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Florists' Flowers, With Notes on Their History, Cultivators and Cultivation  -  -  33

D. Bamford, Middleton, Lancashire, England

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The history of the Auricula has been very ably dealt with by Dr. Blasdale and little of interest can be added to what he has written. If members are interested in its origin and development, I refer them to a masterly analysis by Sir Rowland Biffen in the Year Book of the Southern Auricula Society for 1946. There is still a little gap in its history, covering the period of the last of the old florists, almost a generation ago. I propose to give a little history of those florists, their gardens, flower shows as I remember them when I was a boy. I can only describe what I saw and those I knew and therefore the district I survey must be around my native town of Middleton which at that time was almost the focal centre for florist flowers.

Conditions then were very different than today. The machine was in full operation but there was more craftsmanship associated with it than now. The hours of labour were longer but the pace was slower, mass production was also unknown and utility were undreamed of — far better had it never been born. In horticulture the wide sweeping herbaceous borders were only in their infancy and the Far Eastern introductions had not yet arrived. Formal bedding was much in evidence and great skill was used to produce the best effect. The florists were in great strength, their aim was perfection to the smallest detail in any flower they took in hand. The high standards they set for perfection and their struggle to achieve it — in some cases extending for a lifetime — fill an amazing chapter in horticultural history. We need only consider their Carnations, Picotees, Pinks, Auriculas, Gold Lace Polyanthus, Pansies, etc, to appreciate their remarkable achievements. It is sad to think that almost all that patient effort has been allowed to pass into oblivion.

Among the old florists of that time were a few of the remaining handloom silk weavers, proud of their craftsmanship and floricultural skill and they had cause for pride. Their handwoven fabrics were famed far beyond the boundaries of this town and we who remember them are fully alive to their horticultural achievements. Many were poor and in their lifetime endured hard times, sometimes very hard, but one thing contributed to a sturdy independence which they displayed to the end. They were their own masters. During the day they could often be seen in their gardens, looking over their plants or attending to their Auriculas, and to make up for lost time the peaceful click of their handloom shuttle could be heard until dusk. When the Auricula first reached their hands...
it was not by any means perfect, but when their task was finished, it stood in the front rank of the Period Pieces in the floral world. There can be few more outstanding developments in any plant, yet, its origin still remains lost in the midst of the past. To the very end their love for the florist flowers never faltered. With the passing of the old florist, their favourites began to suffer neglect. Later the change to less formal gardening and the many introductions from the Far East caused the florist flowers to pass into oblivion. Fortunately a small band of Auricula lovers still struggled on and it is these we must thank for its presence here today. During recent years many have searched this Island for some of those lost treasures but in vain. I doubt whether we shall ever see them again, it took far too long to develop them and many of this generation have no time for slow things. I have no criticism to make against the less formal type of gardening, nor against many of the Far Eastern introductions, some of the latter are of outstanding merit, but I doubt whether any of these will arouse the same enthusiasm as the Auricula or retain the interest of florists for so many generations. What I claim is that there is room for both. During two great wars, of which this country bore the brunt—the English Auricula growers, small in numbers, struggled along caring for their plants as best they could but as was inevitable, many losses occurred. Now the old enthusiasm has returned and the demand for plants is far in excess of supply, good Auriculas are not produced in a day and maybe not in a year.

Some years ago strenuous efforts were made to increase the number of varieties and it is mostly due to Mr. James Douglas of Great Bookham and the late G. H. Dalrymple of Bartley that so many varieties have been raised. The former has produced some very fine Alpine varieties, but the latter, following in the footsteps of the old florists has handed us some magnificent Show varieties. In the spring of 1947 I returned from Cornwall by way of Bartley and looked over the Auriculas now in the possession of Mr. C. G. Haysom, who distributes them from the Bartley Nurseries. I was surprised to see so many outstanding new green edged seedlings which he has raised. When these are seen and available, they will be much sought after; good green edged Auriculas are not too common.

