American Rock Garden Society Bulletin

ENGLERIA — *Hans Honcik* 121

BOOK REVIEW — *Frances Kinne Roberson* 132

LOST AND FOUND — TWO LEWISIA SPECIES
Dr. Daniel Weaver 133

ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARD PRESENTATION 137

SOME PENSTEMONS OF VALUE — *Roy Davidson* 141

THE MARCEL LE PINIEC AWARD — INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION — *H. Lincoln Foster* 146

REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD ROCK GARDENER
Robert M. Senior 151

A SUMMER SEED DISTRIBUTION 153

OMNIUM-GATHERUM 154

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DR. EDGAR T. WHERRY, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Editor

ALBERT M. SUTTON

9608 26th Ave. N.W., Seattle, Washington 98107

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AMERICAN
ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
BULLETIN

Albert M. Sutton, Editor

VOL. 27 October, 1969 No. 4

ENGLERIA

HANS HONCIK, *Wels, Austria*

Translation from the German by Dorothy Metheny, *Seattle, Wash.*

Does this title surprise you, or arouse your curiosity, or is the name also used by you? Here in Europe, it is employed particularly by lovers of rock garden plants. It applies to the Saxifrages.

The genus *Saxifraga* is quite extensive; there are distinguished about 300 species with an immense number of subspecies, varieties, and forms. To these must be added, as we know from our gardens how well and easily the Saxifrages hybridize, a myriad of hybrids.

It is understandable that the botanists classify such large groups into sections and these further into groups. Concerning this arrangement and classification of the Saxifrages, besides others, the Austrian botanist, A. Hayek (1877-1928), but primarily the German botanist, A. Engler (1844-1930) have deserved recognition. Anyone who has understanding acquired through watching detective films, has naturally already seen through this thing—Engleria—Engler! All right, only may I explain the details of the matter also? Thus, A. Engler and his co-worker, E. Irmscher, wrote and published their research findings on the Saxifrages in an over 700 page comprehensive book, *Saxifraga*. This book appeared in 1918 in the series, *The Plant Kingdom*. Up to now, it remains the most comprehensive work on Saxifrages.

However, it now becomes necessary to introduce the acting person. This is the German rock plant gardener, breeder, and collector, F. Suendermann (1864-1946). His horticultural operation still exists in Lindau am Bodensee, and is carried on by his successors. This botanically very much interested gardener dealt very thoroughly with the Saxifrages (see also, in this connection, the section of this treatise on the hybrids). It is understandable that he therefore took great interest in Engler's work. His gratitude and devotion to Engler resulted in his proposing to name a Saxifrage group after Engler. In his publication, he introduced this new denomination. Not only many amateurs, but also the European horticultural literature employed the desig-

nation "Engleria" for. . .yes, here it is necessary to bring up something else. The genus *Saxifraga* was organized in 15 sections by Engler, most of them further divided into smaller groups. Our Englerias are now the group Mediae, established by Engler, which belongs to the section Kabschia. They are thus one part of the section Kabschia. In brief, one can express it thus: Subsection Engleria SUENDERMANN = Section Kabschia, group Mediae ENGLER & IRMSCHER.

Just here it would be a good thing to take something into consideration. Since the appearance of Engler's Saxifrage work, that is since 1919, botany has been much changed, for research has proceeded in this field without hesitation. A branch of botanical research, systematic botany, has set itself the task of investigating relationships of plants to each other, and in the light of their relationship to fit them into a system. For this reason, one is constantly uncovering and understanding these relationships, according to new possibilities in the search. In recent years, chromosome relationships and pollen research have been drawn in with success. And with the Saxifrages, one has achieved new understanding which necessitates alteration of their systematics; moreover, several newly discovered species are to be built in. Of course, one is still far removed from replacing Engler's systematics with another, but it is fairly certain that the Kabschia Section will be dropped and that the Saxifrages united in it will be inserted in other Sections, especially in the recently created Section Porophyllon. The Mediae Group (including our Englerias) will, however, most likely remain preserved as such.

So, many a reader, in case he has not already discontinued the reading as too tedious, will think, "For what purpose is all this? The main thing is still that these plants please me and I have my joy in them, whatever they are called." Please, before you speak further, let me point to a single commonplace example of how it is certainly worth while to know something about your plants. Let us suppose that here shines in all its beauty in your garden *Saxifraga grisebachii.* You are delighted with it and you show it to your friends. Their question: "What is this?" must then unfortunately remain with out an answer. But worse can happen. Nothing lives forever in this world. Within a year the plant is dead. You are really sorry about this, but what can you do except wait until you happen to come across the plant again. That can take a long time. And when you have had the good fortune to meet the plant again in a garden, then I can only hope for you that the garden owner will be able to tell you what it is called. If he can tell you that its name is *Saxifraga grisebachii,* and he also knows that it belongs to the Kabschia Section, it will no longer be difficult for you to find it in a catalog or even in a nursery.

So, it would be a great advantage (one could tell many such stories) if you could learn the scientific names. Do not weep; it is really not too difficult. Certainly, you have room enough in your head for the pair of names. Make a catalog of your plants with the botanical names, also writing in the authors, if you can discover them. Only with this knowledge will it be enjoyable to read garden books, the journals and the seed lists of your rock garden society and the horticultural lists. If, perhaps, I have succeeded in converting you to "science," it will be a good thing. Now, however, back to our Saxifrages.

The name *Saxifraga* is to be found as early as in the writings of the learned Roman, Gaius Plinius, who lived in the first century of our era, to be sure, as the name of an entirely different plant. In the Middle Ages, *Saxifraga granulata* was employed as a remedy for kidney—and gallstones. In the herbals of this period the name *Saxifraga* emerged again. If we trace the meaning of the name *Saxifraga,* we can translate thus: saxum = stone, frangere = to break. Actually, it is thus gallstones which "break." Only later was the name also interpreted with the meaning of breaking the actual stones on which it grows.

Many representatives of this genus have found places in our rock gardens. The highly gifted gardener and articulate plant lover, Dr. h. c. Karl Foerster, once said that one had to have a rock garden for the sake of the Saxifrages alone. We friends of the alpine plants can understand him only too well. Every one of us grows Saxifrages in his garden and has his joy in them. Certainly the diversity of their forms is overwhelming. If we just think of *Saxifraga pennsylvanica,* which from its large leaf-whorl shoots its flower stalk up to 1 m. high, and place beside it as a contrast *Saxifraga oppositifolia* ssp. *rudolphiana,* which raises its up to 1 cm diameter bloom only 1 cm high above the ground, this will give us a comprehension of the diversity of the arrangements as to size. Or let us consider the wide arc of their flowering periods and think in this connection of the many representatives of the Kabschia Section which, immediately after the melting of the snow, are covered over and over with flowers; and for contrast, *Saxifraga cortusifolia* var. *fortunei,* unfolds its white flowers in October and delights us with them until the frosts defoliate the blooms. It would be possible to maintain a garden in bloom through the entire garden year solely and only with Saxifrages. And what diversity in the soil requirements! We find among our Saxifrages those from swamp inhabitants (*S. aquatica*) on up to the cave residents (*S. arachnoidea*), from the colonizers of moorland (*S. diversifolia*) on over to the many lovers of forest soil, to those which favor the sandy places, rock crevices, and porous rocks for locating their colonies.

Among the most desirable of these are numbered those which are gathered together in the Kabschia Section. Among these we are dealing principally with high-alpine plants with grassy and cushion-forming habit. This discussion will now be of several representatives of this Section. I shall now bring forward for you those species which belong to the Mediae Group (= Engleria).

SAXIFRAGA MEDIA GOUAN[1]
(= *S. caesia* L., *S. calyciflora* LAP., *S. gouani* A. TERRACC. a *media* (GOUAN) A. TERR., *Chondrosea calyciflora* HAW.).[2]

The sterile shoots break through the earth in tufts. They remain short, develop branches and become somewhat woody. The gray-green leaves of the sterile shoots are oblong-spatulate, have a small point and a narrowly revolute margin; within this margin are found 7-12 tiny pits. These are ducts, called hydathodes, water openings, which lead out from within the leaf and secrete water, also often calcium carbonate, which can be deposited in the form of small flakes. The leaves are so arranged that they form rosettes with a diameter of up to 3.5 cm.

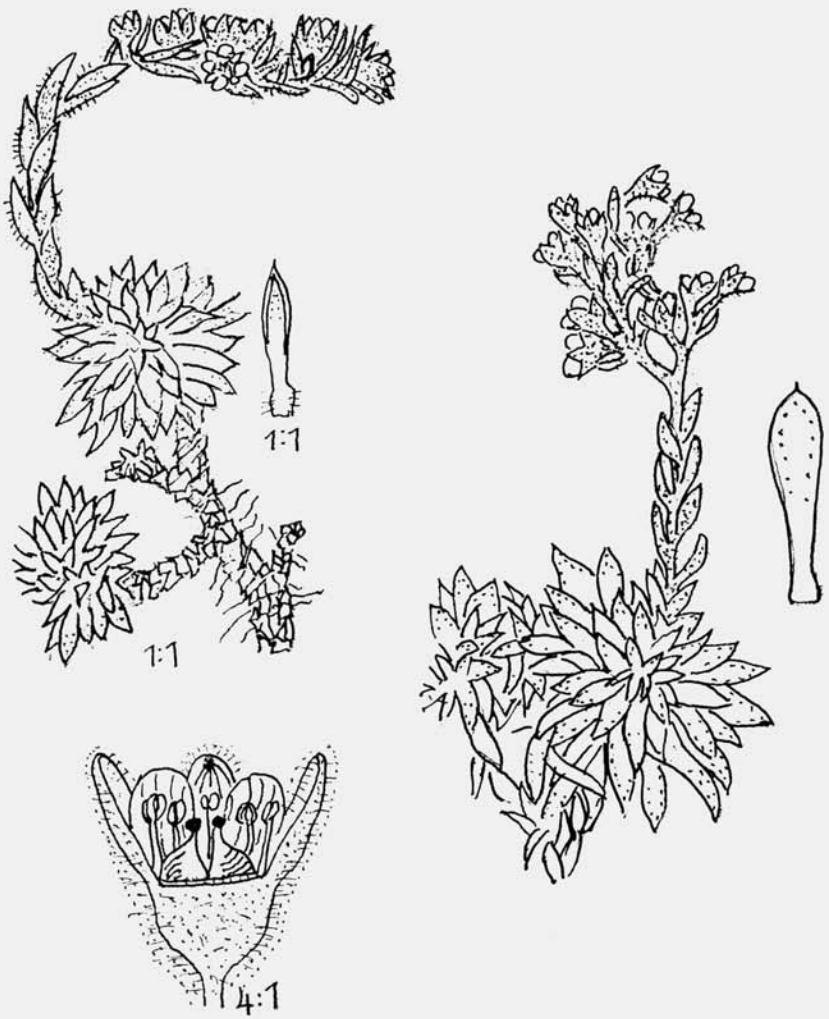
The flower-bearing stems reach up to 15 cm, are thickly furnished with glandular hairs, and bear up to 16 flowers.

The flowers give a dark red impression; a closer inspection reveals that the sepals, which in most plants are green, are colored dark purple and furnished with soft glandular hairs.

The petals, however, which usually give the color to the flower, are rosy-purple and usually somewhat shorter than the sepals.

The two cells of the ovary are narrowed to the short styles, which are terminated by the small stigmas. The ovary is also thickly furnished with soft glandular hairs.

Only the Pyrenees can claim to be the habitat of *Saxifraga media*. There it grows on calcareous rocks in the alpine and subalpine zones, but in addition is also met in valleys of the mountain areas.



Left—*Saxifraga media* — Right—*S. stribrnyi*.

In cultivation (in the lowlands) it usually flowers in May. Like nearly all Saxifrages it requires a half-shaded location (east exposure), good drainage and light sandy soil with little humus. Anyone who has had no experience at all may try the following soil mixture: 3 parts calcareous sand, 1 part peaty soil (or granulated peat), 1 part ordinary soil. Saxifrages in the lowlands must overcome two difficulties. The greatest are the hot, dry periods in summer and also, however, long rainy periods in autumn. Thus our medium must be so selected that one can bring the plants through both of these difficult periods. Since the amount of rainfall is of the greatest importance, a universally applicable soil formula cannot be given.

1. The botanically correct name of the plant appears thus: Saxifraga = name of the genus, media = name of the species, Gouan = name of the author who first described and named the plant.—A. Gouan = French botanist 1733-1821. medius = intermediate.

