

Glasgow 2010



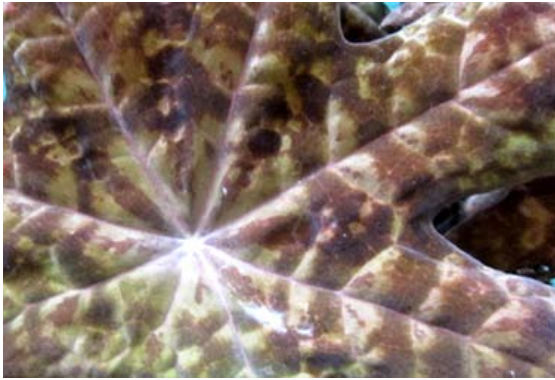
I always associate the town hall in Milngavie with sunshine and happiness. It was in Glasgow that I met many of the SRGC 'worthies' of the earlier era. They welcomed me to their meetings and shows more than 30 years ago. David Livingstone, a former SRGC President told me that the show is not all about prizes. If any member has a plant which interests him or her, the chances are that other members will find it interesting as well. Today I sometimes think we seem to have fewer exhibitors but the range of plants shown is incredible. Think of any species and I doubt if any of them at Glasgow was represented by more than a few examples because as a group of gardeners we grow and show an extraordinary range of species and varieties. The result is a flower show more interesting and more varied than any others. New things constantly turn up to excite us and further our inquisitive natures. Acquisitive too! Glasgow always has a good group plant stall. My garden has benefited from purchases made by 30 years of visiting Glasgow shows.



A huge number of plants on sale at Glasgow



Show secretary John Lee was a paragon of equanimity all day even in the face of some difficulties which would have made a novice show secretary run for cover. 'How John kept his cool' could have been the thought for the day. Judges had a good range of plants to choose their winning selection from and Glasgow has more winners than most shows. Prizes for all sorts of plants and groupings mean that most of the trophies circulate among members.



Podophyllum delavayii is a relatively new introduction to Scottish shows. I first saw it at Gardening Scotland a few years ago on John Amand's stand among assorted woodlanders like Paris, Arisaemas and Trilliums. It looks like a hothouse plant or several woolly sycamore leaves stuck in a pot – but what wonderful patterns on the leaves! Its name tells us it is not new at all but was first sent back from China to Paris or London by the French missionary Pere Delavayi. Last month we had Pere David's Fritillaria and this month Delavay's Podophyllum.

The French missionaries sent back herbarium material of infinite numbers of plants. Pere Delavay collected from 1882. He was meticulous and noted almost every plant he saw and variations in them. His staggering 200,000 specimens represent over 4000 species of mainly alpine flora, of which 1500 were new discoveries. I fancy these specimens whetted the appetite of men like George

Forrest and Frank Kingdon Ward who later introduce many of their plants to our gardens.



**Pere
Delavayi
who died
of
bubonic
plague in
Yunnan in
1895**



A French missionary travelling in Mandchouria.



From the USA comes another beauty! Trillium grandiflorum flora plena. Of all the Trilliums this must be queen, unless there is a double pink one or just imagine a double trillium erectum! Most of us grow some trilliums and we would all like the double but it is quite slow to bulk up so you just have to buy a wee plant and wait for it to increase.



Trillium pusillum is much smaller but quite a charmer.

Also from America came Phlox grayi



This fabulous Castilleja and the Phlox were shown by Margaret and Henry Taylor.

Sam Sutherland had a fabulous composite, *Hymenoxys acaulis* v *caespitosa* in his 2 pan entry along with the *Astragalus* below. Sorry Sam I missed its name! But well done these 'American Astragali' are difficult customers to please especially as far away from the Rockies as Kincardine!



Among the *Androsaces* was another American *Douglasia laevigata*.



Although carrying the more northerly epithet, *Aquilegia Canadensis* must surely grow in the American Rockies as well as the Canadian and *Anemonella thalictroides* comes from the Smokey Mountains. The *Aquilegia* never looked better than it does here!



Supreme among the Americans are the Lewisias. Gardeners have had a hand in the wonderful selection which we have today. The wildlings [especially *L. Cotyledon*] are a bit less showy and less brightly coloured but they show just how a species can be improved by careful selection and breeding.



Rhododendron 'Dora amateis' is an American grown hybrid which does exceptionally well in Scotland. It is a wee bit hardier than some others. This is Stan da Prato's great example.

Cyril's 6 Pan Jubilee Class entry featured the New Mexican[I think] *Primula ellisae*.





Fred and Alice Hunt with Alison Ward

SOME ANDROSACES



Androsace muscoidea



Androsace vandellii



Androsace hirtella



Androsace villosa



Androsace cyllindrica x *hirtella*

It is good to see several species together so that you can compare and contrast them. Seeing the smaller ones you realise just how fabulous is Cyril's Forrest medal winner, *Androsace vandellii*.



Daphne arbuscula radicans



Cypripedium fasciolatum x henryi



Erysimum helveticum var. drenowskyi



Cypripedium 'Sabine'



Pleione rakata 'Dusky'



Cypripedium fasciolatum x calceolus 'Sunny'





Glasgow has classes for cut flowers which add to the interest. Just look at the variety of colour and forms in these Narcissi



Primula 'Kusum Krishna' raised by Graham Butler is a super new auricula. Several were on sale at the plants sale!



Rh. Dora Amateis and Rh. 'Wee Bee'



Rhododendron 'Wren', a fine Glendoik hybrid



Take your pick from these beauties!

The hall is lit up in afternoon by sunshine streaming in the west windows.



Erythronium helenae Mount St Helens!

What a great show and great plants. Thank you Glasgow for a great day out and more plants for my garden!