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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
A Message from Your President

A NOTHER year in the spring is restlessly stirring, as these notes are written, on a bright February morning. Already the Galanthus (snowdrop) clan have been a joy as they have scorned the dull days and heeding the call of the first robin, flaunted their pretty green & white bells with a primrose of spring. As the February sunshine warms the soil, the early narcissi burst through near many a gay Juliae hybrid primrose. The borders are bright with species crocuspertus in mauves, purples, whites and bright orange. These seem to increase very quickly, reaching blooming size in a very short time. I like to move them around in the garden to other parts so they can seed about and brighten the early garden.

Jasminum nudiflorum and Daphne mezereum have the soft coloured blossoms that make such good companions for the vivid Wanda blossoms by the wall.

Frosts were not too severe so far this year, but there has been quite a lot of heaving. The garden has had to be surveyed for necessary mulching and firming in of plants. Warm sunny days would soon dry these out and kill heaved up small plants. Of course the overly ambitious Primula Denticulataas have ventured fat buds up early — often to get nipped by frosts with resulting loss of blossom and even plants. Have covered many with a sandy compost, hoping to deter them a little longer — but still they push through. This year could be an early spring by present indications. Do hope that March does not perform adversely, as its norm is usually unpredictable.

A truly delightful new shrub in my garden, Viburnum bodnantense, is fully in bloom. A compact, deciduous bush, it has many clusters of rosy pink fragrant, tubular flowers. It will make a choice foil for the early primroses. A complimentary companion nearby is a dainty primrose flowered Corylopsis pauciflora, another very early bloomer.

We had a very good Director’s meeting in Seattle on February 24th. It was disappointing to not have a better attendance of the members. However with sickness, etc. it is difficult to always make these meetings. We are sorry to hear of Mrs. Agee’s further illness. It will be so distressing for her not to be able to do the necessary spring gardening chores. I do hope others of our members, far and wide, will have health to enjoy the satisfaction I have always felt with the coming of another spring. There are always losses after winter, but with what joyful expectation we watch a new bed or group of potted seedlings bloom for the first time. There is a prime satisfaction, in growing plants from seed. While in Seattle we noticed several flowering Rhododendron mucronulatum, with clean deep lavender flowers. Was most surprised to find three thrifty small bushes in my own garden, of ones grown from seed, which the birds had long past removed the tags, all bursting purple buds in my lower garden.

Mr. Baldwin always has such a busy time with the seed exchange this time of year, for which all of us are most grateful — for the efficient handling. My thought is that all of you who receive seed, do handle them carefully and the best of luck in growing them on to lovely additions to your garden. I sincerely hope that all the plans and efforts that go into all your spring shows this year, will work out just as you hope they will.

As a parting thought, in retiring at our annual meeting, I would like to sincerely thank all my directors who have been patient with my efforts in dealing with the affairs of the society. May it continue to flourish as the primroses in an English hedgerow.

Sincerely
Grace M. Conboy

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PRIMROSES—
The Harbingers of Spring

By Dr. Matthew C. Riddle

For many centuries primroses have graced the spring gardens of the temperate parts of the world. England in particular has primroses cultivated in its gardens for 500 years or more. Primroses have been mentioned in many of Shakespeare's plays. Improvements on the primroses which grow wild in England — Primula vulgaris, P. veris and P. elatior — have been developed there for garden use by selection and hybridization.

For the most part hybridization of the garden primroses in England over the centuries was not too scientifically carried out. In general seeds from particularly fine flowering plants were collected and grown. The pollination of these primroses was in general left to chance pollination by bees and other insects. Even so fine garden types were developed which have been imported into our Pacific Northwest gardens. Sutton's brilliant strain and the Wilmot strain are examples of garden primroses from England which have become favorites in our northwest gardens and still are found commonly grown, brightening our spring gardens.

