

ANNOUNCEMENT

Russella K. McGah, until current date, acting-librarian of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, has received certification from the same on full-time librarian status. She has been performing a difficult job under the handicap of temporary facilities, as well as almost single-handedly putting into operation a specialized library classification scheme, adapted after the scheme now in use by the famed *Massachusetts Horticultural Society* Library, initiated by its Head Librarian, Miss Dorothy Manks. When permanent housing for the LASCA Library is an achieved fact, the scheme will come into its own, in admirable operation

and tribute to its current Librarian, Mrs. McGah, who hitherto has been part-time assistant to her husband, Mr. J. Thomas McGah, Plant Recorder at the same institution, known to *Lasca Leaves* readers chiefly by his signature to the official LASCA Weather Records published yearly.

▲ ▲ ▲

J. Howard Asper, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, at the Huntington Library, San Marino, has been elected a Director (three years) of the Southern California Horticultural Institute.

GROWING NOTES

GEORGE H. SPALDING

ANIGOZANTHUS

One of the most interesting contributions to Southern California gardens from the land "down under" is *Anigozanthus* or Kangaroo Paw. This genus belongs to the family *Amaryllidaceae*. It is composed of about eight species which vary in height from 3 to 5 feet, and range in color from green to red. The foliage is strap-like resembling Siberian Iris and often has some black along the margins. The accompanying artist's drawing illustrates the form very well. The plants are in flower for a long period of time, two months or more, blooming usually in July and August in Southern California. They have the appearance of being made of felt giving a somewhat artificial feeling. As cut flowers for arrangements they are outstanding and unique. The flowers are tubular, opening into a star at the end. The tubes are extremely fuzzy; the open stars clear green usually with the anthers showing clear and yellow in the center of the star. The stems of some plants are quite black and the flowers chartreuse, a striking contrast.

The group we are growing at the Arboretum are apparently hybrids, and positive identification has not been made as yet. Three lots of seed collected locally, (Arcadia, Calif.) were received in 1951. They were labelled *Anigozanthus flavida* (branching green) *A. flavida* (branching bicolor), and *A. humilis*. The seed was sown in our regular seeding mixture (one-

half Georgia Peat, one-half Sponge Rock by volume). All three lots germinated in three weeks. The plants grew well and were planted in the field nursery when one year old. The soil in this nursery is black and heavy becoming very sticky when wet and hard to the point of cracking when dry. Good growth resulted and the first blooms appeared when the plants were two years old. In 1954 all the clumps



Anigozanthus

Original pen and ink sketch by Ted Pugh

were removed from the nursery and planted in the Australian section where the soil is light and sandy. They were divided much as iris are but of course the roots are fibrous not rhizomatous. No special care was taken in either the division or replanting so some loss was anticipated. Over two-thirds of the divisions established very well and the growth was exceptional. All plants bloomed in 1955 and the height of the flower stems was about one-half again as great as in the nursery. Crooked stems were numerous this year which created much interest and would be valuable if the flowers were used in cut arrangements.

No special care as to feeding or watering has been given these plants and they flourish. Water is applied (a thorough soaking) about every ten days to two weeks.

In addition to the hybrid group mentioned above, we are also growing *Anigozanthus manglesii*. At this writing the seedlings have just been put into the field so no reports can be made.

The Kangaroo Paws are an interesting and relatively easy group of plants to grow. They are unusual and should be much more widely used in Southland gardens.

COVER PICTURE

We are indebted to the New York Botanical Garden and to Scott E. Haselton for the color plate—not an indication of an adopted custom at present but as an experimental diversion at the end of the first five years of *Lasca Leaves* and to mark the issue of its first indexing. The reproduction appeared as an end-plate of *The Garden Journal of the New York Botanical Garden*, Vol 2, No. 1, Jan.-Feb., 1952. With it were identifying notes by E. J. Alexander, to the following effect:

One of the most interesting of jungle cacti, *Cryptocereus anthonyanus*, was first found by T. MacDougall in the jungles of the state of Chiapas in Mexico in January 1946. Until it flowered in 1950 it could not be botanically named, at which time it received its specific to honor Dr. H. E. Anthony of Englewood, New Jersey. The picture from which this color plate was reproduced was taken at its second flowering, in June 1951. The plant is one of a group of cacti requiring both heat and moisture to thrive, but differing from most of them in its climbing habit, "using aerial roots to pull itself up into the trees." Its flowers are intensely fragrant, lasting but a single night. The cream and maroon color contrast is exceptionally striking.

CALENDAR

Muriel Merrell, newly appointed Flower Show Schools Chairman for District 2-A, is pleased to announce that Course I of the 2nd Series of the National Council of State Garden Clubs Flower Show Schools for the Los Angeles area will begin on Saturday, October 29th.

In the interest of immediately improved Amateur Flower Shows, the 2nd Series has been stream-lined to cover a 3-day period of lectures, and is intended to act as a Guide and Outline for the listener rather than an extended Course of Instruction on Horticulture, Flower Arrangement and "Flower Showmanship."

The New Series has been especially designed to aid ALL garden-minded and Flower Show enthusiasts in learning more about Planning, Exhibiting and Judging Flower Shows. Discussions will cover basic Horticulture—the growing and grooming of exhibition specimens, as well as the history of Flower Arranging, various types of arrangements and their mechanics, proper use of color, correct design, PLUS the current Judging practices applied to both of

these Standard Flower Show Divisions. All of the instructors will be accredited with the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Points to be included in the lecture on Flower "Showmanship" will be the duties of the various Flower Show Chairmen, General Staging, Flower Show Schedules, proper Classification and Display.

For those who wish to work towards a National Accredited Amateur Judge's Certificate, an official proctored Examination will be given on the lectures the week following the First Course. Course I carries 5 points of credit when the examination has been successfully passed, and all lectures attended.

Enrollment is limited. Register promptly. Further information can be obtained by writing to:

MURIEL MERRELL

Flower Show Schools Chairman, District 2-A
823 North Laurel Avenue
Hollywood 46, California



Spalding, George H. 1955. "Growing notes: Anigozanthus." *Lasca leaves* 5(Autumn 1955), 94–95.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/129410>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/125247>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Los Angeles Arboretum

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: The Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.