed pans without disturbing the seeds that have not germinated. Often the best are the slowest to germinate. Many stories are told of the finest of all coming up after the pans had, to all appearances, been emptied of seedlings.

Last year the best plant I had from double seed was a rather dark raspberry-colored *P. polyanthus* with white dots like a trimming. It has developed into a husky plant and may in time make a showing.

**Primula Polyanthus**

Primrose, to most amateurs, means *P. polyanthus*, the flower that makes the summing parade of color in the spring; the one with blooms of every possible shade; the one featured at the spring flower shows.

Bunched primrose is a distinguishing name often used for polyanthus, describing their fashion of carrying their flowers in bunches. While many of the species primulas are borne in an umbel, *P. polyanthus* has such a specific personality there is little chance of confusion.

Many biographies of the primula family begin with more or less of an apology for the lack of actual knowledge concerning the origin of the polyanthus type. Apparently, down through the ages, there has been a warm discussion whether its parent was originally a primrose or whether it is a hybrid between *P. acalis*, the true primrose, and *P. officinalis*, the cowslip. The latter supposition, seemingly, has been chosen as preferable and while the early writers do not describe a flower with the name polyanthus, doubtless the plant originated in the British Isles. It has long been a favorite with growers in England and during the 18th century a primrose or polyanthus fad developed that, while not of the proportions of the tulip craze in Holland, was, without question, the forerunner for the beginnings of definite improvement of the polyanthus types.

The primula called polyanthus has blooms that grow in an umbel—many flowers branching out from one stem. The umbels reach well over the leaves until, in a well grown plant, there are often so many blooms the leaves are somewhat eclipsed. The flowers range in color through all the whites and creams to yellow and orange, then on through...
the spectrum with all the shades of reds, purples and blues. This development of the
elegance of the plants and the breadth of the color spectrum has evolved
ggradually during many years of scientific
and painstaking efforts and today new
strains are constantly being originated by
patient growers. Miss Gertrude Jekyll,
after many years of pleasurable persever-
ance, at last developed, to her satisfac-
tion, the Munstead variety. This strain
was gradually produced from a mediocre
plant found in a cottage garden. It had
a small flower with a pleasing yellow color
and from that beginning, by careful
selection, she produced the fine yellow
strain whose seeds can be purchased
in many nurseries. The story of her
accomplishment must have been a stim-
ulus to many growers for in the last
dozen or so years countless named var-
eties have been added to the seed cata-
logues.

It would, indeed, be difficult to decide
which of all the gorgeous colors one
might choose with which to experiment,
and yet, by growing only one series of
colors, something more might be pro-
duced. Shaded pink is still somewhat
rare. The English growers are working
singly and collectively with red shades.
Only the grower who looks deep into the
eyes of his polyanthus blooms or the one
who fondles, lovingly, a curly edge sees
the possibility of some change or poten-
tial improvement. Size has already de-
veloped to proportions which might con-
fuse some blooms with Hollyhocks, but
there are more subtle changes possible.
The Spathes strain I have found very
satisfactory for size and colors, also the
Blythe strain, Sutton's Brilliance and
many of the so-called Giant strains listed
by Blackmore and Langdon, Barr, and
Dobie. American growers are rapidly
adding to this list of desirable kinds. In
any one packet chosen from the long list
of named varieties a grower is fairly
certain to find at least a few of what
will be considered outstanding forms and
by careful selection a collection of merit
may be established.

Polyanthus are not fastidious. They
establish themselves in any and every
garden, accommodating themselves to
their environment in a simple, eager
fashion. They have no bad habits; they
do not ask much and they give bounti-
fully with their brilliantly colored
blooms. All they require is sufficient
water and food and they delight in
shade, at least during the middle of the
day.

My polyanthus are planted in a clear-
ing in the woods and I have frankly
copied Miss Jekyll's plan for paths, modi-
ifying it to suit my space and the situa-
tion of Douglas fir trees in the area.
They are narrow "sheep paths," only
wide enough to accommodate an ordin-
ary rake. There is one long path, an axis,
and then, running laterally, two more
paths that bulge in the center, meeting
again at both ends. This arrangement
of paths allows access to all plants with
the least consciousness of division which,
otherwise might give the objectionable
"bedding-out" appearance to the plant-
ing. A few deciduous trees have been
planted to give semi-shade. A double,
white-flowering cherry, a Magnolia con-
spicua, an aspen and a clump of silver
birches at the far end of the center path,
provide a filtered sunshine. All of the
plants in these beds have originally been
raised from seed. In other surrounding
spaces there are "specials," gifts, or an
occasional purchased one that seemed
especially desirable.

Every month of the year a polyanthus
bloom or two may be found, yet the
polyanthus season, in normal years, does
not begin until March. April, in most
years, is the month of their splendor.
Looking across the beds and through the
trees, there is a true kaleidoscope with
all the shades of red, bronze, and purple,
pale and butter-colored yellows shading
to deep orange and tangerine, whites
forming an unending pattern of the
colors glancing and changing as the light
touches them; altogether a breath-taking
spectacle. Very little green is visible,
only a cushion from which the stems
rise, crowding each other for space in
the sunlight. April — primroses — the
words are truly synonymous. Near the
north edge of this big bed is a drift of
soft blue scillas, an influence calming
somewhat, the excitement of the primrose
colors.

The blue polyanthus I keep in plant-
ings by themselves, as they are more
beautiful in deeper shade. All but clear
blues are carefully removed when the
first true blooms show. The first blooms
on any polyanthus or primrose may not
exactly indicate the beauty of the mature
flowers when the plant is at its height;
for this reason it is well to reserve criti-
cism for the second stem of blossoms.

