

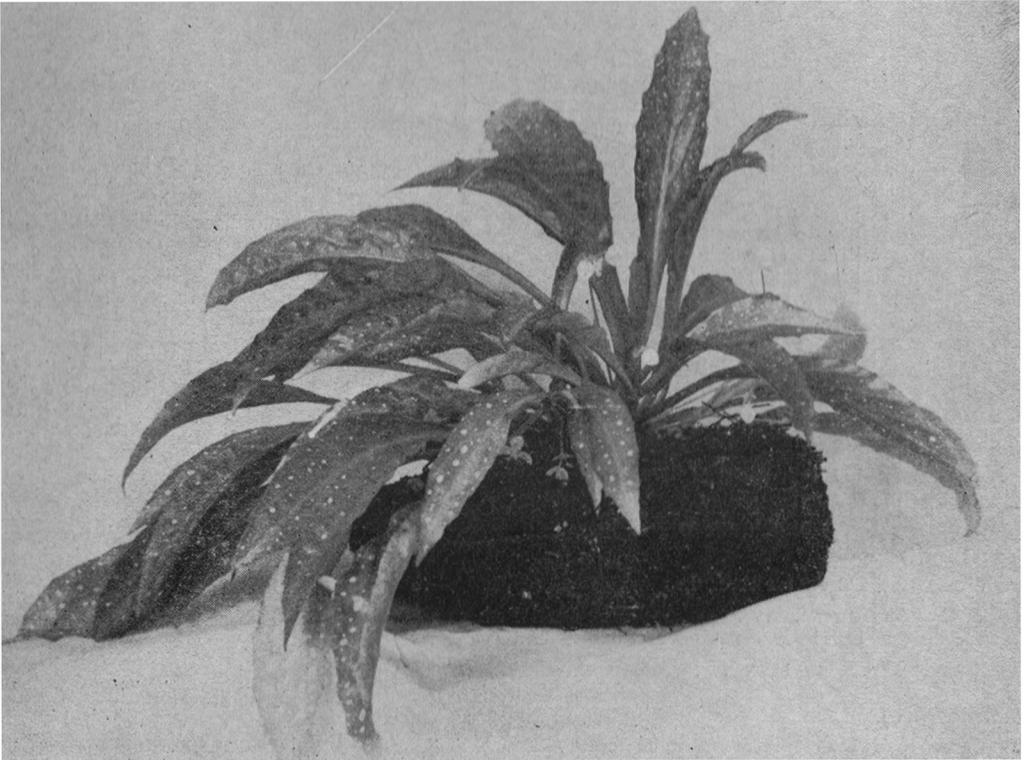
# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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**Begonia Herbacea Vell.**

Editor . . . . . N. Trumond Peterson, 1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.  
Advertising Manager . . . . . John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

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## AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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### **Clarence Hall Becomes President**

This month Clarence Hall, of Northridge, California, assumes the office of President of the American Begonia Society, following many years of work for the Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hall joined the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch (Ventura) of the American Begonia Society in 1937, where they are still members. They made their home in Ventura for many years. Mr. Hall was twice President of the Ventura Branch and held several offices on the National Board.

He was elected President-Elect of the National Board at the convention in Glendale in December, 1942, and took office as President in January, 1944, but due to the fiscal year change, served only until September.

The Halls are affiliate members of the Glendale Branch.

Mr. Hall has been connected with the Prudential Insurance Company for thirty-one years. In 1953 he was transferred to the southern office where at

present he is supervisor of Prudential salesmen for the eleven western states.

The Halls have always been loyal, hard-working members. We are proud to have a very worth-while President in Mr. Clarence Hall, and a lovely first lady in Mrs. Hall.

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### **The New President's Letter**

I feel honored to have been appointed President-Elect to fill that vacancy, and subsequently to assume the office of President and the duties involved. I realize its challenge and recognize that my duties will be to "organize, deputize, and supervise." It will also be my duty to keep loose ends together, to maintain and enhance harmony and good-will amongst us all, and to go forward in all our endeavors.

At the time that this is written I am endeavoring to select as many new people for appointive offices as is possible, and from diversified Branches, bearing in mind that we are anxious to have the most capable people on the Board. I assure you that I want the younger people in the Society, and especially to have them where possible on the National Board. It takes training in everything—and for progress—and these younger officers should be trained in the local Branches for their ultimate destination on the National Board.

It is my sincere desire to give the members of our Society the best organization possible, an interesting, informative, and accurate magazine, and a greater understanding and appreciation of what the Society stands for, and to enhance and improve our personal and Branch relationships. Each month I hope to reach all of you in this informal chat together. If you have suggestions, tell me about them. I will listen and consider. I fully recognize the fact that what really counts is what you learn after you know it all and I am still learning, and will be appreciative of your help, and considerate of your desires.

CLARENCE HALL

# BRAZILIAN BEGONIAS

11—*Begonia herbacea* Vell.

By MOYSES KUHLMANN

In this number we are introducing the curious *Begonia herbacea* Vell., which is little known and quite different from all the others, as can be seen from the clear photographs that illustrate this article. These characteristics gave a few botanists good reason to consider it, as well as the species of this section, a well defined genus of the *Begoniaceae* family.

Thus they were given the names of *Trachelanthus* and *Trachelocarpus* (*Trachelo* "neck" + *anthus* "flower" and *carpus* "fruit"), having in mind the peculiar situation of the parts of the female flower in relation to the fruit or ovary; that is, they are separated from the latter by an unusual lengthening of the neck.

As many other authors, Alphonsus De Candolle, in his monography in Martiu's *Flora Brasiliensis*, considers the species of this group just a section, the last of the genera (Section XIV. *Trachelocarpus*).

Although the photographs shown here are clear enough to show that these begonias really differ, in many respects, from those which we are used to seeing in our gardens, hot houses and vases [pots here], it is worth while to describe them.

The first peculiarity is the epiphytic habitat of the species of this group. There are, mainly in the Serra do Mar, many climbing begonias and even creeping ones that go up the trees; but the species of this section grow and live attached to the trunks of trees, without any contact with the medium earth, and, the same way as the orchids, bromeliaceae and an infinity of other epiphytic plants, these begonias take nothing from the trees to which they cling. Therefore they can go on living on dead trunks and develop admirably, on "xaxim" (giant tree fern, "Cyathea" fiber), as is the case of the specimen which illustrates this article.

