

‘DaffLibrary’

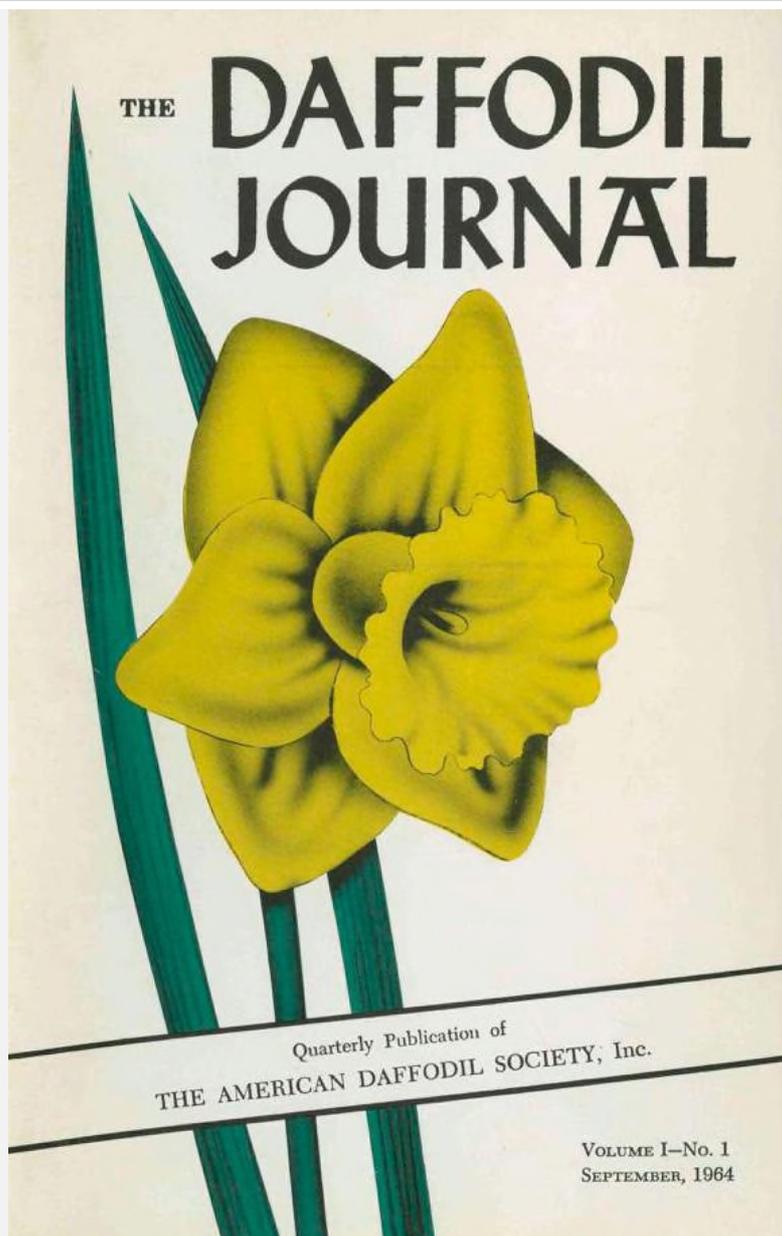


Illustration of a large, yellow flower with green stem and leaves. American Daffodil Society. *The Daffodil Journal*. Volume 1. 1961. [Digitized in BHL by American Daffodil Society.](#)

For Mary Lou Gripshover, daffodils started as an easy entry into horticulture, but led her to the unexpected, too.

“Half a century ago, when I was a young housewife, I belonged to a garden club which in turn participated in an area-wide flower show,” she explains. “Everyone *had* to enter. At that point I wasn’t much good at flower arrangements, and entering daffodils in the Horticulture Section was easy. Just cut a bloom and put it in the vase provided. And the stems didn’t bend, like tulips did. So then of course I had to get more daffodils so I could enter all the classes for the various divisions... and it just grew from there. Who knew 50 years ago that I’d make friends the world over, just because of a little yellow flower?”