Raising polyanthus from seed is one
of the major operations in my garden.
The seeds from my own plants are plant-
ed in July or August while still fresh,
but after having dried a little; always
reserving a certain proportion to sow in
spring. This allows for casualties that
may occur to flats during the winter.
Fresh seeds from the nurserymen are
not always ready for sale until January.
If the seeds come in mid-winter the flats
of soil are all ready and waiting. The
seeds are sown and the flats placed in a
tiny, cold greenhouse where there is a
propagating bench electrically heated.
They will grow quite as well in a base-
ment or on a window sill, but in that
case, perhaps, it will be more satisfac-
tory to wait until February to sow the seeds;
sowdng will then be ready in late
March to be put in a cool place in the
open as they cannot stand coddling.
March planting is quite as successful as
July planting; perhaps more so, if one is
not able to give the attention necessary
during the dry months of the summer.
Here on the Pacific Coast I can see no
difference in the quality of the plants,
whether the seeds are sown in March or
July, but those seeds sown in July are
generally ready for blooming when
March seeds are being sown; a six
months gain in time. In colder climates
however, it may be more successful to
sow the seeds in March and let them
come along without a set-back until early
fall when they are planted where they
are to bloom.

There is a method often used with
species primula seeds which I have found
quite successful with polyanthus seeds.
Seeds are sown late in the fall and left
out in any or all weathers with a fine
window screen over them to protect them
from birds or from being washed by pel-
ting rains. Freezing weather cracks the
hard covering of the seeds and if snow
falls it is an added blessing, keeping
them frozen for a while. If not enough
snow covers the flats it is a simple mat-
ter to remove the screens and heap the snow
over them. After being well frozen, if
the flats are brought into a warm room
or left where the first warm rays of the
sun in the spring can reach them, the
seeds germinate like grass. Experiencing
this dramatic climax is one of the many
reasons why a gardener is a gardener.
When seedlings are well up and begin
crowding each other they are transplant-
ed into other flats in much the same soil
with the addition of a little well-rotted
manure and bonemeal. Hazel bushes
grow wild in my woods and I try to

Polyanthus seedling. Photo by Agee.
select a space under the hazels to stand the flats where the baby plants have the half shade they love, always remembering to protect them from slugs with slug bait. The seedlings may be planted into their permanent situations directly from the flats into which they were first transplanted.

It is exciting to raise polyanthus from seed but it is even more thrilling to watch them each day as they come into bloom, searching for choice or outstanding flowers. It takes decision and courage to discard the inferior plants. This practice is called roguing and if not faithfully followed every year, only rogues will be left in the garden with constitutions like dandelions. If a plant has a sloppy habit of flopping over with a weak stem it must have a very unusual or beautiful color to save it from the discarded pile. A thrum-eyed flower (see chapter on propagation) is considered more desirable than a pin-eyed flower and certain polyanthas with wide and open centers has a more interesting appearance than a planting of pin-eyed flowers. Often pin-eyed flowers are very beautiful and if being a pin-eyed bloom is the only criticism to be made, surely it should be kept.

Each individual blossom in an umbel has been called, from time immemorial, the pip, and in a fine "show" bloom this pip should be flat and at least three quarters of an inch across. It should be slightly fluted, and divided in five or six scallops, but the scallops must not cut into the yellow eye. Clear colors are desirable. Flowers that have a clouded color, as if one color is superimposed over another, while beautiful, are not considered by judges to be blue-ribbon varieties. I have one variety, a raspberry color, with the appearance of a "bloom" over the color base. It comes early and I admire it very much but it is a restless note in the big planting and finally I have removed it.

Polyanthas flowers vary in shape and form, some of them seem almost double or the petals may be distinctly waved. The arrangement of the petals varies, and often they are cut, giving the whole

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Polyanthus types naturally divide themselves into groups. There is one type that is always spoken of as the "old florist's or gold-laced) polyanthus," and was much admired during the Victorian Age. It has a dark red flower with a tiny thread of gold edging the petals, a quaint blossom of especial value to collectors of Victorian decorations. Planted by themselves, a bed of gold-laced polyanthus reminds one of a piece of old fashioned red and yellow calico spread over the grass. They have a child-like grace which children admire exceedingly. They cannot be included in the big bed; their style is so unlike the modern polyanthus flowers, one is immediately conscious of their incongruity. From nearly every package of mixed polyanthus seeds come some plants with gold and silver edged flowers, and it is interesting to find the number of visitors to the garden who prefer them to all others.

The double polyanthus form another group much admired by visitors and generally treasured by the grower. They produce nearly every color and I have found the plants not quite so robust as the single types, in that they do not reproduce crowns as rapidly. It is interesting to raise them from seeds. Seeds of double primroses and polyanthus may be purchased in Ireland but it is quite possible to raise one's own seeds. Since all double blossoms do not contain pollen, a double blossom with pollen must be found. The second step consists of selecting a sturdy, single, pin-eyed polyanthus and preparing it for pollination. (See chapter on propagation.) The pollen from the double primrose may then be scattered over the exposed pistil of the single polyanthus. Several trials should be made and each pistil carefully protected from insects. The first generation may all be single but the seeds saved from these plants should produce a number of double flowers. Many of the fixed varieties are named, such as Chevithorne, Curiosity and many others; only to read the names makes one covetous. The double polyanthus leave me with very little enthusiasm, but this is not true of many primula growers who love unusual varieties. I have never seen any double polyanthus that can compete with the single varieties in brilliance of color, sturdiness of growth or pictorial effect, but I have never seen a great number.

Blue polyanthus have become very popular, probably the reason is our inherent love for all blue flowers. Some of the blue polyanthus are outstandingly beautiful, but the majority are not remarkable, having a nondescript color, and could easily be replaced by finer blues in unrelated families.

Fascinating plantings may be conceived by combining polyanthus and other plants in the spring garden. Many of the polyanthus-bulb combinations are too obvious to be listed, but with some taste they may be induced to make wonderful pictures. I am particularly fond of a little spot, close to a bare tree trunk with a few stalks of Nenissus poetica, white polyanthus and one plant of almost crimson polyanthus to pick up the crimson rim on the cup of the narcissus. The warm colors of wallflowers blend beautifully with warm-colored polyanthus. Forget-me-nots planted with polyanthus, unless they are the finer, newer varieties of myosotis, have a tendency to almost smother the polyanthus. Omphalodes verum and O. cornifolia can be used instead of myosotis. Groups of dark red polyanthus and Heuchera richardsonii give depth to the spring garden and an exquisite touch may be added with a thin edging of little pink Bellis perennis, var. Dresden China.