But to return to the days of my boyhood, what did we see in those old gardens at that time. There were the Bizarre and Flakes in the Carnations. The former had three colours and the latter two. Here form was more important than size. The flowers must lie flat and should contain from 20 to 24 petals and no serrature must appear on the edges. The colours must lie on the white ground as though they were ribbons of colour on a white paper petal. All specks and dots of colour other than the ribboning were considered a great defect. The Carnation today could not stand that test. On the show bench they fully displayed the florists art, each flower being backed by a white paper collar. As far as I know, they have all vanished. Along with these were the Picotees. Here the ground colour was white or yellow and the edge colour varied in width from a fine line to a pronounced width and it must not flash into the ground colour. A few of these were saved and they are being slowly developed, but most of the old varieties are lost. My favourites however, were the edged Pinks, they were a joy to behold. I can see them again
as I write. In many old cottage gardens they could be seen in masses and their fragrance, more intense and sweet than the Carnation, was distill'd far beyond the confines of their hawthorn hedged gardens. Alas, they also have vanished. Then again there were the Show Pansies, how different from those we see today. No huge blooms with rough splashing colours, the colour divisions were well defined, sharp in outline and the petals like vellum. In their beds they were of great refinement. In my search I have failed to trace any of those old named varieties and I am afraid they too are lost. There were other favourites grown at that time, but why linger, they have vanished. My only object in referring to them is to show that the craze for perfection was not confined to the Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus, but to all flowers that reached the hands of the florists. It was the Golden Age of the florist flower, but rapidly drawing to a close. Fortunately the Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus were salvaged and still remain unblemished. This review will give members some idea of the type of gardening prevailing around here 50 years ago. I think it will be of interest to describe the shows held here at that time, so different from anything we see today and I know there is no parallel in America.

They were held in the many hospitable inns and the exhibits covered the whole range of the florists enterprise, Auriculas and Polyanthus, Tulips, Dahlias, Carnations, Pinks, Pansies etc., and by no means the least in importance, the Gooseberry. As the latter was a great favourite with the florists I think a short mention of it might be allowed. The method of growing and pruning was peculiar to Lancashire and some parts of Cheshire. For about 12 inches the main stem was bare, but radiating horizontally all around the top were the fruiting branches as perfect as the spokes in a wheel, the lateral growths on these branches were kept well spurred back. Many were of great age and rivalled the dwarfed Japanese trees in the best Bonzai style, the fruit, of course, all hung down and was of enormous size. I have seen them stand in an egg cup. The skin was so thin that the berries were almost transparent, on eating one, all that was necessary was to press the tongue and the result was a mouthful of jelly. I have tasted no fruit to equal them for over 30 years, but they were not grown for dessert, they were for the show bench. There was as much care lavished on them by the old florists as on their Auriculas. As an illustration of this I remember when a boy looking over one garden hedge and seeing the whole of the family umbrellas opened over the bushes, reinforced by others from relatives and friendly neighbors — this to protect them from rain and strong sunlight. But even this pales before one enthusiastic grower that I heard of. He could scarcely sleep in his bed in spring when there was danger of frost injuring the setting fruit. He would jump from his bed several times during the night and at the first sign of frost, take the clothes from his bed and spread them carefully over the bushes. Then back to bed, he would sleep with his soul at peace even if his body suffered discomfort. I don't think you could beat that in the whole of America.

As a boy I remember visiting with my father the garden of one of the most expert growers. He was a director of a local brewery company and at the time of our visit over 90 years of age. There must have been 200 bushes in his garden and perfectly trained and as the show date was near they were a fine sight, the berries were enormous and almost all one size. But to see them one had to bend to almost ground level. After a time the old grower and my father found it easier to inspect on hands and knees, fortunately it was a dry day. As a boy I was naturally bored beyond all limits, but a handful of berries at intervals — the untrained eye and the accompaniment of the other utensils produced quite a soothing symphony. An amazing advertisement which cost nothing, yet was absolutely arresting, it would have been had you resorted to it in Portland. I cannot state the nature of the exhibits, it was too young to enter, probably a gooseberry show.

