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The BEGONIAN



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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Society or its officers.

Front Cover:

THE OMATI BEGONIA

By John S. Womersley, Assistant Director, Division of Botany
National Herbarium, Lae, Papua New Guinea

John Womersley served on the staff of the National Herbarium in Lae for almost thirty years. He recently retired and moved with his wife to live near their daughter in Adelaide, South Australia. Last year the Womersleys traveled around the world, attended the International Botanical Congress in Moscow and Leningrad and the Pacific Science Congress in Vancouver, as well as spending time with another daughter who lives near Corning, New York.

Copies of the *Begonian* are sent to the National Herbarium at Lae. Mr. Womersley wrote that he hoped that *Begonian* readers would be interested in his account of his collecting trip. We are most grateful for his contribution and wish him well in his new home.



In 1955 when traveling with Dr. N. W. Simmonds, the then world authority on the species of *Musa*, the cultivated forms of which we know as bananas, we visited the Western Province of Papua, ascending the Omati River. The only settlement on the Omati then was an oil exploration rig and its support facilities. Our Government vessel tied up at the small wharf constructed at the base of the coral cliff which here lined both sides of the river. A road leading from the wharf crossed a flat area of coral then ascended steeply across the face of the coral cliff to reach the ridge above where the camp facilities associated with the oil rig were located.

On all sides the steep coral faces were covered with one of the most beautiful begonias I have ever seen. The plants grew from the litter collected in the crevices of the coral producing a stout rhizome from

which pendulous noded branches developed. At each node there were clusters of long petioled leaves and slender inflorescences. Much of the beauty of this plant is in the leaves, pale but bright green in basic colouration and rayed in red. Petioles and inflorescences are reddish and the flowers pink.

Later in the same month a further locality was discovered for this fine species on the Kikori River near another oil drilling site at Middletown. Herbarium collections made at Omati, N.G.F. 5069 and Middletown N.G.F. 5083 have been distributed as duplicates to several overseas herbaria but no botanist has suggested a name for this plant. I believe that the locality on the Kikori river has been visited by others including Mrs. A. N. Millar of the University of Papua New Guinea horticultural section. It was not until 1974 that the opportunity for a return visit to Omati occurred. After several days travelling through the mangrove swamps by boat an attempt to reach Omati was defeated by low water in the rivers and connecting channels.



After returning to our base I was able in the space of two hours to accomplish my objective using a helicopter. Navigating largely by memory from my 1955 visit we traversed much pinnacle limestone country — country where neither pilot nor passenger thinks about emergency landings as there just isn't anywhere to sit down. After 20 minutes or so we saw the sinuous gorge of the Omati River. Descending between the cliffs and high forest trees we quickly saw the clearing of levelled coral which had been the site of the wharf in 1955 and the road bench leading up

to the old exploration site, now the location of an active boarding school catering to the children from the surrounding areas. As my pilot circled and carefully inspected the proposed landing site I could clearly see great masses of the Omati Begonia clinging to every crevice of the cliff face. We landed to be greeted by a group of school children, parents and the teachers all interested in whatever could have brought me to this remote part of Papua New Guinea. My main interest was collection of the rock and soil mixtures the plants were growing in.

Cultivation of this plant has proven most difficult. Where the plant grows naturally the "soil" — it is really only coarse broken coral with some humus — is very dry. The plants are in shaded situations but receive quite bright light. The atmospheric humidity is probably about 70%. At time of writing the only known surviving plant is at the Department of Forests headquarters, Port Moresby. This plant which struggled for a long time is now showing signs of having settled down and is making new leaves.

The Omati Begonia is but one of the many beautiful species occurring in Papua New Guinea. There is a very real need for the taxonomic botanist to join with the skilled horticulturist in bringing this largely untapped wealth of *Begonia* into cultivation.

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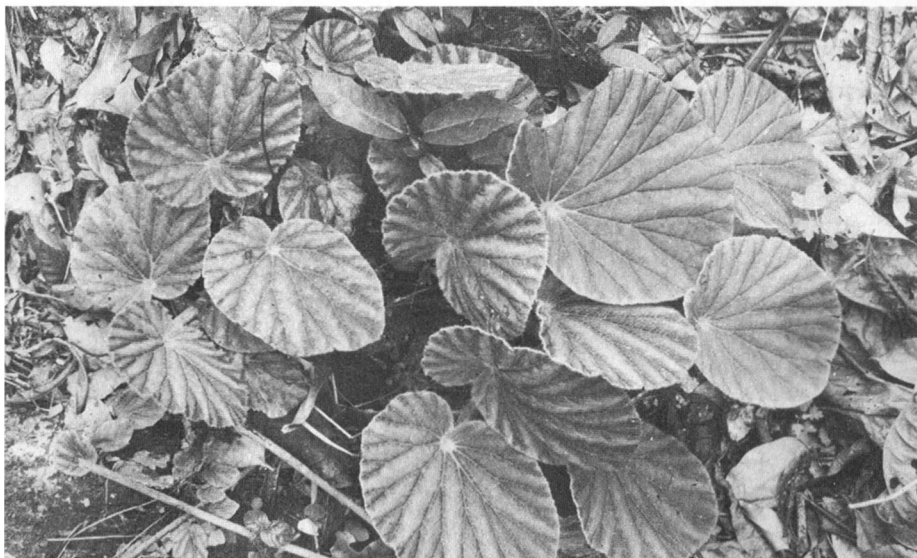
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Top, page 92 — Omati Begonia covering coral rock face near Omati River, Western Province, Papua, New Guinea

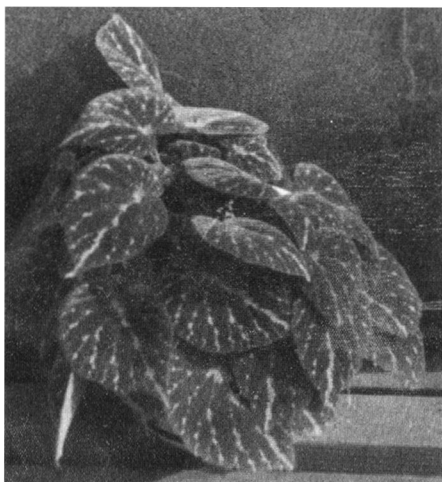
Top, this page — The old road bench cut into coral limestone cliff at Omati

Bottom, this page — Foliage and a young male inflorescence of Omati Begonia

LES BEGONIAS, BY CHARLES CHEVALIER, TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY ALVA GRAHAM, CONTAINS REPRODUCTIONS OF OLD PRINTS, MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS, AND A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT BEGONIAS. AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS LIBRARY. \$10.

