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ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

IMPRESSIONS OF THE FLOWER SHOW

The outstanding feature of the 1923 Show held in the Grand Central Palace, March 12 to 17, was its uniform excellence. From front to rear and from side to side there were no weak spots, no scaling down in quality or merit of display.

There were five great gardens, one more than ever before, and all dissimilar. Surely no more ambitious nor better executed bulb garden has ever been projected upon the floor of any show than the Scheepers Garden. It was admirably proportioned and superbly finished. Perhaps it went a little far in infinity of detail as, for example, in the use of colored stones, which seemed to belong to a former period. It was truly lavish and thereby in somewhat marked contrast to the quiet restraint and calm restfulness which characterized the garden of the same exhibitor two years back.

The F. R. Pierson (Tarrytown) Garden was a natural gem, such as would be possible in hundreds of gardens in springtime, and surpassed all previous efforts of this exhibitor. The selection and disposition of the material that composed this garden, the skill, care, and forethought demanded, the sacrifice of valuable greenhouse space involved in its preparation are factors possibly not appreciated nor even thought of by the average observer, but when, as they should be, they are taken into proper consideration, they are a striking tribute of munificence and high enterprise.

Rose Gardens have been staged at every show, and the Crom-
well Gardens, specializing in this flower, have always been thus
represented. They, too, surpassed themselves and their 1922 gar-
den in design and planting. The quality of stock was the best
yet, eminently practical and a veritable triumph over seasonal ob-

stacles.

The Azalea Garden of Bobbink & Atkins was truly spectacular
and registered a magnificent comeback of a flower that has been
sadly missed from recent shows since Quarantine 37 went into
effect. Here again was an example of constructive forethought
and commendable enterprise. This is a big country and such an
Azalea garden is a manifest possibility throughout a large southern
area. Our visitors come from far and wide and to some of them
this garden must have been an inspiration.

The Rochr's Co. Garden was a daring innovation in a northern
show. Its open-air adaptability may be very circumscribed, but
it suggested something more than this. Glass houses are built to
shelter tropical plants and are usually filled with an heterogeneous
collection. Here was a suggestion of how to display a little bit of
tropical plant life contiguous to a northern home. It certainly
made a strong appeal and was admirably conceived and executed.

From its first inception the Show has fostered the Rock Gar-
den. How the exponents of this type of gardening have pro-
gressed! First we had heaps of rocks and a few packets of
flowers. Both Bobbink & Atkins' and the Rochr's Co. Rock
Gardens of the 1923 Show were worthy of reproduction as a per-
manency under appropriate conditions.

The gardens from the private greenhouses of Mr. William
Boyce Thompson and of Mrs. Payne Whitney were gay and
redolent of "the flowers that bloom in the spring," perhaps more
decorative than practical, but there is no gainsaying that they were
popularly appealing and fully deserved the high meed of praise the
public accorded them.

The Orchid section showed a marked advance over previous
years, but only the Rochr's exhibit manifested an attempt to break
away from stereotyped methods of display.

Roses in all their glory and fragrance were truly regal, in num-
bers and quality eclipsing all previous displays. It was a com-
 mendable change for the better to have Roses staged on the open-

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ing day and by repeating the competition in mid-week a fresh and striking display of this flower was maintained from start to finish.

Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils and other varied spring flowers featured the mezzanine floor and in numbers, variety, and quality these also marked a distinct advance.

Detailed reports of the exhibits appeared in the *Florists' Exchange* during the time of the show.

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA EXHIBITS**

The cooperation of The Garden Club of America at the International Flower Show is gratifying indeed. Each year this becomes a bigger and more interesting feature, the table decorations and the suburban gardens being a big attraction. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the Economy Luncheon Table Decorations were placed under the following requirements:

**CLASS IV**

Luncheon Table Decorations

A. Luncheon Table Arrangement of flowers, foliage and fruit alone or in combination with reference to beauty and economy. Four plates may designate the places; no knives, forks, spoons or candlesticks may be used, but other accessories allowed.