2. Further, but invalid names of the plant (synonyms). They mostly occur by reason of several botanists, unfamiliar with each other's work, having described a plant. In most cases the name given by the first describer is the valid one. (Right of priority).

3. From drawings by J. Pohl and E. Irmscher in *Saxifragaceae,* by Engler and Irmscher, published by J. Cramer, P.O. Box 48, D-3301, Lehre, Germany (West). A reprint of the book is available.

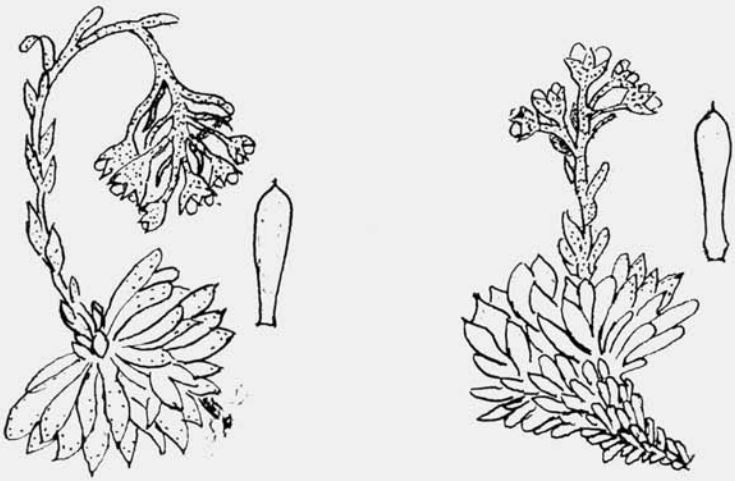
SAXIFRAGA STRIBRNYI (VELENOVSKY) PODPERA[1]
(= *S. stribrnyi* VELENOVSKY, *S. porophylla* BERT. var. *stribrnyi* VELENOVSKY).

Tufted, with short-branched sterile shoots terminated by leaves in rosettes and erect or ascending 5-8 cm long flower-bearing stems whose leaves are shorter, which terminate in ramified, panicle-like, many (10-15) -flowered inflorescences and on the entire length are thickly furnished with long gland-bearing spreading hairs; leaves of the sterile shoots arranged in rosettes of 3-6 cm diameter, overlapped, underneath slightly keeled, completely glabrous but toward the base very short ciliate, oblong or linear-spatulate, 1-2.5 cm long, 3-6 mm broad, with rounded apex which is furnished with a short point, narrowly revolute-margined, supplied near the margin with 6-12 pits; stem leaves reddish or greenish, with the exception of the apex, thickly glandular-haired above and beneath, oblong-spatulate, 7-9 mm long, 1.5-2 mm broad at the apex, somewhat acute or provided with a small point and equipped with few glands.

Pedicels 1-1.5 cm long, furnished with longer subtending leaves and hairy like the stem; sepals often dark-purple, half-erect, ovate, 3-4 mm long, 2-2.5 mm broad, obtuse, emarginate, very thickly glandular-haired at the apex above and beneath, with several parallel veins not converging at the apex; petals obovate-cuneate, 4-4.5 mm long, 2-2.5 mm broad, many-veined, purplish.

Filaments half as long as the sepals; ovaries inferior, hemispherical, 2-3 mm long, thickly furnished with long glandular hairs, the small stigma is constricted at the very short style.[2]

Saxifraga stribrnyi varies in the variety *podperae* ENGL. & IRM.



Left—*Saxifraga corymbosa* var. *luteo-viridis*. Right—*S. corymbosa* var. *eucorymbosa*.

(= *S. stribrnyi* var. *apiculata* PODPERA). The sepals completely overtop the petals and are lanceolate, long-acuminate and reflexed when fruiting. Both come from the Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria).

S. stribrnyi is considered to be somewhat delicate, and one is often advised to bring it into the alpine house, although it is more often met in gardens than *S. media*. Its flowering time in the lowlands occurs in May.

1. Josef Podpera = Czech botanist 1878-?—J. Velenovsky = Czech botanist 1858-1949. Stribrny was a plant collector.

2. This is the translation of a botanical description. These are, and also ought to be, written in Latin (Latin is internationally understood and precise).

SAXIFRAGA CORYMBOSA BOISS.[1]
(= *S. luteoviridis* SCHOTT & KOTSCHY, *S. chlorantha* SCHUR)

This Saxifrage appears in two forms. Both have a thick-tufted habit, their sterile shoots become woody and branch out when not very long, and are furnished with leaves in rosettes. Their flower-stalks are glandular-hirsute. The color of their flowers varies from yellow-green through pale yellow to bright yellow. Their differences lie in the height of the flower-stalks, the shape of the leaves and in the form of the inflorescence.

Saxifraga corymbosa var. *eucorymbosa* ENGL. & IRM.[2]
Flower-stalk 4-6 cm long, furnished very thickly with glands. Leaves of the sterile shoots are obovate-spatulate, or strap-shape, completely obtuse or somewhat acute. Inflorescences racemose-corymb-formed, 7-12 flowered. It grows in the extreme southwest of Asia Minor and in southern Europe (Romania). It has a particular beauty; in the garden literature it is mostly stated just that it is worthy of being collected. It is also considered to be tender. Flowering period in the lowland usually April.

Saxifraga corymbosa var. *luteo-viridis* ENGL. & IRM.[3]
(= *S. luteo-purpurea* STERNBERG, *S. luteopurpurea* HERBICH, *S. mutata* CZIHAK, *S. lapeyrousi* DON., *S. tecta* KITAIB.).

Flower-stalk to 15 cm tall. Leaves of the sterile shoots spatulate-strap-shape, often narrower (2 mm) with small point or somewhat acute. Inflorescences cymoid-paniculate, multi-flowered. It was found in the East Carpathian and the Transylvanian Alps in Romania. It is more often met with in cultivation; often one finds it in gardens with beautiful citron-yellow-colored flowers. Flowering period in the lowland frequently not until June.

1. corymbosus = corymb-flowered, with umbel-like racemes. E. Boissier = Swiss botanist 1810-1885.
2. Adolf Engler = German botanist 1844-1930, E. Irmscher = co-worker of the above.
3. luteus = yellow, viridis = green.

From Yunnan come two dwarf Saxifrages, which deserve a greater distribution in our gardens, admittedly not because of their flowers which are inconspicuous and not of particularly noteworthy color, but rather because of their attractive silvery foliage. With the help of the following comparative chart, the two will be easily differentiated:

SAXIFRAGA CHIONOPHILA FRANCH[1]	*SAXIFRAGA RUPICOLA* FRANCHET[2]
Thickly tufted	Very thickly tufted
Flower stalk	
1-3 cm long, 3-6 flowered	6-8 mm long, single-flowered
Sterile shoot leaves	
Noticeably keeled, 5-8 mm long with 5-7 little pits covered with calcareous scales	Flat-keeled, 4-5 mm long with 3-5 (seldom 5) little pits covered with calcareous scales
Flowers	
Densely clustered	Single
Sepals	
Half erect, broad-ovate 1.5-2 mm long, margin transparent	Erect, oblong, 2.6-2.8 mm long, margin not transparent
Petals	
1.8-2 mm long, 3-veined, olive-green (reddish brown)	2.3-2.5 mm long 1-veined, greenish yellow
Habitat	
At the edge of the perpetual snow in rock crevices on limestone	In limestone crevices of the alpine and subalpine slopes

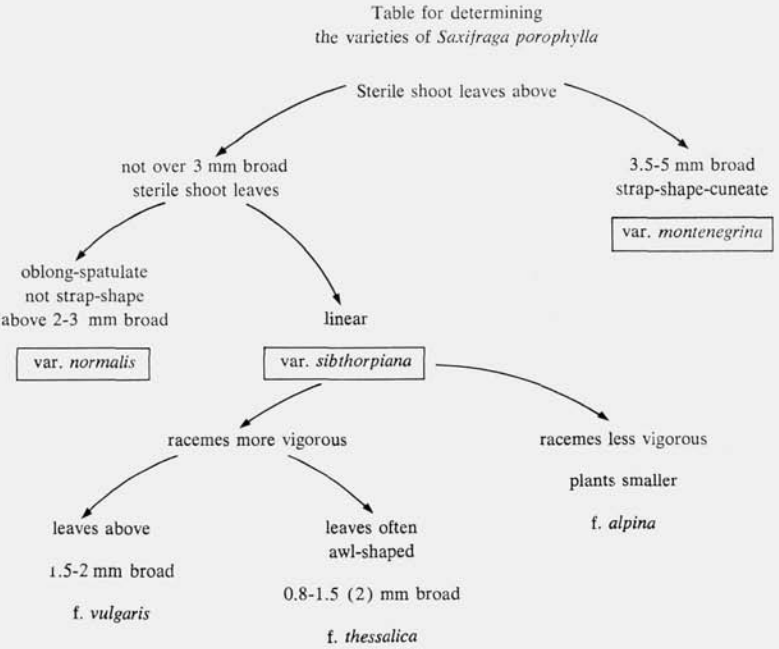
1. chionophilus = snow-loving, A. R. Franchet = French botanist and traveler, 1834-1900.
2. rupicolus = growing in cliffs and ledges.

SAXIFRAGA POROPHYLLA BERTOL.[1]
(=*S. gouani* A. TERRACC. *porophylla* (BERTOL.) A. TERRACC.)

A likewise tufted-growing Saxifrage which forms gray-green rosettes. The glabrous leaves of these rosettes are revolute-margined and have 5-10 pits near the margin; but its form is so various that 3 varieties and 3 forms are differentiated.

The pedicels vary in length between 5-12 cm and are 5-18 flowered. In their entire length they are covered with spreading soft hairs. The flower color changes from flesh-pink to purple. The sepals of most of them are somewhat longer than the petals.

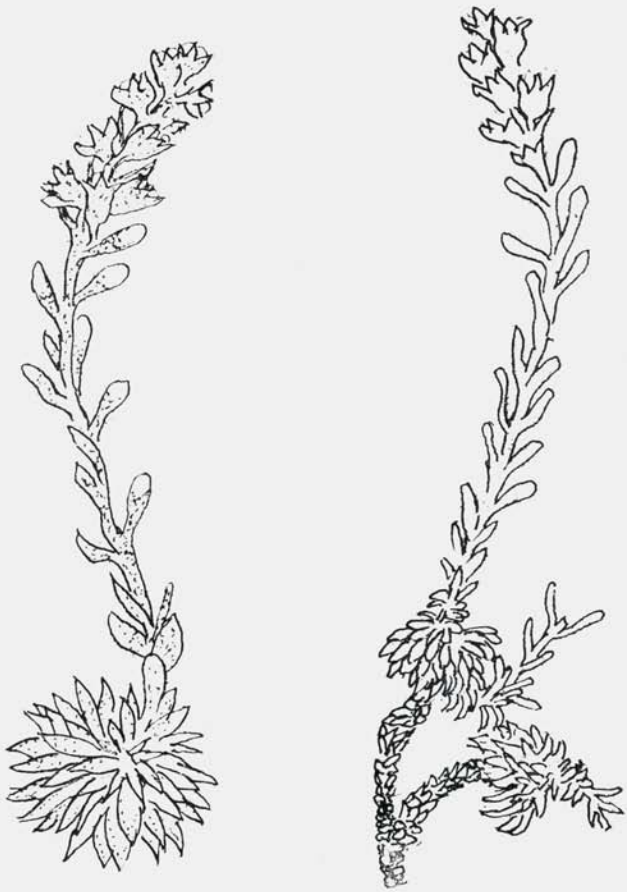
1. porophyllus = leaves with pores. A. Bertoloni = Italian botanist 1775-1869.



Variety *normalis* A. TERRACC.

(= *S. federici augusti* BIAS., *S. media* SCHLOSSER & VUKOTINOVC, *S. gouani* A. TERRACC. b *porophylla* (BERT.) A. TERRACC. a *normalis* A. TERRACC., *S. porophylla* BERT. var. a *euporophylla* ENGL. & IRM.)

Sterile shoot leaves oblong-spatulate or strap-shape, exceptionally the greatest breadth above the middle, 8-11 mm long, above 2-3 mm broad, entire or provided with a little point. Habitat: Italy. Rather seldom cultivated and then usually designated as *Saxifraga porophylla.*



Left—*Saxifraga porophylla* var. *sibthorpiana*. Right—*S. porophylla* var. *normalis*.