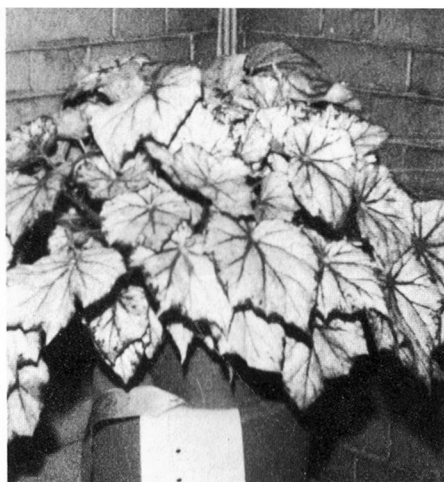
FAVORITE BEGONIAS

By Helene Jaros, Miami, Florida



BEGONIA 'GREEN JEWELL'

B. 'Green Jewell' is a sport of *B. 'Silver Jewell'*. It is a rhizomatous begonia and has leaves that are jade green overlaid with old bronze on rounded, heart-shaped, plushy leaves. It has small white single flowers, stays nice and compact and makes a lovely show plant. Named and grown by Paul Lowe of Mt. Vernon Springs, N. C. 27345.



BEGONIA 'SKEEZAR'

B. 'Skeezar' is a medium leaved, rhizomatous — green with white blooms. It was introduced by Rudolf Ziesenhenné in 1953. Its parentage is *B. dayi* (syn. *B. hidalgensis*) x *B. liebmannii*. It is an outstanding plant with its beautiful variegated green leaves.

This photo of *B. 'Skeezar'* was taken at the 1975 Regional Begonia Convention in Boston, Mass. It was a blue ribbon plant grown and entered by Corliss K. Engle.

BEGONIAS IN ALL THEIR GLORY

The Begonia Society of Miami will present an outstanding display of begonias at its show, April 3 and 4 at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami, Florida, a setting which lends much to the exhibiting of begonias in all their glory.

The hours of the show are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Entries are on Thursday from 12 p.m. to 7

p.m. and on Friday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The public is invited to enter begonias. Plants will be judged for appearance, color, grooming, and cultural perfection. There will be awards of ribbons, rosettes, and silver.

Show Chairman is Mrs. Alma Crawford. The Society President is Mr. Ray Weakley.

BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease, Los Angeles, Calif.

New Plants From Old by Charles M. Evans, copyrighted this year and published by Random House, New York, is a concise book on pruning and propagating for the indoor gardener.

The Table of Contents divides the book into four parts . . . Propagating from Plant Parts; Propagating from Seeds; Propagating Chart; and Pruning.

Perhaps some will find the section on Pruning their first choice in using this book as a reference since it is a beginning many times for us to have "new plants from old." Mr. Evans writes: "The classic example of a pinchable plant is the wax begonia. Left unpruned, its branches grow long and knobby with a few leaves at their terminal ends. The result is an ugly, rangy plant. However, by continually pinching, you can produce bushy, more attractive plant with a dense set of leaves and lots of flowers. Pinching also helps to produce the short, stubby erect growth with thick stems and leaves that we like to see on jade plants. Left unattended, jade plants develop weak stems with small leaves and take on a weeping shape." He goes on to explain how to pinch using your thumbnail and forefinger.

Most begonia growers learn sooner or later that what Mr. Evans says about the ugly, rangy plant is true and that judicious pruning, followed by continually pinching produces the type *semperflorens* we all want to grow. Portions of the pruned and pinched parts of the plant then become available for propagation!

Under Propagating from Plant

Parts we find line drawings and information easily understood. Under Leaf Cuttings, there is discussion of how to use leaf vein cuttings, leaf petiole cuttings, leaf blade cuttings and leaf bud cuttings.

Along with the many other methods of propagating plants, there is information on rooting containers, rooting mediums, transplanting newly rooted growth and rooting in water.

The reader will soon notice illustrations that, if followed, will prove successful. For instance, in the section discussing propagating with leaf blade cuttings, we see an aluminum tray with cuttings of *sansevieria* and a *sedum*. We do not see fern divisions nor do we see parts of begonias in this tray. Their requirements for rooting differ from the *sansevieria* and *sedum*.

Part of a statement about the author, noted in the book, is as follows: "Charles M. Evans is a horticulturist and one of the nation's leading authorities on gardening under lights."

Listed below are some of the other reference books I have on plant propagation:

Handbook on Propagation published by Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Propagating House Plants by Arno and Irene Nehrling, published by Hearthside Press, Inc.

Plant Propagation in Pictures by Montague Free, published by Doubleday.

Plant Propagation by K. R. W. Hammett, published by Drake Publishers, Inc., New York.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Spring is on its way, and I'm sure you are all as excited about the surge of growth our begonias will be putting out soon as I am. I also get excited about putting down cuttings of my favorite begonias, and some of the robins had some good hints about propagation this round.

Rosetta White from Kansas told in a flight on growing under lights, that she takes the baggies (that she's put over the cuttings for protection) off when the plantlets are small. She says this way you don't have to take them off a little at a time. At least, she says, hers didn't wilt when she did this.

Also regarding propagation, Ellen Jacobson, Colorado, puts her cuttings in water for one week, then pots them up using no plastic for protection. Ellen says that so far she's lost *no* cuttings, and she's had no rot or wilt. She says this has worked beautifully with cane, hairy, small-leaved and Rieger begonias, as well as with fuchsias, hoyas, plectranthus and geraniums.

Also in the spring, many robins start moving their begonias out-doors for the warmer weather. Zelma Clark, New York, sent around a newspaper feature story on her begonias in which she warns that hanging plants need more water than most plants because they are exposed, hanging in the air. She waters each of her hanging plants until the excess water drips into the drain saucer.

Zelma also tells us two ways to discover whether a hanging plant needs water. . . . "Feel the soil, not with the tip of your index finger but with the knuckles. They are more

sensitive to note if the soil is dry.

"Also, after watering a hanging plant, feel how heavy the pot is. When a plant is too light in weight, this may also mean that the roots need water."

Also, for plants in pots with no bottom drainage hole, Zelma recommends "the straw trick." Zelma says that the problem with no drainage is that the plant roots don't get any air. For a drain-less ceramic planter she suggests placing a good layer of super-coarse perlite in the bottom. Arrange several straws, the soda pop type, in the planter, upright, to just touch the perlite. Then fill in with the soil and set the roots in place, leaving the straws poking up.

When the plant is settled, cut the straws just a bit above the soil surface, being careful not to plug them with soil. This way, the plants roots will be aerated.

This time of year we also start thinking about our tuberous begonias, and Bill Parlin, New York, gives us the following hints for feeding. "I let the plants decide [frequency of feeding]. A normal, healthy begonia leaf has a slight curl and you get to know the proper color for different sorts. A definite roll to the edge indicates over-feeding and a leaf that is too flat or light in color suggest a need for nourishment."

With all the enthusiasm for begonia growing that seems to hit us at this time of year, maybe now is when you should join a robin and share all that enthusiasm with others. Write me.