A continuation of Chapter 1 will appear in the Fall Quarterly. In the meantime your editor has permission to plant a primrose garden at Bayview Manor, Seattle, where Mrs. Dowling is now living. It is my hope to be able to plant most of the species that are mentioned in "Concerning Primulas.

A. P. S. Stationery

Because of numerous requests the A. P. S. Board has authorized three different designs of stationery for the use of members. A Primrose in the upper left corner, the words American Primrose Society, are printed in green. The cost will be 25 sheets for $1.00 without envelopes. Envelopes to suit can be purchased by the members for less than we can mail them. Please send a stamped addressed envelope to the editor for samples.
Experiences in Breeding for Double Auriculas

RALPH BALCOM, Seattle, Washington

One bright spring morning back in 1953, I was making a customary daily inspection of my primulas to see what new seedlings had come into bloom—one of the most pleasurable moments in the life of a primula grower—and there it was, a DOUBLE auricula blooming in a bed of plants grown from ordinary border seed.

The one blossom then in bloom was a large full double borne on an acaulis stem, but there was also another sturdy stem topped with many buds in the form of an umbel with promise of more double blooms to come. Its color was a rich, velvety purple that shaded a bit like an alpine and it had a mealed paste that glistened white down in the center among the petals. After admiring the lovely bloom and after examining it minutely, I sat on the corner of a nearby frame and for some time just daydreamed and made plans. This plant, I imagined, would become the parent of a race of doubles the likes of which had never been seen before. It would produce seed that would come 100 per cent true doubles—and so on and on....

Well, it didn't quite work out that way for there were many problems and disappointments ahead that I did not then foresee.

The first disappointment occurred when the remaining flowers came into bloom. Yes, the first blossom was a full double, but the succeeding ones were smaller and had less and less petals until the very last ones were actually single. Still, it was the yellow, heath and pale in a hybridizing procedure such as the one I was about to make.

Using this plant, which I numbered "D-ONE," as the pollen parent, a cross was made between it and four singles of the border type, great care being taken to see that each was vigorous and had a strong, sturdy scape with short pedicles that would carry heavy blooms in an upright position. One was a rather bright red in color, one a near-white, another a soft yellow and the fourth a royal purple with alpine shading similar to the original D-ONE. The colors of each were clear and the petals were of good texture.

About one hundred plants from these first crosses bloomed in the spring of 1955. The flowers came in a wide assortment of colors but the rather dull reds, reddish purples, heath and pale yellows predominated. As might have been expected, none of them was double, in fact, none had even so much as an extra petal. It was quite evident that doubleness was the recessive character and that I would have to grow other generations in order to get the desired double type. Of these F1 generation plants, only twelve of the best were retained for further hybridizing. These were crossed, some with each other and some back-crossed to the original D-ONE of which there were now four divisions. Plants from these crosses bloomed in the spring of 1957 and there in the F2 generation, the doubles and the so-called semi-doubles appeared for the first time. Approximately 55 per cent showed extra petals of which a few were fully doubled. The process of obtaining double auriculas by hybridizing, at least in this case, was really so simple that one wonders why they have been relatively scarce. It took only two generations of hybridizing to get them.

Now I must go back to the year of 1955, when at the National Show held at Tacoma that year, Mrs. Denna Snuffer displayed some of her auriculas. She brought no doubles but did show a purple semi-double very similar to my own original plant. She sold this plant to Mr. John Shuman and he very kindly gave me a couple of blossoms. The pollen from these I used on my D-ONE plant and had a bit to spare with which I pollinated three of my own F1 seedlings. About fifty or so plants from these crosses also bloomed in 1957 along with those of my own pure strain and the proportion of doubles and semi-doubles in both groups were practically the same.

During the intervening years since, I have been crossing both strains in all directions and mixing the two together so that now my doubles are really a composite of Mrs. Snuffer's and my own. Since she was the first in this country to create a strain that will reproduce double auriculas from seed and also because mine are now a mixture of the two, I would hope that she be given full credit for her achievement and that all doubles produced containing "blood" from her plants (which includes my own) be called "Denna Doubles.

In each of the crops that have bloomed since 1957, the proportion of singles obtained has remained very nearly constant at 50 percent, but there has been an increase each year in the ratio of doubles in proportion to semi-doubles and more of the fully double types in making the crosses. In pollinating it is better to use the more single flowers of a plant rather than the fully doubled blossoms because the reproductive parts of those with the less petals are usually the most perfect and are more apt to set seed. In several tests there has been little difference in the amount of double progeny obtained from the two types of blossoms as long as they came from the same plant.

A majority of my doubles in the past have been of the more somber colors. This fault was not doubt caused by a mistake I made in choosing the colors of the four single plants used in the first cross. Three of them—the red, the purple and the lavender-white—evidently belong to the anthocyanin chemical group of colors and the fourth plant, which was a pale yellow, belongs to the flavone group. I should have selected brighter colored plants, especially the yellow, which should have been a real
bright yellow of the flavanol group. I have had to go back to the single crosses again to get plants whose flowers are of brighter hues. This has meant a lot of time lost because of a bit of carelessness on my part and emphasizes the fact that in the choosing of the original parent plants, great care should be taken in their selection because one must live with their traits from then on.

As in normal auricula plants, most doubles bear their flowers in the form of an umbel but quite often a plant will throw one or even more stems each bearing but a single blossom as in a primrose. There have also been plants with two whorls of flowers on a single scape one above the other as in a candelabra. They are an erratic and unstable lot and one is sure to find some odd and freakish individuals in any batch of seedlings. The fact that they do the unexpected so many times makes the hybridizing of doubles an exciting and fascinating adventure. My wife is quite accustomed in the spring of the year when the double auricula seedlings are coming into bloom, to having me burst into the house with a plant in hand to show her. She has learned to listen patiently while I jabber excitedly about its virtues or perhaps its oddities and then join in when I go over it. She is a true diplomat. I am continuing to work with them trying to get blossoms of better form, better and brighter colors and also trying to get seed that will produce a higher percentage of the double types.