Variety *sibthorpiana*[1] (GRISEB.) ENGL. & IRM.
(= *S. media* SIBTH. & SMITH, *S. media* GOUAN. var. *sibthorpiana* GRISEB., *S. sempervivum* C. KOCH, S. *porophylla* BOISS., *S. gouani* A. TERRACC. *b porophylla* (BERTOL.) A. TERRACC. b *friderici augusti* A. TERRACC.)

Sterile shoot leaves linear or linear-lanceolate, 10-12 mm long, 0.8-2.5 mm broad, acute.

f. *vulgaris* ENGL. & IRM.

Leaves 1.5-2.5 mm broad. Habitat: Southern Balkan Peninsula (Peloponnesus), Macedonia, Bithynian Olympics (northwest Turkey).

1. J. Sibthorp = English botanist 1758-1796.

f. *thessalica* (SCHOTT) ENGL. & IRM.
(= *S. thessalica* SCHOTT, *S. porophylla* BERTOL. f. *stenophylla* BOISS.,

S. gouani A. TERRACC. b *porophylla* (BERTOL.) A. TERRACC. c. *cernagorica* A. TERRACC. var. *thessalica* A. TERRACC.).

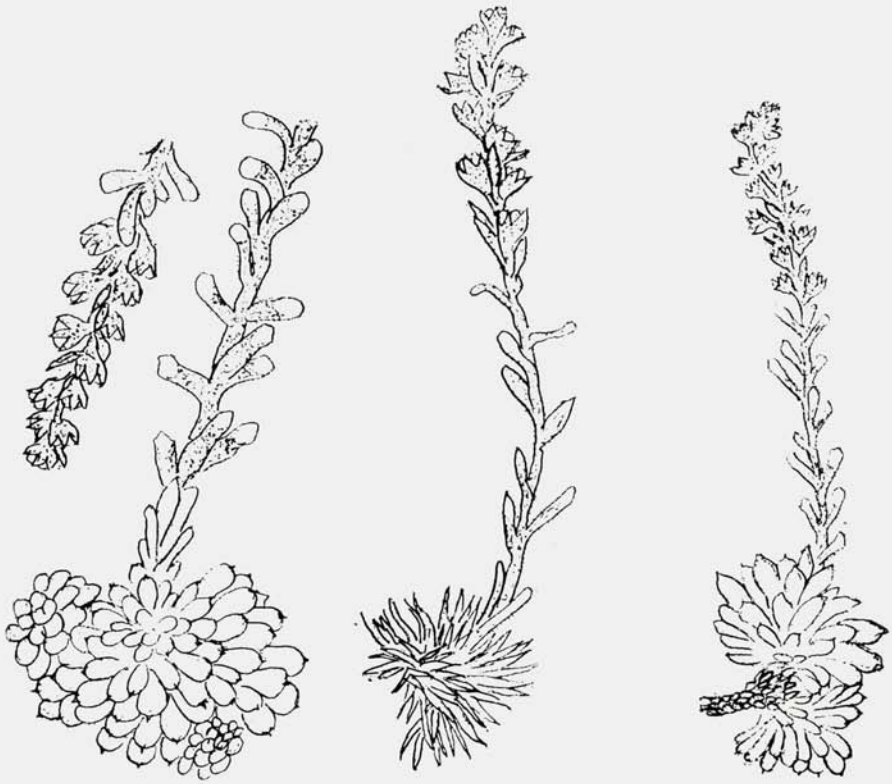
Sterile shoot leaves linear, often nearly awl-shape, very narrow, 8-16 mm long, 0.8-1.5 mm broad (seldom 2 mm).

Balkans of Montenegro to Thessaly, northern Greece. It is considered the finest of this group, not only because of the blood-red raceme, but also because of its magnificent form. It is also considered somewhat difficult.

f. *alpina* (A. TERRACC.) ENGL. & IRM.
(= *S. gouani* A. TERRACC. b porophylla BERTOL.) A. TERRACC. c *cernagorica* A. TERRACC. var alpina A. TERRACC.).

Plant smaller (5-6 cm), raceme poorer, with somewhat lanceolate-oblong acute leaves, which are furnished with a small greenish point, somewhat less blue-green, habit almost cushion-form.
Habitat: Montenegro.

Variety *montenegrina* (HALASCY & BALDACCI) ENGL. & IRM.
(= *S. montenegrina* HALASCY & BALDACCI).[1]



Left—*Saxifraga porophylla* var. *montenegrina*. Center—*S. porophylla* var. *sibthorpiana* f. *thessalica*. Right—*Saxifraga grisebachii*.

Flower stalk up to 15 cm long. Sterile shoot leaves strap-shape or spatulate-club-shape, very broad above, 10-20 mm long, 3-5.5 mm broad, obtuse, often rounded-obtuse.

This variety forms the transition to *Saxifraga grisebachii.*

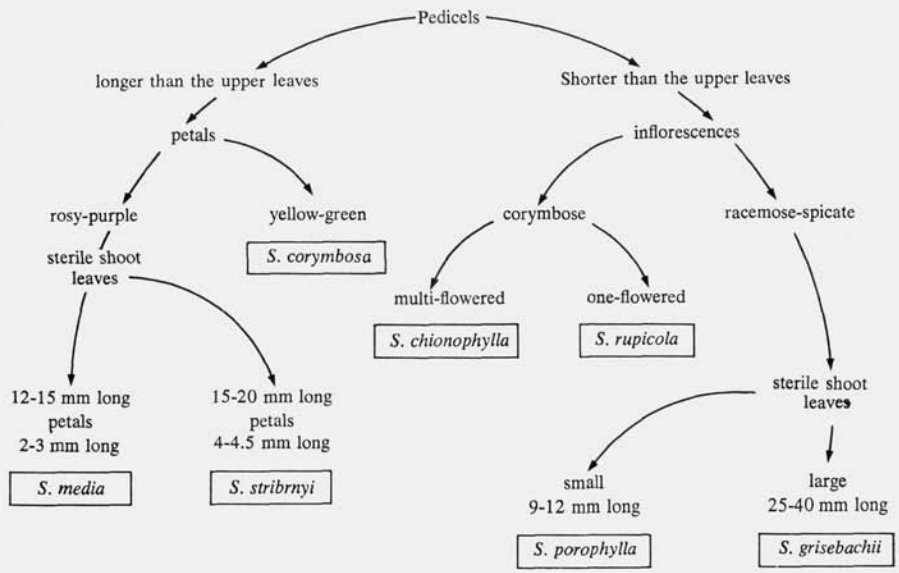
1. A. Baldacci = Italian botanist 1867-?

SAXIFRAGA GRISEBACHII DEGEN & DOERFLER[1] (= *S. ghiesbrechtii* hort.).

Its habit is also tufted, the short sterile shoots have a rosette-like leaf arrangement and reach a diameter of 5-8 cm. The gray-green rosette leaves are spatulate-strap-shape with a rounded apex which bears a little point. The margin is narrowly revolute and 7-13 pits occur at the margin. The flower stalk reaches 12-20 cm high, is furnished with spreading glandular hairs and the top third bears the flowers arranged in a raceme. Sepals and petals are colored purple. It certainly belongs among the beautiful Saxifrages and has a particularly charming effect when placed before light rocks. Its flowering period in March-April lasts 3 weeks. A particularly fine-colored and rich selected form is 'Wisley Variety.'

S. grisebachii is found growing wild in Albania, Greece and Macedonia. It wants a shadier location and thrives better on a more meager diet (4 parts calcareous sand, 1 part soil, 1 part humus). Give it attention in summer.
1. H. R. A. Griesbach = German botanist 1814-1879. A Degen = Hungarian botanist 1866-1934. I. Dörfler = Austrian botanist 1866-1950.

Table for determining the Saxifrages of the Mediae Series ENGL. & IRM.
(= Section Engleria SUENDERM.)



BOOK REVIEW

THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY — PAGES FROM THE SOCIETY'S HISTORY — Reprinted from the *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Alpine Garden Society 1967-1969. By F. H. Fisher (Pedicularis).

No cornerstone ever held more representative material more carefully chosen than does the publication *The Alpine Garden Society* with the explanatory sub-title, *Pages from the Society's History*. F. H. Fisher, the author, speaks with authenticity since his experience dates to a preliminary meeting prior to the Society's formation in 1929, and running the gamut of organizational and editorial tasks performed in such an exemplary manner that he was awarded the Lyttel Trophy. His deep involvement with the development and problems of the Society gives to his writing an insight and clarity which conveys to the reader much more than dates and facts. The dedication "To the Genius of the Alpine Garden Society for welding friendships" illustrates the meaningful influence of the Society in the life of Mr. Fisher and of all the others who worked together to surmount all obstacles, especially in the beginning and through the war years.

The milestones of forty years of growth become chapter headings starting with "Introduction" and "How It All Began" followed by "The First Conference Years," "The Mid-Fifties," and finally, "The Third Conference and After." The reader may become confused as to dates when a leap ahead is followed by detail of the interim, but this method is just as successful as in many novels. Indeed, in this case, we live the reality of momentous happenings and are loath to miss a word or lay the book aside.

Illustrations, though few in number, include an interesting reproduction of a page from Reginald Farrer's 1914 Field Notes and of a letter from Lady Byng, when she resigned as president at the end of 1937, in which she urged her associates to go "member collecting," a bit of perennially pertinent advice.

Details of shows and exhibits include the tantalizing references to such plants as *Corydalis cashmeriana, Primula wigramiana, P. kitaibeliana, Boykinia jamesii, Wulfenia baldacii* and many more species, along with geographical sources in many cases.

Differences of opinion over show schedules and awards, subscription or dues increases, financial problems, a seed sowing enterprise, name and format of the *Bulletin,* conservation attitudes, and other policies both major and minor, come to light and life as they are chronicled with the whimsical perspective of the present vantage point in no whit obscuring the past activities.

Frequently, the personality sidelights evoke chuckles and we laugh with the author when he writes of "rudenesses exchanged" when there were clashes.

Herein is portrayed the growth and expansion of the Society through interactivity with the Royal Horticultural Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club, through tours to members' gardens as well as travel to foreign points of interest, through the seed exchange, through noteworthy publications, through

the devotion and unrelenting effort of the men and women who fanned the spark of an idea into the flame of accomplishment.

No review can convey the charm of these "Pages from the (Alpine Garden) Society's History." You must read Mr. Fisher's own words to be aware of all the botanical information and down-to-earth gardening tips, to become acquainted with the people who made the Alpine Garden Society the respected power that it is, and to enjoy a bit of fascinating history in capsule form.

FRANCES KINNE ROBERSON

LOST AND FOUND – TWO LEWISIA SPECIES

DR. DANIEL WEAVER, *Hamden, Connecticut*

Although some western members (ARGS, U.S.A.) have seen and photographed 'new' Lewisias recently described, these species seem to be not generally known. It appears worthwhile to give temporal supplement to Roy Elliott's *The Genus Lewisia* (suppl., Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society Vol. XXXIV, 1966), freely laced with anecdotal material.

While *Lewisia tweedyi* and *Lewisia rediviva* have grown in our garden for several years, my interest in the entire genus is recent. This interest began when we saw a lovely flower display of *Lewisia cotyledon* in the Lincoln Fosters' garden in 1968. Our interest became acute when we were given a generous gift of seedlings from the Henry Fullers' garden. When I agreed, by default, to discuss the genus *Lewisia* at the Atlantic City Study Weekend (February, 1969), it became, perforce, an education. With major aid from Roy Elliott's authoritative monograph, helpful suggestions from Lincoln Foster, and some help from our library, foundations of a one hour talk were laid. Early issues of the ARGS Bulletin were quite informative. Many hours in a science library were of no additional help with Lewisias but did further my knowledge on such matters as species differentiation (*not* genus *Lewisia*) by chromosome configuration, size, and count.

Requests for 35 mm slides were generously rewarded (some 200, all safely returned), often without posssession of duplicates by the owners. It is with a sigh of relief that I acknowledge slide donors: Mrs. Olga Duchacova (Czechoslovakia), via Eleanor Brinckerhoff; H. Lincoln Foster; Henry Fuller; Roman Gankin (University Arboretum, University of California at Davis); Boyd Kline; Dr. G. Ledyard Stebbins (Department of Genetics, University of California at Davis); and Charles Thurman. In addition, Mrs. Constance Davidson and Mr. Elmer Baldwin were generous with Lewisia slides from, respectively, slide libraries of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the American Rock Garden Society.