Debi Miller
919 Hickory View Circle
Camarillo, California 93010

X-RAY INDUCED MUTATIONS IN *BEGONIA X HIEMALIS*

J. Doorenbos and J. J. Karper

Department of Horticulture, Agricultural University,
Wageningen, the Netherlands

The following is a reprint of portions of an article originally published in *Euphytica* 24(1975) 13-19. The original work was reported in Publication 405, Department of Horticulture, Agricultural University, Wageningen, the Netherlands. In the interest of brevity and general readability, the detailed discussion of the results of the experiments and references have been omitted. A copy of the original article is filed in the ABS Library and can be borrowed by any reader interested in the complete work. — Editor

SUMMARY

A study was made of the occurrence of mutants in plants of four clones of *Begonia x hiemalis* grown from leaf cuttings irradiated with 0, 1500, 2000 or 2500 rad of X-rays. Irradiation reduced the number and slowed down the development of adventitious shoots, but to a different degree in the four clones used. The percentage of mutated shoots was as high as 18-35% in the non-irradiated shoots. Irradiation raised it to more than 80%. In the control plants, almost exclusively flower colour mutants were found. Irradiation caused a wider range of flower colour mutants and also caused mutations of growth habit, colour and size of the leaves, and size and shape of the flower. Almost all mutants were "solid," i.e. non-chimeral.

INTRODUCTION

Winterflowering begonias of the 'Elatior'-type (*Begonia x hiemalis* Fotsch) are hybrids between polyploid tuberous begonias (*B. x tuberybrida* Voss) and diploid *B. socotrana* Hook. f. Particularly useful hybrids are obtained when tuberous begonias of the tetraploid 'Bertinii compacta' type are used as female parent. Owing to the heterozygosity of these polyploid plants, the hybrid population is too heterogeneous to be of commercial value, but individual plants can be selected, propa-

gated by leaf cuttings and introduced as clonal cultivars.

As these cultivars are triploid and therefore sterile, they can only be improved by mutation. Spontaneous bud sports are known to occur. Several of the older 'Elatior'-type begonias have originated in this way. In the modern types which are propagated by leaf cuttings (in the older varieties, stem cuttings have to be used) spontaneous mutations are even more frequent.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

[The material to be irradiated was selected from 4 first generation clones, 3 from the cross *B. 'Bertinii compacta* Leuchtfleur' x *B. socotrana* and 1 from the cross *B. 'Bertinii compacta* Sonnenschein' x *B. socotrana*.]

On 15 November 1972 three hundred young leaves were cut from each of these four clones. Of these 300 leaves, 50 were not irradiated, whereas 50 were irradiated with 1500 rad, 100 with 2000 rad and 100 with 2500 rad of X-rays. These irradiations were carried out at the laboratory of the Association Euratom-ITAL at Wageningen under the supervision of Dr. C. Broertjes . . .

After irradiation of the whole leaves, these leaves and the controls were planted with the petioles in peat mold in covered boxes. The soil temperature was 18°C during the

first three weeks and subsequently raised to 23°C. After the leaves had formed roots, they were planted separately in pots and grown without cover in a greenhouse at about 18°C. The first leaves were potted on 14 December 1972, the last batch on 8 January 1973.

Unrooted adventitious shoots were removed from the leaves when they were about 4-5 cm long and treated as stem cuttings. The first of these cuttings were taken on 30 January 1973. To save labour and greenhouse space only 5 cuttings were taken from each leaf of the control groups. From the irradiated leaves all shoots were taken until 1 May 1973. On this date the leaves were discarded after all visible buds and shoots had been counted, and those long enough to serve as cuttings, even those only 2-3 cm long, were taken off and planted. The cuttings were potted as soon as they had formed roots, and grown in a greenhouse at about 18°C (but considerably hotter on sunny days).

The following data were collected: total number of visible adventitious buds on a leaf petiole, number of shoots and date at which they were taken off, and all macroscopically visible mutations of the plants grown from these cuttings. The flower colors were described with the numbers of the Horticultural Color Chart but using the names proposed by Wancher.

Every plant was registered separately, which resulted in an administration of 3917 plants. On 10 October 1973 the experiment was terminated and all plants were discarded with the exception of a few which showed particular promise.

CONCLUSIONS

The present results once again underline the possibilities of mutation breeding in plants which form adventitious buds on detached leaves. In the present experiments, nearly all mutants were solid (non-chimeral). The percentage of chimeras was very low (0-0.4%) and not higher in the irradiated plants than in the controls. This suggests that each adventitious bud originated from only one cell, either mutated or non-mutated, and that the few chimeras found were the results of a mutation occurring spontaneously in a later stage of development. No anatomical observations were made on the present material, but it seems plausible to suppose that the secondary meristems arose from epidermal cells, as described by Wakker (1885) for *Begonia discolor* (syn. *B. grandis* Dryand.) and by Hartsema (1924) for a form (probably a hybrid) of *Begonia rex* Putz.

The occurrence of mutants in the control plants was very high. Nearly all of these were flower color mutants, the range of flower colors of the mutants was expanded and mutations of growth habit, leaf colors and flower size and shape appeared. As

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some of the latter mutants are of commercial interest, irradiation is by no means superfluous. Moreover, it is more practical to consider the percentage of mutated shoots (which was increased by irradiation) than the number of mutated shoots obtained from one leaf (which was highest in the non-irradiated plants), as the raising of flowering plants from adventitious shoots is the most costly part of the project.

After an X-ray dose of 2500 rad, 79-86% of the shoots showed one or more mutations. Probably, this was in reality close to 100% as many more small genotypical differences

come to light when the plants are propagated so that clones rather than individual plants can be compared.

At the conclusion of the experiments [one radiation-induced mutant of the *B. 'Bertinii compacta Leuchtfeuer'* x *B. socotrana*] with flowers of a more vivid hue than the original one was introduced as a commercial variety 'Turo'. In 1974 a yellow-flowering mutant of [*B. 'Bertinii compacta Sonnenschein'* x *B. socotrana*] was introduced into commerce under the name 'Tiara' . . . [Other mutants in various hues of red, pink and salmon-pink are still under observation.]

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, Research Director

Donations to the Research Fund for the second quarter are the following:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Ziesenhenne	
In memory of Burnell Yarick, Jr.	\$ 10.00
Connecticut Branch	40.00
Mrs. Francis Cooley	
Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Cooley	15.00
Mr. Paul Cooley	
Mrs. Emil Hager	10.00
Long Island Branch, Dec., Jan., Feb.	30.00
ABS Seed Fund, Nov., Dec., Jan.	64.14
Interest	17.81
Total Receipts for the second quarter	\$186.95
Balance on hand, Nov. 24, 1975	585.45
Balance on hand, Feb. 23, 1976	\$772.40

* * *

Dr. Grant McGregor, our Canadian research committee member, passed away on January 23, 1976. His comments on important decisions were always appreciated and respected.

Last year I reported that the project carried on by a student at Rutgers University, would be finished by September 1, 1975. There has been a delay in receiving the project report but it should be available soon.