However due to the use of careful scientific methods of hand pollination by a few dedicated individuals especially in the Portland area we now have many vastly improved strains with brighter colors, greater size and new patterns most pleasing to the eye. One of the pioneers in this field was Linda Eikmann who developed a beautiful strain of bright pink polyanthus. This strain has been improved still more by Florence Bellis, Marguerite Clark and Mary Heinricke, Florence Bellis has also developed several unusually beautiful strains of the garden polyanthus notably the Cowichan hybrids and the Kwan Yen hybrids. These are a departure from the usual English type polyanthus in that, instead of having a prominent star-shaped eye at the center of the flower of a color contrasting to the petals, have no eye or at the most a small round eye. The result is that the flowers are solid self-colored and very attractive. These modern new polyanthus are of much superior form, substance and color as well as being much larger and showier. As a rule the individual florets exceed the size of the old fashioned silver dollar that we now see so seldom.

Likewise the acaulis forms — those primroses in which each floret is borne singly on stem are much improved in every way.

The most recent development along this line is the development of the so-called Juliana hybrids. These have come from the hybridization of the English polyanthus and acaulis primroses with a small purple species which grows wild in the Caucasus mountains in Asia Minor. This very miniature flower, insignificant in itself, is most potent in increasing the vigor, floriferousness and durability of the hybrids between it and the English primroses as well as brightening the color of it offspring. The Juliana hybrids are much hardier, resist drought and the raspberry weevil, the two greatest enemies of garden primroses. Various types of the Juliana have been produced, in many colors and ranging from tiny to large flowers. These new and beautiful primroses are especially valuable for rock gardens and ribbon borders. Unlike the English polyanthus primroses which are biennial as a rule, the Juliana are perennial and may be left in suitable situations for many years, the clumps becoming larger and more floriferous year after year. Many fine named varieties, both cushion form and polyanthus type in a wide range of colors are available.

Permission was given by Mr. Elliott, editor of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society for this reprinting from various Quarterly Bulletins. Mr. Elliott also very kindly sent the excellent photographs for the illustrations accompanying the following material.

PRIMULA AUREATA FORMA—Photo: Roy Elliott

PRIMULA AUREATA FORMA—(see page 21-22—Pictorial Dictionary of the Cultivated Species of the Genus Primula.)

“...This plant was shown by Mrs. Glaister at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. The flowers were yellow-orange at the eye, shading to a main colour of creamy white. The heavily powdered foliage made this plant very attractive. This is one of the very rare forms of the Petiolares section, one we would surely like to try if it were available.”

PRIMULA SESSILIS—(p. 83 in Dictionary) another Petiolares Primula. An excerpt from “Early Spring in the Kulu Valley” by W. R. Philipson. “...Spring woodland flowers at lower altitudes were my only reward, and of these the best was P. sessilis. This grew among briars on shady banks, recalling the familiar primrose, but with the colour of its flowers varying from white to pink, mauve and violet.” This location was in the Western Himalayas.

PRIMULA SESSILIS—Photo: W. R. Philipson

PRIMULA FLORIBUNDA—Photo: Roy Elliott

“...Primula floribunda...”
PRIMULA FLORIBUNDA—(p. 46 Dictionary) “this primula was found at lower altitude than P. ses-silis, flourishing on the saturated rocks, near a waterfall.” from p. 268 A.G.S. Bulletin Vol. 32 No. 3—“P. floribunda is found over a wide area from Afghanistan in the west to Kumaon in the east. At the western end of its range in the Northern Punjab, and particularly at the foot of the Khyber Pass, it is found at low elevations and is a stout plant up to nine inches high with three or four whorls of flowers. As one proceeds eastwards P. floribunda is found only at rather higher altitudes and takes on more characteristics of an alpine plant. At the eastern end of its range in Kumaon it is found from 3,600 feet, and is there a little tufted plant, seldom exceeding three inches, with one or at the most two whorls of flowers. This is the sort of change that one associates with increasing frost-hardiness, but there is no direct evidence to confirm this idea. Throughout its range it is generally found on limestone outcrops where there is a abundant water, but it is not a bog plant.”

“The great virtue of this charming little plant is its long flowering season, both in the wild and in cultivation. It flowers almost from January to December, with an extra flush of flowers in the spring if the winter has been cold. Seed, which usually appears in the seed distribution is set readily, germinates freely, and affords by far the best means of propagation. Individual crowns usually ensure a life of two or three years.

From general principles one would not expect P. floribunda to be hardy. Reading the local Floras, it is clear that the vast majority of plants growing in the wild below 6,000 ft. in this area require greenhouse treatment, here. Nevertheless P. floribunda has been grown for seven years in an unheated alpine house on the western outskirts of London and has never died in the winter.”