Two tales relate my introduction to the two 'new' Lewisia species. Following these tales are details about plants.

In response to a request for slides, Margaret Williams mentioned *Lewisia stebbinsii* in a letter, referring to species description in *The Four Seasons*, a journal not yet widely available. (A photocopy of this article was subsequently furnished by Roman Gankin).

More exciting news came soon. Late in December, a California member of ARGS, Mrs. C. E. Wells, sent her December *Newsletter* of the California Native Plant Society to Lincoln Foster (a committee member for the ARGS Study Weekend in Atlantic City, which included a study of the genus *Lewisia*). Mr. Foster immediately forwarded this to me. This *Newsletter*'s lead article, written by Dr. G. Ledyard Stebbins, President of the CNPS, reported rediscovery of *Lewisia pygmaea* ssp. *longipetala*. (Our only knowledge previously was from H. G. Lemmon's find in 1875. His specimen and notes, supposedly at the Smithsonian, have been lost).

Dr. Stebbins was kind enough to send his slide of *L. longipetala* (as it will soon be renamed) for showing at the Atlantic City meeting. Mr. Gankin, sending slides of *Lewisia stebbinsii* (named in Dr. Stebbins' honor), was equally helpful. (Another find of Dr. Stebbins, possibly a distinct species and tentatively named *Lewisia grandiflorata,* is under investigation).

So, to the plants, reported here briefly, in order of discovery and description. Quotation marks indicate direct quotations from publications named above, with permission of the authors and the Editor of *The Four Seasons.* Any comments by this writer are based on colored transparencies and published descriptions.

Lewisia stebbinsii.

This species is currently known only in Mendocino County, California, in the vicinity of Hull and Bald Mountains. Geographically, this area is south of the southern edge of the parallelogram described by Carl Purdy (in one of the first ARGS Bulletins), containing most of the evergreen Lewisias. Although described as non-evergreen, it is so close in habit to *L. cotyledon* that one might expect it to be evergreen with a range extension into Purdy's parallelogram. On the other hand, one must consider the *possibility* that this is, in fact, another genus of the *Portulacacae.* (This has happened before with plants now classified as *Lewisia*). Flowers are rather different from other Lewisias; there are also resemblances. One slide furnished by Mr. Gankin showed a flower quite different (except for color distribution) from type description and flowers in other photographs. This flower resembed *L. cotyledon* but showed leaf structure ascribed to *L. stebbinsii.*

With an apparently narrow ecological range, adapting this species to remote gardens may be difficult. One U. S. northwest coast correspondent indicates that *L. stebbinsii* is happily growing from seed collected in the wild.

Lewisia longipetala (Formerly *L. pygmaea* ssp. *longipetala*).

This species is quite another matter, horticulturally. *L. pygmaea* "of horticulture" in England is outstanding. Roy Elliott, in *The Genus Lewisia,* noted its resemblance to the long lost *L. pygmaea* ssp. *longipetala.* He consequently considers this plant a cultivar, since there is no known source since 1875. Roman Gankin quoted this opinion to Dr. Stebbins when the latter telephoned news of his rediscovery. It is Dr. Stebbins' opinion that Lemmon transported seeds of *L. longipetala* (i.e., *L. pygmaea* ssp. *longipetala*) to England. After I mailed a photocopy of Dr. Stebbins' article to Roy Elliott, a spirited correspondence on this subject began between Roy Elliott and Ledyard Stebbins. Roy believes even English gardeners cannot have maintained a pure strain so long!

Dr. Stebbins, by training, a systematic botanist and now a geneticist, is a keen observer. During random exploration he found *L. longipetala* near his Crystal Lake vacation home, 40 miles south of Lemmon's reported discovery (west of Truckee). Having noted the typical habitat, Dr. Stebbins, Roman Gankin and Margaret Williams again searched for the plant in its original location of collection. Success! Further exploration may reveal additional sites.

This apparently distinct Lewisia has been renamed *L. longipetala.* Dr. Stebbins found no crossover with *L. pygmaea* or *L. nevadensis,* both of which grew near *L. longipetala.*

Although perhaps slightly less elegant than *Lewisia pygmaea* of British alpine house culture, *L. longipetala* is an outstanding horticultural species. Eventually, we must have it in our gardens or move to Sierra Nevada!

Permission has been obtained from Mr. James Roof, Editor of *The Four Seasons,* to quote from the article by Gankin and Hildreth concerning *Lewisia stebbinsii,* sp. nov. Some pertinent details follow:

Currently known habitat: Hull Mountain and Bald Mountain, southern Mendocino County, California. ". . . Hell's Half Acre . . ." (". . . volcanic rock and rubble strewn over the surface of a Franciscan deposition.") ". . . ESE of Bald Mountain." ". . . Immediately underfoot were numerous plants of . . . *Erigeron flexuosus* Cronquist which hitherto had only been known from the Trinity Mountains . . ." "Amidst all this pink and purple, which occurred on gravelly flats, we caught our first glimpse of *Lewisia stebbinsii* Gankin and Hildreth sp. nov."

Botanical description (Gankin and Hildreth): " 'Perennial from a fleshy, often branched taproot: caudex underground, short, 4.5-9 mm. thick abruptly ending in a platform at its proximal end; after leaves and scapes fall there often is a crown of hyaline membranaceous bases of the expanded petioles remaining, surrounding the dormant, but visible (to 4 mm. long) bud at the apex of the caudex; leaves 5-15 in number in a basal rosette, ascending, early deciduous before the scapes, 2.5-8.5 cm. long, 3-11.5 mm. wide; linear-spatulate to lanceolate, fleshy; scapes 1 to several, procumbent, usually 7-14 cm. long, jointed at the base and early deciduous, bearing a 3 to 11 flowered panicle; stem leaves (2-4) reduced to glandular dentate bracts . . .'; 'sepals, 2, imbricate, broad-ovate . . .'; 'petals 7-10, linear-lanceolate, 8-10.5 mm. long, sparingly glandular on margins, white in lower half of petal, rose in upper half with darker veins.'

" 'Clearly *Lewisia stebbinsii* is set aside from all other species in this genus by virtue of its leaf shape, habit of growth (procumbent scapes) and flower color.' (Note: color distribution seems to be the truly outstanding feature). 'The deep rose-colored outer portion of the corolla and white inner portion is practically unknown in the genus . . .' 'The affinities of *L. stebbinsii* seem quite close to *L. cotyledon* . . .' '. . . and *L. columbiana,* all of which have the distinctive glandular teeth on the bracts and sepals, but which, contrary to *L. stebbinsii,* are evergreen plants.' 'Although *L. cotyledon* occurs in the Trinity Alps, it is not known any farther south in California . . .' '. . . entire range of *L. stebbinsii* . . . not known.' '. . . most abundant site observed by the authors . . . Hell's Half Acre . . .' '. . . in profusion in open, dry gravelly places . . . about 6,300 ft. above sea level.' '. . . soils probably are in the Yolla Bolly Series . . . light brownish gray, shallow, excessively drained,

moderately acid lithosols' . . . 'gravelly loams to stony, gravelly loams developed on sericitic schist (Franciscan metasediments).' "

It is hoped that an attempt will be made to procure material for chromosome counts on these new species. (Complete chromosome *morphology* information is almost non-existent in genus *Lewisia,* although chromosome numbers are available for a few species).

Permission has been obtained from Mr. Walter Knight and from Dr. Stebbins to quote from the *Newsletter* of the California Native Plant Society regarding *Lewisia longipetala. L. longipetala* (Stebbins) seems distinct from *Lewisia pygmaea.* ". . . In addition to having larger flowers, *L. p.* ssp. *longipetala* always had but one flower on each peduncle, while the flowering stalks of *L. p. ssp. pygmaea* usually bore two or three flowers.' '. . . plants dug for herbarium specimens exhibited rather different root systems . . .' '. . . *pygmaea* were relatively short and tapered strongly, turnip-like, at the base; . . . *longipetala* reached far down into the crevices where they were growing, and were often branched and tapered very gradually.' '. . . demonstration to my satisfaction that the species that E. W. Piper originally described as *Oreobroma longipetala* (Oreobroma is a name given by some botanists to high montane species of Lewisia) is a perfectly good species in its own right and should not be reduced to a subspecies of *L. pygmaea.*'

" 'To sum up the matter: *Oreobroma longipetala* of C. W. Piper, first seen by J. G. Lemmon in 1875, grown in English gardens since then, presumably from seed collected by Lemmon, and rediscovered in its natural habitat in 1968, is a very distinctive and beautiful species of Lewisia. It will be rechristened with its correct scientific name in a botanical journal during the next few months.' "

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PHOTOMACROGRAPHY & PHOTOMICROGRAPHY — Here is a booklet for you if you are interested. To quote Mr. Nicholas Zeoli (an ARGS member) whose address is 41-15 44th St., Sunnyside, NYC 11104: "I have on hand several 20 page booklets on PHOTOMACROGRAPHY and PHOTOMICROGRAPHY, which I will gladly send to any member of the American Rock Garden Society who is interested in learning about photography that can be used to take photos of leaves, insects, etc. Quantity is very limited. Any member who wants a copy should send me 12¢ in stamps or coins to pay for postage. These booklets have a price of $1.00 on the cover, but are FREE to any interested ARGS member."

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MENZIESIA CILIICALYX VAR. *MULTIFLORA* WANTED — Dr. Daniel Weaver, 18 Charlson Lane, Hamden, Conn. 06517, would like to know a source for obtaining this plant, Help him, if you can.

PLEIONE — "Does anyone know of a source of pseudo-bulbs of the genus *Pleione*? I am interested in collecting as many species of it as are available." Thus writes Mrs. Coulter Stewart, 155 Broadmoor Court, San Anselmo, California 94960.

ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The Annual Meeting of the American Rock Garden Society for 1969 was held at the Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, New Hampshire, in the middle of June. One feature of the meeting was the climbing of Mt. Washington and another was the presentation of the Awards of Merit and the new Marcel Le Piniec Award. Details of the meeting appeared in the *Bulletin Board* that accompanied the July *Bulletin*. Since the citations were not all received in time for inclusion in the July *Bulletin*, they were held over for the October issue and appear below.

Betty Jane Hayward

BETTY JANE HAYWARD

The American Rock Garden Society presents this Award of Merit to Betty Jane Hayward, a charter member and former Vice-president, for growing alpines in a naturalistic garden of her own design, for horticultural achievements and rock garden accomplishments, for her writings and lectures, for her interest in garden clubs and flower shows, and for civic participation.

Betty Jane Hayward has long been known for her horticultural accomplishments and rock garden achievements. In her garden on Highway 11 in Scarborough, Maine, she grows rare and choice alpine plants to perfection. It

is here she welcomes visitors, giving freely of her knowledge and experience to beginner-gardeners and encouragement to all who ask. Her garden reflects the keen insight of the natural beauties by the design and pattern of native landscape in miniature. The appreciation of light and shadow, the texture of foliage, the colors of flowers which complement each other, all show the talent Betty Jane has for working with plants and rocks. Pictures of her garden have appeared in garden books and horticultural magazines. She has designed many gardens for others, has lectured with colored slides, and published articles in leading gardening magazines on the culutral needs of alpines and the proper construction of rock gardens. She received the bronze medal for horticultural achievement for growing and exhibiting a garden of *Primula auricula* in the 1941 spring flower show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Betty Jane Hayward is a life member of the Longfellow Garden Club and has served as chairman in the restoration of the garden at Wadsworth-Longfellow House in Portland, Maine, home of Henry W. Longfellow.

In 1942 and again in 1958, Mrs. Hayward served as landscape and horticultural chairman for the Garden Club Federation of Maine. It was in 1958 that she sponsored the ambitious project of planting flowering crab apple trees the length of Maine from Kittery to Fort Kent. Garden club members planted 2,000 trees and that plan will be a thing of beauty and attraction for the State of Maine.

Mrs. Hayward is affiliated with the Alpine Garden Society of England and is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. She belongs to the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the American Rock Garden Society.