In order to continue the Cultivar Catalog project, being researched by Ann Councill, it will be necessary to award another grant of \$600.00 to the New York Botanical Library. This project should be finished by June.

BEGONIAS WORLDWIDE

When to water? How much sun? Should I add lime to my soil mix? A good grower in Virginia might have the wrong answers for a Californian. And with begonias being grown in many parts of the world, a single handbook must have a wide focus to answer questions for everyone.

Mildred and Edward Thompson's "Begonia Culture in Different Parts of the Country and Around the World" — just off the press to complete Volume II of *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, the first part of which appeared last year — has come up with a charming idea no doubt born from this need.

The Thompsons have brought together contributions from the knowledge of long-time begonia growers "from all over," with names that mean old friends to most ABS members. Over the years we have heard them speak at conventions, read their articles and books, and corresponded with them in round robins. Now, with care, detail and attention to many kinds of begonias, these horticulturists, botanists, and hobbyists round up their experiences in different conditions and climates. From so many points of view — 10 growers in the U.S. and 11 in other countries — many questions should find answers.

Whether we seek information or not, these sections make good reading. They are almost visits with friends in near and far places. Photos add to our pleasure as we move through greenhouses in Japan to patios in Honduras and window sills in The Netherlands and North Carolina — to fields of tuberous begonias

or a gigantic formal begonia carpet in Belgium.

Members will treasure last words from Fred Martin of the National Begonia Society of England and Grant McGregor of Canada, both active many years in begonia growing and research and gone from us since these pages went to press.

Other contributors are Herbert Warrick, Pat Morrison, Rudolf Zieshenne, Dorothy Behrends, Mae Blanton, Belva Kusler, Frank Kerin, Corliss Engle, Elda Haring, R. D. Weakley, Jr., Isamu Misono, Mickey Meyer, Russell Spangenberg, Fred Barkley and Ernesto Navarro, Joseph Bond, J. Haegeman, and Jan Doorenbos.

This last section of the *Guide's* Volume II complements the earlier sections on show classification, cultural listings, bloom information, and propagation. Volume I, also issued last year, presents a horticultural classification system and includes sections on the parentage of known hybrids, a glossary of botanical terms, and a bibliography. Beautiful drawings are sprinkled through the volumes, a few from the literature but most of them original drawings by Shirley Baty, George Boree, Doris Jenkins, Elisabeth Schaefer, David Siklos, and Diane Vahradian. The looseleaf pages are dated and numbered by sections to permit replacement by updated pages if later information becomes available.

With Volume III, to appear later this year, the *Guide* will culminate in an overall view, with "Culture of *Begonia*" and "Pictorial Review."

— Reviewed by C. Karegeannes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recognition of the American Bicentennial in the form of a complimentary fellowship in the Royal Horticultural Society of England for the year 1976 was received by the president. I am most complimented. *The Journal*, the Fellowship tickets and the leaflets will gladly be shared with ABS members who plan to visit Britain this year, or who wish to learn about the Society.

Britain has given so much to the heritage of the United States. This gesture is particularly significant to one whose paternal great-grandfather spent the duration of the conflict as a guest of the British in the Jersey Prison Ship after the unsuccessful efforts of the colonists to defend New York City in the early days of the Revolutionary War.

Rudolf has long been a Fellow of the RHS and has shared his privileges many times, donating his Journals to the library of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History whose services have been generously given to him in connection with his research.

The RHS certificate shows its founding date as 1804, and incorporation by Royal Charter in 1809. The founding just 28 years after our nation's Independence may minimize the ABS's founding in 1932 and incorporation by the State of California in 1940, but we have similar purposes and problems in this age, and both work for the advancement of research and development.

How close we are drawn together in our ABS work through our study of the genus *Begonia*. Our annual greeting from the Japan Begonia Society bore the inscription "To the King and Queen of Begonia." —

this from the organization through whose effort we recently have regained *Begonia rex*; it makes one very humble.

A two page article in the *Florist Review* on propagation and marketing of *B. rex* cultivars and other rhizomatous begonias highlights ABS and its importance in keeping abreast of the times. The day of the combined researcher, hybridizer, propagator and mail order source is past. We must go forward with an enlarged view of our purposes and be prepared for a burgeoning interest in *Begonia* as an important horticultural item.

We have several new national officers. Gordon Lepisto, St. Paul, Minn., organizer of the new Twin Cities Branch of the ABS, has accepted the office of Slide Librarian, and will be assisted by Joseph Bond of the Canal Zone. Great plans are being formulated to extend this service. The poor health of the former slide librarian, Katharine Alberti, who not only did that work but the huge task of classification clerk of the 1975 National Show, has caused her to resign. We wish her a speedy recovery. Nathan Randall, vice president of Glendale Branch, has taken over the Speakers Bureau from Debi Miller, president of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, who is handling the Round Robin activities. We are pleased to have Nathan's energy and talents, and thank Debi for her work in initiating the program.

We wish to congratulate the two new branches, Palomar Branch in North San Diego County area, organized by Past National President
(Continued on page 113)



FOUNDED 1804

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1809

The Royal Horticultural Society

Complimentary Fellowship

of the Society to mark the

Bicentenary

of the

American

Declaration of Independence

1776

has been granted to

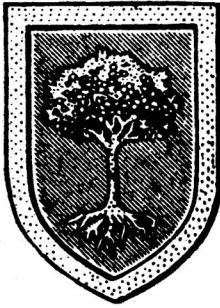
Margaret Zieshenne

for the year

1976

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Secretary



The Royal Horticultural Society
Vincent Square, London
January 1976

Margaret Ziesenhenne, President
The American Begonia Society



Photo by Santa Barbara News Press

Dear Mrs. Ziesenhenne:

The Royal Horticultural Society has decided to mark the occasion of the 200th anniversary in 1976 of the American Declaration of Independence, by inviting 200 citizens of the United States, either eminent horticulturists or botanists, or else representatives of leading American horticultural institutions or organizations to accept for that year Complimentary Fellowship of the Society.

Thereby the Council of the Society hopes to strengthen the already close horticultural links between the two countries and to bring to gardeners and garden lovers in the United States a keener awareness of the wide-ranging activities of the Society in the interests of horticulture . . . We enclose a Certificate of Complimentary Fellowship, and you will receive two transferable Fellows' tickets, each admitting one person to each of the Society's thirteen shows at Westminster, and to the Chelsea Show, and three people to the Society's garden at Wisley. You will also receive a copy of each of the monthly issues of "The Garden," the Journal of the Society . . .

We shall be sending you some leaflets about the Society, which we hope you may feel able to distribute among your friends. These, and the Journal, will show the privileges of Fellowship.

My colleagues and I send you warm greetings as fellow gardeners, and we hope you will be able to use, and enjoy, your Complimentary Fellowship.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) Lord Aberconway
President

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS NORTH CENTRAL U.S.A.