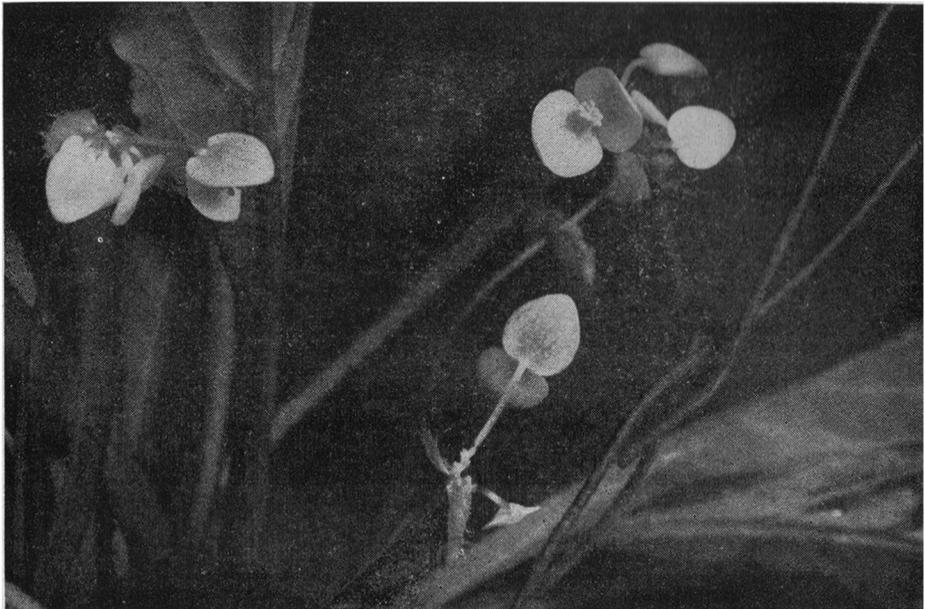


PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

Another particular noticed in this species is the symmetrical and lanceform leaves, since, in the *Begonia* genus the oblique or assymetrical and distinctly peciolate forms of leaf predominate, here there is almost imperceptible transition between the long attenuated base of the leaf and a very short petiole interposed between it and the rhizome. The diversity of the inflorescence and flowers, however, resides in the unusual particularities: the male inflorescence (photo 1) with long penduncle, terminates in two cordiform (heart-shaped) bracts with imbricate margins, protecting a concentrated cyme, which supports the buds of five to seven pediceled flowers, which open in a centrifugal succession. The floral involucre is constituted here by one pair of cordiform segments, corresponding to the sepals, and the internal pair, corresponding to the petals and appearing on nearly all other begonias, is missing. The female flower seen in photo 2 is solitary and sessile, since the triangular ovary is connected to the rhizome by a rudimentary pedicel only, and sends out a long neck, on the apex of which the parts of the involucre and the

stigma are inserted. Here the involucre is also constituted of three, rarely four, pieces, corresponding to the segments of the calix, and therefore, the interior involucre or corolla, usually found though rudimentary in flowers of the other begonias, is absent.

It is evident that we are before an uncommon species of *Begonia*, however, a very interesting one and one of easy culture. If it has a support of hard "xaxim" or a pot containing segments of the same material, maintained constantly damp, the result of this minimum care will be the growth of many ramifications of the rhizome. From these ramifications emerge almost all year round, healthy, light green leaves, with silver spots, and the inflorescences, particularly the male which bloom in succession for several months, with their heartshaped, pink or white, bivalve buds, exposing when opened the small crowd of golden anthers.

At least two of this species have been found in the flora of the state of Sao Paulo. The one that illustrates this article, the *Begonia herbacea* Vell. is native

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# Begonia Metallica and its Offspring

(This is the second of a series of programs on the Hirsute Group to be given by Mrs. Ernest C. Drew to the William Penn Branch, A.B.S.Q

THE FIRST session of this series was devoted to the species from which the so-called Hirsute Group is derived. A brief review may be helpful. Remember that, by definition, this group is distinguished by bearded flowers, regardless of the texture of the leaves. The most prolific species are: *B. scharffi*, soft hairy, pointed leaves, a generally rosy appearance; *B. scharffiana*, darker, rounded, white hairy leaves, with overlapping basal lobes, and a tendency to droop; *B. echinosepala*, a small plant of open, branching habit, very small, light green, smooth leaves; *B. metallica*, *ivost*, yet hairy, angled leaves, upright growth. The next two are in-laws, placed here because, mated to the hirsute kinds they have produced cultivars with hairy flowers. They are: *B. angularis*, narrow leaves of gray-green tafeta, with grayer veins, a stiffly erect plant, and *B. sanguinea*, a sprawly plant with waxy smooth leaves, very red below. *B. luxurians*, the palm begonia, and *B. gigantea*, India's three foot giant, have affected the group very little.

In choosing a subsection of this group for today's discussion, I have passed over the children of *B. scharffi*, because they are mostly too much alike to be easily distinguished. It is little help to be told that Begonia A is larger than the type and that Begonia B is smaller than the type, if you are not exactly sure that you have the type at hand. I omitted *B. angularis* and its derivatives because I have had little experience with them, whereas our president, Mrs. Way, has been growing and comparing them for a long time. On the contrary, though I have been working on *B. scharffiana's* cultivars for years, I want to study them further before talking about them. At present I am

confused by duplications: (a) many differing plants bearing the same name, (b) many different names for the same plant. *B. metallica* presents fewer problems, so I begin with her.

One's first impression of *B. metallica* is of shininess as of polished metal. A closer look shows many white hairs on the upper surface of the dark green leaves, and the sharp angled lobes on the side opposite the sinus. Turn over the leaves and you see that the newer ones are lined with dark red, except for a light green line around the edge. Older leaves have lost the red, except for the network of veins heavily outlined in crimson. The petioles are lighter red, covered with white hairs. The many stems that arise from the base are light green, white hairy, with very many stems that arise from the base are light green, white hairy, with very dark red rings at the nodes. Little tufts of leaves form at the nodes, but rarely develop into branches. The unfolding leaves gleam bright red, even more pleasing than the showy flowers, which are pink with pink hairs.

Mrs. Krauss lists a number of *metallica* varieties that apparently are no longer in cultivation, at least, so Mrs. Minter stated in a letter to *The Begonian*, July, 1949, p. 146. Since no answers to her request for information were ever printed, it seems that *B. 'Dalli'*, *B. 'Musetta'*, *B. 'Papa Chevalier'* and *B. 'Rody'* have joined many others in limbo. Three others are unknown to me and no helpful information about them has ever been printed in *The Begonian*.

*B. 'Cypraea'* is almost as elusive, but is included here because of its two fine children. Mrs. Krauss says that 'Cypraea' is "erect to three feet tall, bushy, white hairy, leaves broad-ovate, pointed, one shallow angled lobe near the base, olive green with deeper green veins, flowers white. . . pink bearded." Its seedlings are better known. *B. 'Nelly Bly'* is not easy

to find in the East these days. My plant came from California about six months ago and may still show the characteristic size of all growth in that favored climate, for its leaves are considerably larger, less triangular, and less densely hairy than the plants I have previously owned. It has, however, the same very dark green leaves, with the strong vein pattern on the reverse. It stands firmly erect, branches more freely than its ancestor, *metallica*. It has not yet bloomed, but I assume that its flowers will come in late summer, as do most of this group, and that they will be pink with red hairs. *B. 'Druryi'* is a product of *B. 'Cypraea'* x *B. sanguinea* and a beautiful plant, though one could wish that it would emulate its mother's upright stance, instead of drooping like *sanguinea*. It takes after its pollen parent, too, in the smooth shine of its dark, watered-silk leaves, thinner than those of *sanguinea*. Their lining is variously described as blood-red, maroon, claret-wine, purple. Whether this diversity of color adjectives is due to differences in the culture of the various specimens, or to differences in the vision of the writers, or to differences in understanding of the meaning of the words, is an interesting problem. *B. 'Druryi'* never stayed long with me and never bloomed. The originator, Miss Bower, says its flowers are "pink and white with creamy white hairs." Elsewhere they are described as "small, white, red bearded"!