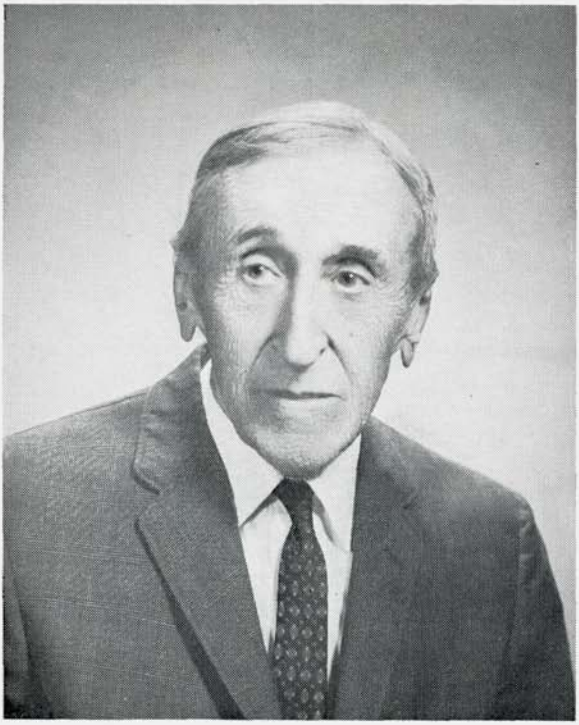
Mrs. Hayward has contributed to the riches of the horticultural world. The members of the American Rock Garden Society are fortunate to have a member dedicated to giving of her talents and knowledge, and it is in appreciation that the Award of Merit is presented.

ROBERT M. SENIOR

Mr. Senior is one of the world's foremost authorities on Campanulas. His horticultural interests and energies have centered around them and the other genera included in the Campanulaceae which includes *Adenophora* and *Symphyandra* among others. He has grown (in some cases, developed) an estimated 100 species and varieties. His infectious enthusiasm for these plants has led many others to follow him in intelligent search for and research of different and unusual varieties. For this reason he has been a leader in horticultural circles for more than half a century.

In 1916, having built a fine house on Rose Hill Lane, Cincinnati, Mr. Senior, satisfying a natural love of plants, set out to surround this house with a fine garden. He shortly completed what was possibly the first rock garden in southwestern Ohio.

His interest in alpines aroused, Mr. Senior pursued it with verve. Often on his way to or from his office he would stop at the Lloyd Library, one of the largest privately endowed Botanical libraries in the United States. It is here that a large number of Mr. Senior's articles have been filed. His habit of stopping at the library for an hour of botanical study persists fifty years later.



Robert M. Senior

Carson Webb Studio, Cincinnati, Ohio

In the summer of 1929, Mr. Senior invited about eight or nine ardent gardeners to meet him at lunch. Here those present decided to form the Rock Garden Society of Ohio—the first English speaking society of its kind, and possibly the first Rock Garden Society in the world. He was elected its first President. After the American Rock Garden Society was formed in 1934, the Ohio organization no longer attempted to recruit new members, and many of the Ohio Society joined our American Society. Incidentally, when the ARGS was formed, Mr. Senior became a charter member and for many years was a Regional Director. Mr. Senior was also President of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History for twelve years.

Mr. Senior is a graduate of Harvard from which University he received his Master's Degree. He has contributed prodigiously to botanical literature. He recalls with great merriment the detective work involved in helping Mr. H. Clifford Crook straighten out the nomenclature of the Campanula family in preparation for the publication of Mr. Crook's book, *Campanula*. His own writings include many concerned with the Campanulaceae and accounts of botanizing in many parts of the West. His articles were published in various horticultural and botanical periodicals, British and American, and were often beautifully illustrated by the author's masterful photography.

In quest of Campanulas, Mr. and Mrs. Senior enjoyed exploring vacations, often abroad, but primarily in the Rockies where they took many pack trips.

In his 87th year, Mr. Senior has adjusted his pursuit of gardening to fit a quieter pace. His rock garden is most compact. The X-raying of seed to explore possible chromosome changes is his newest interest.

Enthusiasm is the first quality that strikes one on meeting Mr. Senior. Fortunately for all of us he has had the strength and determination to pursue his interests with intelligence and pass on his knowledge with kindness and good humor.

That Mr. Senior has been chosen to receive the Award of Merit is an honor he well deserves and one which the American Rock Garden Society is happy to bestow.

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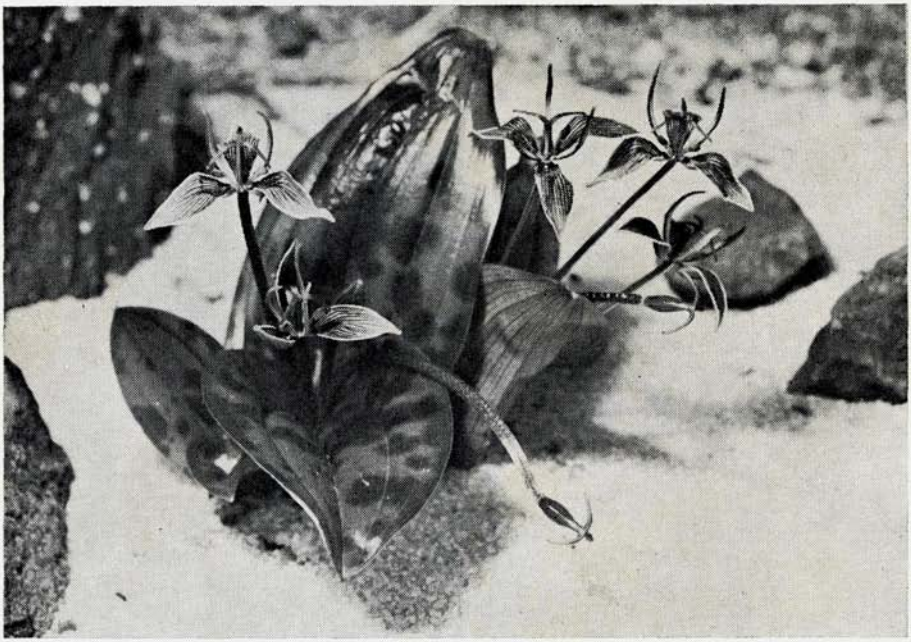

Scoliopus bigelovii.

SCOLIOPUS BIGELOVII AGAIN — Mr. J. R. Baggett, Corvallis, Oregon, after reading about this queer plant in the July *Bulletin,* was thoughtful enough to send in a picture of it. Perhaps this picture and Mrs. Angerman's description of the plant will stimulate your interest in obtaining it as an early spring addition to the shady portion of your garden.

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SOUTHERN LIMITS OF *DRYAS OCTOPETALA* — In a recent *Bulletin,* the question was asked as to the southern limits of this plant's cultivation. From Leonard Uttal, whose new adress is 2715-10th St. Apt. 10-102, Roanoke, Va. 24012, comes this comment, "I had *Dryas octopetala* in my garden in Madison Heights, Va. Perhaps this is the southernmost point! It did not thrive, but survived, flowering only minimally." Has anyone grown it farther south?

SOME PENSTEMONS OF VALUE

ROY DAVIDSON, *Seattle, Wash.*

The Scrophular American genus *Penstemon* includes an almost multitudinous variety of plant material, some showy, not a few weedy, some bold, some shy, a lot that are "easy" and a few that are "precious." There are plants for the border and wild garden among them, and a number in scale for use in the rock garden; even the most fastidious alpine garden, with certain developments toward tiniest plant and seemingly huge flower. Of greatest use in the rock garden are those evergreen shrubs which constitute several important groups within the genus.

Penstemons are quite logically divided into subgeneric groups according to similarities between individuals, similarities which certainly represent natural relationships. Most species are somewhat woody at the base, to make a spreading crown which produces the annual growth; some are of more woody development and a few of these groups are constituted of true shrubs, whose growth is persistent and truly woody, only the inflorescence being of annual duration. Of these groups, the Southwest has the subgenus *Ericopsis* from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada to Southern and Baja California, characterized ordinarily by fine, linear leaves which liken many of them to heather in appearance, and thus the name, meaning to resemble *Erica*. These may be erect or procumbent and green or grayish, mostly turning burnished bronzy hues in winter. Here included are the forms of *PP. crandallii, linerioides, coloradoensis*. Flowers are in some shades of lilac-blue, occasionally pink or white. There are a few caespitose "tuft and bun" plants among them; these for the collector's alpine crevice garden.

Related in habitat, if not in phylogeny, is the little "firecracker" species, *P. pinifolius,* from Arizona and northern Mexico, also with needle leaves, and *P. gairdneri* from the semi-deserts of the inland Northwest, from Washington and Oregon, with orchid to rose-colored flowers of surprising size on glaucous-leaved little mounded bushlets. All these profit from a maximum of sun, almost a minimum of moisture in the soil, and certainly a minimum of moisture in the atmosphere, though *P. pinifolius* proves more adaptable than the others. There are, additionally, some races of dwarfs among some of the border species which are easy. *P. laetus roezlii* (which is NOT the British horticultural *P. roezlii,* a selection of *P. rupicola*) is an alpine development of the species from the Klamath-Siskiyou area of Oregon-California with rich blue flowers on a low sub-shrub, also rather adaptable in cultivation and valuable for its depth of color.

Northwestern United States and adjacent Canada is the habitat of two of the most important races of the true shrubby Penstemons, the woolly-anthered subgenus *Dasanthera* which extends from the Alberta-British Columbia Rocky Mountains south to Wyoming, west to the seacoast, and south down the spine of the Cascade-Sierra ranges and Coast Ranges into California. The other is a group of the Procerus alliance, growing variously from the Great Plains to subalpine altitudes, variable according to the elevation,

and found mainly in the interior, from the Yukon southward to Colorado, Oregon, and northern California.

The finest of these Procerus Penstemons are undoubtedly those of the alpine realm, such as *P. tolmiei,* from the Olympics and the Cascades of British Columbia and Washington, somewhat into Oregon. These form loose mats of rather ovate leaves, pointed or blunt, tapering abruptly to a long petiole, spade-shaped, from which little condensed stalks of blossoms arise, each small but compacted into a dense inflorescence like a large head of clover. In color they are blue or lavender, occasionally orchid, pink, but rarely white. Taxonomists have variously allied this species and *P. brachyanthus* with *P. procerus;* ecologically it is more distinct, and is quite tolerant of humid conditions from which the others shrink, literally.

P. brachyanthus, from further south into the Oregon Cascades and to northern California, and to the Wallowa Mts. of northeastern Oregon, has a similarly well-developed basal foliage mat, but the leaves are more inclined to a longer and lance or lance-ovate shape, giving a distinctly different look to the plant, which is neither as neat nor as concise in habit. It flowers in lilac to blue, rarely white.

The darling of the group is *P. formosus,* from the Wallowa and Strawberry peaks (9,000 ft.) of Oregon and into northern California and Nevada, with leaves a quarter of an inch, rather trowel-shaped, forming uncommonly prostrate little condensed mats bearing seemingly huge ball-shaped inflorescences compacted into heads, sometimes nearly stemless, always more compacted than the similar inflorescence of *P. tolmiei.* These are currently regarded as belonging, as subspecies, within the species *procerus,* which in its typical form is a more eastern plant found from plains to considerable altitudes in the Rocky Mts. from the Yukon to Colorado. Typically the foliage is not of a density to give the attractive aspect of the subspecies mentioned above, for the leaves are but sparsely produced, and so the plant suffers loss of garden value accordingly, though some alpine members are well worth space.

Some other good plants of the Procerus alliance might include *P. peckii,* especially in its gray-leaved, pink-flowered form, a very dainty one. This comes from the cinder area of the central Oregon Cascades, as does the very blue *P. cinicola,* also gray-leaved. Selection of these should be made for larger flowers, for the foliage, as with *P. peckii,* is not of value in itself, being narrow and sparse. *P. spathulatus,* endemic to the high Wallowas, is quite a nice one, with lilac to blue flowers and a good foliage effect. *P. washingtonensis,* another *procerus*-like plant, has good foliage of a crisp, bright green and flowers blue-purple, rarely yellow, and comes from the east side of the Cascades of northern Washington. There are some species exclusively yellow-flowered in this alliance, but the form of *P. confertus* called 'Kittitas' from the south Wenatchee Range in Washington is the neatest, making an attractive olive mat with sulphur-yellow flowers in an appropriately arid situation. These are quite easily propagated from cuttings and a fresh stock should be kept coming along, for older woody plants have a way of disappearing almost overnight to leave blackened corpses in moist gardens.