Philip G. Seitner, Public Relations Assistant
North Central District, Chicago, Illinois

SUMMARY

A study of a representative large segment of the American Begonia Society membership (thirteen states of the North Central U.S.A.) showed that membership is roughly proportional to the population of a given area, the proportion in the segment studied being approximately one A.B.S. member per 130,000 population. Consistent gross variation from this in a single state suggests presence of an additional influencing factor.

Tabulating members according to gender, institution, and family memberships suggested that A.B.S. membership is characteristically 3 men to every 5 women; institution memberships average about 2%; and family memberships (listed with the double title, Mr. and Mrs.) about 1%.

Comparing member identities on membership lists representing time intervals of 10 years and 2 years demonstrated a very distinct transient character of the A.B.S. membership. A large proportion (50% or more) discontinue membership after one or two years.

In late 1974, an effort was made to identify all the A.B.S. members residing in Chicago and its suburbs. Ultimately, this led to speculation as to whether Chicago's membership was typical or in any way exceptional to membership elsewhere. To explore this question, attention was expanded to A.B.S. membership in the entire state of Illinois and, finally, to memberships in twelve additional states in the North Central U.S.A. The result of that considerable effort provided a membership sample much larger than the Chicago 29; the sample represented an adequate base against which the Chicago membership could be compared and was large enough to permit some generalizations which I am confident other members will find interesting. The accompanying Tables and Figure bear data on which the following observations are based.

I. 1974 MEMBERSHIPS: TOTALS AND CHARACTERISTICS (Table 1) *Membership Size Relative to Total Population:*

The population and membership values demonstrate a reasonably predictable relationship: the number of members varies simply and directly with the population of the state or city. Thus, Illinois, with the greatest population of the thirteen states, has the greatest number of A.B.S. members, while the two Dakotas, with the least populations, have the fewest members.

Less predictable and perhaps more in-

teresting are the minor and major deviations from the pattern shown to be characteristic of the region as a whole. A.B.S. memberships in Kansas and Nebraska are large enough (41 and 17, respectively) that the much greater membership-population ratios in those states can be regarded as having some significance (Kansas, 1:54,855 and Nebraska, 1:87,282). In the reverse, the ratios for Michigan and Kentucky are distinctly lower than for most states in the region (Michigan, 1:188,832 and Kentucky, 1:201,207). The exceptionally low membership-population ratios of the Dakotas (South 1:333,129 and North, 1:308,880) invite speculation that the distribution of population in those two states — a considerably higher proportion of rural population (66%) than in any of the other eleven states — may play a role in suppressing the membership size. The deviations in those six states may be coincidental or transient; it seems very possible, however, that they may be due to an unknown factor or factors influencing the states' A.B.S. memberships.

Chicago's 1974 membership-population ratio (1:116,184) is not far from that of the entire North Central Region, 1:129,152 (approximately 1:130,000).

The 1:130,000 ratio is determined for and applies solely to the present period and to the North Central Region. Other regions may differ by having slightly higher or lower ratios, although within

TABLE I

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP, NORTH CENTRAL U.S., 1974: TOTALS AND CHARACTERISTICS FOR EACH OF THIRTEEN STATES AND THE REGION							
STATE/CITY*	POPULATION ¹	A.B.S. MEMBERS	POPULATION PER MEMBER	PERCENT FEMALE	PERCENT MALE	PERCENT MR. & MRS.	PERCENT INSTITT.
ILLINOIS	11,113,976	107	103,869	60%	36%	2%	2%
OHIO	10,652,017	72	147,945	62%	31%	2%	5%
MICHIGAN	8,875,083	47	188,832	53%	45%	-	2%
INDIANA	5,193,669	38	136,675	58%	42%	-	-
MISSOURI	4,677,399	28	167,050	71%	22%	-	7%
WISCONSIN	4,417,933	34	129,939	50%	50%	-	-
MINNESOTA	3,805,069	36	105,696	55%	42%	3%	-
CHICAGO *	3,369,357	(29) ²	116,184	55%	43%	-	3%
KENTUCKY	3,219,311	16	201,207	31%	69%	-	-
IOWA	2,825,041	23	122,828	61%	35%	-	4%
KANSAS	2,249,071	41	54,855	88%	12%	-	-
NEBRASKA	1,483,791	17	87,282	76%	18%	-	6%
S. DAKOTA	666,257	2	333,129	50%	50%	-	-
N. DAKOTA	617,761	2	308,880	50%	50%	-	-
TOTALS FOR THE REGION	59,796,378	463	129,152	61.1%	35.6%	0.9%	2.4%
1: 1970 Census 2: Incl. in the Ill. 107							

TABLE II

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP, NORTH CENTRAL U.S.; TOTALS AT BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END OF A 12-YEAR SPAN (1963, 1972, AND 1974), WITH NUMBERS OF CONTINUING MEMBERS.						
STATE/CITY*	1963			1972		1974
	TOTAL	NUMBER STILL MEMBERS 1972	NUMBER STILL MEMBERS 1974*	TOTAL	NUMBER STILL MEMBERS 1974	TOTAL
ILLINOIS	43	8	6	68	25	107
OHIO	43	7	2	44	13	72
MICHIGAN	35	3	1	33	12	47
INDIANA	16	3	3	25	11	38
MISSOURI	35	12	6	34	11	28
WISCONSIN	20	5	3	23	7	34
MINNESOTA	11	4	3	30	9	36
CHICAGO *	(11) ¹	(3)	(2)	(11)	(6)	(29)
KENTUCKY	11	1	0	9	3	16
IOWA	15	5	3	20	6	23
KANSAS	37	9	5	39	16	41
NEBRASKA	7	0	0	11	3	17
S. DAKOTA	0	0	0	1	0	2
N. DAKOTA	0	0	0	3	1	2
TOTALS FOR THE REGION	273	57	32	340	117	463
1. Incl. in the Ill. 43						

any one region, the constituent states' memberships will vary by the same basic pattern, according to the states' populations. California might prove to present a much higher membership-population ratio than any other region or state; if so, it could be interpreted, in part, in terms of the state's having a climate most favorable for begonia culture and of its being long a center of A.B.S. activities.

Membership Characteristics;

Ratios of Women to Men:

Any special-interest society has a membership of which the ratio of women to men is characteristic of the society. The major determinant is the nature of the society's subject of interest, although other factors may influence the character. Horticultural societies and garden clubs are not exceptional in this respect. They range from those exclusively for men (nearly always named as such) or for women (almost never so named) to those of which memberships is based less on gender than on mutual interest. Within the latter category, there is a wide variation, the sexual ratios depending to some degree on the character of the horticultural subject. It has therefore been interesting to examine the sexual ratio of the A.B.S. membership in this sample of 463 members.