A. J. M. Tomlinson

PRIMULA ELLISIAE—(p. 42—Dictionary.) “Illustration by Roy Elliott was of a plant exhibited at Birmingham May 10-llth, 1963 and received the Farrer Medal. It was the descendant of a batch raised at Shipston-upon-Cherwell Nurseries, from seed collected in Mexico in 1938 by Dr. C. R. Worth. It remained in cultivation there until recently, and the plant shown was obtained as a small seedling some four years previously. It did not, apparently, prove a good commercial proposition, and is no longer available.

A member of the Parryi Section, P. ellisiae is superficially similar to some Nivalid Primulas, but the flowers are carried in a single, loose, one-sided head. The colour of the form illustrated is a good lavender-pink, fading to a dull blue. At its best P. ellisiae is a wonderful plant; in fact, when exhibited, it was so far past its peak that as many flowers had to be removed as were allowed to remain. It normally remains in bloom, on and off, throughout the summer, and its later flowerings have so far been better than its earlier ones.

In cultivation, P. ellisiae appears to present only one problem; it is a very strong grower and makes a mass of hungry thick roots, which soon demand a larger pot. At the time of the Birmingham Show, it was in an eight-inch pot and badly pot-bound. It is now in a ten-inch pot, but will probably not be content with this for more than one season. So far, it has been grown in a lime-free soil, approximately the same as Johnstone’s Auricula Seed $1.00 pkg. (at least 200 seeds)

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DICKSON’S GARDENS

PRIMULA ELLISIAE—Photo: Ry Elliott
PRIMULA FORRESTII—(p. 47 Dictionary) p. 255 Sept. 1965 Alpine Garden Society Bull. "This is a member of the very small Bullatae Section of the genus primula. It was discovered by Forrest at 9,000-10,000 ft. in the Li-chiang range of mountains in N.W. China in 1906. Seed sent by him from this finding produced the first plants to flower in Europe, at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden in 1909. It was obtainable from many sources in this country between the two wars, but since the last war it seems to have almost disappeared and is now seldom obtainable from the trade, though recently offered in the Society's seed exchange.

Forrest described the plant in the wild as growing in the crevices of limestone cliffs, in dry shady positions, where it formed long tough woody rootsticks (some 2-3 ft. long) covered with the foliage of many previous years, which in some instances suggested that the plant might be fifty to one hundred years old. The apex of this stem bears a cluster of leaves of the previous season, together with the flower stems of the current season. In cultivation in this country it has never lived for long enough to develop such a root-stock. It produces a cluster of long-petioled, handsome rugose leaves, the blades of which are cordate at the base, oblong and covered with stout veins, along the edges of which are borne fine white hairs with small, sticky glands. The leaves produced after flowering persist throughout the following winter, provided the plant survives. The scape is 4-6 inches high, bearing a one-sided umbel of green-yellow flowers with an orange throat. The plant illustrated was grown in a crevice between limestone rocks, facing south, but with some trees in the near distance to give it some shade during midday, although not overhung. It survived the first winter without flowering the following summer, but flowered the second summer in May, only to damp off and die during the following winter. It never set seed and so was lost, as it is not possible to divide the crown and obtain new plants vegetatively.

It is a most attractive plant, very reminiscent of our native Primula elatior—with regard to foliage and flower stem. There is another member of this Bullatae Section — P. rufa, which is very similar in appearance to P. forrestii, except that the flowers are a brownish red colour. This is regarded by some botanists to be merely a variety of P. forrestii. I have grown and flowered this also, and it went the same way after two winters. The colour appeared rather dingy and not as attractive as P. forrestii. The fact that this primula is so scarce in cultivation today, seems to show that my experience with it has been the same as others who have succeeded with it in the past."

Canterbury—H. S. Wacher

PRIMULA WARSHENEWSKIANA, Feldtsch—Bull. Dec. '62—p. 347. This very rare Primula, which belongs to the Farinosae Section, was only recently introduced to cultivation from Afghanistan, but it occurs also in Chitral and Eastern Bokhara. It grows in marshy ground at altitudes of 5,000 to 8,000 ft. The plant has affinities both with P. rosea and P. Clarkei and might be described as midway in appearance between these two species. It makes a flat compact rosette of shining, brownish-green, leathery leaves with broad pale midribs and serrated margins. The leaves are lanceolate, tapering to a long point and at the time of flowering, their length, including the petiole, is 1 inch which ultimately becomes about 2 inches with a breadth of 3/4 inches.