The first show I visited was with my father who was a great lover of the Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus. This was a Spring Show and included a good exhibit of Auriculas and Polyanthus. The Auriculas were in splendid form including some famous varieties as George Lightbody, Richard Headley, Lancashire Hero, Acme, Shirley Hibberd and others too numerous to mention, they all carried splendid trusses and large flowers. There was also a good display of Gold Laced Polyanthus. Peer ing over each plant were growers of the North Country, some very old and all in their best Sunday attire. My father was soon in debate with the different exhibitors and I was almost forgotten. Occasionally an old grower would look around and ask if I was his lad and give me a gentle pat on the back. Nothing seemed to escape the microscopic eyes of these old timers. One flower would be criticized because the stamens did not curl over nicely, on another the paste was not smooth enough (a bad defect), another had too much body colour, yet another was pronounced because the petals were mouse eared (a term used when the petals were pointed instead of round). On others the petals did not lie flat, but tended to curl backwards (again a bad fault) and so we moved very slowly along the tables, each plant and flower being carefully examined, until we reached a grand plant of George Lightbody, the gem of the grey edged varieties. It carried a superb truss — as well as I can remember with 10 or 12 flowers — it was Lightbody in all its glory. I do not know who the exhibitor was but it was a triumph of cultural skill and even the most hardened critic admitted that it was "a grand un." Never again shall we see it in such superb form. Of all the galaxy of Auriculas which have paraded before us, none in my opinion has ever surpassed this outstanding variety. But there was another grey edged Auricula which was
a close second, "Lancashire Hero." The truss did not carry quite as many flowers, but it was in great form and received much praise. It was a fine

Grey Edged Show Auricula, Sherfield

Lancashire, a handloom silk weaver of Middleton, who first exhibited it about six miles from here and it only secured a second prize. Those present considered that the judging was bad and I have no doubt the judges had a bad time after their verdict. Poor old Lancashire was so upset that he sold the whole of his stock, which eventually found its way to Cheetham who distributed it as "Cheetham's Lancashire Hero." I think it was raised about 1846 and it had a long and successful career, now it is extinct.

Throughout the show criticism and praise were given with the greatest freedom by men who knew what they were talking about and did not fear to express themselves. I should love to mingle with them once again, but I should fear their verdict on many of our actions today. As I write there rises before me one old grower who had long passed the Biblical three score years and ten. He was short and very plump and as straight as a soldier, his cheeks like rosy apples and a smile on his face which never left it. He wore a silk hat cocked on the back of his head, a headgear usually worn at that time for weddings, christenings or to pay a last respect to some dear departed, and of course, at the flower shows held throughout the season. His silk hat fading in colour had no doubt seen service for more than one generation, yet it crowned him with a dignity that many today could envy. I never got his name but on our way home my father told me that nobody could teach him much about the Auricula, the Gold Laced Polyanthus or most florist flowers, or about the weaving of his silk fabric, he must have been one of the few remaining craftsmen. After we had been in the show for some time, he brought me a cup of milk and some in a dish for our little Silver-haired terrier which I carried under my arm. Alas even these intelligent little animals seem to have vanished. He stood smiling until we had finished our refreshment and then produced from the back pocket of his well worn tail coat a small piece of meat for the terrier — no doubt obtained from the Inn keeper—who everafter gave him a friendly bark whenever he passed. I have a shrewd suspicion that he also had partaken of a little refreshment — to judge by the merry twinkle in his eyes, but who will dare to blame him, for was this not the day of all days for him. Long ago he joined his friends over the border, and I hope his old Auriculas, Polyanthus and other florist flowers are thriving with him in his small corner of the green pastures. Much could be written of those old florists and one could write at length of the long cottage windows filled with the old Show Pelargoniums — alas now lost — which covered them with a floral tapestry of rare beauty and the sweet smelling musk on the window sills which filled the room with a sweet delicate aroma. Readers can perhaps now visualize the old florists, their plants and gardens and the horticultural endeavors at the time under review. The period is an important one as it marks the turning point from the old time florist garden to the modern system of gardening. If we may make a few comparisons, where today, could we see a gardener over 90 years of age and a young man about 35 inspecting a plantation of show gooseberries on hands and knees, and gardens with umbrellas opened over the bushes, to say nothing of an old grower covering his bushes on a frosty night with the clothes from his bed. Yet, how typical is all this of that age. In the old Gold Laced Poly-
We can see engraved the image of the old handloom silk weaver of Middleton and the adjacent villages. Where are the shows today where so much controversy rages round a single flower as it does around the Auricula and the Gold Laced Polyanthus, even to the perfect curling of the anthers. I can conceive of no shows where a little chap with his small terrier under his arm would be regaled with a glass of milk and some in a dish for his terrier by a dear old rosy faced florist. I can more readily conceive that he would be ordered to take his terrier outside. Nor if we search the whole surface of this Island shall we find the show awards exhibited on a pole pushed through the bedroom window, if that was attempted on Broadway you would have a traffic jam. Yet all this is in keeping with that generation.