Having only the membership list as a source, difficulty was occasionally encountered in determining, from the name provided, the gender of the member. Specifically, these were cases in which a title (Mr., Ms., Miss, or Mrs.) was lacking and (a) only the member's initial was provided, or (b) the given name was one of those few which can apply to either a man or woman (e.g. Marion or Leslie), or (c) the given name was unfamiliar and the implied gender uncertain. Of the nineteen member names which presented this problem, fourteen were of category (a) and those were all arbitrarily placed with the male group; three were of category (b) and two were of category (c) and these were placed with the male or female group according to which seemed most likely appropriate.

The names at issue were so few (19) that, even if the assignments were proved ALL to be reversed, the error in the totals would be minor (3.2% more women and 3.2% fewer men). However, since it is unlikely that the assignments were totally or even mostly in error, the ratios shown on the Table can be regarded as very close to accurate, with respect to the sample: approximately 61% women, 36% men, 1% families (Mr. and Mrs.), and 2% institutions.

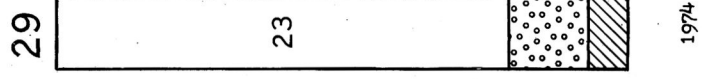
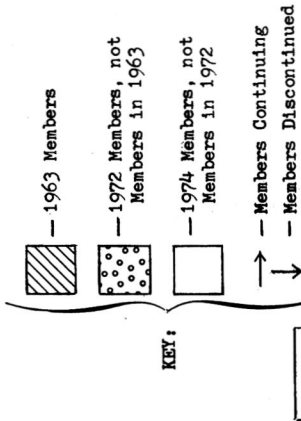
The thirteen states can be observed to vary widely in this respect. The Dakotas' memberships are too small to provide significant indicators. Kansas and Nebraska present ratios greatly disproportionate in favor of female members (88:12 and 76:18, respectively). These are the same states in which the total numbers of members are disproportionately high relative to total population. Missouri presents a ratio only slightly less disproportionate in the same direction (71:22). One state, Kentucky, presents a ratio in reverse to that shown by the region as a whole (31:69) and one state, Wisconsin, presents a ratio of 1:1.

This present sample is sufficiently large (over one-eighth of the total 1974 membership) that the ratio it shows is probably very close to typical of the entire A.B.S. membership. For confirmation, it would be interesting to compare these results to those from a study of another large sample of the membership. Furthermore, it would be interesting to compare this ratio, 61:36, to ratios of memberships in other societies such as The American Rose Society, The American Dahlia Society, The American Cactus and Succulent Society, The American Rock Garden Society, etc.

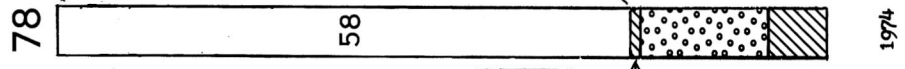
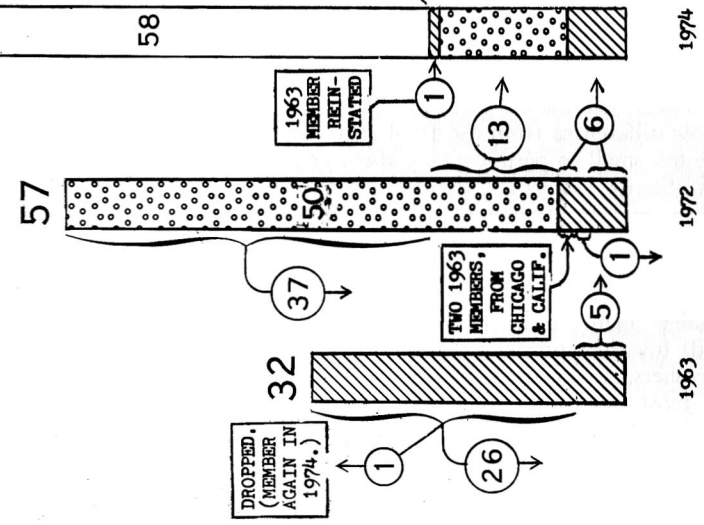
In view of the observations in the following Section (II), on a different aspect of A.B.S. membership, a final observation about the ratio seems appropriate. Despite a constantly changing membership, the character shown by the present sample is likely to remain fairly constant. Thus, at any one time, the total A.B.S. membership or any large segment of it can be

FIGURE I

CHICAGO



ILLINOIS, EXCEPT CHICAGO



predicted to consist of more women than men and the male membership will be apt to be greater than one-half of the female membership — approximately 5 women to every three men members.

The 1974 Chicago membership ratio of women to men (55:43) is not greatly different from that for the region as a whole (61:36).

Ratios determined for 1963 and 1972 show differences from the 1974 ratio that are too small to permit giving them great significance. However, the differences do occur in one direction and are worth recording: 1963, 67.8% women vs. 30.0% men; 1972, 65.5% women vs. 33.2% men; 1974, 61.1% women vs. 35.6% men. This suggests a gradual shift toward a greater proportion of male members, an apparent trend which will be most interesting to watch for confirmation during the coming decade.

II. MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND CHANGE: 1963, 1972, AND 1974 (Fig. I; Table II)

In 1963 and again in 1972, the A.B.S. prepared membership lists, available at a modest price to members only. Both of these were organized by states. Thus, it has been possible to match memberships of the North Central Region at three points of time: 1963, 1972, and 1974.

This study was pursued with full awareness that some degree of inaccuracy was apt to reside in any or all three of the membership compilations. Such "inaccuracy" derives from the near impossibility of maintaining a constantly accurate record of a large membership in which changes occur — it can be said without exaggeration — weekly or even daily. Thus, during the interval in which a list is typed, duplicated, announced, and delivered to a purchasing member, a significant number of changes may have occurred. However, the results and general conclusions from the present comparisons can not have been affected in any great measure by the few inaccuracies of this nature expected in the lists.

The initial study involved solely the Chicago membership and this will be described first, in some detail. There were eleven Chicago members in 1963, eleven in 1972, and twenty-nine in 1974.

By observing merely these membership totals, an encouraging picture of membership growth is conveyed. That increase in membership totals proves to be misleading by oversimplification. The evolution of the membership over the period of twelve years is shown to be far more complex than mere accretion of new members. As Figure I depicts, of the eleven 1963 members, only three were still members in 1972; eight of the 1963 members' names were discontinued, to be replaced by eight new members. This represented an approximate ten year period. More significant, however, are the changes in the much more brief period between 1972 and 1974. During this period, 50% of the eight new members of 1972 disappear from the Chicago membership list; only four remain on the 1974 list and only two of the 1963 members remain in 1974 (and one of these two is an institution). Thus, of the total twenty-nine 1974 members, an astonishing twenty-three (80%) are very recently joined members.