Dr. E. Lester Smith of England, with whom I have been corresponding for several years and with whom I now enjoy a fast friendship, has also been working with the double auricula. We hear (not from him but from others you may be assured) that he is a keen grower and has developed some fine doubles. Word has come that last spring he staged an exhibit of his collection, augmented by a few plants obtained from Ireland and some from this country, at a Fortnightly Show of the English Royal Horticultural Society and was awarded the LINDLEY MEDAL. This is a high honor in England since this award is not often given and only to exhibitions of high merit. In the display were 55 plants in bloom which was a feat in itself. The London Times stated that this collection of double auriculas was believed to be the finest in all Britain. Our congratulations to Dr. Smith who is an English member of our American Primrose Society.

To those who have not yet tried cross-pollinating some type of Primula and then growing the resulting seed into blooming plants, I highly recommend it. There is a sense of enjoyment and a feeling of accomplishment when one knows that he has created something new that no one has ever seen before.

Two New A.P.S. Board Members . .

Mrs. Florence Bellis of Barnhaven, Gresham, Oregon and Mrs. Grace Conboy, editor of the Canadian Primula and Alpine Soc. Bulletin, were elected to the Board.

Show Auriculas in America

JOHN SHUMAN, Seattle, Washington

The Auricula is one of the rarest and most beautiful flowers. It is called the "Aristocrat" of the plant world. The highest standards of perfection of any plant in the world are applied to it. The Named English Show and Alpine varieties are the finest in existence today.

It may be interesting to the members of the A P S to know the progress that has been made in America since the first Named English plants were made available to the growers here about eight or nine years ago.

The American Primrose and Auricula Society is the official sponsor of the Show Auricula in America and through its affiliated group known as the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America has provided the judges and rules to preserve the quality and prestige these plants have.

The greatest number of collections, large and small, are located on the Pacific Coast and each year more and more growers are attracted to Auriculas. Each year more and better American grown plants are showing up at the flower shows. All growers are conscientiously hybridizing and soon there will be plants of quality produced to take their places with the Named English varieties.

The growing of Auriculas is fascinating and many fine collections have been started. It is a known fact that many of the English Named plants and other American grown plants have been sent to many parts of the United States. They too will have their flower shows in the near future.

The future of Auriculas in America is very bright. The A. P. S. members are about the only people who know anything about this florist's plant but the percentage of members raising them is growing fast. When the "outside" world with its millions of flower lovers finds out about the different types of Auriculas, their beauty and versatility, something in order of a BOOM can be expected.

Summarizing the progress made in the last few years under the auspices of the A. P. S. and the unlimited help regarding the judging and culture given by our many friends in England, especially Mr. Dan Bamford and Mr. C. G. Haysom, we in America can enjoy our plants and move rapidly ahead toward the ultimate goal of producing the PERFECT Show and Alpine Auricula according to the official points scores.
Naming American Grown Show Auriculas

WIN SHUMAN, S. A. F. A. Committee Chairman

Auricula growers have had several years experience in hybridizing, growing and blooming their own Show and Alpine Auricula seedlings. A few very fine varieties have been grown by Northwest floriculturists in the last eight or nine years. These plants have retained their true form and character over a period of at least two or three years.

Some of these plants bloom too early or too late for the spring flower shows, so have never been seen on the show bench. We feel that all worthy plants of naming quality should be judged when they are in best bloom, regardless of when that may be.

The American Primrose and Auricula Society, through its affiliated group known as "The Show Auricula Floriculturists of America" has officially adopted a new procedure for judging, naming and registering these plants. An official S.A.F.A. registration form containing a certified statement signed by the grower or person presenting the plant for judging, and a detailed description of the plant (both good and bad points) is now in the hands of seven qualified Auricula judges. One copy of this form will be given to the grower and the other sent to S.A.F.A. chairman, Win Shuman, 5957 37th S.W., Seattle, Wn.

The owner must name his plant at the time it is judged and make arrangements for a picture of the plant. The grower should not be present while the plant is being judged. If a plant is named its picture will be published in the Quarterly (if possible) together with a detailed description of the plant and the names of the three naming judges. The name will, in this way, be copyrightable to the extent of the Quarterly. The plant will be recognized internationally and have a world-wide value, even in a monetary sense. Extraordinary care will be taken that only worthy plants will be named.

The grower may contact any three of the following S. A. F. A. judges of the naming committee: Robert Putnam, Anne Siefman, Ralph Balcom, John Shuman and Ruth Smith, Seattle; Cyrus Happy in Tacoma and Mrs. Orval Agee in Portland.

OFFICIAL S.A.F.A.
REGISTRATION FORM

Date:________________________

1. ________________, certify that plant No. ________________ has bloomed at present high standard for at least ______ years, and ask that it be named and registered with the American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society.

Presented by:______________________
Name of Plant:____________________
First Bloomed:____________________
Variety:__________________________
Existing Offsets:___________________
Original Grower:__________________

Cross:
Point Score
Tube: _______________ 
Anthers: _______________
Paste or Center: __________
Body Color: _____________
Pip: ______ Stem & Footstalks:
Size, Substance, Refinement (Pips & Truss): __________
Total

Describe Leaves:
Defects:

S.A.F.A. Judges
(2 yes votes will name)

Please check one
1. ________________ (Yes) (No)
2. ________________ (Yes) (No)
3. ________________ (Yes) (No)

Copy to—Chairman & Grower
Take black & white picture and slide.

The A. P. S. Slide collection is available to garden clubs at a nominal fee. Write Mrs. Dorothy Dickson, 13347 56th So., Seattle, Wn.

Frank H. Michaud

... First Officially Named Show Auricula in America.

The above named plant was grown from seed by Mr. Frank H. Michaud of New Westminster, B.C. and first bloomed in April 1956, at which time John Shuman purchased the only offset on the original plant.