The flowers are borne in an umbel of 1 to 8— the specimen illustrated shown having 4— on a scape an inch or two long which lengthens later in fruit. The flowers are rose pink with a star-shaped, well eye surrounded by a white ring. They measure 1/2" across and have deeply bifid lobes and a brownish-green tube 1/4" long. The calyx is cut to the middle into long sharply pointed segments. The plants of P. warsheneowskiana now in cultivation are reported to be growing well and to be increasing by stolons."

This Primula was shown on April 3rd, 1962 by Miss Valerie Finnis, Waterperry and received a Preliminary Commendation from the Alpine Garden Society.

PRIMULA WARSHENEWSKIANA—Photo: Roy Elliott

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
In cultivation its requirements seem to be the same as those of P. forrestii and probably also of the lesser known members of the section, such as P. rockii and P. rufa. It appears to prefer rather drier conditions and more sunshine than most Asiatic Primulas, although in the south some protection from the hottest sun is advisable. It grows satisfactorily in a well drained compost of loam, peat and chippings, watered preferably from below, at least during the autumn and winter months. It is liable to rot at the collar if over-watered, but the usual cause of this disaster in Primulas of the Bullatae section is probably that the grower follows his natural inclination to pull off the large numbers of dead leaves that accumulate at the base of the rosette. The plant seems to resent this treatment bitterly, but if the dead leaves are cut off with scissors it makes cultivation very much easier, and P. redolens become a really worthy, if not spectacular, addition to any collection of Primulas.”

J. G. Elliott


“Primula Clusiana is a hardy species which is to be found growing in the wind-swept turf from 2,000 to 7,000 ft. in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps. It is a very attractive primula with its glossy leaves and white-eyed rosy pink flowers. Clusius, Professor of Botany at Leiden and later court botanist to Maximilian II mentions this plant in a publication dated 1583 and is was later named after him.

The habit of P. clusiana is very compact, the thick broad leaves being set close together and slightly overlapping one another. The upper surface of leaves is a shiny dark green, and the lower surface dull pale green showing a prominent mid-rib. The petiole is winged and very short and the leaf has a slightly cartilaginous margin with a fringe of minute glandular hairs. Between the leaves rises a scape of variable length, but rarely exceeding four inches, bearing two to six flowers. Each flower has a five lobed calyx, often slightly tinged with red, and a white corolla tube which broadens out into five deeply cleft petals varying in colour from the palest to the deepest pink.

P. clusiana is easy to grow and flower in a well-drained mixture of peat, loam and coarse sand. Though it grows on limestone in the wild it will do quite well in a neutral soil, and unlike most of the European primulas it can be grown in full sun. Propagation is easily obtained by offsets, or by seeds from the thrum-eyed flowers which usually set seed. This primula also makes a good pot plant in the alpine house. It can be grown satisfactorily in John Innes No. 2 with some extra grit added. A careful watch must be kept at all times for root aphis, which if discovered can be killed by treating with Sybol or other insecticide. The plants should be repotted after flowering and divided if necessary. Offsets planted round the edge of a flowerpot will rapidly take root. Another hazard in the summer is root rot and any plant looking slightly unhealthy should be shaken out of its pot and the dead piece of root sliced off the cut end brush with charcoal, and repot in fresh soil.

P. clusiana produces natural hybrids with P. minima in areas where the species meet. The most outstanding of these, with P. clusiana as the female parent, is P. X intermedia. This is an excellent plant, with larger flowers than the parents and smaller, slightly toothed leaves. Among the primulas of sub-section Arthritica, P. clusiana is comparable in beauty to P. wulfeniana and very much more attractive and floriferous than the other species of this group P. spectabilis and P. glaucescens.” Ione Hecker

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PRIMULA PLANT AWARDS
1966-1967

By D. E. Saunders
Alpine Garden Society Bulletin, December 1967

First Class Certificate to PRIMULA "LINDA POPE" (P. marginata x ?) Shown on April 11th by J. B. Duff-Broughty Ferry.