*B. 'Alleryi'* (*B. metallica* x *B. gigantea*) shows very little resemblance to *gigantea* but is obviously a child of *B. metallica*, only darker, coarser, rougher looking. Surprisingly, it has the most delicately tinted flowers of the group—fine, silky, pink hairs in contrast to the stiff, cerise ones of most of its cousins. For me, it is an awkward plant, usually bare stalks, with a few leaves at the top and little of the growth at the nodes so characteristic of *metallica*. All pictures of it that I have seen show this same appearance, yee it is long lived, perhaps because it resists wilt.

Better known and generally more attractive is *B. 'Margaritae'* (*B. echinosepala* x *B. metallica*), sometimes called

*B. 'Marguerite.'* This looks more like the hairy plant long known as *B. echinosepala* than like the smooth leaved true species. It sends up many erect stalks from the base and branches very little. The leaves are narrow-ovate, pointed, shiny, dark green above, light red below, with brighter red, strongly marked veins and a light green margin. It is a good bloomer, in season, producing pink flowers with pink beard. It is said to stand fairly low temperatures (20°) probably for only a few hours. Mr. Ziesenhenne writes that, grown outside in a sheltered place, it grows upright, but in a breezy spot, it spreads into a mound. In any situation, it is an easy and satisfactory subject.

*B. 'Thurstoni'* was, as of record, produced by the mating of *B. metallica* and *B. sanguinea*, its coloring coming from the latter, its vigor from the former. To me it looks more like *B. scharffi* in leaf shape, vein pattern, and size. Whatever its parentage, it is a popular plant, commonly known as "that red begonia." Mrs. BUXTON says that every bootblack and every barber in New England has one. (In Philadelphia, the barbers' begonia is Fischer's 'Ricinifolia.') The leaves are almost hairless, dark olive green, and very glossy; below there are soft, short, white hairs and the basic color is red, surrounded by a narrow band of pale green. Direct sunlight bleaches the leaves to a sickly yellow and destroys their sheen. Grown in a north window, they are dark and glossy, but the plant is not likely to give you flowers, those little balls of cerise chenille. Mrs. Krauss lists a smaller and more compact form called *B. 'Rogeri,'* which I have not seen.

*B. 'Thurstoni'* is the parent of two fine varieties, *B. 'Conbow'* and *B. 'Dorothy Grant.'* The former, not known hereabouts, is described as "vigorous, erect, leaves broad ovate, pointed, cupped, glossy . . . flowers small, pale pink or white, not unlike those of *B. 'Thurstoni'* in form." *B. 'Dorothy Grant'* is not common here, but not unknown. It is called a much larger edition of 'Thurstoni,'

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# Begonias in Dallas are Beautiful

By FLO BELLE MOSELEY

How beautiful are the begonias in Dallas this year! They go through a lot here—eleven years' drought which broke only three years ago, rewarding us for our patience and resourcefulness. But we remembered "before" and persisted. During the last three years we replenished our collections. Some were lovely even through the bad times, but we were so busy solving situations that we had no time to write about them. Then came the rains and we were almost unbelieving that begonia climate was here to stay for more than a season.

Ah, humidity and rain water! Needless to say, we now know how to grow them through anything that might come—*aforementioned* drought, bad water, dry winds, tornadoes with hail and biscuit-drop rain, thunderstorms, dust storms, brilliant sun, no sun, even too much rain. It seems nothing is mild except an occasional day. But today the begonias and related shade plants in Dallas are beautiful.

At our house, they grow in pots set upon bricks which in turn are set in damp mulch outside from late October or early November when the night temperatures consistently drop below forty degrees. I foolishly chose an apple-and-plum-tree-shaded area for our shade garden, so in addition to the problems nature heaped on us, I chose more. The falling blossoms, then the fruits, a jillion elm tree seeds blow in and sprout, *and* there seems to be a constant little whirlwind as the branches of chosen trees are too low (12 ft.). My neighbor has high shade and accomplishes more. If I wasn't so stubborn I'd fix another place, but it is so pretty there. All the more proof of the toughness and greatness of the begonias. Amazingly, nature can accomplish what we can never hope to. Everything outside is more vibrant. However, there are a few solutions we have found to be helpful against nature's more disagree-

able attacks.

In addition to beautifying the area and building a complimentary environment, more sturdy tropicals help to break the wind and humidify the begonias—ferns, philodendrons, ficus, sanseverias, bromeliads, a few orchids, dracaenas, sheffleria, pandanus, aralias and polyscias, diffenbachias, achimenes, caladiums, asparagus sprengeri—anything than can take the light in the area and breathe for the begonias. At least the light is good. They bloom their heads off.

At present the tuberous are knocking themselves out. I have learned to get them started and out as early as possible and in bloom by April so we can enjoy the bloom while it is cool. By the first of July they will suffer. Then because there are only a few, they are worth pampering till cool nights come again. They store all right but are slower to start than tubers bought early from the merchants. It is worth buying a few new ones each year, and if they all go to pieces by tomorrow, they will have given enough pleasure to last a long time.

With the complete forecasting we receive via television, usually the entire U.S. weather, Texas weather has become predictable. The weather is the same old coot, but we are able to prepare for it. If the humidity reads below thirty on the last cast at night, we fog before nine or ten o'clock the next morning; if above forty or fifty, chances are the fog is not used at all the next day, as the leaves do not like to be damp for long. The damp mulch beneath the bricks is sufficient. Since we cannot maintain a consistent high humidity outdoors, we aim at fifty. This toughens the plants and acclimatizes them in case of long periods of dry weather. Usually, they humidify each other sufficiently. True, they are not as large as those grown under more moisture, but they shock less. The real con-

cern comes with a drastic drop, sometimes from ninety down to twenty, which often occurs even immediately following a rain. The sun will shine brightly, the wind will come in suddenly, causing us to really step with the fogger. Leaves and blossoms shock off quickly if we are not on our toes.

The most temperamental plants we keep indoor under a fluorescent light in the usual arrangement of pan with pots on bricks and vermiculite and charcoal, and how gorgeous they are! These are occasionally fogged with water from a bottle sprayer.

Since my facilities for composting and sterilizing are inadequate, I buy packaged mixes for the young or tender or finicky plants. I mention brand names only because they are what I use—each individual should arrive at his own methods and mixes. Bacto soil for the canes, semps and rhizomatous; Black Magic African Violet mix for the Rexes, olbia, imperialis, velloziana, versicolor, hiemalis, anything that seems temperamental. I save the mix when repotting, then for plants past the four-inch pot size, use the used mixes as compost, adding to it grits, charcoal, activated peat, oak-leaf mold, some sort of an animal manure, bone meal, and a product called Wonder-Bark, with only enough peat moss (light in color and lumpy) to make the ingredients fluffy. Many times, if the plant likes its roots particularly airy and is too big to warrant the expense of Black Magic, straight bark is used to a higher level and the other ingredients are mixed separately as a top-dressing which sifts down into the bark. An inch or more of soft sphagnum goes into the bottom of each pot to catch the solubles which ordinarily wash away over rock crocking. We don't let anything but city water drain through, usually having that stand overnight in a 20-gallon garbage can before using it. That same garbage can frequently collects rain to keep us in soft water. That same can is the most important thing in our backyard.

When the weather is cold, the chill is taken out of all water and feeding

solutions, and is only used during the presence of intense light or sunshine and warm conditions.