This plant blooms each year long before the flower shows, was never seen at a show and has proven itself to retain its high qualities. The original plant was lost by Mr. Michaud and only one large plant and one offset are known to exist.

John Shuman, who presented this plant to the S.A.F.A. Committee for naming, stated, "It is most fitting that this plant be given the name Frank H. Michaud, the original grower and the man who has done more for Auriculas than any other person in America.

Show Auricula Frank H. Michaud is a white edge of medium habit with fairly well mealed foliage, leaves spatulate and slightly irregular. Tube is rich yellow, round and smooth. Anthers are yellow and completely covering the stigma. Paste is intense white, dense and smooth. Body color is intense black of good proportions feathering nicely toward the edge. Petals heavily covered with meal, five broad petals of good texture and well rounded edges. Strong stalk, long footstalks and general fine appearance.

This plant was named Frank H. Michaud on March 23, 1962 in Seattle, Wn. It was judged by Ralph Balcom, Anne Siefman and Robert G. Putnam.
From The Seed Exchange

ELMER BALDWIN, Syracuse, N. Y.

The Wish List

Members are asked to make known to the seed exchange director their especial, hard-to-find, wants. It will be possible to satisfy some of them. At least it should be worth trying and it may help to build a more interesting list. The only requirement: WRITE NOW! A post card will do.

A further word of appreciation to those who have done so much toward making the exchange possible. A reminder, also, that seeds are ripe and waiting to be collected and sent to the A. P. S. seed exchange as early as possible.

1962 Activity Report

Total number of contributors ...... 34
Number of varieties contributed ..... 518
Number of primula varieties incl. .. 116
Number of requests received ....... 226
Number of packets sent out ........ 5602
Items in greatest demand (No. 242) 82
Items listed receiving no request .... 23

*Editor's note: No. 242 was P. Auricula gigantea.

A New Regional Editor...

Mrs. Rodney K. Piper of Wethersfield, Connecticut is a relatively new member but one who grows primulas from seed in a trying climate. She states, "Mrs. Baylor in Vermont grows under more favorable conditions than we do in this area as the summer months in the upper New England states are not beset by problems of high temperatures both day and night. I believe the primroses could take the high day temperatures without becoming too depressed but it is the month of August that so often tries the plant's endurance. Night temperatures of 70 to 75, high humidity and little air motion weaken any plant."

"I can grow excellent Lupine until we go into the summer months and high night temperatures. However, Connecticut has many varied growing conditions and those fortunate enough to live along our shoreline do not find primroses as great a challenge as those of us who live inland."

"To date I have not seen any quantity of well grown Auriculas in this section. The Denticulatas are not uncommon, however, and I have seen several fine plantings of them. As far as I have seen there are no colonies of rosea, saratillia, japonica, etc. in any garden I have visited. Polyanthus to many growers mean primroses and there are a number of people who grow them competently. This year as I garden visit I will keep a weather eye out for anything unusual in primula, or the common kind grown uncommonly well; and that is not to be disparaged."

Order By Mail Postpaid

Anderson, Dwarf Bulbs In the Rock Garden (Penguin) ......... $1.50
Kolagoe, Handbook of Alpine & Rock Garden Plants ...... $1.25
Blunafle, The Cultivated Species of Primulas .......... $4.95
Genders, The Polyanthus (paperback) .......... $1.25
Hadfield, Pioneers in Gardening, London 1955 about Robinson, Miss Jekyll, the Loudons and Reginald Farrer, Illus..... $3.75
Haysom, Florists' Auriculas & Gold Laced Polyanthus .......... $5.95
Lyall, Hardy Primulas (London 1957) ..... $5.50
Puttick, Primulas (London 1957) ..... $3.75
Whitehead, Garden Clematis (London 1955) ..... $3.75
"JOHN BULL" Precision Weeder 8" long, weighs 11/2 oz. Forged in England, Over 500 in use by Am. Rock Garden Society members ........ $1.25 or 3 for $3.50

A postcard will bring you my price list of selected garden books.

Lynn M. Ranger
41 Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn, Mass.

At the Banquet. Left to right: Anne Siepman, Dorothy Dickson, Beth Tait, Grace Conboy, Ivanel Agee, Herbert Dickson and Howard Short. Photo by Agee.

BAMFORD TROPHY AWARDED TO CY HAPPY AT A.P.S. ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

Anne Siepman, Kirkland, Washington

The coveted Bamford Trophy, given for the best seedling Show Auricula, was awarded to Cyrus Happy for the third time. President Dickson made further awards of perpetual trophies as follows. The Haddock Trophy for the best Exhibition Alpine Seedling to Cyrus Happy; Both the Michaud Trophy for the Premier Show Auricula and the Shuman Trophy for the Premier Exhibition Alpine Auricula to John Shuman.

Speaker of the evening was Mr. Happy who presented a most informative illustrated lecture on "Primroses around the World."

Certificates designed by President Dickson were presented to each winner of special awards at the National Show this year, so that the recipient will have a record of the description of the plant, etc., when it is not possible to engrave this information on his trophy. This is particularly appreciated in the case of revolving trophies in which the winner, upon giving up his trophy, had no record of his award.

Official sanction was given The S.A.F.A. (Show Auricula Floriculturalists of America), a technicality that had been overlooked in past years. Mrs. Win Shuman was appointed chairman of this group.

The nominated candidates for national office were elected as below:

President...........Mr. Herbert H. Dickson
Vice President.........Mrs. Rosetta Jones
Rec. Secretary.........Mrs. Mary E. Zack
Treasurer............Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor
Director............Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait
Director............Mrs. Florence Bellis
Director............Mrs. Grace Conboy

President Dickson presents the Bamford Trophy to Cyrus Happy.

Photo by Agee
Life Membership To Ivanel Agee

Mrs. Orval Agee was presented with a life membership in the American Primrose Society at the annual meeting and banquet for her devoted work as Treasurer and her long years of furthering the progress of the society.

