


# Christmas Greetings

to the Member Families of the  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS  
THE GARDEN SPRAY  VOL. 10-DECEMBER-1953 No. 12



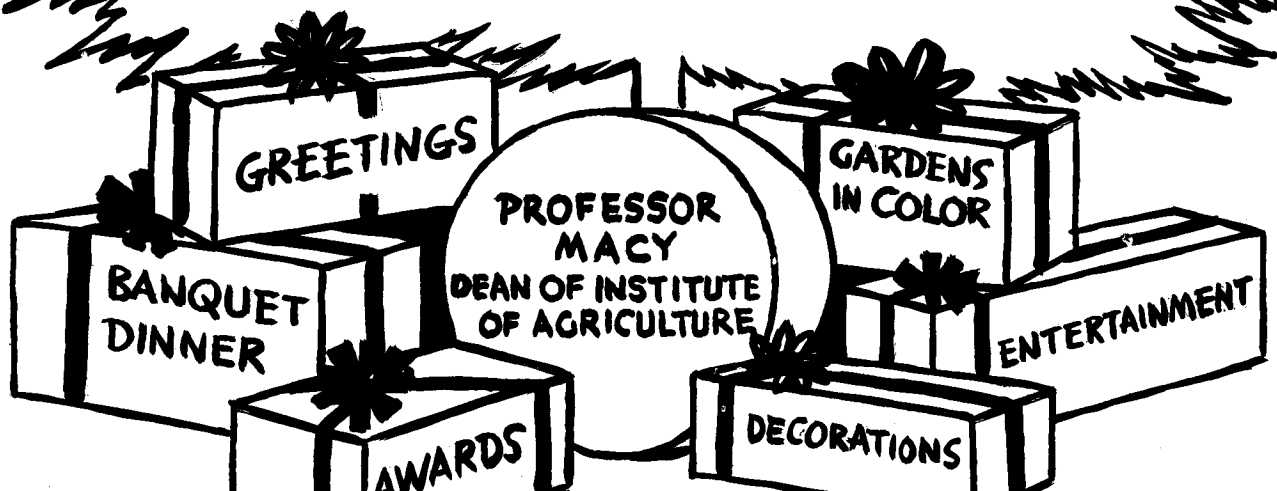
## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

for Members Their Wives and Guests

Thursday - December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

STOUFFER'S RESTAURANT  
89 So. Seventh St.

\$ 2.75 per person { ACT NOW - MAIL THE  
ENCLOSED CARD TODAY



## NOVEMBER MEETING

Dick Lehman, our friend and commercial associate from Faribault, presented an interesting discussion on day lilies at the November meeting. Dick enhanced his presentation with beautiful close-up color slides of the newer varieties, most of which are under development at the Lehman Gardens. He was so eloquent in his praise of the newer varieties being developed nationally that many members will undoubtedly feature day lilies in their gardens in the future.

A complete face-lifting job has been done on the day lily, Dick stated, particularly since the late thirties when American hybridizers started to work with a newly discovered Chinese species. This work has resulted in a whole new race of day lilies with a color range complete except for blue and white. Within ten years, Dick feels, we'll have a paper white species available since one is now showing signs of promise. It takes ten years to prepare a new species for the market.

Dick pointed out that day lilies are particularly fine in borders when interplanted with iris and peonies. By careful selection, the Minnesota gardener can have bloom from mid-May into September. Day lilies will thrive in almost any soil but appreciate a feeding of bonemeal and cow manure after the blooming period and again in the spring. They should be planted at the surface in the manner of iris, and do best in open sunshine but will flourish with as little as three hours of sunshine daily. Remember when planting, Dick admonishes, that ninety percent of the blooms will face east or south.

When starting with day lilies, Dick recommended purchasing individual plants of the deciduous variety and planting in summer. Spring planting will not give as satisfactory bloom the first year as will August planting. Maximum bloom is not reached until the third year, and after that you may expect bloom in quantities as great as 600 blooms per clump for as long as 25 or 30 years. Of course day lilies are not basically a flower for cutting since each bloom lasts only one day; when cut the other 30 or so buds on the scape are usually destroyed. Hence day lilies are best used for garden color.

Thanks, Dick, for an excellent discussion.

### YOUR 1954 OFFICERS

We salute the following slate of officers who were unanimously elected by the membership at our November meeting to take office in January:

President: A. (Archie) H. Flack  
Vice-President: A. (Tony) W. Koester  
Secretary: P. W. ("P.W.") Young  
Treasurer: O. (Otto) H. Erickson

Your Board of Directors for 1954 will be comprised of the officers just elected and your retiring president, Rene Dufourd, whom you

will be pleased to learn has returned safely from his native France.

### DUES ARE OVERDUE!

Our membership dues of \$4.00 are due December first; they become delinquent January 1. If you haven't already mailed your check, please do so immediately. Make checks payable to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and send post-haste to the Club Treasurer, T. P. Hughes, 3036 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis 7, Minnesota.

## THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

All the legends you may have read about the Christmas Rose are based upon imagination. In the first place, the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) is a native of the Balkans. Therefore its flowers could not possibly have led anyone to Christ's birthplace in Bethlehem as one story says it did. As to the reputed use of the hellebore as a poison and for magical purposes by the ancients, it is generally believed that the plant concerned was the Oriental hellebore - *H. orientalis* - not *H. niger*, although the latter was doubtless known in the days of Attalus III, who made a hobby of poisoning his friends with hellebore.

The name Black Hellebore, given to *H. niger* because of its blackish roots, was used to distinguish it in medical use from the White Hellebore, *Veratrum album*. The latter, in the 16th century, was said to be good for people under 50; the Black Hellebore for those older.

There are not a few forms of hellebores, but for garden purposes, *H. niger* and its varieties, and *H. orientalis* in its varying shades, collectively known as Lenten Rose, are the most suitable. The latter flower only in the spring; the *H. niger* forms are truly winter bloomers, the earliest being *H. niger altifolius* or *grandiflorus*. The smaller-flowered true *H. niger* usually starts to bloom around February.

In very cold sections, the winter hellebores can't possibly bloom unless given frame protection or deep snow persists to protect the buds and open blooms. *H. niger altifolius* usually is at its best by early November, but with protection may, in mild spells, yield blooms up to March.

The several species of hellebores that are semi-shrubs are useless where severe winters prevail, as they kill back and that is the end of them. The *niger* sorts are extremely hardy, provided they are established.

Their culture is simple enough. Preferably plant in May when new leaves are developing. Choose a partially shaded and sheltered position, but full shade is harmful. Give them good loam soil with an abundance of leaf mold, and be sure the pH is neutral or slightly on the alkaline side. Water freely in summer up to September. Leave undisturbed as long as growth is vigorous and healthy each season. If black spots start appearing on the foliage and flowers, you'll be licked unless you can find a remedy.

(Reprinted from *The Garden Gabber*, Akron, Ohio.)

## BEAUTY, TRUTH AND GOODNESS IN GARDENING

Ancient Greece gave the world the first important contributions to the theories underlying Beauty, Truth and Goodness. Socrates, 469 B.C., regarded the beautiful as coincident with the good, and both resolvable into the useful. Plato, 427 B.C., identified the beautiful with the good and true. This whole subject of beauty, truth and goodness is well treated in 23 columns, seven words to the column, in the 11th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It suggested this topic to me.

Beauty has three factors of esthetic experience: the sensuous, the perceptual and the imaginative. The sensuous pertains to our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. Plato and Hegel claimed a mass of color, for example, owes its value to the principle of unity. Unity includes in this case color, touch and smell. The perceptual is the interpretation of relations within the garden plots of the various flowers and vegetables. This depends upon what experiences we have had and what meaning we get out of them. It explains why we like our choices better than others' choices of plants and it also aids in our judgment of others' preferences. The imaginative helps us to plan ahead what we intend to sow and to look back after we have reaped. For example, if you live in the city and see some daisies, you recall the daisies of your own gardens back home, or in the fields of your neighbors, or by the roadsides. Remember that beauty is all three - sensuous, perceptual, imaginative.

Truth may be defined as the expression of a speaker's thought in proper conformity with the thing the true thought represents as it really is, to you and others. Do not be too critical of others who misrepresent what they see, hear, touch, taste and smell. To tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth even about flowers and vegetables is not easy. To represent anything truthfully, one must have (check on these):

1. Organs of knowledge trained to the best of one's ability.
2. Facts about the nature and origin of knowledge you possess.
3. Skepticism - the right to doubt - but not fettered by notions.

Prof. A. R. Cragg, Winnipeg.

REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee gave consideration to all the membership and unanimously agreed that the award should be given to

GLEN G. CERNEY

Mr. Cerney served the Club in many capacities, including the Presidency. He has been chief tester for Perennialia for many years and has been very helpful to our membership in that capacity. He has given the club a brilliant report on perennials that can be grown in this climate, and is continually testing new plants on his own initiative.

He has been an active supporter of our shows, not only in preparing the schedules but also in exhibiting his flowers, and has won many ribbons. His attendance record is almost perfect for many years.

Your Committee, therefore, takes pleasure in recommending him for the Bronze Award for 1953.

Respectfully submitted  
H. E. KAHLERT, Chairman  
A H BLACK

## PLANTS NEED REPOTTING

If your plants are unhealthy looking, if the leaves are turning yellow and dropping off, if plants that should flower have failed to do so, if, when you water, the water runs right through the soil, then it is high time your plants were repotted. If you have not the ingredients of a good mix, then get the soil you need from your nurseryman, florist or seedsman, and repot.

Another good way of telling whether or not your plants need repotting is gently to knock the pot from the plant. This is easily and safely done by placing the stem of the plant between two fingers and turning it upside down, then gently tap the edges of the pot on the edge of a table or bench.