A First Class Certificate was awarded to Primula "Linda Pope", a very fine plant which received an A.M. as long ago as 1920. (R.H.S.) but whose origin still remains in doubt. It is believed, however, that it arose from a cross between P. marginata and some other species, made by a Mr. Pope of Birmingham and called after his daughter. The plant is too well-known to need description." Ill.

PRIMULA "JOAN HUGHES" Hort.—Shown on March 14th by R. C. Elliott, Handsworth. "This is a very floriferous and striking hybrid which was raised by Jack Drake and stated to be a cross between P. 'Linda Pope' and P. allionii. It makes a very compact cushion similar to that of P. allionii, composed of short, soft, not sticky, marginata-like leaves which are regularly toothed and measure 3/4 ins. long by 1/2 in. wide. The flowers are borne in umbels of up to 20 on a very short

PRIMULA 'MARVEN' (P. x venusta x marginata) Hort.—Shown on March 14th by Mrs. K. Dryden, Loughton. "P. 'Marven' is a very striking hybrid which was raised between P. x 'venusta' x P. marginata, the former being the seed parent and itself a hybrid of auricula with carniolica. The plants make a rosette of short-stalked light green leaves. 2 in.-4 ins. long by 1 in. or more broad, powdered with farina particularly on the margins. The stout farinose peduncles about 6 ins. long bear umbels of up to 15 flowers, carried on 3/8 in. long powdered pedicels. The flowers, which are 3/4 in. in diameter, are deep violet-blue and have overlapping, broadly-ovate emarginate petals about 3/8 in. in length and breadth. The flower has a very dark eye in the centre, conspicuously ringed with white farina. The farinose calyx is dark greenish-black, with narrow lanceolate pointed segments which hug the corolla tube. The flowers of P. 'Marven' are reputed to be always pin-eyed and therefore, sterile, but propagation may be effected by cuttings or division. This primula makes an excellent and long-lived pot plant and can be tried in the open in a well-drained sheltered position." (unfortunately no illustration)
PRIMULA ALLIONII ALBA "SNOWFLAKE" hort.—Shown on March 14th by K. R. Wooster, Bletchley, Bucks.

"The Award was given to a very attractive cultivar of Primula allionii which was of garden origin and believed to be pure allionii. The plant made a compact cushion nearly 5 ins. across, composed of leaves of allionii shape but slightly crenate, and bearing snow-white crystalline flowers which were 1½ ins. in diameter. The petals measured over ⅞ in. broad and were orbicular and overlapped with notched tips and waxy outline."

PRIMULA MACROPHYLLA Wall (Huggins No. 78) Shown on April 11th by Messrs. Jack Drake, Inshriach, Aviemore.

"The above primula was raised by the exhibitor from seed collected in Tehri-Garhwal by the late Paul Huggins, who died during descent of the highest peak (21,890 ft.) in the Gangotri Jogin Group. The exhibitor wishes the plant to be given the cultivar name of 'Paul Huggins' in memory of its introducer. Except in the colour of its flower P. macrophylla H. 78 appears to differ little from the Nepal form collected under the numbers P.S. & W. 5475 which is described and figured in previous volumes. Both forms breed true from seed. P. macrophylla H. 78 has flowers in lilac-purple fading to violet-blue with an intense maroon-purple, almost black, velvety eye. The flowers of the Nepal plant are described as royal purple with a darker purple eye. Both colour forms are extremely attractive."

PRIMULA MODEST A, Bisset et Moore; var. fauriae, Takeda; For- ma leucantha, Hara. Shown on April 17th by Roy Elliott, Birmingham.

"The very attractive Primula shown was a white form of Primula modesta var. fauriae, which some botanists treat as a separate species under fauriae. This is a member of the Farinosae section and is endemic to Japan where it is fairly widely distributed in Yezo. The form leucantha had been obtained from Japan, though its locality was not stated. It made basal rosette of ovate-lanceolate, mid-green leaves about 1 in. long and ¾ in. wide, with rather longer petioles and shallowly-crenate margins. The under surface was powdered with pale yellow faring. The farinose scapes were 3 in. long and bore umbels of up to 9 sweetly scented, solid white flowers with yellow eye. The corolla had wedge-shaped, deeply cleft lobes which were not overlapped."