Mrs. John Siepman presented the membership and a plaque expressing the appreciation of the members.

Mrs. Agee’s work has also involved lecturing to garden clubs, corresponding with and sending seeds to members in all parts of the world, and working with the local Milwaukee society in organizational and show activities.

Winner of the Bamford Trophy in 1960 for the best seedling Show Auricula in America and expert grower and hybridist of all forms of primula, Mrs. Agee is also an artist. It is hoped that being relieved of the job of treasurer she will have more time to devote to drawings and articles for the Quarterly.

Sweepstakes Awards:

Professional Horticulture...Kit’s Garden Amateur

Horticulture...Mrs. Rober M. Ford

Decorative (Floral Arrangements)...Mrs. Sanford Lindstrom

Junior Amateur

Horticulture...Jimmy Tait

Junior Decorative...Candid Clark

Runner-up Sweepstakes:

Professional Horticulture, Ralph Balcom Amateur

Horticulture...Mrs. William Dines

Decorative...Mrs. D. McDonald

Junior Horticulture, Amateur...Janet Clark

Junior Decorative...Margery Barth

Division Awards—Best Plant:

Aucalis—

Professional...Mrs. Cecile Rindspach

Amateur...Mrs. Sylvestre Harp

Polyanthus, Prof...Robert C. Putnam

Amateur...Mrs. John Siepman

Best Pink Polyanthus...Ella Jones

American Primrose Society
we had a wealth of lovely plants. Winners were: General Sweepstakes Award for primroses, Juliana Dehler; runner-up, Mrs. Dave Shepherd, Sweepstakes Award, Novice, Mrs. Joe Annen; runner-up, Mrs. Vic Hoffer, Junior Sweepstakes Award, Barbara Schuedder; runner-up, 6th grade class, Best Auricula grown from seed, Juliana Dehler, Best Polyana-thus Seeding grown by club member, Mrs. Dave Shepherd, Sweepstakes Award in Arrangements, D. W. Streebergh; runner-up, Warren Burnett, Jr., Garden Club Awards: 1. Lobish Garden Club 2. Grow & Show Club 3. Scotts Mills. We are planning a bigger and better show next year.

CANADIAN PRIMULA & ALPINE SOCIETY SHOW
By Grace Conroy

Our April 13-14 show was graciously opened by Dr. T. M. C. Taylor, Mrs. F. J. Macey extends her thanks to all who gave of their time and plants to make it—not a large display, but a choice one. The Primula section was particularly attractive and well entered. It was too early for P. Auriculas, though there were a few, and species were lacking except for several good pots of P. Farinosa. Planted Tufa entries were encouraging. Mr. C. Henderson's amuing planted man was an unexpected adaptation of what one can accomplish with Tufa, a humorous, interesting note.

Bonsai displays were very good. Mrs. Karl Wrase's very fine trained specimen attracted much attention. Plant troughs are improving in quality and number of entries and are always most interesting to our visitors. Children's classes are always interesting and the little people are becoming quite keen. The Decorative classes were down in quantity but quality was there.

The Rock Garden, half of Tufa Rock divided by a streamlet, and half of dark stone, accommodating plants suitable to the different conditions—as far as we could go with what was available—attacted much attention.

Trophies and Prizes awarded were:
Best Alpine, Mrs. D. Angerman; Best Primula, Mrs. A. G. Guppy; Best planted Tufa, Mr. Graham Henderson (the above were all Perpetual Trophies). Best bulbous plant, Mrs. D. Angerman; Best primula species, Mrs. Watson; Best primula hybrid, Mrs. G. M. Conboy; Best plant suitable for woodland, Mrs. D. Angerman; Best native (B.C.) plant, Mr. A. G. Guppy; Best dwarf tree or shrub, Mrs. Karl Wrase; Best trough or miniature garden, Mrs. W. E. Jenkins; Best collection, Mrs. E. C. Darts; Best Decorative: Most meritorious, Miss Clare Macey; 1st (open) Miss Clare Macey, 2nd, Miss Clare Macey; (novice) 1st and 2nd, Mrs. E. R. Vunn; Highest aggregate points (All Classes) Open Section, Mrs. G. M. Conboy; Novice, Mrs. C. A. Ross.

FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW
By Edythe Arend

The 12th Annual Primrose Exhibit was held at the Study Club in Friday Harbor on April 13th and 14th was beautifully done under the direction of our chairman of this show, Mrs. Walter A. Arend.

This year's theme "Century 21" was carried out with a replica of the space needle made by Mr. Ted Allenbaugh, topped with a multi-colored revolving light. This gave a new note to our show carrying out the theme of our exhibit by having miniature doll's costumes dressed in native costumes, placed on platforms all the way up to the base of the top, where the dining room actually is, like they were being carried up to dine and then view our lovely show as they nibbled on tasty morsels.

At the base of the "Space Needle" many beautiful primulas all colors and hues were bedded in moss for display purpose.

Bamboo matting was placed along the wall at the far side of the club house. The decorative containers were filled with wild currant, Oregon grape and salal. A beautiful apple tree in full bloom with primroses underneath drew atten-

tion. A beautiful large Japanese figurine of a lady was placed beneath the cherry tree.

A small garden wagon was filled with primroses and salal. Beautiful daffodils were arranged in containers and placed here and there for display giving contrast to the primroses.

A small moss tree filled with flags of all nations was placed on the table at the entrance of the club house—guest book nearby was placed over by Mrs. Marion Hanah.

Door prizes were baskeled filled with primroses and gaily tied with ribbons and bows. These were in charge of Mrs. Edna Wright and club President, Mrs. Frances Dahl.

Tea tables, under the direction of Mrs. John Haubner, were arranged in a form of a crescent between the "Space Needle" and wall arrangement. The tables were centerd with a clever arrangement of candles and primroses. Really lovely. The waitresses wore foreign costumes.