Everything is grown as organically as possible without being radical, that is to say, rather than miss the sumptuous bloom on something that has not performed until late in a current season, a little root stimulant and BR61 (9-59-8), both products designed for Texas, steps things up a little, usually on canes or semps or rhizomes that are easily propagated. The exotics get half or quarter-strength fish emulsion for established plants or six weeks after repotting, every week except on cloudy days. If feeding day is cloudy, we delay until the sun is sure to shine. Occasionally during the spring months, regular feeding is replaced with weak tonics of cow manure water, blood meal paste, soot paste, all wonderful for sheen, color and vibrance. It is good to change. Just as the temperatures may be too cool for heavy feeding in the winter, so are they too high in the July and August heat. If we must resort to city water for these periods, another Texas-designed product called Sul-soil helps to relieve alkaline conditions.

The fogger works on hot days at the approximate peak of the day's high. If the high is over a hundred degrees for long, we park the fogger well out from the area and let it play in the air without anything more than its drift around the plants. Wetting the leaves in such heat would blister them. It is better to harden and acclimatize, to the extent that even ninety-five degrees seems cool.

All of that sounds like a lot of trouble. In the winter we move into the house and a lean-to pit greenhouse, then move out again, but after years of it, habit has set in and there is only challenge as to what Texas is going to do to our begonias this time. We collect the species first, each year's medal winners in the new hybrids and cultivars, and any others we can get our hands on. We have a good collection with all the tropicals to balance them,

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# BEGONIA MASONIANA IRMSCHER

By EDGER IRMSCHER

Returning from a world tour in 1925 Mr. L. M. Mason of England brought home a begonia which he had obtained from the Botanical Garden at Singapore under the name 'Iron Cross.' Since then this plant has become widely distributed and highly regarded because of its distinctive leaf color. This begonia has been mentioned in THE BEGONIAN several times and is pictured in Volume 23 (1956) on page 248. The striking characteristic of this species, for which it has been named, is the color of the upper side of the leaf. The background is Nile-green or apple green, over which run out somewhat palmately bands of chocolate brown to almost black along the four to five main nerves. This pattern reminds one of the German Iron Cross. The surface of the leaf is also noteworthy. It is not smooth as are most of the begonias but is distinguished by the strongly grooved upper side which is covered with inverted cone-like elevations from each of which is carried a long stiff hair. On the bottom side is a depression or cavity under each cone-like protrusion.

Until now the flowers of this species have not been described and nothing has been known of its systematic standing in the begonia genus. Through the kindness of Mr. H. Teuscher, Curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden, I have obtained herbarium material of this species with the flowers and I was able to study it. Thereby it proved a distinct surprise to learn that *Begonia* 'Iron Cross' belongs to Section *Coelocentrum*, which I described in 1939. This Section is distinguished by the seed capsule having only one cell in the seed pod, with the three placentas arising from the outer seed pod wall between the fruit's wings and being shaped in cross section like a short-stemmed T, while most of the begonias have more than one seed cell with the placentas arising in the center of the

pod. In this section only four species are known. They were all collected in China in the province of Kweitschou and Kiangsi. *B.* 'Iron Cross' becomes the fifth species and one can say with great probability that it too comes from China. I take the liberty of naming this new species after Mr. Mason, whom we thank for importing and introducing it. Begonia fanciers are indebted to Mr. Mason who, with great idealism, has devoted himself to the raising of unusual, beautiful plants, which has inspired him to collect them even at great sacrifice to himself.

Another interesting introduction by Mr. Mason is *Begonia serratifetala* Irmscher, which he brought from the central mountains of New Guinea in 1955. Its leaves are multilobed and have blood-red spots. It is a most beautiful ornamental plant for the greenhouse. I had already described this species in 1913 from herbarium material that Dr. Rudolf Schlechter had collected in 1909 on his exploration in New Guinea in the forest near Danip. The specific name *serratifetala* refers to the red-toothed flower petals of the female flowers. Unfortunately the species has recently been mistakenly called *serratifolia*, as for example in THE BEGONIAN, Vol. 26 (1959), Page 108, and this mistake may lead to confusion for Casimir De Candolle has already described a *serratifolia* from Panama.

*Begonia Masoniana* Irmscher. New Species. Section *Coelocentrum*. Herbaceous, with a creeping rhizome. Leafstem  $4\frac{3}{4}$  to 6 inches long with somewhat long, sticking-out, and dull, curled hair, not closely set. Upper side of leaf surface with deeply sunken main nerves and between them a distinct net of finer nerves, upper side wrinkled with small, cone-like elevations, each of which carries a red hair; underside with cavities, which result from the cones. Leaf color

upperside, Nile-green or apple-green; along the four to five main veins runs a broad stripe of chocolate brown which spreads out near the outer edge, creating a form similar to a cross. The brown color of the cross-marking is still darker in the older leaves. Leaves wide heart-shaped,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches long (without basal lobes) and 4 to  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide, on the base slanting-heartshaped, with rounded teeth; ringed on the outer side with  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inch long and 3 to  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide lobes, the tips running out to a short point, the margin remotely dentate and finely dentate and set with red hair. Flower stem slender, many-flowered, 12 to 14 inches long, covered with detached erect glandular hairs, repeatedly six to eight branched and finally terminating in three-flowered curl. The bracts of the cyme small, egg-shaped, or triangular,  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long; on the tip is a bristle, on the margin are a few small, long, stiff, gland-like hairs. Stem of the male flower,  $\frac{7}{16}$  to  $\frac{9}{16}$  inches long. Petals four, red; the outer two wide, eggshaped  $\frac{5}{16}$  to  $1\frac{1}{16}$  inches long,  $1\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches wide, on the outside, thinly set with stiff, about  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch long bristles; the inner two petals elliptical, wedge-shaped,  $\frac{7}{32}$  to  $\frac{9}{32}$  inches long and  $\frac{3}{32}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches wide; stamens numerous, sitting on a  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch-long column; filaments about  $\frac{1}{32}$  inches long; anthers inverted egg-shaped about  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch long, the tip slightly rounded out, the clefts coming together on the outer side. Female flowers with three petals, two larger, nearly circular, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long and wide, the third petal smaller, oblong  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch long and  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch wide; styles three, moderately thick, about  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch long, divided into two branches, each with one twist of the papillae band; ovary, one-celled oval, about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch long and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide, with

three wings which are sparsely covered with stiff, glandular hairs. The largest wing almost triangular, the upper margin decending, about  $\frac{5}{32}$  inch long, the other two wings smaller, almost triangular, the upper margin likewise decending  $\frac{3}{32}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long. Seed plates three, on the outer wall, each having two arms.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. R. Ziesenhenné for obliging me in translating this text.

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# Sinningia Pusilla -- The Miniature Gloxinia

By MRS. R. L. KURSHALS

Have you ever wondered why there are not more blooming plants for terrariums? This little charmer is almost constantly in bloom in a terrarium where humidity level is around sixty degrees and the soil is uniformly moist. *Sinningia pusilla*, a native specie from Brazil, is a true miniature which will never outgrow its quarters. It is the smallest member of the Gesneriaceae family.

*Sinningia pusilla* is one of the easiest plants to grow. Its wee rosette-type foliage is just "floating" at the soil level. The roots do not grow deep in a container, so a constantly moist condition is essential. For this reason, I find they adapt themselves to growing in terrariums or similar containers. They do grow quite well in two-inch pots if the soil is kept uniformly moist. Once they dry out completely, they will go dormant and start new growth in a few weeks, if they are watered lightly and if they have not gone without water over too long a period.