First Prize—Gold Medal. International Flower Show.
Second Prize—Silver Medal. International Flower Show.
Third Prize—Bronze Medal. International Flower Show.

Scale of points by which the above class is to be judged:

- Inexpensiveness of exhibit ........................................ 40
- Perfection of arrangement .......................................... 20
- Color harmony ......................................................... 20
- Proportion ..................................................................... 20

The artistic sense and ingeniousness of the exhibitors were challenged by the 40 points given to economy. Mrs. Robert C. Hill and Mrs. Samuel Seabury, both of the East Hampton Garden Club, took First Prize in this class.

This table had on it a set of filet crochet doilies, one in the centre and one under each plate, the edges having a design of yellow, lavender and green copied from work made by an old gentleman of eighty, Mr. Marshall Fry; orange-tinted plates with small Chinese oatmeal bowls, the inside of which was a beautiful shade of green, almost Nile, a small border of the same green on the outside of
the plates. The orange tint on the plates, by the way, was put on by the exhibitors, the original color when bought being magenta. The expensive item of this table was the glasses which were of fine green glass, wide to within about an inch of the bottom with a short, wide stand. The fluted centrepiece matched the other china in design and decoration. Tulips and Mignonette were the flowers used.

Second Prize: Mrs. Ruthven A. Wodell, Summit, N. J. Garden Club of Summit. This table had purple-striped linen edged with a darker shade of purple wool edging; terra-cotta plates with oatmeal bowls to match, and centre bowl of same crockery. Calendulas and Mignonette.

The Third Prize was won by Mrs. Lansing Powers of the Rye Garden Club. The covering of this table consisted of two runners of theatre gauze crossing each other with a border of yellow and green wool ending in a conventional design. Deep green Italian plates, the centrepiece a plain wood chopping bowl with the edge painted the same color as the plates. Glasses of clear amber, very graceful lines, broad at top and tapering down within two inches of table, then flaring out for their base; four small wooden chopping bowls painted the same as centre, which was between a green and a turquoise-blue. Floral decorations, shaded Calendulas.

One table done by Mrs. Rollin Saltus, President of the Bedford Garden Club, received Honorable Mention. A whole cloth of theatre gauze having a two-inch hem done with a design of bright-colored woolen threads, the corners ending in a little design and finished with a wool tassel. Small, plain yellow kitchen pie plates matching up with two jelly moulds, the latter standing on what looked like teak wood stands, but which really came from the five- and ten-cent store. The centrepiece was a plain yellow kitchen mixing bowl on the same kind of a stand, and two small caster cups matching with the remainder of the china and also having this good-looking little stand. The floral decorations were Tulips and Jonquils, the result being very unusual and very good to look at.

CLASS IV

B. Luncheon Table Arrangement of any flowers, fruit, and foliage alone or in combination. Tables five feet in diameter will be furnished by the committee. Other tables if desired may be furnished by exhibitor. Four
plates may designate places; no knives, forks, spoons or candlesticks may be used but other accessories allowed.


Scale of points by which the exhibit is to be judged:

Perfection of arrangement .................................. 20
Color harmony .............................................. 20
Relation to receptacle ..................................... 20
Proportion .................................................... 20
Originality .................................................. 20

First Prize: Mrs. Henry O. Taylor, President Middletown Garden Club. This table was indeed the most distinctive on the floor. Whole cloth of theatre gauze trimmed with yellow and black wool. The pottery on this consisted of four plates with a yellow and black design done in a long diamond pattern. Glasses of what looked like pewter ware without stems. Small individual fruit plates with the same yellow and black decoration. Centrepiece a dark bowl on a pedestal-like vase filled with fruit. Calendulas as decoration.