However, as nice as the above are, the most useful of the shrubby Penstemons are those to be found within the woolly-anthered subgenus *Das-*

anthera, about a dozen taxa with forms varying from minute matted plants to striking bushes a foot or more high and spreading to three feet, or occasionally as much as six feet or more. Thus there will be found a variety for any garden, large or small. In flower color they fall into two main groups; the "so-called reds" and the "somewhat blues." *P. newberryi* and *P. rupicola* are the reds (on the purplish side) and the remainder are more or less blue, though the blue never has the clarity nor intensity of some of those of the Procerus alliance just discussed. But it is the qualities of the foliage that make the subgenus *Dasanthera* outstanding as garden material; leaves from a quarter-inch to five inches, linear to spatulate to ovate, margins thickened and entire or finely serrate to coarsely dentate, a variety that gives a great deal of individuality in the way light is reflected and refracted from the gleaming leaf surfaces. Leaf color may vary from powdery gray-blue to metallic silver-blue, to felty gray, from olive-green with crystalline finish to deep moss-green of leather texture. Many have a contrasting color to petiole and leaf margin, as for instance, raisin-purple on a pallid yellow-green. In addition, they assume lovely, subtle winter tints of olive, or burnished copper, or bronze, or livid purple. Then there is the infinite variety of plant habit—from tiny carpets to cascading trailers, and there are those which are decumbent, procumbent, or completely erect mounds. A few may be useful for their architectural qualities, and all find value for color and texture of foliage; the blossoms to be enjoyed as a bonus of pastel silkiness.

Of the red Dasanthera Penstemons, *P. rupicola,* from the Cascades of Washington and Oregon and from the Klamath-Siskiyou ranges at high altitudes, is typically a blue-glaucous, matted plant with serrate leaf margins, which may be concisely restricted or a trailing subject. The silky flowers are in the cerise and fuchsia-purples, paling to lovely pinks; a white form is known. *P. newberryi* (NOT the 'Newberry' sold by a prominent mail order firm, which is closer to *P. cardwellii*) is perhaps more variable in habit and foliage, forming low mounds or small bushlets to a foot and spreading equally, or decumbent to form mats to three feet or more across. The leaves are bright olive-green or bronze with sharp serration and a crystalline texture; the flower is narrowly tubular, rose-cerise to crimson with the cream-white anthers protruding from the constricted mouth. A variation is *P. berryi,* sometimes considered within *newberryi* as a subspecies, occurring within the distribution pattern somewhat between *P. rupicola* and *P. newberryi,* and morphologically between the two; the flower color may be more purple than red, the plant intermediate, the foliage sub-glaucous, if at all so. A purple-flowered, gray-leaved population from the Del Norte and western Siskiyou county demarcation is under investigation as a "new" species; it is mat-forming, the leaves more spatulate than ovate, stable.

Of the blue-flowered sorts of Dasanthera, mostly lilac and lavender, *P. davidsonii* has the tiny oval-spatulate leafage of thick, entire margins arranged on tidy, twiggy, matted plants and is found at highest elevations from northernmost Washington, south through the Cascades and the Sierra, and in an outlying station on Steens Mountain in eastern Oregon. It is not free-flowering for most gardeners; seemingly it misses the long cold-dormancy or the cool summer dews, or both, of its mountaintop home. Its variety (or subspecies?) *menziesii* has the leaves finely toothed to refract the light. In

nature it is often found at or just below the elevations of *davidsonii* occurrence, only in Washington northward and somewhat into Oregon in the Columbia Gorge, and is found in the absence of *P. davidsonii* in the Olympic Mountains and on Vancouver Island, where it comes down to near sea level on the west coast. A tiny variant going by the name of *P. serpyllifolius* is probably one of the smallest of Penstemons; a dense, woody little mound with leaves but a quarter of an inch, or smaller, toothed intricately. The inch-high stems have one to three oversize, lavender trumpets. A most distinct erect form of *P. davidsonni* occurs in the cinders of Modoc and Siskiyou Counties of northern California. It may prove easier to flower in gardens. The entity named *P. thompsonii,* from the Wenatchee Mountains, has proven on examination to be a hybrid swarm between *P. davidsonii* and *P. fruticosus,* with many individuals *menziesii*-like. Similar hybrids are to be noted where other tooth-leaved species interbreed with *P. davidsonii,* and have been recorded with *PP. rupicola, cardwellii,* and *newberryi,* in addition to further encounters with *P. fruticosus,* all with *menziesii* appearance.

Two larger blue Dasantheras, somewhat similar to one another, are *P. cardwellii* and *P. fruticosus,* both rather semi-erect to sprawling, with toothed leaves, typically. The former is from the west, humid side of the Cascades from the north drainage of Mt. St. Helens southward to the Siskiyou Range. They are of stout growth; evenly dentate and ovate, leathery foliage, and rich, blue-purple flowers in cut-flower quality racemes. There is an especially fine, strong, white form going as 'John Bacher' named for the Portland nurseryman who found and perpetuated it. Some good pink and rose hybrids with *P. rupicola* have been found with a good one going as *P.* 'Cardinal.' On the eastern arid side of the same area *P. cardwellii* is replaced by *P. fruticosus,* with a leaf less ovate and more lanceolate, sharply serrate and gray-olive, extending also northward into the Okanogan Highlands, where it assumes many variations, notably in the form *crassifolius,* with entire leaf margins, often with blunted apex. Though a wanderer, there is not much variation in floral coloration, although in the Wenatchee Mts. a good number of pinkish individuals are to be found. Two taxonomically recognized variants are both superior garden subjects; to the north in the range, generally north of the Columbia River and into British Columbia, and east into northernmost Idaho, the subspecies *scouleri* prevails, with perhaps slightly smaller overall size, a more decumbent habit, with leaves olive and glittering with light reflected from many prominent, sharp teeth, linear in shape. Whereas type *fruticosus* is most often too large and too sprawling for most gardens, *P. f. scouleri* is far neater. In addition, its colors tend strongly to pleasing orchid tints, and two good pink clones have been designated as 'Charming' and 'Mrs. Rutherford.' Also several albinos have been selected. Lohbrunner's *P. scouleri alba* being of good garden constitution, as well as an exceptional beauty.

The finest form of *fruticosus* for gardens, however, is subspecies *serratus* from the highest elevations surrounding Hell's Canyon of the Snake River in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, and merging on lower elevations to nondescript or typical *P. fruticosus. P. serratus* is seemingly an alpine evolvement. The entire plant is condensed, the leaves being short and ovate to lanceolate with exceedingly serrate margins. The flowers are in the usual

lilac and lavender, but a good pink and a white form have been noted. There is one designated 'Zaza' with leaves variegated olive-green and yellow, and one with sharply toothed and reflexed leaves designated *P.* 'Holly.' The winter aspect of *serratus* is noteworthy, the foliage becoming variously burnished to form most attractive mats. A similarly compact plant, but with foliage of *crassifolius* concept is unique to the Wallowa peaks.

The northern Rocky Mountains from British Columbia and Alberta, Montana and Idaho to Wyoming and Utah harbor several species of Dasanthera Penstemons, lovely in blossom but, because of less inclination to a true shrubbiness or to being fully evergreen are of less value in the garden. Newly included within this group is *P. lyallii,* an herbaceous member and not of value for rock garden purposes. *P. ellipticus,* from the range just noted, is rather like a thin-leaved *menziesii,* with lovely, large, silky, lilac-blue flowers, though an untidy plant. Some hybrids of it with *P. lyallii* have proven to be attractive subjects, not unlike a good *fruticosus* in general appearance and use. In the southern part of this delineated range of the northern Rockies is to be found *P. montanus,* a similar plant, but with toothed, succulent, crystalline leafage; a subshrub or non-shrub which strings its way down talus and crevice, bearing lilac flowers. It may have curiosity value for its texture of foliage in a collector's assemblage.

A most distinct and lovely Penstemon from the Sawtooth Range of south central Idaho is subjected to being a variety or subspecies of *P. montanus,* though quite distinct in appearance. It is *P. idahoensis* and though it may indeed be strongly allied to *P. montanus,* its untoothed, ovate foliage is gray velvet and the large flowers are lilac-satin above the casually low-mounded plants. Though deciduous, it may be forgiven because of its quiet beauty.

The last of the Dasanthera Penstemons to be mentioned may be the most spectacular; certainly it is of great interest to the student of plants for it is quite unlike any of its kin in several ways and is curiously disposed in only three known colonies at low elevations in the Columbia Gorge and Klickitat Canyon nearby. It is *P. barrettiae.* The leaves of this are three to occasionally five inches, thickly succulent, glazed as if varnished, and also glaucous, having a shining aspect, olive-green turning to purple-bronze in cold weather. The plant may be a foot and a half high and spread to four feet in diameter, with the stem a couple of inches thick at the base—a giant of its kind. The effect in flowering time is essentially lovely; the flowers on strong, tall racemes are of an iridescent silken tint between pink and blue above foliage that is now rather a lavender-gray and with the new growth pale lettuce-green coming simultaneously. This plant is for large gardens, though a single plant in a collection of the other kinds offers a stunning contrast and a conversation piece of changeable aspect the year round, as well. Hybrids of this with *P. rupicola* (the hand-made one going as *P.* x *edithiae* was made by Carl English) give subjects with much the same character, though smaller in all parts except flower, which is the largest of any Dasanthera. The clone going as 'Manito' is a particularly happy combination of the best points of the two species.

Some of the most prized of this group of Penstemons are the white forms of *PP. rupicola, scouleri, cardwellii,* and *menziesii.* In general, albino

forms are not of hearty constitution; however, this is not true of the *cardwellii* named 'John Bacher', robust and floriferous, nor of *scouleri alba* of Lohbrunner. In general the white forms may require a little more protection from burning summer sun.

Penstemons are not the easiest subjects in many gardens; in nature they are almost without exception found in closest relation to rocks, and those here discussed will fare perfectly well in a scree formation built up for drainage and consisting of humus and a high percentage of gravels; they demand good aeration and soil drainage. Probably the greatest difficulty in gardens comes from over-watering; when correctly placed, they cannot be under-watered. They are sometimes, even in nature, subject to attacks of scale, which is a menace to be guarded against. The only other trouble to plague them is a wilt disease which results when humidity and soil moisture are too great. A gardener should not be afraid to prune, and just after flowering is the best time to remove the spent stalks and to tidy the planting, for they do grow, often to become too much for their area. The resulting new growth is more likely to resist disease and produce good flowers. Propagation may be made of the prunings to increase the stock.

In any low rainfall area, a great mass planting of Penstemons adorning lichen-encrusted rocks would be an enviable display; those gardens with an ampleness of moisture can still have them, but not so easily. There they come from good planning and hard work and they are worth it.

THE MARCEL LE PINIEC AWARD INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION

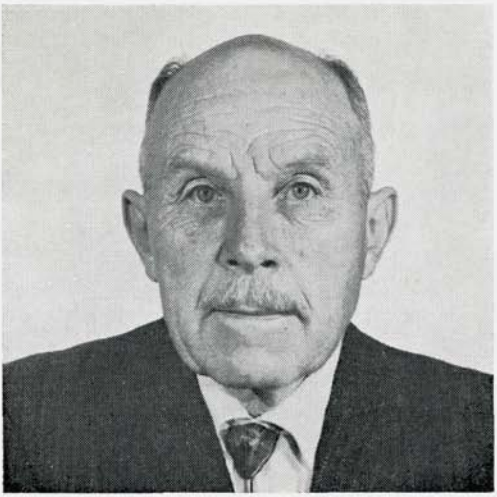
H. LINCOLN FOSTER, *Falls Village, Conn.*

I have the honor this evening of making the first presentation of a new award authorized by the Administrative Committee of the American Rock Garden Society. This is an award to be given annually to a person who as nurseryman, propagator, hybridizer, or plant explorer is currently and actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to American rock gardeners. This is called the Marcel Le Piniec Award. It is particularly fitting that this award be named for a man who for many years exemplified the very characteristics set forth in the qualifications established for it.

Marcel Le Piniec came to the United States in 1909 from his native France where he had recently completed courses in art and design. He soon became recognized as a leading textile designer in New York.

In 1920, Monsieur Le Piniec moved with his wife from the city to New Jersey where he could have a garden and grow some of the mountain plants he had loved as a youth in France and Switzerland. Plans for his garden included a small greenhouse where he could grow rock garden plants from seed imported from Europe because at that time there were no sources for these plants in America. Typically, his success was phenomenal.