This Primula won a Preliminary Commendation 1961-62.
PRIMULA "WAITANG" (Strumosa x Calderiana) L.S. 19768


The fine plant exhibited had been raised by division from a plant originally collected in Bhutan in 1949 by Ludlow and Sherriff and sent home by air. It is a natural hybrid between PP. strumosa and calderiana and occurs in a few areas where the two species are growing in proximity. In nature, plants with white, cream and maroon flowers are found but those in cultivation are mostly white.

PRIMULA "ROYALTY" Hort. (Griffithii x Tsariensis) Shown on 20th April, 1965 by Major and Mrs. Knox-finlay, Keillour.

"Primula 'Royalty' was raised by the exhibitors as an intentional cross between plants of P. griffithii and P. tsariensis which had been flown home from Ludlow and Sherriff in 1949. The leaves measure up to 5 in long by about 2 in. wide and are glabrous with somewhat serrated, corrugated margins and veins which are prominent beneath. The almost glabrous flower stems, which are tinged with purple and are 8 in. or 9 in. long, bear umbels of up to twelve flowers carried on short purplish pedicels. The rather cup-shaped flowers are 1 in. in diameter and have dark purple notched petals and yellow eye. The calyx is winged and inflated. It is hardy in the open. Sorry, no illustration.
The ball-headed primrose, *Primula denticulata*, vies with the earliest of the Vernales to lead the sequence of primrose flowering here at Millstream in northwestern Connecticut. Most years this means somewhere between the first and fifteenth of April and it also means that almost invariably frost and snow will taunt the most resilient of flowers. The full term of flowering is, however, quite extended as unspoiled blossoms keep looming their heads on the drumstick scapes well into May. Meanwhile the expanding foliage has become a dense and spreading circle of leaves, almost like Chinese Cabbage as summer advances and the tousled seeds droop their tired browning heads. If the weather of summer is dry the leaves become crisp and tattered. Then one is thankful for the fronds of ferns planted among them and the massive architecture of the

leavage of *Ligularia*. For a couple of years, in what we call the primrose bog, the "denticles" were followed by a succession of candelabras, first the japonicas, then the complex of aurantiaca, bulleyana, beesian, and their intermingled off-spring. The summer ended with a rocket of florindaes and a scattering of *Lobelia cardinalis*.

But year by year the candelabras diminished and denticulate became dominant. The ball-heads grown from seed from various sources had been planted in discreet swatches—the pinks and reds from Jack Drake—the albas from my own seed, and a mixed bag from two different seed exchanges. Other parts of the new bog were planted to a whole range of wet-land primroses. This was a major operation for the year 1961. Seed germination had been good. Flats and flats of young primula seedlings sat on the shaded stone wall around the parking area.

In August we began our labors. The area, a lozenge shape about one hundred feet long, about twenty-five feet at the swollen middle, had been excavated some years before for what we hoped would be a small pond in the woodland garden in the side glen. But the bleed-water from the slopes had seeped out through the porous bottom and the pushed up soil dam was an ugly shape across the lower end of the glen. Behind it, as the spring waters dwindled, there remained a dank and weedy morass. Here we burned brush as we cleared the sides of the glen for planting; when we finally determined that the small pond was never going to be water tight, the basin was full of half-burned logs, stumps and the latest accumulation of brush.

Now I think we were mistaken not to have had one final conflagration before beginning the slow work of tossing back by hand the fruitless dam which had been so easily walled up in a heap by our neighboring farmer's bulldozer. The access for a bulldozer was planted now to banks of rhododendron and azalea and there was nothing for it but to plunge the long handled shovel into the sticky soil and one shovelful at a time heave the dam back into the hollow. Brush and logs and stumps were buried.

The soil was fine silt composed of years of accumulation in the moist bottom of the glen. Leaves from hard maples, needles of pine and hemlock, the shed twigs of these trees and white birches had rotted amidst the minute particles of mica and other rock debris washed out of the sides of the glen by the seep water. It seemed a rich root-run for primroses, black in color and obviously heavy with organic matter.