It is a pity that some history has not been written about the florists of that period. A generation hence they will probably be as imperfectly known as the origin of their favorite Auriculas and Polyanthus. We shall see neither their like nor many of their creations again, but wherever the Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus are they will always be synonymous with the humble handloom weaver of this part of the North Country. But we must leave that age where our memory so often wanders and see what use has been made of the Auriculas handed to us and judge of progress that has been made.

There is no doubt that the Auriculas raised prior to the time of Lancashire, Lightbody, Headley, Horner and Simonite were inferior. James Douglas in his book on “Hardy Florists Flowers” refers to Booth’s “Freedom” as having an angular paste, otherwise a fine flower. Campbell’s “Admiral Napier” had the same defect, Beeston’s “Apollo” had a pale tube, Trail’s “Prince of Greens” had a similar defect. According to the same writer many of the white edged varieties were faulty as the body colour was dusted with farina. He refers to two varieties which followed these, “George Lightbody” and “Lancashire Hero,” as two of the finest Auriculas raised. Compared with the Auriculas we have here today including George Lightbody, Mrs. Henwood, Shirley Hibberd, Abraham Barker, Acme and the fine hybrids raised at the Bartley Nurseries the present day varieties are superior to the old. Those I have mentioned with the exception of the Bartley Hybrids are now wakening in constitution and in the time they are with us ought to be used to the full for hybridizing. It is in the number of hybrids that we are lacking and it is fortunate that the late Mr. Dalrymple took the Auricula in hand and showed that he was not only one of our greatest horticulturists but could also rise to it as a florist. Referring again to Douglas he states that there were about 70 green, 49 grey, 44 white and 45 self Auriculas in cultivation round about 1880. But of those 200 varieties only one or two remain. We are a long way from having that number of varieties here today. There is one Auricula I have mentioned, Abraham Barker, which is still here but rare, and in my opinion it stands unrivalled, a monument to the florist’s creative art. As I saw it over 45 years ago carrying 9 superb flowers in the truss, every flower beautifully spaced and with the thin white line round every deep green petal, it still remains one of the most perfect examples of floral beauty I have witnessed. If that flower could be placed among the finest Primula introductions from Yunnan, Tibet, or the Assam Himalayan ranges, it

should be adhered to as closely as possible.

The tube must be round and a deep yellow colour, well filled with anthers which curl inwards and completely cover the stigma. Should the
In the Gold Laced Polyanthus the tube must be round, rich yellow in colour and well filled with anthers which curl inwards and completely cover the stigma. The eye should be round and clear yellow in colour. The ground or body colour can be dark crimson or red and must not possess any shading. The edging should be a bright gold line or lacing, perfectly even and go perfectly round each petal as though drawn with a compass.