In the spring of 1923, spurred by his success in his own garden, he entered a small rock garden in a non-competing class at the spring Flower Show of the New York Horticultural Society. The interest this exhibit aroused in the public persuaded Marcel Le Piniec that there was a real need for a reli-



Marcel Le Piniec — For Whom the Award is named.

able source of choice rock garden plants in the metropolitan area. He opened a nursery which he called Mayfair, a name which since that day has been associated with the best of plant material for the rock garden.

The nursery business soon included the design and construction of rock gardens themselves and in 1927 Monsieur Le Piniec made a trip to Switzerland to recruit skilled help for his growing enterprise and to establish contacts with many nurseries for new material. For many years at the New York Flower Show, Le Piniec rock gardens were an outstanding feature, the recipients of numerous awards. In 1932, at the show his rock garden was a Gold Medal winner and carried off as well the Sweepstakes Cup for the best garden in the show.

In 1944, Marcel Le Piniec decided to retire and travel. He sold his Mayfair Nursery to Walter Kolaga and set out on a 15,000 mile exploration trip of the United States. He was looking for a particular kind of climate. This he found in the area of Medford, Oregon. There he built himself a house and started in the nursery business again.

In this area he soon met some keen plantsmen and made frequent trips into the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains exploring for plants. It was on one of these expeditions that he discovered the pure yellow *Lewisia cotyledon* now known as 'Carol Watson.' And on another expedition to the Umpqua Range he found the form of *Kalmiopsis* which now bears the name 'Le Piniec.'

It is most fitting therefore that as a nurseryman, propagator, and explorer, the name Marcel Le Piniec be associated with this award.

THE MARCEL LE PINIEC AWARD
1969
To Lawrence P. Crocker and Boyd C. Kline

It seems doubly apt that the first recipient of the Marcel Le Piniec Award is a combination of two outstanding plantsmen who by their indi-

vidual and joint endeavors have signally exemplified the qualifications of the award. It is also no coincidence that these two men were fellow townsmen, friends, and acolytes of the master plantsman for whom the award is named. The joint proprietors of the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery of Medford, Oregon, Lawrence P. Crocker and Boyd C. Kline, as first recipients of the Le Piniec Award set a high standard of achievement and are an inspiration to future explorers, propagators, disseminators, and lovers of choice plants for the American rock garden fraternity.

Lawrence Crocker is well known to members of the ARGS around the world as a man who has during the past three years made our Seed Exhange the source of extraordinary expansion of the range of seeds available and as an example of limitless devotion and efficiency. Most of us know him solely in this capacity and his modesty permits him to reveal only a glimpse of himself.

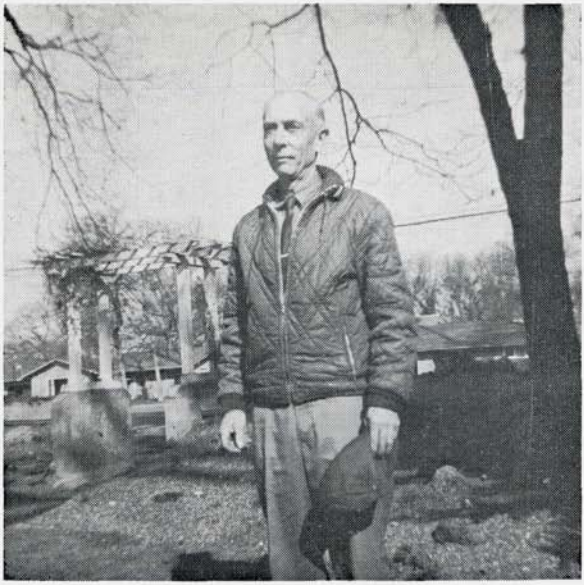
Lawrence was born in Alta Loma, Galveston County, Texas, in 1905. He lived there as a young boy until he moved with his family to a farm in the Willamette Valley of northern Oregon. He reports: "As long as I can remember I was fascinated by flowers, from the prairies of Texas to the woodlands of Oregon."

After finishing high school, young Crocker moved to southwestern Oregon where he took employment as a clerk in the Medford Post Office. He continued with the post office until his retirement, as Supervisor of the Central Point Post Office in 1966.

The area around Medford he soon discovered to be a botanical paradise and his enthusiasm for the native flora was ignited by a friendly companion, John Heckner, a well-known student of Oregon plants in the 1930's. whose name is commemorated by the *heckneri* variety of *Lewisia cotyledon.* Under Heckner's tutelage Lawrence got a sound education in the identity and distribution of local wildflowers. This combined well with a new interest in rock gardening stimulated by Lawrence's brother-in-law, C. L. McDonald of Salem, Oregon.

During the 1940's, however, Crocker's attention was lured into the field of stones and minerals, in which field he became a knowledgeable and expert lapidary worker. But his interest in plants was only dormant, not extinguished. It was a fellow employee in the post office, Boyd Kline, who reawakened the spark. Soon these two were exploring the countryside together for plants and were joined many times by Marcel Le Piniec on their expeditions. Because of their growing enthusiasm and with the encouragement of the old master Le Piniec, Crocker and Kline organized the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery to make available to others the native plants which they had come to love and learned to grow.

Together they built up a fine offering of plants based always on material collected only from areas being rapidly destroyed by logging and other disturbances of the ecological setting. Of great importance was their developing skill in propagating by seed, division, and cuttings. Especially fine forms of the native flora were selected for intensive propagation. Of particular note is their consistent effort to reseed disturbed areas in the wild. With his love of plants, Lawrence Crocker has always been an acting conservationist.



Lawrence P. Crocker

The other member of the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, Boyd Kline, is as well known as his partner to keen plantsmen in all parts of the world. Despite the fact that he is still regularly employed in the Medford Post Office, he somehow finds time to handle a large share of all the many nursery operations, to make frequent exploring trips and to carry on a tremendous correspondence with fellow plantsmen of many nations.

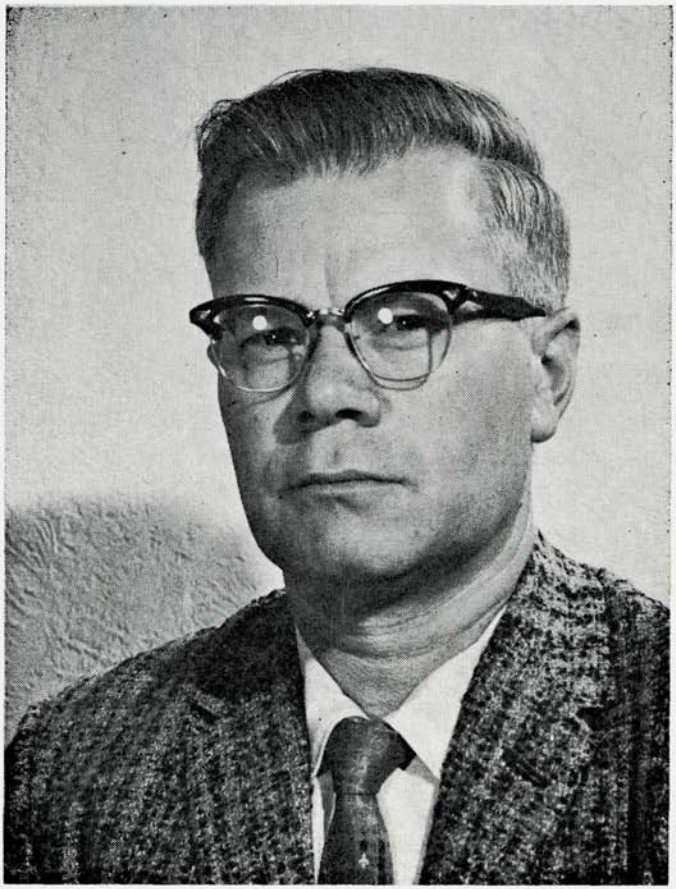
Boyd Kline was born in Williston, North Dakota, November 28, 1917. When he was five years old he moved with his family to a 20 acre ranch in southern Oregon where he lived through his school years. Because he lacked funds for college, he went directly from high school into postal service and marriage. In October of 1943, Boyd joined the Sea Bees for military service in which he was active until February of 1946, when he returned to work for the Post Office Department.

An early enthusiasm for flowers led him to grow a wide range of garden plants from tuberous begonias to gladioli, but the genus *Lilium* won his particular affection and interest. For fifteen years he grew every available lily from seed and undertook an extensive program of hybridizing, particularly of the native species. In this field he achieved a considerable fame and was for a term president of the Northwest group of the Lily Society, and was one of the two judges of the lily exhibit at the Seattle World's Fair.

In 1956, Boyd Kline met Marcel Le Piniec and immediately this meeting opened whole new avenues of interest and enthusiasm for a man already passionately engaged with plants. Though he remained faithful to his native lilies and maintained special corners of his small, intensively cultivated plot on Franquette Street in Medford, Oregon, for such specialties as *Lilium bolanderi,* soon there were screes and cliffs to accommodate the whole gamut of choice plants from the high Siskiyous and other nearby ranges. Lewisias be-

came a special passion, but all alpine flowers earned his affection and study. Every vacation and weekend was given over to exploring for plants. His perceptive and ranging eye soon distinguished especially choice forms. These he learned how to propagate and grow to perfection. Together with Crocker, who shared many of his early expeditions with Le Piniec, Boyd nourished an affection for the glistening flowers of the high mountains. To extend his range he joined rock garden societies in America, England and Scotland, which merely whetted an already ravenous appetite.

Soon he was growing alpines from around the world from seed, because he discovered that the select rock garden plants were not available in nurseries in America, nor indeed were choice American alpines. This prompted him to join forces with Crocker to begin a nursery to supply the rock garden fraternity with the plants of rare and special delights from his native flora. Not content with the ordinary forms, he searched out particularly good forms and began a program of hybridizing which has already produced outstanding introductions. Each year the catalogue of the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery has an enticing list of unusual natives in the best forms and always a few exciting new introductions. These have been sent to every continent.



Boyd C. Kline

Shipments of plants have brought in return an exchange of letters, a swapping of plants, and a wealth of friendship. Boyd Kline has won through his warm personal qualities, his tireless enthusiasm, his consumate skill with plants and his complete devotion to the special world of rock garden plants a host of admiring friends here and abroad.

Boyd Kline and Lawrence Crocker are ambassadors of the best sort; they spread the right gospel, are splendid men and superb plantsmen. There are none more worthy to carry on the traditions of the fine horticulturist for whom this award is named. I am deeply and personally moved by the privilege of presenting the first Marcel Le Piniec Award to Lawrence Crocker and Boyd Kline.

REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD ROCK GARDENER

ROBERT M. SENIOR, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

Last week I was browsing through a file containing letters written years ago by correspondents, may of whom have long since passed away. The thought then arose whether some of the old members of our Society might possibly be interested in our experiences, and as a result of reading these reminiscences, they, too, might be induced to tell us of their experiences.

My first recollection was of some of the annual meetings of our Society, when we had the rare opportunity of meeting each other, also of visiting some delightful gardens.

I think that it was at our first annual meeting that I met Mrs. Houghton and visited her delightful garden. Of all the beautiful flowers that were in bloom, strange to say, the one that I still carry in my mind's eye was not a rock plant, but a Peony native to the Caucasus Mountains, bearing the horrible name of *Paeonia mlokosevitschii*. As far as I know, this species is the only yellow wild peony in the world. I went home resolved to try to get seeds somewhere in order to raise it. I secured seeds on two different occasions and in both they failed to germinate; and so, up to this date, I have never been able to add this plant to my collection of Peonies.

Speaking of Peonies, I had a very interesting experience with Mr. A. P. Saunders of Hamilton College, in New York State. In his day, he was probably the greatest authority on Peonies in the United States. It was sometime during the Second World War, about 1943, that I wrote him asking some question in regard to Peonies. He replied, stating that he judged I must be interested in the genus, and then he added that his gardener had been drafted, and as a consequence he was unable to tend to his garden properly, that he had a lot of hybrid seed, and if I cared to have some, he would be glad to let me have a few. Well, you can imagine my reply. Briefly, these seeds germinated and the resulting plants are still in my garden, plants with huge single flowers that are the admiration of any chance visitors. Incidentally, Mr. Saunders died a short time ago, and his daughter, Miss Sylvia Saunders, has continued his work and conducts a nursery at Clinton, New York.

One of the annual meetings that I attended was at the home of Mrs. De Bevoise, where we saw her beautiful garden at Green Farms, Connecticut. Then there was another meeting at the home of Mr. Percy Houghton in the

Pocono Mountains. Mr. Houghton had a magnificent rock garden with a huge number of rock plants. Surprisingly, of all these plants, I remember best the collection of Sempervivums. These were a solid mass about three feet in diameter and planted so close together that it reminded me of a crazy quilt.