Plant sales under the chairmanship of Mrs. Jessie Woods assisted by Mrs. Marie Collins and Mrs. Sue Woodard had many fine primroses for sale. By the look of things it seems the inhabitants of the San Juans are certainly primrose minded, much to the Club's delight. Our purpose, of course, is to encourage more and more people to grow primroses for their gardens, right for them with our climate generally mild and good loamy soil.

Already members are thinking seriously of next year's show after all theardous hard work putting on this year's show. A big thank you goes to all male members of the families for their assistance.

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW
By Anita Alexander

The Oregon Primrose Soc. reports the following winners: Mrs. Orval Agee won the sweepstakes and the perpetual trophy for the best seedling with a new green-edged auricula. Best polyanthus (amateur class), Dale Worthington; Best polyanthus, (commercial growers), Irene Ott; Best auriculas, Anita Alexander; Best Juliana, Dr. Mathew Riddle; Best alpine auricula, Mrs. William Tate; Best species, Mrs. Orval Agee. Awards in the Decorative Div., Sec. A., went to Mrs. George Holly; Section C, class 1, to Adele Carey, class 2, to Vincent Carey; Section D to Mary Hult; Section E to Valora Maefarlane.

Mrs. William Tate placed first with an interesting display featuring shades of yellow polyanthus in an early American setting. Mary Zech displayed a treasure chest of polyanthus, Mrs. Alice Elmstrom made a lovely memorial for Blanche Start. Irene Ott contributed choice polyanthus in an attractive garden bed. Ivy Agee displayed a variety of primroses under spring-flowering trees and a bird bath. Anita Alexander used a woodland setting to display hers, and Maudie Hannon revealed her developing interest in bonsai with a handsome exhibit, Mrs. Alice Elmstrom presided over the guest book, Junita Bass was in charge of the tea table. Dale Worthington and Eleanor Warmbein, with the assistance of all the others, handled the plant sale and netted the club a good profit.

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

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TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW

By COL. Louis M. Hass, SHOW CHM.

The Tacoma Primrose Society, using the theme “Primroses in Fantasy” held their annual two-day show April 28th and 29th. Originally scheduled for the weekend of April 7th and postponed due to the late freezing weather it could not be rescheduled until late in the month due to the National and other shows. This change resulted in the later flowering auricula overshadowing the polyanthus as the most displayed primula.

The Villa-Plaza branch of the National Bank of Washington turned over their entire facility to the society for the exhibition. In view of the number of outstanding exhibits and the visitors who enjoyed the show it must be considered a success.

Horticulture exhibits were in nine divisions, with additional decorative and grower’s floor display sections. Most divisions were well filled, with the exception of Acaulis and Julias; Alpine, Show, Garden and double Auriculas requiring more than normal space. The number of species primula and seedlings shown was gratifying. Denticula were barely represented. Horticulture was displayed on tables in the main lobby and in the teller’s cages.

The Decorative division was divided between an open area in rear of the teller’s cages and in a room partitioned off from the main display; the floor displays also covered the rear wall area of the room.

Mrs. Anton Schwarz...

Sweepstakes winner (Commercial Div.) at the National Show in Kirkland as well as at Tacoma Primrose Show has a charmingly landscaped garden. She and her husband spend many hours raising every available primula species.—Photo by L. Chantry.

A large cream-white polyanthus, best of its class, and many other blue ribbon winners totaled 45 points for Mrs. A. J. Schwarz of Seattle to win the silver tray sweepstakes award. Cyrus Happy of Tacoma won a silver bowl for runner-up with 19 points.

Best in class purple ribbon winners included Mrs. Schwarz for Polyanthus and Acaulis, Cyrus Happy for Show and Alpine Auriculas, Mrs. Wesley Bottoms of Tacoma best garden Auricula, Ralph Balcum of Seattle best species and best double Auricula, and Claude B. Shutt of Tacoma for his outdoor appearing floor display with space needle.

Floyd Keller, Tacoma, brought a space craft and Martians to earth to carry off clumps of primroses and Mrs. Ruth Bartlett, Gig Harbor, had a beautiful wood and primrose garden. Both were awarded blue ribbons for their efforts.

Col. Louis M. Haas (USA-Ret.) of Fircrest won the Decorative award with a woodland composition using azalia, polyanthus and a ceramic dove with two lawns to depict “Down the Primrose Path.” Other arrangements included baskets, oriental manner, weathered wood and a flower cart. A colored photograph of this same cart owned by Mrs. Arthur M. Latour of Tacoma was displayed, showing the arrangement which won a top award in a National show of yes-teryear.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY SHOW

Midland Section

By Gwendolyn Hawkes, NANTWICH, ENGLAND

The annual Auricula and Primula Society Show (Midland Section) was held on the 28th of April in the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham. This is the usual venue and a most pleasant one.

This year there were more entries than usual and a new feature of the show was the two classes for juveniles: namely: Juvenile Section (for individual juveniles) and the inter-schools competition. It is a most enterprising innovation and it is hoped that by interesting these young people a nucleus of future growers will be assured. The Hawkes Trophy, presented by Mrs. Hawkes, was won by Mrs. Watson, who scored the most points in this section.

Among the visitors present was Mrs. Alice Goats, author of “Flowers and Their Histories.” One missed the President, the Rev. Oscar Moreton, who was prevented from attending owing to illness.

NATIONAL AURICULA, PRIMULA AND PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW

Northern Branch

By Gwendolyn Hawkes, NANTWICH, ENGLAND

The annual show of the above Society was held, as usual, in the Trades Hall, Manchester, on the 5th of May. It was well patronized and the show benches were well filled with entries. Four of the Trophies went to Dr. Newton, whose success in growing Auriculas is well known, and two were won by Dr. Guthrie.

There were few entries in the Gold Laced Classes and these were poor. We shall have to concentrate more on the cultivation of these lovely old plants if they are to remain in existence.