Two modifying factors must be considered. (1) It cannot be assumed that all members whose names are discontinued from the Chicago list have discontinued their memberships; the possibilities exist that the member may have changed residence to another area (an aspect difficult to check, lacking a fully alphabetized A.B.S. member listing for 1974) or may be deceased. Neither possibility reasonably accounts for the large number of names discontinued. (2) It can not be assumed that the Chicago study involves only forty-two members (11 of 1963, plus 8 of 1972, plus 23 of 1974); considering what is shown with regard to the forty-two available names, it is very likely that, within the first time interval (10 years), as well as within the second (2 years), a significant number of members may have joined and discontinued the following year and thus their names would not be included in either of the 1972 or 1974 lists. To whatever degree this is the case, it augments, rather than diminishes, the concept of an apparently transient nature of the Chicago membership.

The 1974 Chicago membership, therefore, shows a most interesting growth

aspect. The 23-member supplementation, in a period so brief, can be easily attributed to a spectacular rise in attention to and collection of house plants in the Chicago area (as is true elsewhere in the U.S.A.). History suggests, alas, that this may be followed as soon as the next generation — or sooner — by a negative reaction to the clutter and nuisance of plant maintenance. The question immediately posed here is with respect to the continuance of the 1974 members, in view of the discontinuance demonstrated in earlier memberships. A more basic question is that of incentives — for entering and for continuing or discontinuing A.B.S. membership. At present, there are no sound bases for answers that are more than conjectures.

Subsequent to the Chicago study, a parallel study was made of A.B.S. membership of the balance of Illinois, primarily to demonstrate whether what had been shown for Chicago was typical of membership elsewhere. The results, shown in the right half of Figure I, reveal a remarkable similarity to the Chi-

ago data. Assembled data from the other twelve states (Table II) demonstrate that although membership totals for the entire region increased from 273 in 1963 to 340 in 1972 and to 463 in 1974, only 32 of the 463 members (7.0%) have been members since 1963 (approximately 12 years). Only 117 of the 463 (25.0%) have been members since 1972 (approximately 2 years). To view this another way, of the 273 members in 1963, 216 (79.0%) no longer appeared on the 1972 (or the 1974) membership list; of the 340 members in 1972, 223 (65.6%) no longer appeared on the membership list only two years later (1974). Thus, it can reasonably be predicted that a large proportion of the 29 Chicago members and of the 463 regional members of 1974 may discontinue after brief membership, to be replaced by another large number of new persons. The question posed above for Chicago applies equally to the entire North Central Region and probably, by extension, to the entire A.B.S. membership.

(See also page 110)

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CALENDAR

- April 3, 4 — Miami Branch Show — Begonias in all their Glory, at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami, Fla. Opens at 10 a.m.
- April 11 — Long Beach Parent Branch—Community Room, Coast Fed. S & L, 6241 Spring Street, Long Beach; 1:30 p.m.
- April 26 — ABS Board of Directors Meeting — South Gate Auditorium — 7:30 p.m.
- April 28 — Last date to mail contributions for June *Begonian*.
- May 6 — Westchester Branch — Citizens Savings, 5347 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, 7:30 p.m. Propagation. Note new meeting place.
- May 9 — Mothers Day — Order Les Begonias as a gift. ABS Library. \$10. Calif. residents add 6% Tax.

MOVING?

If you are planning to move, be sure to send a change of address notice to the Membership Secretary. Copies of the *Begonian* which are sent by Second Class Mail are returned to the office and are not forwarded by the Post Office.

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MEMBERSHIP

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For each of the thirteen NORTH CENTRAL states and CHICAGO, a late-1974 (early 1975) membership list is available from Mr. Seitner at cost of duplication (15¢/sheet) and mailing (13¢). Members are listed by appropriate zones WITHIN the state and an outline state map is included to show the designated A.B.S. state zones, assuring identification of members within a limited range. It is available to members only. It will not be revised to delete members discontinued nor to include members joining during 1975 and 1976; it will, of course, include long-term members whose names can be designated on request. The list should be regarded as a directory to persons currently interested in Begonia within a limited geographical zone. Price each state/city: Chicago Suburbs or Ohio (5 sheets) 88¢; Chicago, Illinois except the Chicago Area, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, or Wisconsin (4 sheets) 73¢; Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, or Missouri (3 sheets) 58¢; N. Dakota or S. Dakota (2 sheets) 43¢. (Philip G. Seitner, 736 W. Waveland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60613.)

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- Ap 3 — *B. froebelii*: Ecuador. Tuberous, flowers crimson, outside white, hairy. per pkt. \$1.00
- Ap 4 — Either *B. cubensis*: 1858 or *B. wrightiana*: 1859 (syn. *B. lindeni-ana*): Cuba. Shrub-like, growing to 2 ft. White flowers. per pkt. .50
- Ap 5 — *B. capensis* (syn. *B. odorata*): 1781; South America. Enormous bunches of white flowers. per pkt. .50
- Ap 6 — *B. micranthera* x *pearcii* x *boliviensis*. This tuberous cross will produce some very interesting and fascinating plants. Seed parent was orange flowering *B. micranthera* x *pearcii* F4. Newly arrived from England. per pkt. .50
- Ap 7 — *B. micranthera* x *pearcii*. F4 parent for this seed was tall, to 14 inches, well branched and flowered continuously all summer. Flowers orange — females had scarlet stigmas. It is called 'candalabra' because the flower clusters are carried in tiers. This is also from England. per pkt. .50
- Ap 8 — Schmidtiana type. This is a hybrid, closely resembling *B. schmidtiana* but the flowers are larger. These have a tendency to be good basket specimens. per pkt. .50
- Ap 9 — Socotrana crosses. This is a repeat of the offer last April. It is a collection of 5 different tuberous begonias pollinated with *B. socotrana* and should produce many outstanding beauties of the Rieger type. per pkt. \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.00
- Ap 10 — *B. suffruticosa*. An East African species related to *B. dregei* but with finely dissected leaves. Flowers white. Pictured in March 1974. per pkt. \$1.00
- Ap 11 — *B. tenuifolia*: 1791; Java. Rhizomatous, glabrous plant, about 1 ft. high with rather large leaves, about 6 x 4 in., and large pink blossoms. per pkt. \$1.00
- Ap 12 — Large pink semperflorens. These produce large, good specimen plants, which do well in the open. Also grow nicely in pots. per pkt. .50 or 3 for \$1.00

Please include a stamped, self addressed envelope. Make checks or money orders payable in U. S. funds to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail orders to Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, CA 90604.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE ABS BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 1976

The meeting of the Board of American Begonia Society was called to order by President Margaret Ziesenhenné. The flag salute and Aims and Purposes were presented. The minutes of the January 26 meeting which had been distributed were corrected. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Jim Porter presented the report for the period 1/18/76-2/17/76; balance was \$1,149.07 on 2/17/76. A report showing corrections for the Seed Fund for the period 9/1/75-1/15/76 was presented.

Business Manager Gil Estrada read a report from Mrs. Ziesenhenné regarding ABS exempt status under State of California and IRS codes. Former treasurer Walter Barnett stated that no returns had been filed since 1956, ten years before he came into office as treasurer. First President Charles Richardson recalled that at the 5/27/73 ABS Board Meeting in San Diego, when a motion was made by Mr. Barnett that ABS apply for exemption under IRS Code 503 (c) (3), the request was made that Mr. Barnett fill out the proper forms.