Members will appreciate what a good Auricula is like by the illustrations of the green edged Auricula "Holmsley" and the grey edged variety "Sherfield" which were raised at the Bartley Nursery. I am indebted to my friend Mr. C. G. Haysom for the use of these photos. An example of a good Gold Laced Polyanthus is shown in the illustration of "Tiny." The circular outline and the clear edging of gold can be clearly seen.

The cultivation of the Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus presents few difficulties provided conditions are to their liking and these will be different in different localities. It is for growers themselves to find out which particular treatment suits the plants in their own district. The same applies to the compost, for instance in a dry locality the loam can safely be of a heavier nature than if the district is humid, it is so for most plants. The potting compost for the Auricula has been often dealt with in the Year Books of our two Auricula Societies, some advocate one mixture, some another, but in my opinion growing conditions play a more important part in the successful cultivation of this plant. It detests a hot dry atmosphere and scorching sunlight. The appearance of the plants in summer compared with spring and autumn confirm this. The following is my method of cultivation in this humid locality.

The compost is made up of 3 parts well rotted fibrous loam, stacked for at least 2 years, 1 part flakey leaf mould — not dust — 1 part sharp sand and a little crushed charcoal. I repot immediately after flowering which gives the maximum time for root action before autumn. Shake the soil from the roots and if the stem or carrot as it is termed shows signs of decay cut it back with a sharp knife until the whole of the decay is removed. Dust the cut with powdered lime and allow it to remain exposed to the atmosphere for 1 or 2 hours to seal over the wound. If the carrot is very long it is better to shorten it to about 1 inch in length. If woolley aphis are present on the roots or around the stem they can be destroyed by applying methylated spirits with a small brush. Well drain the pots, the plants will not thrive in a waterlogged soil. Spread the roots out as the soil is filled in and don't bunch them together, arrange them so that they more or less go around the side of the pot. A few smart taps on the potting bench will settle the soil around the roots. After potting, keep the plants cool and shaded and reduce the ventilation for a week or two. Keep the soil only just moist until the roots begin to run in the new compost, the appearance of the crown will tell when this occurs.
pot, press the soil moderately firm only when repotting. Let the plants have ample ventilation, but if very drying winds prevail ventilate on the leeward side of the house, otherwise let them have ventilation all around. After a very hot day the plants will benefit from a fine mist spray. In winter the plants must be drier and ventilation is then better on the leeward side of the house. Propagation, as members will no doubt know, is by offsets which if large enough can be planted singly in small pots, but if small, 3 or 4 can be placed around the side of a three inch pot.

The cultivation of the Alpine Auricula is similar but it is so easy that no difficulty should be experienced with it and anybody ought to be able to grow it.

A few lines now on the Gold Laced Polyanthus. If the Auricula is uncommon, the Gold Laced Polyanthus is more so and it is now seldom seen, yet, in its true colours it is a flower of exquisite refinement. It still has its few admirers, partly for its rare beauty and partly because it forms for them an unbroken link with a past age of unrivalled florists and long may that link remain unbroken. Compare the illustration of "Tiny" with the finest border Polyanthus ever raised and I think members will agree which is the triumph of the plant breeders art. I doubt whether the real show variety of the Gold Laced Polyanthus is known in America. Those generally referred to as such are far removed from the true aristocrat of this family which alas have become extremely rare. To produce it with its full perfection requires great patience and time and with the exception of a few enthusiasts is outside the interest of a generation where speed in most things has become almost an obsession. Still, its named varieties might migrate to a few members of this Society who have an affection for the old world creations and a few notes on its cultivation will not be out of place.