For many years Mrs. Senior and I were ardent collectors of the family of Campanulaceae. Our quest for seeds or plants led us to a wide correspondence with people both in Europe and in the United States. For example, we secured the name of a French priest stationed in Beyrouth, who apparently was interested in horticulture. In brief, we wrote to him and in due course exchanged seeds. It was in this way that we secured seeds of the only yellow campanula in the world, *C. sulphurea*. Many years ago, I believe I wrote a short article for the *Bulletin* about this plant, and also included a picture.

During the Second World War we had some correspondence with Mr. Clarence Elliott who owned the Six Hills Nursery at Stevenage, England. In one of his letters, he mentioned the hardships that England suffered at that time; that before the war he had employed over twenty people at his nursery, but now had only three men remaining. Consequently, he had scrapped all his herbaceous plants and about 60,000 alpine plants in pots, and instead, was raising some medicinal plants, such as belladonna, which, I believe he sold to some government agency.

For several years we corresponded with Mr. A. Clifford Crook, Bromley, England, an ardent student of the Campanulaceae. About fifteen years ago he published a book on Campanulas which is still a standard book on this genus. Almost every known Campanula is described, and numerous species are pictured. It was published by Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, and possibly they still have copies for sale. If you are interested in this genus, you will find this an indispensable reference book. Incidentally, I might mention that some of the rarest Campanula seeds were secured from him.

Possibly some of our members still remember Dr. Fritz Lemperg, Frohnleiten, Austria. I think he was probably the most outstanding horticulturist in Austria. It was from him that we received seeds of *Campanula zoysii,* a native of Yugoslavia, and perhaps the quaintest of any member of this genus, with flowers that have been described as somewhat like a soda bottle in shape. Years ago the Royal Horticultural Society gave it an Award of Merit. I wish I could say that I was successful in raising this plant. The seeds that I planted germinated and at least we saw the leaves. Alas! Two summer days with the thermometer soaring in the 90's and the seedlings all succumbed. Perhaps this plant can be raised in the Pacific Northwest, but not here in southwest Ohio. Possibly some member of the Society has raised it. If so, he should really tell us about it in the *Bulletin*. Incidentally, in his book, Mr. Crook has a good picture of the plant.

The old Ohio Society issued a Seed List as early as 1930. Dr. Worth, I believe, was a member and for several years previous to the formation of our American Rock Garden Society sent us seeds that he had gathered in his numerous expeditions to western United States. About 1940, when Mr. E. K. Ball conducted a botanical expedition to Asia Minor, Dr. Worth and I subscribed to one share in the expedition, and later when we received our share of the seeds, Dr. Worth and I divided them between us. We had the satisfaction of raising some new plants, but unfortunately none remain today.

I should like to mention a few of the many fine horticulturists that we met in western North America, and of our experiences with them, but I fear any long account would bring this article to an unconscionable length, so I shall say but a few words about some of them: of Mrs. Marriage, Colorado Springs, with whom I spent a whole day viewing the alpine flowers near the summit of Pike's Peak; of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry, Portland, Oregon, one of the most expert horticulturists that we have ever met; of Mrs. Regan, Butte, Montana, with her relatively small garden of exquisite alpines; of Mrs. Lester Rowntree who wrote a fine book on the wild flowers of California. At her hillside home near Carmel, surrounded by rare flowers, we chatted about plants for almost two hours. All these people and their gardens still "flash upon the inward eye, that is the bliss of solitude."

Just one final thought, trite thought it may be: In this world there are people more affluent than we, those who collect ancient china ware, rare paintings, sculpture, but we of more modest means derive our pleasure from our gardens. It is then that we till our soil, insert in the ground our favorite plants, and banish from our minds the terrifying problems of this turbulent world.

And if we desire to extend our interest in gardening, why not start collecting a particular genus of plants, not some members of the Compositae, like Asters, of which we could not collect anywhere nearly all of the species in a lifetime, but rather some less numerous plants comprising a genus, which we might hope to secure in a reasonable length of time. And, if we continue this avocation, it will probably lead us far afield; in visits to other gardens, in studying books, in corresponding with other kindred spirits, for we will always find, somewhere in this world, people having the same interest that we possess.

Richard Jefferies, in one of his essays, possibly with some exaggeration, exclaims: "The hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty, are the only hours when we really live."

* * * *

A SUMMER SEED DISTRIBUTION — From our ARGS Seed Exchange Director, Mr. Henry Fuller, P.O. Box 158, Easton, Conn. 06425, we learn of an exciting innovation in seed distribution. Two factors are present to make this summer distribution possible: first, the enthusiastic seed gathering and sharing of our members 'down under,' and second, the fact that a great many of their plants produce seed that germinate best when planted while fresh, a condition which pertains, as well, to some of our Northern Hemisphere Plants. Let Mr. Fuller tell it in his own way.

"We have received large quantities of seeds from generous members in the Southern Hemisphere—from Chile, Australia and New Zealand. From New Zealand came many seeds from individual members, and a very large collection from the Canterbury Alpine Garden Society. Mrs. Roi, director of their seed exchange, writes:

> 'Our members went mad collecting, and we have seed for you that, as far as I know, has never been available overseas before. We have all been so thrilled with our A.R.G.S. membership allocation . . . that they have collected seed as never before. The only sad part is that it will be

past its prime before distribution. However, I feel that the seed is so varied that some good germination should be possible in the non-compositae genera. Urge your members to be patient; I found that even *fresh* gaultheria seed took nearly 2 years to germinate.'

"It would be a shame to keep this seed, much of it reputed to germinate only when fresh, another six months. It is not practical to send out a list at this time to the whole membership, but we have decided to make a limited distribution immediately to those who donated seed last year. Hopefully, some of us will succeed in growing plants not grown here before, and in producing seed for future distribution at the regular season.

"If this summer distribution to donors meets with approval, we will plan to repeat it next summer and include some early northern seed which germinate only when fresh, and to encourage members to make a special effort next spring to collect and send us such seed."

OMNIUM-GATHERUM

If you are interested in Ing. Hans Honcik's article "Engleria" in this *Bulletin,* you may enjoy a few words in explanation. Mr. Richard Langfelder, our good member who gardens in Chappaqua, New York and winters in Florida, was asked by the editor to solicit articles suitable for the Bulletin from Austrian botanists and rock gardeners as it was known that Richard came to the United States from Austria. As a result of his efforts Hans Honcik consented to write a series of articles on the genus *Saxifraga.* His first installment tells us about those saxifrages classified as "Engleria." Mr. Langfelder has given us a few words about the author.

He writes, "Hans Honcik was born in Upper Austria at Wels in 1903. He became a teacher and then principal of the large high school of Wels. As a teacher, his main subject was Natural History. As a young boy, the first book he bought was about plants and plants continue to be his greatest interest. After his retirement, he devoted himself to alpines. His fame among alpine gardeners became world-wide and his two articles concerning the genus *Soldanella* (AGS *Bulletin* Vol. 31, No. 3—September 1963 and Vol. 35, No. 3—September 1967) are the first detailed descriptions of this charming alpine.

"Saxifrage or Rockfoil, generally called "Steinbreck" in Austria and Germany—"the plant that breaks rocks"—is a large family with many hundreds of species. As of now, we have only one book in the English language, namely *Saxifrages* by Walter Irving and R. A. Malby, published about 1916, which is now outdated.

"I have great hope that our rock gardeners will receive this contribution by Hans Honcik with enthusiasm and will wish to have the whole genus covered by him in coming years so that eventually all of his articles on Saxifrages may be published in book form as an authoritative work, by our Society. Saxifrages are the queens of alpine gardens and we should be very grateful to Mr. Honcik for having undertaken this tremendous work. With no Saxifrages there is neither an alpine garden nor a rock garden!"

SEED GATHERING TIME—This is to remind you that your contributions of seed to the 1970 ARGS Seed Exchange must be mailed to the new Seed

Exchange Director, Mr. Henry R. Fuller, P.O. Box 158, Easton, Conn. 06425. He will appreciate greatly your extreme care in gathering, cleaning, packaging, and labeling your seed. Especially important is the correct and legible labeling of each packet. Neither you nor the Director can afford to guess. If you are in doubt as to the proper naming of certain seed, so indicate to the Director. The sooner your contribution reaches the Director, the better, but in no case should they reach him later than November 10, 1969.

INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS — Last night (August 25) was a wonderful night. In Seattle, the Eleventh International Botanical Congress was getting into full stride. At the Eames Theater in the Seattle Science Center a reception for Mayor Miller, of Seattle, and the officials of the Congress was in process. Across the fountain-dotted water concourse from the theater in another part of the scintillating white building that is part of the Science Center complex was another attraction which drew the delegates in large numbers during the evening hours. Under the auspices of the Botany Department of the University of Washington and through the efforts of members of the Friends of the University of Washington Arboretum Inc., an exhibit had been set up featuring ericaceous plants that thrive in Northwest gardens. Members of the Friends, many of them ARGS members as well, had been tireless in their efforts to make this exhibit both beautiful and worthy of the interest of the visiting botanists.

The weather was perfect, the setting exquisite, the exhibit stimulating, and the delegates most animated and appreciative. Your editor and his wife were among the several hosts and hostesses for the evening at the exhibit. It was our duty and our pleasure to mingle with the visitors, welcome them to the exhibit, answer questions concerning the hundreds of plants shown, and in every way foster friendly exchanges of information, whether botanical or otherwise, and to help make our guests glad that they had come to our great Northwest.

The editor, during his four hours on duty, met with, talked to, and thoroughly enjoyed men and women botanists from many lands. Sometimes the language barrier posed problems, but the warm clasping of hands, the smiles, and the happy eyes bridged this barrier and carried messages of good will and friendship. There were a surprising number of lady botanists, many of them with "Dr." before their names. Other ladies present were the wives of botanists. Some of them were in native costume; here one in full Japanese dress, kimono, obi and all; there a graceful native of India in colorful sari. The men, many of them, were hirsute in varying degrees, and surprisingly enough, quite attractive. It is odd how some of us lifelong clean-shaven men look with disfavor on the males resplendent in the new bearded mode, but it must be admitted that on botanists, beards seem quite a fitting adornment.

There were delegates from Mexico, Brazil, England, Germany, France, Canada, India, Russia, Australia, Japan, and many other countries, as well as from many states in our own country; all botanists, all interested in each other, in the activities of the Congress, and in the plants exhibited. They were told that these plants all came from local gardens, many of them being indigenous. One delegate was interested in *Vaccinium parvifolium*, another in the Gaultherias. The heathers especially interested one young man from South Africa. Another was heard to deplore, in a manner quite facetious, the species name

of *Epigaea asiatica* because to his superficial judgment it was no different than the well-known *Epigaea repens* of his native state. The Cassiopes and Phyllodoces intrigued some botanists and the numerous species of Vaccinium and Arctostaphylos were commented on by others. Of course, there were the Rhododendron devotees, although almost none of the exhibited plants were in flower. Most surprising was the number of visitors, mostly from the eastern United States, who expressed interest in our common salal, *Gaultheria shallon*. Though not native to their home states, nevertheless, they recognized it because it is used as "greens" there by the florists.

Many delegates were lavish in their praise. They praised everything: the Northwest, its scenery, its flora, and its people; Seattle and the hospitality and friendliness of its citizens, bus drivers included; the excellent arrangements for their comfort, entertainment, and easy movement from place to place in the city; the lovely weather; the fairyland of the Science Center; the knowledge and dedication of those responsible for the exhibit and the plants themselves so beautifully and tastefully shown. Many were thrilled by side trips taken into the surrounding country and into the mountains. They were a happy group of people.

All in all, the editor is pleased to report to our ARGS members this very notable occasion where botanists from many parts of the world mingled in Seattle in enthusiastic fellowship. He is also proud to report that many ARGS members had a hand in making this Eleventh International Botanical Congress a success, though mostly their efforts were felt only on the fringes of the activities of the Congress. Not so with such members as Brian Mulligan, Joseph Witt and Dr. Arthur Kruckeberg, who being connected with either the University of Washington Arboretum or the University's Botany Department, had key spots in the overall planning and execution. The lesson learned is that Botany, the science of plants, is one of the few areas in man's endeavors that can transcend the many restricting conditions that keep men apart when their natural desire is to be friends.

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