The attendance was very good, but it was particularly pleasing to see Mr. William Barber, who has been growing Auriculas for 81 years! He won his first prize when he was eight. Other old timers there were Mr. Slater, an ex-

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Congressman; Mr. Briggs, ex-secretary; and a welcome visitor from the South was Mr. Haysom, who, with his wife were the guests of our Assit. Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank Jacques and Mrs. Jacques. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Robi-

president; Mr. Briggs, ex-secretary; and a welcome visitor from the South was Mr. Haysom, who, with his wife were the guests of our Assit. Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank Jacques and Mrs. Jacques. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Robi-
$10.00. Glad to have you along. 10 Bit-teroot, (Lewisia rediviviva) and my list for $1. 7 Rockery ferns, 3 species, for $3 postpaid. 7 Douglassia montana, with or without dirt, $2.50 plus postage. Large mature ferns for foundation planting $35 per hundred. Wildflowers seed mixture, for broadcasting, $25 a pound. Dormant bulbs and corms of Western Wildflowers, $1.25 per doz. Like Blue? Brodaea where dry, Camassia if wet, $1.25 a doz. FRANK H. Rose, 1020 Poplar Street, Missoula, Montana.

DOUBLE AURICULAS, Plants. $3.50 ea., Hand pollinated seed from Snuffer and Balcom Double Auricula Plants. 50 seeds $3.00. Mrs. Janet Round, South Colby, Wn.

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Dr. E. Lester Smith... was awarded the LINDLEY MEDAL at the Royal Horticultural Society Show in May 1962, held in the old hall in Vincent Square for (to quote from "The Times") “An interesting exhibit of double auriculas, believed to be the finest in Britain. While all the varieties are interesting from a botanical point of view many of them are quite charming in their own right.” The Lindley medal is an award not often given. It was instituted in 1866 in commemoration of Dr. John Lindley, F.R.S., onetime Secretary of the Society. It is awarded for exhibits of a plant or plants of special interest or beauty or showing exceptional skill in cultivation, and for educational exhibits.

In Dr. Smith’s display there were 50 double auriculas including 40 different varieties. Their origins were: plants from Denna Snuffer, (Bay City, Oregon); plants raised from Snuffer seed; Dr. Pike’s seed; Ralph Balcom’s seed (Seattle, Wn.); plants from his own hybridizing; one plant each from Ireland and from Dr. Newton’s hybridizing.

Mrs. Sanford Lindstrom... Sweepstakes winner of the Decorative Division at the National Primrose Show in Kirkland this year was also awarded the Sweepstakes at the World’s Fair Flower Show in Seattle. The arrangement shown here depicted one of Washington State’s Manufacturing Industries... Sawmills. The plant material is native rhododendron.

Doretta Klaber... well known for her writing and lovely flower drawings has closed her nursery permanently at Cloud Hill, Quaker-town, Pa. Mrs. Klaber still expects to write and draw and we hope she will now have more time for these talents. She is the author of Rock Garden Plants, New Ways to Use Them Around Your Home. The charming sketches, including fourteen of primula, and the cultural suggestions make this book a welcome addition to any library.

A. S. P. Primrose Display... at the Seattle World’s Fair was a collection of the finest in species primula, auriculas (garden, show and show alpines and doubles) and polyanthus. President Herbert Dickson enlisted the help of several A.P.S. members to make this an outstanding collection. Included were ten “Petite Pink” roses sent by Alice Hills Baylor of Sky Hook Farm, Johnson, Vermont.
Letters To The Editor

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Thank you so much for your kind letter. I feel it would be better to sell the Quarterlys as a whole instead of just the scarce numbers. I really do not want to part with them but my eyes are failing and reading is difficult even with a reading glass in addition to my regular glasses. I stopped all my magazines a few years ago but not the Quarterlys.

I loved my primroses. Had plants and seeds from Mrs. Bellis (Barnhaven) and letters of advice.

The members of the A. P. S. are a friendly group. I had some nice letters from Mr. Strong. Last year I wrote to Mr. Langfelder in Chappaqua, N.Y., to tell him I enjoyed his article and he offered to send me some plants. I was sorry I could not accept.

If I were well enough I could not have a garden. The grounds here are uneven and sunny, but my landlady does have a ROCK garden... mostly smooth round stones, petunias, geraniums and such. The first year I came here I bought and gave her some primroses but they were smothered by the annuals.

I inherited my love of primroses from my Grandmother. She came from Germany and lived in New York before the Civil War. When I was a small child we had a small city yard and on one side she had made a small rock garden. When I got my own home I wanted primroses. I went to a dear old neighbor and asked him to sell me six plants. He said "Where are you going to plant them?" I told him I had a shady wild garden and the kind of plants. He let me have the plants and said I must cover them with evergreen boughs in the winter. They thrived.

Then I bought a package of seed from the Clarke's. I got 20 fine seedlings. Wintered them in a packing box covered with window sash. They were husky in the spring but I did not know they needed much water. I had been used to desert plants indoors... I lost my primroses.

I began hearing about the A. P. S. and Barnhaven. I got seedlings from growers and soon had quantities of beautiful flowers, and many years of happiness.

Miss Henriette Klees
Glenmont, N.Y.

Editor's note. Miss Klees is 87 years old. She offers 19 years of Primrose Quarterlys for sale. No offer less than $30 will be considered. Many of these are now out of print.

From a new member, Mrs. S. Koro-

From a new member, Mrs. S. Korol-duck, of Long Island, N.Y., in a letter to Mrs. John Siepman: "Conditions for growing primula here have been very unfavorable this season. It has been very dry and we have uneven cold and hot temperatures for the entire spring season. However, the primula I do have did bloom well this year. We have been able to get plants from local nurseries but the rarer types are not available. I have been in contact with Mrs. Baylor from Sky Hook Farm in our neighbor state of Vermont, and she does have some of the other types that you in the State of Washington are able to grow so well.

This season I have tried to start from seed P. Liltoniana. So far there is no sign of germination. However, Mrs. Bay-

This season I have tried to start from seed P. Liltoniana. So far there is no sign of germination. However, Mrs. Bay-

Dear Mrs. Ford:

I have just finished reading "The Polyanthus" by Roy Genders. Very helpful and enjoyable, especially to a beginner, such as I. You might mention it to anyone in need of a general view of the field.

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