Leaves are ovate or round, with short petioles about one-half inch long. The undersides of foliage have purplish-red veins which seem to bleed faintly through to the upper surface of the dark green leaves. Flowers are borne on very fine, stiff, wire-like pedicels high above the foliage. They are light lavender-blue with slightly darker lines shading toward a white throat. The flowers are spurred and have a slender corolla tube, with the upper two petals or limbs smaller and closer together than the lower three spreading petals.

Their nodding, graceful flowers show to good advantage in thin glass bubble containers. Individual tubers can be grown in odd pieces of stemware with covers of Saran wrap. If preferred, other thin glass containers can be inverted as covers, keeping humidity high and saving on your watering.

Under normal conditions *Sinningia*

*pusilla* often self-pollenates. When I specifically want seeds, I wait until the flower has been open three or four days, when a gentle tug on the corolla will tell if the flower is ready for pollinating. If the flower does not separate with a gentle tug, I wait a day or two and try again. When the flower slips off easily, it leaves the pistil and ovary exposed on the pedicel.

This fragile-looking pedicel is so tough that it must be severed with a pair of scissors, because a strong tug on it could dislodge the whole plant from the growing medium.

At the time that the flower separates easily is just about the time that the pollen is ripe and the stigma is receptive for pollination. I slit the corolla tube down until the anthers are exposed, then gently brush the pollen on the receptive stigma on the pedicel. In a few days the ovary elongates and swells into a green seed pod.

I have not kept records on the time required to mature the seeds, but I would say about three weeks. Toward the end of this time, daily watching is necessary because the seed pod can turn dry over night and the pod will split. Fresh seeds germinate readily when sown in the same container as the parent plant and should be planted as soon as they are ripe.

*Sinningia pusilla* seems to enjoy longer periods of artificial light than most plants. When babies are just large enough to prick out, usually when one pair of leaves has developed, I transplant them to a mixture of peat and humus which is airy, light, and non-packing. They grow to blooming size in about two and a half to three months, usually blooming in pairs the first time. After this they are seldom without flowers, unless they are neglected or the humidity drops too low.

Some seedlings are prone to be multi-

crowned, and this fact is evident when they are only a month old. The extra crowns can be severed from the tuber and placed in the growing medium where they will develop new tubers, but since plants are so easily grown from seeds there is little advantage in propagating from crowns or leaves.

In closed containers, watering consists of just a few drops to keep the growing medium moist but never soggy. An inch of gravel or charcoal in the bottom of the containers gives good drainage. The growing medium should never be packed tightly.

Care should be given in the placement of containers. If they are exposed to sudden temperature changes, moisture will form on the inner sides of the containers and drip down into the medium, eventually causing a soggy condition. Lifting the covers will allow fresh air to circulate for about an hour.

Sometimes flowers seem to droop although the medium is moist. This condition usually indicates a low oxygen content in the container. When oxygen is admitted the flowers stand erect again. This does not happen often. Checking the containers weekly is about the only time I spend on them.

African violet enthusiasts are always looking for something new and clever to enter in arrangement classes at their shows. Because *Sinningia pusilla* is so dependable and usually in bloom most of the time, it should make many appearances in next year's shows.

Its roots grow so shallowly that they can be scooped up with a spoon. It does not resent being moved. Merrily it blooms away. For me, *Sinningia pusilla* is the easiest to grow and the cutest of all the Gesneriads.

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## BEGONIA METALLICA

(Continued from Page 199)

tall, strongly erect, its leaves have more substance, round, deeply cupped to show the red back. The flowers are small and

creamy white.

*B. 'Credneri'* is the mystery of this group. Its seed parent is variously said to be *B. scharffi* or *B. scharffiana*, the pollen parent *B. metallica*. Judging from my small plant, it looks more like a child of *B. metallica* and *B. sanguinea* than *B. 'Thurstoni'* does, for it has the color of *sanguinea* and the angled leaf of *metallica*. Its by-name, "Hairy Thurstoni," describes it exactly. The flowers, too, are like those of 'Thurstoni,' small, pink, with pink hairs. Both plants can take some cold. Comments in *The Begonian* indicate that both in Italy and in California this is considered an excellent subject in the garden and in pots.

The same cross that produced *B. 'Credneri'* was made by another grower and gave another mystery called *B. 'Pictaviensis.'* I call it a mystery because I have been unable to find a description of it. Apparently it is not grown in this country. It appears only as the pollen parent of *B. 'Viaudi'* and so the ancestor of many fine varieties, so badly misidentified in the trade that they will not be considered here.

Breeders are still working with *B. metallica*. At least three new cultivars have been registered in the last few years: 'Leora' (*B. imperialis* x *B. metallica*, a surprising combination), 'Lillian Sloan' (*B. 'Fernando Costae'* x *B. metallica*), and *B. 'Zuensis'* (*B. paulensis* x *B. metallica*). None of these is available hereabouts.

As for culture, all of the above are good subjects for the house, though some are longer lived than others. They should, even more than most begonias, be kept on the "dry side," especially as Fall approaches. Someone has suggested that the high humidity of our Philadelphia Summers may contribute to this seasonal susceptibility to root decay. Comment on this point from dwellers in dryer places would be welcome. The hairy kinds need winter sun (November through February), but shelter from its glare during the rest of the year.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

## No. 1: *B. 'Iron Cross'*—

Malaya. Introduced in England by Mason in 1952 and said to be one of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation. Leaves are large and puckered, Nile-green, marked with contrasting, bold pattern of brown-red resembling an iron cross. Stems are white-hairy and reddish. Flowers are waxy, greenish white, with maroon bristles on back. Do not expect the so-called cross to appear until the plants have the third or fourth set of adult leaves. At first the plants will have the appearance of a rex begonia but they bear no relation to this group of begonias. Price \$1.00 per packet.

Comment: We wish to refer to change of name of the above that appeared in the July issue of THE BEGONIAN on page 150. To date the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund has not been advised of any such change; therefore, until we have further information, we will continue to offer as above.

When seeds were offered in November we feel that some of the members who obtained them did not have germination and the seeds were killed with kindness. We suggest that planting method should be the same as other rare seed, allowing about four weeks for germination. No special handling is necessary. Due to the length of time required for germination, moisture content of the planting medium should be carefully watched, and soil should not be allowed to become too wet or dry. Seeds have given perfect germination and if the normal amount of care is given, you should have good results.

## No. 2: *B. maxima*—

Mexico. First introduced in Europe. Rhizomes are thick and creeping; leaves large, orbicular-pointed, lobes overlapping, green and lobed; petioles stout, hairy; flower clusters large and showy and are composed of numerous small, two-petaled, white flowers on long peduncles, and increase the plant to twice its size during the flowering season.

\$1.00 per pkt. See story by Dr. Morel (France).