Second Prize: Mrs. S. S. Wheeler, President Somerset Hills Garden Club. There was no cloth on this table, as Mrs. Wheeler used Lowestoft china and followed out the custom of the day in which this china was made. Lowestoft china is immensely valuable and has never been successfully imitated. The last of this was made in 1800, and the china fans, of course, were more than gratified by this lovely table.

Third Prize: Miss Anne Remsen Webb, East Islip, L. I. South Side Garden Club.

On this table was beautiful Italian pottery in brilliant blue, with glasses in the shape of horns of plenty. The glasses lifted out of a little stand and were of very deep blue glass. It was very unusual and would have very few imitators.

Particular mention must be made of one of the tables done by Mrs. Duncan Brent who used for a tablecloth a veil of fine old lace worn by her great-great-grandmother, and upon which were two silver epagynes and plates of silver-tinted glass, Primulas and a few Pussy Willows supporting gray Moss were draped over this silver. The consensus of opinion was that it was “ethereal.” The word surely described it as no other can. Great regret was ex-
pressed because through the fault of the express company these materials reached the Grand Central Palace too late for the judging but the exhibit was awarded a special prize by the committee.

SUBURBAN PLANTING

This proved to be one of the great successes of the show. The problem was given thus:

A. A house and garage to be placed on an interior lot with a frontage of 75 feet and a depth of 150 feet and grounds practically and attractively planted. Model to be built on tray 20 inches by 40 inches. Scale—One-quarter inch to one foot.

Each exhibitor started with a little white plaster house and garage, all the same, supplied by the office. The results which were returned in these little plantings were truly surprising. Thirty-eight in Class 3A (amateurs), and two in Class 3B (professional) of these little plantings were finished and placed on exhibition. To stand behind and "listen in" to the various remarks of all classes of people was an education in itself and one can safely say that many ideas and much inspiration were carried from the Palace after seeing what was accomplished in these classes.

Prize No. 1—Mrs. Henry W. Chappell, Garden Club of New Canaan.

Broad side of house toward the street, porch back toward the garden. House cream colored stucco with light blue blinds and gray roof. The front of this lot is a paved courtyard with high cement fence almost even with house, leaving a path on extreme left running back to vegetable garden. Large flower garden in centre of lot shaded by trees, and a second garden in back raised with two pairs of stairs. A large portion of this second garden is given to roses, a pergola running through covered with them. The vegetable garden in the back runs the entire width, surrounded by an old-fashioned fence painted an attractive green, the remainder of the sides having the same cement fence as across the front.

Second Prize—Mrs. William H. Cary, Garden Club of New Canaan. This was a green stucco house with bright green cement walls filled with hollow tile, very pretty little iron gates, and a brick path entirely encircling the house. Garage several feet from left rear, covered with Wistaria. The whole centre of this lot is
used for flower garden with a small vegetable garden in rear separated by hedge. Fruit and Oak trees.

Third Prize—Mrs. George Fraser, Morristown Garden Club. Narrow side of house toward the street. The house is of stucco with green roof and blinds. The porch faces the garden. The house is set back, the garage in the front almost even with the house, and a cement wall closing in the distance between the house and garage, shutting out the public completely from the front. On the other side of the house the same kind of a wall which extends around the sides and back. Low hedge across the front, leaving a view from the street to the plot in front of the house. Kitchen on left convenient to clothes yard. Lawn the entire width of lot with a small space reserved for flower garden beautifully planted with perennials. A stone walk leads from the grass plot into the vegetable garden, with a path running across the lot. Fruit trees.

Highly Commended—Mrs. William A. Lockwood, East Hampton Garden Club. The broad side of house on street. White shingles, gray roof and green blinds. The garage on extreme right back of lot. A road running right to the garage between which are a small yard and a compost heap. The centre of this lot is the flower garden and directly in back, separated by an open rail fence, the vegetable garden. The fruit trees in blossom in this garden are very attractive. A picket fence surrounds the vegetable garden and a hedge the rest of the lot. Kitchen on right-hand rear of house, a clothes yard adjoining.