Cultivation presents few difficulties when the right site and soil is found. The soil they prefer is a good fibrous loam, not too light in texture to which can be added a little flakey leafmould and well decayed manure 2 years old. If the available soil is inclined to be heavy it can be lightened with grit and the drainage made perfect. It dislikes long periods of strong sunshine and therefore a position facing west suits, mine are grown where they are sheltered by trees on the north, south and east but open where it faces west. There it is cool and moist and they enjoy the filtered sunshine as it ripples through the sheltering belt of trees. If such shade cannot be provided the plants will require more water in summer and a sharp look-out kept for red spider and greennfly, both of which must be eradicated by effective spraying or they quickly sap the vitality of the plants. They are far better planted in the open, the growth being stronger and firmer than if pot culture is resorted to. The best way to preserve the stock is to lift and divide every second year. Carefully sever the strong outer growths and exercise care to see that roots are attached and replant immediately, the old central root stock is seldom satisfactory. The great enemy is the slug and a sharp look-out must be kept or the plants will rapidly vanish. This spring owing to indisposition I was unable to keep a watchful eye on them and I lost over 50 plants to this obnoxious pest. Keep the soil well supplied with water in summer and if the soil is well drained there will be little risk of the plants perishing through winter dampness. In spring a good planting of these is a sight well worth seeing, the hand of the florist being stamped all over them. Of the few named varieties which now remain I think "Tiny" is the most refined and perfect. It is far ahead of the older varieties such as "George IV" or "Cheshire Favourite," both of which are now lost. So must end these notes on the old Florist Flowers, I hope they have not proved boring to members.

It will be some time before growers of the Auricula in America have sufficient to fill a house and I suggest that the gap be filled by some of the eastern Primulas which will thrive under the same conditions as the Auricula and at the same time prolong the flowering season in spring and autumn. They are not difficult to cultivate. Those from the Petiolariad section afford the most suitable subjects together with one from the Soldanelloideae and another from the Muscarioideae section. In the first section we have P. Edgeworthii (syn. Winteri) with lavender coloured flowers, and its variety alba. These, although from the earliest introductions, are among the most beautiful, the well mealed foliage adding much to their charm. Others include PP. Boothii, bracteosa and scapigera. The foliage in the latter is void of the farinose deposit of Edgeworthii. They are all easily propagated from seed. The second Primula from the Soldanelloideae section is Nutans and when well flowered possesses great charm. The hairy foliage is a warning against overhead damp, hence it is quite at home with the Auriculas, the flower head is conical in shape, the lovely nodding bell shaped flowers, lavender in colour being powdered with farina. It is the easiest Primula in its section but compared with many Primulas not the easiest to cultivate. It presents no insuperable difficulties if the soil is rich in leaf mould with plenty of sharp sand and a little crushed charcoal, avoid heavy
overhead drenchings in damp weather. The last, the Muscarioides, is P. Viall or as I prefer to name it P. Littoniana, but I suppose we must allow the botanist to still add to our confusion. It is quite easily grown, the mature flowers in the tapering spike being some shade of violet and the immature upper portion crimson scarlet. It is one of the most remarkable Primulas. Along with Nutans it flowers when the Auriculae are over and so prolongs the flowering period in the house. Both are easily raised from seed and the stock must be maintained this way, they are not very long lived subjects. All that I have mentioned should be grown in groups to give an effective display.

Any member interested in old Florist Flowers will find much of interest in the book on “Old Fashioned Flowers” by Mr. Sachaverell Sitwell published by Country Life Ltd. Primulas nutans and Littoniana growing in their native habitat are beautifully illustrated in the book “George Forrest” published by the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Here Primulas, Nomocharis, Meconopsis and many other plants discovered by that prince of all plants collectors are illustrated and described and I am sure members will enjoy reading of his travels and discoveries.

It is pleasant to know that many gardeners in America are now taking an interest in some of our old world favorites and I know that growers here will wish them success and do all they can to assist. My advice is concentrated on the production of seedlings to increase the numbers and vigour, particularly of the Auricula, but do please keep to the standards laid down for perfection and don’t hesitate to cast the chaff on the bonfire. Don’t let them degenerate into a mongrel breed without character and refinement. The production of new varieties is slow but full of interest and when the winner does appear the thrill will repay the years of effort and waiting.

