

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Edinburgh Show 11/4/16



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Edinburgh Botanic Garden is recognised as being one of the best public gardens in the world. We in Scotland are lucky that entrance to this horticultural wonderland is free. We might complain about parking restrictions and costs but at any time of the year and on any day of the week the Botanic Gardens will inspire and delight you. Not only can we visit the gardens but thanks to the Regius Keeper and in a much more hands on way to John Mitchell and Elspeth MacIntosh, the Gardens allow their plants to visit us at SRGC shows. Their exhibits are always packed with interesting plants, some familiar and many distinct with a wee, special history, of their own. This year in their display at Hex-

ham I noticed different forms of *Iris bucharica*. The well known, usual, form is bicolored yellow and white with dark lines

on the falls, as pictured above right. The 'new' forms varied in colour from deep golden yellow [below right] to very pale yellow like those on the right. Some had a greenish tint. The thing which piqued my interest further was that there their markings varied in shade and in number. It is marvellous to come across variations in a plant which one has grown and known for years. These new collections certainly add to the variety of this well loved species. I have no idea of just

how many Gold Medals like today's have ben awarded to RBGE displays over the years. On behalf of everyone in the SRGC I want to say thank you the Regius Keeper for their continued support of our shows.





Judges are vital and central to our all shows but they often remain in the background. Decisions are not made lightly and as the picture here shows they are only arrived at after much deep thought and discussion. Their hair colour is testament to their great wisdom. As you can see in the pictures below, at Edinburgh there were so many excellent plants in many classes that the judges had a very difficult time when deciding which would be first, second or third in the class. When it came to deciding the winner of the Forrest Medal and the other trophies their task just became harder.

Show Secretary, David Millward was especially pleased with the large number of entries in Section II. [bottom] This bodes well for the future of the Edinburgh shows.







Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia subsp. *nova*

This *Meconopsis* has been tentatively given several names, including *M. integrifolia* subsp. *souliei* and (tongue in cheek) *M. pseudointegrifoloides*. The present best guess is that it is a new subspecies of *M. pseudointegrifolia*. It comes from mountains that are rather drier than those where the parent species usually grows. This subspecies is characteristically very short, particularly as the first flower opens, always has crinkled petals, and many of them, and has very hairy leaves. This plant was grown from seed sown in January 2014, in a compost containing grit, bark, perlite etc., open but moisture-retaining.

Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia
subsp. *nova*



Primula sherriffae shown by the RBG Ed.

'Primulaworld' describes where and when it was discovered. In 1934, Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff discovered Primula plants growing on a cliff on the Diwangiri-Trashigong Road in Bhutan. Collection #552 was named Primula sherriffae in honour of George Sherriff's mother.



Iris aucheri is a native to what Kurdish people know as Kurdistan but which we take longer to describe as S.E Turkey, N. Iraq, W. Iran and N. Syria. This nice dark flowered form was shown by SRGC President David Rankin and his wife Stella. Luckily for its admirers this form was for sale on Kevock Plants stand.

Sue Simpson won the Iris class with her wonderful potful of Iris magnifica



THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB
1931-93
EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIANS
SHOW 2016
R. & D. Rankin
Landscape
SECOND PRIZE

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB
EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIANS
SHOW 2016
Sue Simpson
Iris
SECOND PRIZE



Rhododendron 'Lucy Lou' from Stan da Prato one of his winning entries which helped him to take home the Reid Rose Bowl for Most Points in Section I



John di Paola took the Kilbride Cup for Best Plant in a Pot up to 17.5 cm with his Fritillaria aurea 'Golden Flag'





Dare you enter 6 of your best small plants in one class? Sue Simpson, Cyril Lafong, Stan da Prato, Stella & David Rankin did Well done to them! all these great plants in one class!



above— Sue Simpson's winning six

- Dionysia 'Lycona'
- Primula allonii Cranbourne'
- Androsace muscoidea 'Schacht's form'
- Primula allonii 'Eureka'
- Saxifraga 'Mollie Broom'
- Primula marginata 'Casterino'





Peter Semple with his fabulous three pans.

Narcissus bulbocodium, Tecophilea cyanocrocus and Ranunculus calandrinoides. These three were 'absolutely fabulous' but incredibly they were placed second. 'incredible' ...yes but just look at the three plants which made up the winning triplet for Cyril Lafong!. There they are side by side. Cyrils triumphant tri- loga comprised Pleione x confusa, Pulsatilla grandis 'Budapest Blue' and Trillium rivale. Six terrific contenders for the Forrest Medal. However all six were beaten by Alan & Jane Thompson's Pleione Britannia 'Doreen' [below left]



The three entries in the two pan Primulaceae Class would have made a nice six pan entry if they could have been combined. These six illustrate some of the genera apart from Primula itself which make up the big Family, Primulaceae. All members of the family have similar 'primrose'-shaped flowers except for Soldanella, Cyclamen and Dodecatheon. Give yourself a prize if you think of others. Tell the forum.