This amalgamated substance, once spread over the junk in the erstwhile pool was raked into a gentle basin. A wind course was formed to carry through it the runoff. On clammy knees Timmy and I set out flat after flat of primula seedlings. There were big swatches of denticulatas interspersed with greater sweeps of the various candelabras. Along the edges were pockets of alpicola and various farinosas and scattered chionanthas. On the very edge of the hoped for stream were sikkimensis and florindaes and the five plants of rosea I had weeded from seeds. In this same soaking site went five seeding plants of *Ligularia clivorum*. On the driest slope we put in ribbons of vulgaris and polyanthus recently divided, along with seedlings of other vernales.

Every snow that fell during that winter we blessed and every thaw and freezing rain we cursed. When an early spring came, many of the...
seedlings were seared tuffets atop a spittle of white roots utterly heaved from the ice-crystaled soil. Buried logs had risen like corpses of uneasy monsters. The whole area was a maze of underground runs; the soft new soil and cushion of brush beneath had provided easy and doubtless nourishing arenas for winter-long convocations of mice and moles and the hunter shrews. Roots of some primroses had obviously furnished banquets & snacks.

We poked back the tossed crowns, tramped down the rumpled soil and waited. The few P. rosea were a slash of color on the brim of the dark spring water in the winding ditch. Ligularias made early plates with leaves of tarnished copper. From tulip-shaped, reddish resting buds denticulatas swelled into pink and mauve and reddish resting buds denticulatas throve. But for the next five years there was drought, eventually so severe that even the main stream dried to a trickle and could no longer be used for relief watering. Seedlings sprouted and perished. Mice multiplied. By the second year there was not a viali, not a florindae, one chi-onantha bloomed, the farinosas were gone, the candelabras were a mere scattered sprinkling. But the denticulatas throve. By seedling they marched out from their limited conclaves. They waxed fat though their leaves were limp in the droughty summers, and except on the drier reaches occupied by the vernales the bog became theirs. Shall we try again to remind the candelabras and other late bloomers to extend the season, Or shall we be thankful that the denticulatas have obviously found an ideal home and there let them reign supreme? I think we shall do the latter. Meanwhile I have my eye on a new site where the soil is slightly heavier, slightly more acid, and there is high shade. Even (Continued on Page 58)

**Correspondence Notes**

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**Primulas of the World**

By Dr. Vaclav Satava, Liberec, Czechoslovakia

**Primula minima L.**

The smallest primrose, Primula minima L. (formerly Primula sauteri Schulz) is not only a most desirable plant for the rock garden, it is also a difficult one especially as to flowering. It often does not flower at all or at best, only occasionally. This is usually due to an unfavorable environment. With me, I have been fortunate—lucky. Perhaps about six years ago I planted a section of a large mat of Primula minima in a metal box with a good water outlet. The soil was a mixture of rich, acid humus. The box stands on the balcony facing southwest and is quite exposed to the sun so that the plant gets full sunshine after about ten o'clock in the morning. As the box is protected from the rain, the plants must be watered regularly. Under these conditions, the plants grow well and produce many offsets. These I find must have soil about them so that each year, fresh soil mixture is added so as to replace that which has, for one or other reason, disappeared, and to keep good soil about the plants. The soil should also be kept moderately moist. The first year after transplanting, there were 17 flowers, the next year 27, and then 38. Last year there were 56, and this year, 121 mostly in pairs on single stems. Given this care and occasionally a little of a fertilizer and new soil, the plant thrives apparently very well. During the winter it is a good snow covering. Unfortunately, seed is limited, due perhaps to the earliness of its flowering and lack of insects at the time—early April.

In my rock garden where other primulas grow quite successfully, Primula minima does not do well. It flowers more sparingly; it does not develop new rosettes as it does on the balcony, due to I believe to less attention being given it in the garden. I believe also, the most important factor is the presence of bottom moisture which I am unable to arrange in my garden.