A final word on present day gardening. If the question was put to me whether I would return to the florists type of garden my answer would be an emphatic no. I like the bold sweep of the herbaceous border and the modern Rose, Delphinium, Iris, Daffodil etc. The Polyanthus too, in its many bright and pastel shades is a delightful subject. Planted in thousands, under the flowering cherries as I saw it this spring in the garden of the late Mr. G. H. Dalrymple, it was a joy to behold. No, we can never return to the florists garden. We have developed along the lines of bold planting and colour effect. Their gaze was centered on one flower and their object to perfect it, they were in their right setting among the architects, composers and great artists of their age. Time is against us there. Yet as the great art treasures are now so carefully preserved it is only right that we should care for and preserve the past horticultural treasures that remain. Why not combine the best of the past with the best of the present and make a garden that many of us have dreamed of. It would at least add to our earthly happiness and keep fresh the memory of many dear old faces who have long since departed, but are not forgotten.

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GREETINGS

With the doors still closed upon each fortune for the coming year, the Society sends a special wish to every member for good health, good friends and good gardening.

The structure being built is designed for the benefit and enjoyment of all. There is the Lending Library in which circulates, among others, books which are out of print such as the Cox and Taylor and the MacWatt. Mrs. Ben F. Smith, 350 S. E. Flavel St., Portland 2, Oregon is the current librarian. The collection of Kodachrome slides is growing, thanks to the generosity of members. This collection represents a permanent record of Primroses in your garden to be shown by interested speakers and clubs everywhere. Take a slide of each subject photographed this spring and send to R. M. Brown, 1624 N. E. 62nd Ave., Portland, Ore. A Primrose Test Garden is in its initial stages at Lewis & Clark College in Portland's scenic west hills. The 8th Annual Primrose Show will accommodate out of state visitors and metropolitan crowds three days in April, the 12th, 13th and 14th. The Quarterly will carry such articles as Soil Building; Comparative Methods of Propagation by Seed; Weevil Control; Winter Mulches; The Abyssinian Primrose; Plans for a Check List of Varietal Names and Functions of the Committee on Scoring and Testing; The Recent Import Ban on Primulas from British Isles and Australia; Virus Affecting Primulas; Checking the Virus-Spreading Aphid; the Life Story of John Gerard, 16th century herbalist; Elizabethan Primrose Forms; Reviews of the 1949 Shows. In charge of the pictorial new look the Quarterly will have is Mrs. Lulu Mae Hamilton of Friendly Acres Studio, Sedro Woolley, Washington, the newly appointed Art Director. The Society again expresses gratitude to those who have donated seed for distribution among members and to the recent unthanked donor, Mrs. Florence Arnett of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Society still maintains its modest membership dues of $1.50 and if you will kindly send this amount to Mrs. Earl A. Marshall, Sec'y Treas., 1172 S. E. 55th Ave., Portland 15, Ore., upon reading this notice, a real savings will be effected. If you are in a position and feel inclined to give additional support to the Society in its furtherance of the Primrose movement, send $5 and become a Sustaining member. Please include any actual or impending change of address with dues.

By unanimous vote the following officers and directors were elected at the Annual Meeting, December 21st: Mrs. Caroll S. Higgins, President; Mr. B. W. Hillway, Vice President; Mrs. Lotus Stone, Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. H. Bowes and Mr. Richard Bond, directors. Mrs. Earl A. Marshall was elected by the Executive Board to the post of Secretary-Treasurer.
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BLUE POLYANTHUS, the blossoms are almost as large as those of the mixed colossal, in a blend of all tones, from lightest to darkest blue: pkt. $1.50.

GOLD POLYANTHUS, some orange tones, fragrant, heavy trusses, stiff stems, pkt. $1.25.

YELLOW, GOLD, COPPER, blending tile shades, for mass planting; pkt. $1.25.

ASIATICS

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