Best European [or American] Primula was Stella & David Rankin's *Primula allionii* x *pubescens* 'Lilac Fairy'. You can see it. It is that great big one in three of the pictures! The photos show the high standard of cultivation and hence competition in the Primula classes as well as their wide range of flower colours.





COMMITTEE
Primula odontocalyx var. *alba* (*P. tenuissima*)

Primula odontocalyx (family Primulaceae, Section Petiolares) is a widespread species centred in S. Shaanxi. The flowers are pale purple-pink. It is named for the tothing of the calyx lobes. Characteristics that distinguish this species are efarinose, no hairs, basal scales absent at flowering, and a scape higher than the leaves.

P. tenuissima is not a valid name, but refers to stoloniferous plants (cf. *P. odontocalyx*) from Hubei (south of Shaanxi) with a slender scape and usually bearing one pale purple-pink flower.

Primula odontocalyx var. *alba* (*P. tenuissima* var. *alba*) was introduced in cultivation in 2013. It grows in Wushan county (west of Hubei), Chongqing, China. In cultivation it requires a humus rich compost that is never allowed to dry out completely. A cool and shaded environment would suit it best.

Primula odontocalyx alba was recommended for a Certificate of Preliminary Commendation by the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. This means they recognised its great potential as a plant for exhibition. It was shown by Margaret & Henry Taylor. The notes above are Cyril's which accompanied his plant at the Hexham show.

Tom Green's *Primula henricii* was first in the Class.

Best Asiatic *Primula* was David Millward's *P. bracteata* x *dubernardiana*



Thanks to Alan Furness

3 CELMISIA HYBRIDS RIPPED FROM SEED FROM THE SAME SEED PARENT TO SHOW VARIATION

SEED WAS COLLECTED FROM A PLANT OF CELMISIA SEMI-CORDATA SSP AURIGANS IN LATE SUMMER 2013. THE SEED PARENT PLANT HAS BEEN RIPPED FROM ROSS GRAHAM WILD COLLECTED SEED (E. OTAGO, SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND)

THE 23 SEEDLINGS RIPPED FROM THE SOWING (14/1/14) HAVE BEEN GROWN ON IN AN OPEN GARDEN NURSERY BED. THE 3 YOUNG PLANTS EXHIBITED HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF THE SEED PARENT (RIGID GLAZED LEAVES, LEMONY SINGLE ROSETTE ONLY AND THE WILDLY OTHER PARENT GROWING NURSERY. THEY COULD BE OTHER C. SEMI-CORDATA SSP AURIGANS, SILVER LEAVED C. SEMI-CORDATA OR C. VERBASCIFOLIA (WITH THE LARGE SOFT FURRY GREEN LEAVES, BUT NO GOLD). ALL OF THESE PLANTS WERE ALSO RIPPED FROM WILD COLLECTED SEED.

HYBRID 1 WIDER, SOFT LEAVES FURRY TO TOUCH. DISTINCT GOLD PELLICLE.
SEED PARENT X CELMISIA VERBASCIFOLIA

HYBRID 2 NARROWER, STIFFER LEAVES. DISTINCT GOLD PELLICLE ON INNER LEAVES
SEED PARENT X ANOTHER CELMISIA SEMI-CORDATA SSP AURIGANS OR C. VERBASCIFOLIA

HYBRID 3 RIGID NARROW LEAVES, SILVER WITH GOLD TIP TO EMERGING LEAVES.
SEED PARENT X CELMISIA SEMI-CORDATA ('WINTER' SILVER FORM)





Two at the top from Mala Janes, Pleione Vesuvius 'Tawny Owl' and Fritillaria amana, which won the Midlothian bowl for Best Plant in Section II.

Section II winners



Tony Taziker won the two pans from one Country with two excellent plants of Anemone thalictroides, the yellow flowered 'Betty Blake' and the purple flowered 'Oscar Schoaf'





Some entries
from Section II





***Crocus cvijicii* (White Flowered)**

Crocus cvijicii grows in mountain meadows over limestone in Serbia, Albania, Macedonia and N Greece. The flowers are usually yellow and come out just as leaves emerge. Cream flower selections have occurred over recent years with a named clone, 'Cream of Creams'. The pure white form is much less common.

In cultivation, the plant requires cool conditions and should not be completely dried out during its summer dormancy.

Shown by Cyril



Cyril's white *Crocus cvijicii* was new to me. It was a wonderful clean colour. Also new to me was Jean Wylie's Chinese *Viola hancockii*, grown from seed from Gothenburg Botanic Garden.

Margaret & Henry Taylor showed their prowess by winning the 3 pan grown from seed class with their own hybrid *Narcissus* 'Ballet Girl', *Primula marginata* alba and *Fritillaria moggridgei*.



Tell your friends about the wonderful plants at the SRGC shows!