Where found in the Krkonose Mts. and High Tatras, Primula minima grows where there is a constant supply of water at the roots (near snow fields). It appears in rock crevices but there it grows slowly. It is most abundant in the Alps where it is found on primary rocks up to 3000 meters. In our Krkonose Mts. it reaches the 1300
Primula grows there. As a result, it is distinguished only when grown in a single locality under comparable conditions. The Krkonose Mts. locality is rather important as no other primula of the Auricula Section can hybridize as it does in the Alps. The described forms are distinguished principally in the leaf contour and marginal indentations; also by the shape of the sepals. Dr. Gustav Hegi, in his book "Illustrierte Flora von Mitteleuropa" mentions the following forms:

1. subacaulis Wimm et Grab: flower stem is shorter than the leaves; corolla is red. This is the most common form.
2. caulescens Wimm et Grab: flower stem is twice as long as the leaves; corolla is red and is often smaller. Appears in Mala Snezna Jama, Krkonose Mts.
3. alba Opitz: similar to f. subacaulis excepting corolla is white. Found in Krkonose Mts., in Tyrol, and in Lower Austria.
4. fimbriata Tausch: corolla lobes are fringed. Found in Krkonose Mts. Mala and Velka Snezna Jama, and near Maly Stav. A similar form appears in Wallental in Tyrol, the corolla lobes are dentate.
5. multidentata Sunderm: I mention this last only for completeness. It grows in Geschnitztal and Monte Castellazzo, South Tyrol.

I have compared the first two forms not only in the wild but also in culture. They differ in petals and in color. I was unable to find the fimbriata. In culture, the f. caulescens grows best for me.
PRIMROSE – SHOW NEWS

Information to time of going to press, about 1968 Primrose Shows.

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW

Spring Show of the Oregon Primrose Society will be held on April 13 and 14, 1968, in the Milwaukee Community Club, 42nd and Jackson Streets, Milwaukee, Ore. 97222.

Show hours are Saturday, April 13 from 2 to 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Anyone may enter Primulas. Entries will be received Friday, April 12 from 2 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, April 13, from 8 to 10 a.m. deadline.

Admission is free. Plant sale during show hours.

Anyone desiring a schedule of the Show may write Mrs. Orval Agee, 11112 S.E. Wood Avenue, Milwaukee, Ore. 97222.

FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE CLUB PLANT SALE

The Friday Harbor Primrose Club will have a Plant Sale and Tea Saturday April 6th from 11 to 5 at the Study Club. Featured will be a Speciman Table.

TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY SHOW SHOWERS OF FLOWERS


APRIL 6TH AND 7TH AT THE NATIONAL LAKESIDE BANKING CENTER. . .

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The show will be held at the Vancouver Horticultural Society & Farmers Institute at 1260 E. 20th Ave., Vancouver B.C. The dates are April 20 from 2 to 9 p.m. and April 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be a plant sale and refreshments will be available. We will have a special display. Last year it was a native wildflower display.

Editor's Note: The National Primrose Show, scheduled to be hosted by the East Side Garden Club, was cancelled because of lack of available space.

AURICULA AND PRIMROSE SHOW

Washington State Primrose Society will sponsor an Auricula and Primrose Show May 4 and 5. Show will be held at the Puget Sound Power and Light Building, Bellevue, Washington. Show to include auricula and all other primula available at show time.

AWARDS DINNER

Awards Dinner will be held Saturday May 4th at 6 p.m. at the Bar Restaurant at 604 104th N.E., Bellevue, Washington.

Reservations may be made with Mrs. Ralph Balcom, 345 N.W. 88th, Seattle, Washington 98107.

Write to her at the above address or call her at SU 3-2914.

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Page 61 AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
From the Treasurer's Desk

This is a plea to the members who haven't already sent in their dues to send in their 1968 dues. This issue (Spring 1968 Quarterly) will be the last issue for those not paid for 1968. Please check your membership cards. It is quite expensive and much time is involved to bill each member separately. 

Would you please help—Send in your dues, $3.50 for one year, or $10.00 for three years. A billing was sent in your fall issue, in hopes it won't be necessary to send out special billings. This of course applies only to those, who pay on a yearly basis.

Donations To Dictionary Fund

Mr. Beverly Walker Jr. $1.50
Earl E. Ewert M.D. $5.00

The new reprint of the Dictionary is available to members at the cost of $2.00 copy. Send all orders to Treasurer's Office. Mrs. Earle E. Ewert M.D.

Please send any change of address to the Treasurer or the editor.

Classified Ads

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