Two letters from Mildred Thompson were read. It was moved and carried that Mrs. Thompson be acknowledged by a note of thanks for her donation to the ABS Library of Volume II, part 2, of the **Thompson Begonia Guide**.

The report of the Research Director Carleton L'Hommedieu was read reporting \$772.40 balance on 2/23/76. A motion to approve a \$600 grant from the Research Fund to the Cultivar Catalogue project was approved.

Charles Richardson read the report of Branch Relations Director Evelyn Cronin regarding her activities. The names and addresses of current ABS branch officers and national representative are still requested to be sent to the National Secretary, Rochelle Rose.

Permission was granted to Mildred Thompson to use the ABS Aims and Purposes and include ABS membership information in Volume III of the **Thompson Begonia Guide**.

Mr. Barnett reported that copyrights expire after 28 years but are renewable each month prior to expiration. A motion passed that the ABS pay \$6.00 per month to renew copyrights to the **Begonian** as they expire.

Mr. Gene Daniels reported that the net profit for the 1975 Show is approximately \$1600. A thank you letter will be sent to 1975 Show Chairman Fred Burgess commending him for the success of the 1975 Show.

Motion passed to approve the President's appointments of Leslie Hatfield and Elda Haring to the Awards Committee. Betty Cooper was recognized as 1976 Show Chairman.

Public Relations Chairman Burnell Yarrick reported that Mildred Thompson consented to continue as District Public Relations Director.

Motion carried to appoint former ABS President William Walton to head a cost accounting committee to compile information regarding the non-profit status of ABS. The Board approved payment of \$362.50 bill to Jay Porter, tax expert, for the preparation of fiscal and tax statements for 1974.

Editors reported that Kandid Litho, the firm which prints the **Begonian**, presented a set of four color back covers to the ABS gratis. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the company. Circulation Manager Edie Krupnick reported over 4500 **Begonians** were mailed in February.

Nomenclature Director Rudolf Ziesenhenné reported that he has finished research work on new species, **B. carrieae**. He will continue writing the catalogue on the first 500 registered hybrids.

Reports were presented by representatives of eight branches. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Rochelle Rose, Secretary

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 101)

Mabel Corwin, the branch's charter president, and the Twin Cities Branch in St. Paul, whose charter president is Alta Mae Asplund. Evelyn Cronin of Buxton Branch, ABS Branch Director, is also to be congratulated for her work with these new branches. Ralph Corwin was introduced at the recent ABS board meeting as Palomar Branch's representative to the national board.

Betty Cooper, member of San Miguel and Alfred D. Robinson Branches in San Diego area, was introduced as the 1976 National Show Chairman. Great plans are ahead for the annual ABS Convention and Show in San Diego the last weekend of August.

Thank you for the branch bulletins and letters from members; they are all read carefully and keep us informed of important activities. The Seattle branches are planning a show in early August and many of us plan to attend; keep this in mind when planning your vacations; the fishing is fine up there! And the begonias outstanding!

Margaret B. Ziesenhenné, President

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Branch Slide Programs

We have an excellent slide library available to Branches upon request. When planning your future programs, consider interesting meetings of color slide presentations, showing begonias and other shade loving plants from around the world. Send for information and availability list.

We are also in need of interesting slides for incorporation into present programs and compiling new ones, so contributions are always welcome.

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BRIGHT GIFT

The color work on the back cover for four issues, March through June, has been done gratis by Kandid Litho Company, printers of the *Begonian*. Mr. Jack Bergstrom wrote, "We at Kandid are very happy to contribute in the areas that we can to the success and growth of the American Begonia Society."

Your editors join the ABS Board of Directors in thanking Mr. Bergstrom and his staff for this gift to enhance our publication.

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TUBEROUS x SOCOTRANA

Back Cover Photo by
Leslie Woodruff

In his gardens near McKinleyville in northern California, Leslie Woodruff has been hybridizing begonias, among them tuberous and hiemalis types. The plant pictured on the back cover is a recent one that he is particularly enthusiastic about. The individual flowers are brilliant in color, 3½ inches in diameter, and long lasting. Mr. Woodruff reported that he had potted a rooted tip cutting of it last September 15, and put it in his south kitchen window. It had a blossom two-thirds open then. November 18th he took the plant to a lodge breakfast to display, and that same blossom dropped off. It had lasted for two months on the kitchen window sill with only two dried edges on the petals. He subsequently discovered that the plant can be propagated by using the leaf wedge technique. These qualities make it an outstanding candidate for patenting and distribution by a large grower.

Another hybrid has a double orange flower and is fairly scented in the morning. It is so new that the keeping quality of the flowers has not been proven yet. Mr. Woodruff also included a slide of a hybrid produced by crossing *B. solananthera* x *prismatocarpa* x double tuberous that should develop into a good specimen basket plant. It has lovely rosy-orange pendant flowers. He has another series of plants of the parentage, *B. 'Madame Queen'* x *B. bowerae nigramarga* x *B. 'Bowtique'* which show interesting variety. These plants have not been named as yet.

P. B.

OPERATION GRAND DONATION!

Gene Daniels

Co-chairman of Plant Sales

P.O. Box 83, Camarillo, CA 93010

This is the tale of 500 plants pledged by the Garden Grove Branch. That's right! 500 plants promised by this live wire branch as the first pledge by any branch towards a successful plant table at the 1976 Convention and Show in San Diego, August 26-29.

The idea is outlined in the March issue of the *Begonian*. Frankly, I never expected such a fast response. I was sitting at the back of the room at the ABS board meeting with my mind wandering a bit, when Doug Frost made his branch report and very casually included a pledge of 500 plants from his members.

Just what do these good people get for their efforts? Aside from the knowledge that they are making a big financial assist, they will earn a big personal advantage by working

on this propagation project. Upon arrival at the National Show, plant table benefactors will receive an identification card which will allow them special prices and first access to all rare plants for sale.

The branch representative of any cooperating branch, or any member-at-large cooperating in this venture, may send me a moderate request for specific rare plants. The plant table committee will make an effort to obtain the plants requested and hold them for the individuals who requested them. This service will be limited to those members who are involved in the plant donation project. The earlier we get these requests, the better chance we have of locating them.

It is a bit early to have received any pledges—the quickness of the response from Garden Grove surprised me no end! Next month I will list all pledges received to date and have more news to report.

Classified Ads

Readers may now place classified ads in the *Begonian*, starting with the April issue. This practice had been discontinued a number of years ago, but is being revived since there have been requests for this type of advertising.

The rate for advertising is \$1 per line, with a minimum charge of \$4. Payment for the ad must accompany the request for insertion. The ads will be set in 8 point type with a bold lead-in and straight copy.

Direct questions, copy and payment to the Advertising Managers.

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