THE FLOWER SHOW

[The following editorial which appeared in the New York Times of March 18, 1921, immediately after the Spring Flower Show, is reprinted for the benefit of our membership.]

No one could long be a pessimist in the presence of such a splendor of flowers as has filled the Grand Central Palace these last few days. If Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like a single lily of the field, what comparison is to be found for the masses of color which have been made to blossom from like root and stalk under human cultivation? Man has been enjoined by the Great Teacher to forget his anxiety about tomorrow and to
fortify his little faith by beholding how the wild flowers are clothed. But the moral of the Flower Show is that if a man can in coöperation with the Creator work such miracles in the culture of flowers, what ought he not to do in the cultivation of the faculties of children or even in the improvement of his own perennial self? But quite aside from the moral, the sheer enjoyment of these flowers (which will doubtless find their way into hospitals, schools and the homes of the shut-ins before they are "cast into the oven") makes for a paradisiacal state so long as they last and leaves a wholesome memory of color and perfume that will last longer than the flowers themselves. A flower show would be the last place on earth in which to start a riot or to blaspheme an enemy. It was because of this effect of flowers in "destroying all contaminations" that Buddha put first among his seven shops in the "City of Righteousness" and in the "Street of Earnest Meditations" a flower-shop; for this was the list of his shops: a Flower-shop, a Perfume-shop, a Fruit-shop, a Medicine-shop, an Herb-shop, an Ambrosia-shop, a Jewel-shop—and a General-shop.

Into the Flower-shop one is commanded by Buddha to go and "buy a subject for meditation." And if there is one thing we need in our Western urban life more than another, it is that for which Buddha's Flower-shop furnished delectable subjects—meditation. So is "deliverance" promised even from the muck and refuse of New York streets, far from Eden and Buddha's City, where children beg for tickets to see the gardens, far more beautiful than the one could have been in the midst of which our scriptural ancestors were placed and from which they were driven forth to earn their bread in the sweat of their faces. Through a culture of which the Flower Show gives but the exquisite simile, man finds his way toward another paradise.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting and May Flower Show,
May 11th, 12th and 13th, at the New York Botanical Garden.

Peony Show,
June 9th and 10th, at the American Museum of Natural History.

Gladiolus Show,
August 3d, 4th and 5th, at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dahlia Show,
September 21st, 22d and 23d, at the New York Botanical Garden.

TOO MANY VARIETIES

LAST winter the Horticultural Societies of Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts feeling that the Horticultural interests of the country were being injured by the introduction each year of hundreds of seedlings under new names which were neither superior to nor distinct from existing varieties, appointed a committee to consider this problem. The Committee met in New York on March 15th, 1923, and after a thorough discussion of the whole problem adopted the following resolution:

"This Committee feels that all Horticultural interests are being injured by the introduction each year of hundreds of seedlings under new names which are neither superior to nor distinct from existing sorts; and they believe that this tendency to introduce new things is increasing yearly and constitutes a serious menace to Horticulture in this country.

This Committee believes that the Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania Horticultural Societies, being among the oldest and foremost organizations in Horticulture, should take the lead in bringing this state of affairs to the attention of all gardeners, both amateur and professional. It believes that this condition of affairs must be thoroughly understood by the public before a remedy can be found."

The Committee wishes to call this resolution to the attention of
all Horticultural Societies. It believes that if this resolution is approved and adopted by a number of the leading organizations it will act as a check upon the evil.

After sufficient time has elapsed to receive suggestions from all Society publications the individuals interested in this problem or committee will meet again to consider what further steps may be taken.

John C. Wister
Acting Chairman of the Committee.

COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW, 1924
(Appointed on April 11th, 1923)

F. R. Pierson
F. R. Newbold
T. A. Havemeyer
James Stuart
Joseph A. Manda
John Canning
F. L. Atkins
John Scheepers
Julius Roehrs