## No. 3: *B. liebmanni*—

Mexico. Beautiful foliage begonia. Low; rhizomes slender and creeping; leaves roundish in outline, sharply lobed, sparsely hairy, green, blotched with silver, purple-tinged beneath. Flowers greenish-white in short inflorescences. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 4: *B. bowringiana*—

India. Information is obscure and conflicting but we know this begonia to be small rhizomatous. Very nice. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 5: *B. laciniata*—

India. Round ovate leaves on long petioles. The leaves are usually cordate and acutely lanceolate. Flowers are large, pink, petals hairy on outer surface. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 6: *B. parvifolia*—

India. Medium growth, leaves small, flowers white. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 7: *B. vellozoana* x *B. mazae*

Cross by John Cole, Johannesburg. Should be interesting. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 8: *B. 'Stiletto'*—

A hybrid by Polly Cooper (Texas). Long, very sharp pointed leaves, heavily silver-spotted. Each branch bears a spray of orange-red flowers. Female flowers are twisted. Unusual cane type. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 9: *B. 'Pink Parade'*—

A hybrid by Mrs. Nesbit (Conn.). Gorgeous *Dichroa* hybrid. Flowers are salmon-pink. Prime leaves are heavily silver-spotted, wavy margins. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 10: *B. Semperflorens*—

Brazil species. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 11: *B. Brazil mixed*—

Many seeds of some of the most beautiful and rare begonias in Brazil. 25 cents per pkt.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS

### *Crossandra infundibuliformis* —

Acanthaceae—Attractive dwarf growing habit, glossy, gardenia-like foliage

and bright salmon flowers. Further advantages are its continuous blooming and the fact that it is easily propagated from seed. A native of India, it needs at least 70 degrees heat or better for full development. 5 seeds for 25 cents.

**Streptocarpus—**

Africa. Identification lost by collector. Single leaf 7 x 9 inches, purple backed, several stems of small lavender flowers each divided into five lobes, edges serrated. 25 cents per pkt.

**Columnea—**

Canal Zone. Several of the best varieties. 25 cents per pkt.

**Columnea—**

El Salvador. No description available. 25 cents per pkt.

**Rechsteineria warszewiczii (Corytholoma)—**

Guatemala. Erect to five feet tall with small rough-hairy, downy elliptical leaves, and axillary, inflated tubular flowers orange, tinting into red. 25 cents per pkt.

**Episcia dianthiflora—**

Mexico. Small, elliptical, pubescent, vivid dark green, crenate leaves with purple mid-rib, in a clustering rosette, sending out prolific rooting branches. Free flowering with glistening white, deeply fringed flowers, appearing singly in leaf axil. 35 cents per pkt.

**Philodendron selloum—**

Brazil. Self-heading. Tree-like or scandent on trees. Lush, dark green, pendant leaves two feet and bipinnate with short lobe at tip; spathe greenish-white. 50 cents per pkt. 25 cents per 1/2 pkt.

**Gloxinera hybrid—**

By W. L. Graves (Washington). *Rechsteineria cardinalis* x black-purple *sinningia*. 25 cents per pkt.

**Codiaeum—**

Le Comte hybrids. Euphorbiaceae. Gorgeously colored with splotches of red and yellow and universally known as crotons. Grown primarily for their colorful foliage and appear profusely in California and Florida gardens. Grown in greenhouses in cold climates. This is a new supply of seed and we hope to have a sufficient amount to

supply the demand. 5 seeds for 25 cents.

**Aechmea bracteata - Bromeliaceae—**

Mexico. Hardy plant that can withstand slight frost. Flower stalk brilliant red and green; foliage green. 25 cents per pkt.

**Peperoma maculosa—**

Santa Domingo. Ornamental, fleshy species with long, pendant, narrow-lanceolate leaves to seven inches long; waxy bluish-green, with silvery green to ivory ribs; petioles spotted red-purple; spikes to one foot long. Seeds were produced from plants grown from seed previously offered by seed fund. 35 cents per pkt.

**FERN SPORES**

**Brazil species—**

Elegant basket type with long, lacy fronds. Resembles the fern we know as *Polypodium subauriculatum*. However, it is difficult to determine just by looking at the frond. The collector writes that many people in Brazil grow this plant in vases (pots) made of material called "Xaxim," which is made of vegetable fiber. Can stand some cold but not wind. 25 cents per pkt.

**Sticherus cunninghamii—**

N.Z. *Gleichenia*. "Umbrella Fern." Fronds spread horizontally, usually in tiers. Distinctive. 25 cents per pkt.

**Leptopteris superba—**

N.Z. *Todea*. "Prince of Wales Feathers." Thick, dark green plumes. Will form a short trunk. Magnificent fern. 25 cents per pkt.

Cultivation: Sow thinly on surface of moist, sterile leaf mold in shallow pots. The soil should be kept moist by immersion; overhead watering is not advisable. Semi-shade or darkness and gentle warmth assist in starting germination. A good plan is to cover pots with glass or polyethylene. If glass is used, condensation should be wiped off each morning.

**OTHER GENERA**

**Cochlospermum vitifolium—**

Tropical evergreen with large, five-lobed leaves. Flowers are bright yellow,

four or more inches across, borne in terminal clusters in spring when plant is bare. Flowers when young and is very lovely. 5 seeds for 25 cents.

#### **Turraea obtusifolia**—

Meliceae. Nice shrub used for espalier training. About three feet each way, with small shining leaves and many white flowers. Dainty. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **Sollya heterophylla**—

Australian bluebell creeper. Medium growth with slender, twining stems. Leaves narrowly lance-shaped, to 22 inches long, light green on the under side. Flower blue, about one half inch long, in terminal clusters. Grown extensively in California. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **FREE SEED**

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### **BEGONIAS IN DALLAS**

*(Continued from Page 201)*

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### **IN REMEMBRANCE**

Earl W. Wiltse, of the Redondo Beach Area Branch, died July 26, 1959, after a lingering illness.

He was a charter member of that Branch and its first president, serving for two years. Until illness forced him to curtail his activities, he was always active in the affairs of the Society and his Branch, ready to give his help in shows or wherever he was needed.

He is survived by his beloved wife Emma, who also served as president of the Redondo Beach Area Branch and, with her husband, took an active part in Society affairs.

Mr. Wiltse was a retired fire chief of Redondo Beach. Besides his interests in gardening, he found time to be of service to other civic endeavors. He was born August 4, 1891.

Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, of Berkeley, California, passed away suddenly on July 3 while on her way to judge a flower show.

Emma, as everyone knew her, was one of the hardest workers in our organization. She was nomenclature co-chairman with Mr. Butterfield, and spent many hours in research work. She loved flower show judging and had planned to be at our next show. She was a member of the American Begonia Society for more than twenty years.

Emma Carleton will be missed by her many friends in the Society.

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## BRAZILIAN BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 197)

to the oceanic folds of the Serra do Mar, from Sao Sebastiao, in that state, up to the state of Rio de Janeiro. The other, the *Begonia attenuata* A. dc., also grows on tree trunks on the heights of the Serra do Mar, from the neighborhood of the Paranapiacaba to the Serras da Estrala and Mandioca, in Rio de Janeiro.

The silvery spots of the leaves become more evident and the flowers almost snowy white on the specimens cultivated in the shade. When the plant is exposed to sunlight the spots are not so clear and the leaf, flower margins, as well as the back of the leaf become tinted with red or pink.

So far, we have not been able to obtain seeds to reproduce this species, but as the rhizome branches out profusely, new plants may be obtained from sectioning it.