You will find that when a plant has outgrown the pot, a fine but thick network of roots will be seen around the outside of the earth ball. This means that the plant not only needs repotting with fresh soil, but it also needs potting in the next larger size container.

## TREES OF THE U.S. AND ALASKA

A 450-page listing of trees of the U.S. and Alaska (Agriculture Handbook #41, \$2, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.) has just been made available to foresters, botanists, students, etc.

The list, compiled under direction of the Forest Service Tree and Large Plant Name Committee, gives the accepted scientific names, etymology, current synonyms, approved and other common names, range of native and naturalized American trees, bibliographic citations and other information. Conforming to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, the list aims to encourage uniform usage of tree names.

The book is confined to trees, which, for the purpose of listing, are defined as woody plants with a single erect stem or trunk, 3 inches or more in diameter at 4-1/2 feet above ground and at least 12 feet high. Also large willow trees with several trunks springing from the same root and other similar trees are included in the list.

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The following, left in stock when the purchasing of books was stopped by MGCA, are being offered subject to prior sale at a 20% discount off prices quoted. Prices include postage paid.

15 copies	Care and Culture of African Violets by Lloyd Lindsay	\$ .50
6 copies	The African Violet by Helen Van Pelt Wilson	2.75
1 copy	How to Attract Birds by Frank Pellet	2.50
1 copy	Tuberous Rooted Begonias by George Otten	2.00
1 copy	New Creations in Plant Life by W. S. Harwood	3.00
1 copy	Bulbs for Beauty by Charles E. Mueller	3.50
3 copies	Camellias, Kinds and Culture (Ill.) by Harold Hume	6.50
1 copy	Camellias (Ill.) by Oregon Camelia Society	5.00
1 copy	1000 Christmas Facts and Fancies by A. C. Hottes	3.00
1 copy	Climbers and Ground Covers by A. C. Hottes	3.00
1 copy	Cook It Outdoors by James Beard	2.75
1 copy	The Plant Doctor (Ill.) by Cynthia Westcott	3.00
1 copy	Manual of Cultivated Plants by L. H. Bailey	17.50
1 copy	Modern Family Garden Book by Roy E. Biles	1.75
1 copy	The Garden Clinic (Ill.) by Laurence Blair	2.95
1 copy	Garden Guide (Ill.) by De LaMare (ed.)	3.50
3 copies	Flower Garden for the Amateur by A. C. Hottes	2.95
7 copies	Garden Scrapbook by C. J. Hudson, Jr.	1.00

## DECEMBER REMINDERS

Remember the birds! Set out your bird feeders and keep them constantly filled with wild bird seeds, including sunflower seeds for the cardinals; also bread crumbs and suet.

It's time to cover perennial borders and rose beds with marsh hay or evergreens. Use peat moss, pine needles or oak leaves for acid-loving plants.

Protect young fruit trees from rabbits by placing chicken wire around the base; or wrap in heavy paper. A mixture of five parts resin and one part linseed oil painted on the young trunks makes a good repellent. After a heavy snowfall, tamp around the trunk to protect from mice, which work under the snow.

Amaryllis bulbs may be brought into the light as soon as the slightest growth is detected. Those established in old pots should have about two inches of the soil removed and this replaced with a good rich mixture.

Make a fresh slanting cut in the base of your Christmas tree and soak the tree in 10% sugar-water solution; the needles will tend to stay on longer, particularly if you keep the tree away from hot radiators.

Good quality tools kept clean and sharp make gardening more fun. A light covering of oil, when you put them away for the winter, will also keep them rust-free.

### A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE ART INSTITUTE

There is to be a Christmas Festival at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts which will be of considerable interest to our members and wives. This is something new in Christmas activities in our community. The dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 11, 12 and 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on Sunday which will be from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Institute, at 201 East 24th Street, Minneapolis, will be in full Christmas dress with special programs and exhibits appropriate to the season and will be open to the public free of charge.

The main attraction will be a large competitive display of holiday compositions and arrangements featuring evergreens with floral accents. Our members have been particularly interested in this field and, therefore, should not fail to visit the show. It should be of the highest caliber because the exhibits, by invitation only, are being made by one hundred of the best amateurs in the Twin Cities and surroundings. Already more than 350 entries have been received.

Although it has not yet been publicly announced, Muriel Rice, General Chairman, tells us that Walter and Louise Menzel have graciously volunteered to display their far renowned Christmas pageant as a feature attraction. This is indeed most generous because it takes at least two days on the part of two or three people to set it up, to say nothing of the transportation and dismantling.

There are several other wives of members involved, including Esther Lund as Chairman of Judges, Dodie Lowrie and Olga Bryant on other committees.

On Friday there is to be a program pertaining to homemaker's interests with demonstrations of holiday cooking in the auditorium at 10:00 in the morning and 2:00 in the afternoon. On Saturday there is a special program designed for children which will be given in the auditorium at 10:00 A.M. and another for students at 2:00 P.M. The St. Mark's and Santa Lucia Choirs will present a Christmas program in the auditorium at 4:00 o'clock