\* \* \*

Editor's Note: Permission for reprint of this article and use of the photographs was granted by *Flores do Brazil* magazine and the author, Moyses Kuhlmann, who is on the staff of the Botanical Gardens of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Translation was done by Dn. Beulah Coe Teixeira.

*Begonia herbacea* Vell. was introduced into the United States by Sylvia B. Leatherman.

*Begonia herbacea* Vell. is not available and will not be available in the near future.

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## Begonias from Sao Paulo

The registered package from Brazil which contained the article and photos on Brazilian Begonias brought back memories of my trip, and I thought of the people who gave so generously of their time and efforts so I could have these treasured memories.

Shortly before leaving Sao Paulo, I was presented with some begonia species, new to us, and among them were three plants of *B. herbacea* Vell. It is a decidedly different begonia and I was thrilled to have received such a wonderful gift.

I remember Moyses Kuhlmann and Oswaldo Handro bidding farewell to their beloved plants. Because of the language barrier, at times we ran into obstacles in expressing ourselves but I knew, from their expressions, what was in their minds. They felt they were sending these poor begonias to their doom, or sudden death.

As I do not believe in hoarding a valuable plant, one of these begonias went to John Thieben, whose golden touch would acclimate it if anyone could. Now, nine months later, I am happy to report that all three of these begonias have thrived, John's being about three times the size of mine. We mounted them on pieces of Xaxim.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN  
Research Director, A.B.S.

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# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON

In July the members met at the Quincy home of Nancy F. Alvord, then had luncheon in the charming backyard garden of her neighbor, Mrs. William Huyghe. Mrs. Alvord and Mrs. Huyghe reported on plans for the September party given by the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch for other Branches in the Northeastern District and for Begonia Society members from other parts of the country who might be able to attend.

After luncheon and the business meeting, the group returned to Mrs. Alvord's house to examine her superb collection of begonias grown under house conditions and her oceanside garden. Begonia problems were discussed and Mrs. Alvord gave a brief report on her recent horticultural trip to South America.

ELSA FORT

A perfect day, sandwiched between two stormy ones, was our good fortune when we went to Venice Park, N.J. for a picnic and our last meeting until September.

Venice Park is about a ten minute ride from the famed Atlantic City boardwalk. Since it is more than an hour's drive from the area where most of us live, our hostess, Marian Jones, served a buffet lunch. As we sat on her spacious porch, with the salty tang and cooling breezes of the ocean coming in, we enjoyed the delicious food, and everything seemed perfect.

With pleasure uppermost in our minds, we made short order of our business meeting. One item, which needs go on record, is that Ruth Richardson, who has visited with us for three meetings (one of the requirements before becoming a member), seemed happy to accept our invitation to join our group, filling a vacancy left by the death of a member.

We are usually reluctant to leave our meetings. This time we were especially reluctant.

INGLEWOOD

The July meeting appealed to both wanderer and home-body alike. Helen L. Goodman, travelling counsellor, showed slides taken in old Mexico and shared with everyone the homely little side lights as she and her group toured Mexico by way of home gardens. The excellent and colorful pictures showed homes and gardens of all sizes and types as well as many tourist spots. Everyone seemed inspired, to travel to Mexico and see the country first hand, or to enhance their home gardens with some of the lovely plants shown.

Mrs. Goodman had just returned from a trip to Hawaii and promises that some day she will show us slides taken there.

The usual business meeting was conducted by President Bill Kirker. The plant table consisted of seedling plants grown by Rose Yeast and the Olsons, from seed from the seed fund.

Refreshments were served, and due to the graciousness of Mrs. Goodman, members were able to continue the discussion of Mexican gardens until the meeting closed at a late hour.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM

With ten members and two guests present, the Branch met at the home of Mr. Thomas Hildury in Titusville, New Jersey.

After a delicious lunch served by our host, he presented each of us with plants ranging in variety from herbs to potted plants.

Edna Bishop's personal reasons for joining our Branch and the benefits she derives were interestingly told.

Elsa Fort Weber gave an instructive talk on "How To Know A Begonia." Cuttings of *B. Joe Hayden* were given out, the mature plants to be exhibited at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March, 1960. A general discussion of the proper growing medium followed.

## SACRAMENTO

The July meeting was a pot luck picnic held in the patio of the Garden and Arts Center. Pictures on Africa were shown by Olive Naylor.

A Sunday bus trip to gardens and nurseries in the vicinity of Sebastopol and Petaluma was one of the most delightful events planned thus far. Gardens were "out of this world." Nurseries were well patronized and many of us came home loaded with loot.

## SAN FRANCISCO

We held our Third Annual Begonia Show on Wednesday, July 1. While the begonias were a bit late, our show was a huge success. Many visitors from the East Bay and Sacramento attended.

"Action Projects" were in progress during the evening. Elaine Jordan and Francis Morrison made beautiful flower arrangements. Bill Damerow made lovely corsages which were put on the plant table and raffled off. Our ladies looked lovely in corsages they learned to make in a class at Hyacinth Smith's.

James Miller was chairman of the evening and in charge of the unusually attractive plant table. He announced that Frank Boichot and Isadore Gold, two new members, had donated an oriental stone lantern that they had made, to be raffled off in September for the benefit of the Branch. It was set up in an oriental setting, complete with lights and plants.

Art Boissier, manager of the begonia section at the flower show in our City Hall, August 20 and 21, gave a report on progress to date. Al Stettle, chairman of the main exhibit of the City Hall flower show, also gave his report.

We are making plans for garden tours and Louise Allmacher is our chairman.

Harold Gaetjen and Orris Martin provided the necessities for a weenie roast which we had at the end of our meeting.

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

A picnic at Memorial Park, Hayward, California, was the July meeting of our Branch. Bill Simon was chief cook and his wife, Frances, was his able assistant.

She has been our refreshment chairman for three years. There was so much good food everyone was filled to the "brim."

Bingo was played, with plants for the winners.

Helen Fouche, vice-president, conducted a short meeting. Plans were made for the August meeting to be held in the beautiful begonia lath-house of Antonelli Brothers in Santa Cruz.

The rummage sale on July 28 was very rewarding, thanks to Helen Fouche, chairman, and her faithful helpers.

## WILLIAM PENN

At the June meeting, five members were present.

Mrs. George DeCoursey, Eastern Editor for THE BEGONIAN, asked for more articles so that there might be a reserve for the new editor. She also reminded the group that the deadline for obtaining cuttings to be grown for the Horticultural Society project in the 1960 Flower Show was at hand. Four members volunteered as entrants.

She reported that a new New York Branch is being organized with about twenty members, to be known as the Knickerbocker Branch. Another Branch is taking shape near Redding, Connecticut.

As the program, a second installment of the articles on Rhizomatous Begonias, by Mary Ellen Ross, was read and this led to discussions of personal experiences and opinions.

The July meeting with ten members present, met at the home of Mrs. Way in West Chester.

Mrs. DeCoursey reported that her term as Eastern Editor of THE BEGONIAN expires in August and she does not intend to continue. She has sent to the President-Elect of the A.B.S. a list of possible candidates, with the suggestion that the editorship rotate among the Eastern Branches.

As program chairman, Mrs. DeCoursey read part of an article on Rhizomatous Begonias, by Mary Ellen Ross, which was published in the *Garden Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden.

## Minutes, National Board, July 27, 1959

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, American Begonia Society, was called to order by President Slatter at 7:40 p.m., July 27, 1959. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Walton.

Aims and Purposes of the Society were read by President-Elect Hall.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

President Slatter stated that through an error 300 extra copies of the July BEGONIAN had been printed and that it had been suggested these copies be used for the convention, instead of printing additional copies of the August number as authorized, and that he would entertain a motion to that effect. Moved by Mrs. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Parker, that the June motion relative to extra August BEGONIANS be rescinded and the July number be used. Motion carried.

Treasurer Parker gave her report for the month. Report filed for audit.

Membership Secretary Schlanert gave his report for the month showing 85 new and 109 renewing memberships.

BEGONIAN Editor Tru Peterson reported he had purchased the filing cabinet authorized for cuts and that it is already almost full.

Advertising Manager Thieben gave his report for the month, showing \$53.00 in advertising for July; \$32.12 collected and remitted to the Treasurer and a balance due on all advertising of \$85.00.

Research Director Mrs. Leatherman gave her report, reading a letter explaining some of the activities of the department for the year. She also read portions of letters from correspondents expressing their appreciation of work being done by the Society to further begonia knowledge, and gave a report on the visit to California of Mrs. Mary Ellen Ross of Merry Gardens. Mrs. Leatherman offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Graham, that the Secretary write a letter of thanks to the Miami

Branch for the courtesy shown by them to Dna. Amanda of Brazil on her recent visit to the United States. Motion carried.

Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee not being present, her report was read by Treasurer Parker, showing \$100.00 remitted to the Treasurer.

Mr. Hall, as Public Relations Chairman, stated he had received a request from the Redondo Beach Branch for Board approval of certain amendments to their constitution and by-laws and recommended that approval be given. Moved by Mrs. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Leatherman, that approval of changes be given. Motion carried. Mr. Hall also reported he had received a request from a new Branch to be known as "Knickerbocker Branch" that a charter be issued to them. He stated that since they had not as yet elected their officers the charter could not be issued and that he would advise them to that effect. As soon as officers are elected the charter will be prepared.

Mrs. Lucy Sault, National Librarian, gave her report for the month and read a letter from the publishers of *Exotica* that they expect to have the publication ready for shipment in August.

Awards Committee Chairman Mrs. Arbuckle read a recommendation from the committee stating that Mr. Rudolf Zieshenne would be given the 1959 Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. She also read a report of the activities of the committee for the year.

President Slatter reported that the books of former Membership Secretary Walton had been audited and appeared to be in order.

The temporary secretary of the Knickerbocker Branch asked for begonia material to be used at a New Jersey flower show. Mrs. Gee submitted a suggestion that they be sent 200 packets of begonia seed, together with cultural bulletins. Moved by Mrs. Leatherman, seconded by Mr. Hall, that Mrs. Gee be instructed to send 200 such packets and bulletins. Motion carried.

Membership Secretary Schlanert stated that he could send Mrs. Gee 200 mem-

bership applications to be included with the seed packets and the Board requested that he do so. Moved by Mr. Thieben, seconded by Mrs. Korts, that the Librarian send Mrs. Zemansky 200 back numbers of the BEGONIAN. Motion carried.

Branches reporting. El Monte, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Branch, Orange County, Redondo Beach, Riverside, San Gabriel. Mrs. Fahy of the San Gabriel Branch reported that they are changing their meeting time to the second Tuesday of each month, that the new time and place will be published in THE BEGONIAN.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
IRMA JANE BROWN,  
*Secretary*

## CALENDAR

Sept. 8—San Gabriel Valley Branch. Note change in time and meeting place, permanent: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 8:00 p.m., at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 501 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California.

Sept. 10—Inglewood Branch. Don B. Skinner, Field Nurseryman for Los Angeles Board of Education, will speak on shade plants and will show slides taken during twenty years in charge of gardens in eighty schools. Usual time and place.

Sept. 12 — Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch. Party for Branches in Northeastern District and all visiting A.B.S. members, at home of Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, 225 Lee Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, from 10:30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Exhibition of begonias, with prizes. Unusual plants offered for sale. Principal speaker will be Mr. Daniel J. Foley, formerly of *Horticulture*. Buffet luncheon will be served for \$1.50 per person.

Sept. 23—Glendale Branch. "Mysteries of Plant Life" will be subject of talk by Bert Slatter. Usual time and place.

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# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. D. L. Comiskey, Secy.  
Valley Farm, Dover, Mass.

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences  
Mrs. Ruth Cook, 923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California  
Mrs. Jane Scalzo, Secy.  
1126 Keeler Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Miss W. Leoti Fisher, Secy.  
4416 Downing Ave., Baldwin Park, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mabel Anderson  
5226 Strohm Ave., North Hollywood

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Hoquiam Public Library or  
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store  
Aberdeen, Washington  
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.  
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Homes of Members  
Mrs. Adolph Belsor Cor. Secy.  
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. J. C. Jenks  
6807 DeLongpre Ave., Los Angeles 28, Calif.

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. W. I. Como, Secy.  
Box 220 E. RR No. 1, Dickinson, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Lolefa, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Inglewood Women's Club  
395 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mima A. Rich, Secy.  
2022 W. 84th Place, Los Angeles 47, Calif.

## LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.  
2621 N. Fitzhugh Ave., Dallas 4, Texas

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Linden Hall  
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Florence Haag, Secy.  
1025 Temple Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Amy Reddy Rushing, Secy.  
4938 Annette St., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.  
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 1 p.m.  
World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., Members' Homes  
Mrs. Anna Peck, Secy.  
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taff Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Lionel Evans, Secy.  
10381 Orangewood, Garden Grove, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.  
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Ralph DeCou, Secy.  
107 Potter St., Haddonfield, N.J.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
S. E. Sault, Secy.  
26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.  
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park  
3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.  
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Secy.  
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Chef Van Dusen, Secy.  
4135 Merritt Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
Mrs. Ollie M. Fehr, Secy.  
2796 19th St., Sacramento 18, Calif

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday, Hard of Hearing Hall  
Herbert and University  
Mrs. Phyllis Kansky, Secy.  
4543 36th St., San Diego 16, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Mrs. Forrest Lee Jordan, Secy.  
95 Ravenwood Dr., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.,  
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Marilyn Jewett, Secy.  
18324 E. Alford St., Azusa, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Shirley LaRue, Natl. Rep.  
1933 "O" Ave., National City, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
Mary Wegener, Secy.  
1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at  
SUNset 3-7122.  
Mrs. Hazel M. Starks, Secy.  
6116 Greenwood Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Ted Lemmon, Secy.  
P.O. Box 678, Moorpark, Calif.

**SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday of each Month  
Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.  
410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Chester Barlow, Cor. Secy.  
553 Arden St., Newark, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
Scott Hall, Ft. Worth, Texas  
Mrs. Joe X. Schadt, Secy.  
Rte. 1, Box 17, Saginaw, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes  
Mrs. W. N. Foster, P.O. Box 964, Groves, Texas

**WEST VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Orcutt Playground  
Clubhouse  
21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.  
Mrs. J. H. Holley, Secy.  
22126 Gault St., Canoga Park, Calif.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.  
1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
Mrs. Pearl Benell, Secy.  
10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Ernest Drew, Secy.  
635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

We are still receiving lists of officers lacking the secretary's full address. If you are not SURE this information was mailed, please send it at once, for without it your branch notice cannot be brought up to date.

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