A delicate painting of a single daffodil flower with a green stem and leaf. Curtis, William. *The Botanical magazine, or, Flower-garden displayed*. 1790. [Digitized in BHL by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library.](#)

Gripshover serves as a librarian / digitizer for the [American Daffodil Society](#) (ADS), a group with international membership that has connected daffodil enthusiasts since its founding in 1954. In the spirit of National Gardening Month, we're highlighting the ADS' publication, [The Daffodil Journal](#), which comes to BHL as part of the Expanding Access to Biodiversity Literature project. Early volumes of this quarterly journal from 1964-1968 are [currently available on BHL](#), with more volumes on the way.

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Marcissus or Daffodils.

If wanted by mail, add 10 cts. per dozen for postage.



There are no hardy plants which have more points of merit than the Narcissus. Perfectly hardy in all latitudes, if planted in well-drained ground they multiply and increase in attraction each year. They are as easily forced as the hyacinth, and a constant succession of flowers may be had from January to the middle of May. The flowers are among the most attractive of blossoms, very lasting and of endless variety of form and coloring. It is important that they be not too strongly forced, otherwise the culture is very simple.

Trumpet Narcissus.

This section includes all varieties having long, trumpet-shaped flowers. They are the earliest to bloom.

Horsfield, the "Queen of the Daffodils." Very large flowers of pure white, with rich yellow trumpet. Very stately and beautiful, and one of the most elegant for ladies' evening wear. The flowers are the largest of this class, very early and free blooming, a grand cut flower and eagerly sought after as one of the finest. 7c. each; 50c. per dozen; \$3.00 per 100.

Giant Princeps. Very early. This is one of the most popular Winter-flowering and forcing varieties grown. Flowers large, perianth sulphur, with an immense rich yellow trumpet. 5c. each; 25c. per dozen; \$1.00 per 100; \$9.00 per 1,000.

Trumpet Major. Flower large and almost of a uniform deep golden. Highly prized as an early forcing sort and largely planted for outside bedding. Three for 10c.; 25c. per dozen; \$1.15 per 100; \$9.50 per 1,000.

Stella. One of the first to flower and wonderfully free blooming. White, star-shaped flowers three inches across, with bright yellow cups; one of the most popular forcing and cutting varieties. 10c. per dozen; 50c. per 100.

Empress. A magnificent large variety, bold and erect. A rare beauty. Some give this the palm of being the best of the two-colored trumpets. Perianth white and of great substance; trumpet rich yellow. 10c. each; 75c. per dozen; \$4.50 per 100.



A page from a seed catalog with descriptions of varieties of Daffodil for sale, and two black and white illustrations; one a close-up of a flower variety called Empress, the

other a mix of many flowers. Griffith and Turner Co. *Bulbs and seeds*. 1900.
[Digitized in BHL by U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library.](#)

According to the ADS website, ‘daffodil’ is the common name for all members of the genus *Narcissus*. There are somewhere between 40 and 200 different species/subspecies/varieties (depending on who you ask), and more than 25,000 registered cultivars (named hybrids).

The first mission of the ADS was to create a publication, starting with a small bulletin and yearbook. After its first decade, the society released its quarterly publication, [The Daffodil Journal](#), to share information on “all aspects of daffodil culture, breeding, and exhibition.” Now the ADS has its own digitization project, [DaffLibrary](#), where more than 3,000 resources on daffodils are available as downloadable PDFs or as links to other websites. *The Daffodil Journal* through the year 2012 is [available on DaffLibrary](#), so you can view more recent issues of the publication there until more are added to BHL.



Colorful painting from the cover of a bulb magazine, including white and yellow daffodils and other yellow, white and pink flowers. Thorburn, J.M. & Co. *Annual descriptive catalogue of flower seeds*. 1903. [Digitized in BHL by New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library.](#)

“The ADS has had a ‘paper library’ almost from the beginning,” Gripshover says. But because the society has no permanent headquarters, the physical collection had to move several times, and didn’t get much use. “Occasionally a list of available titles would be

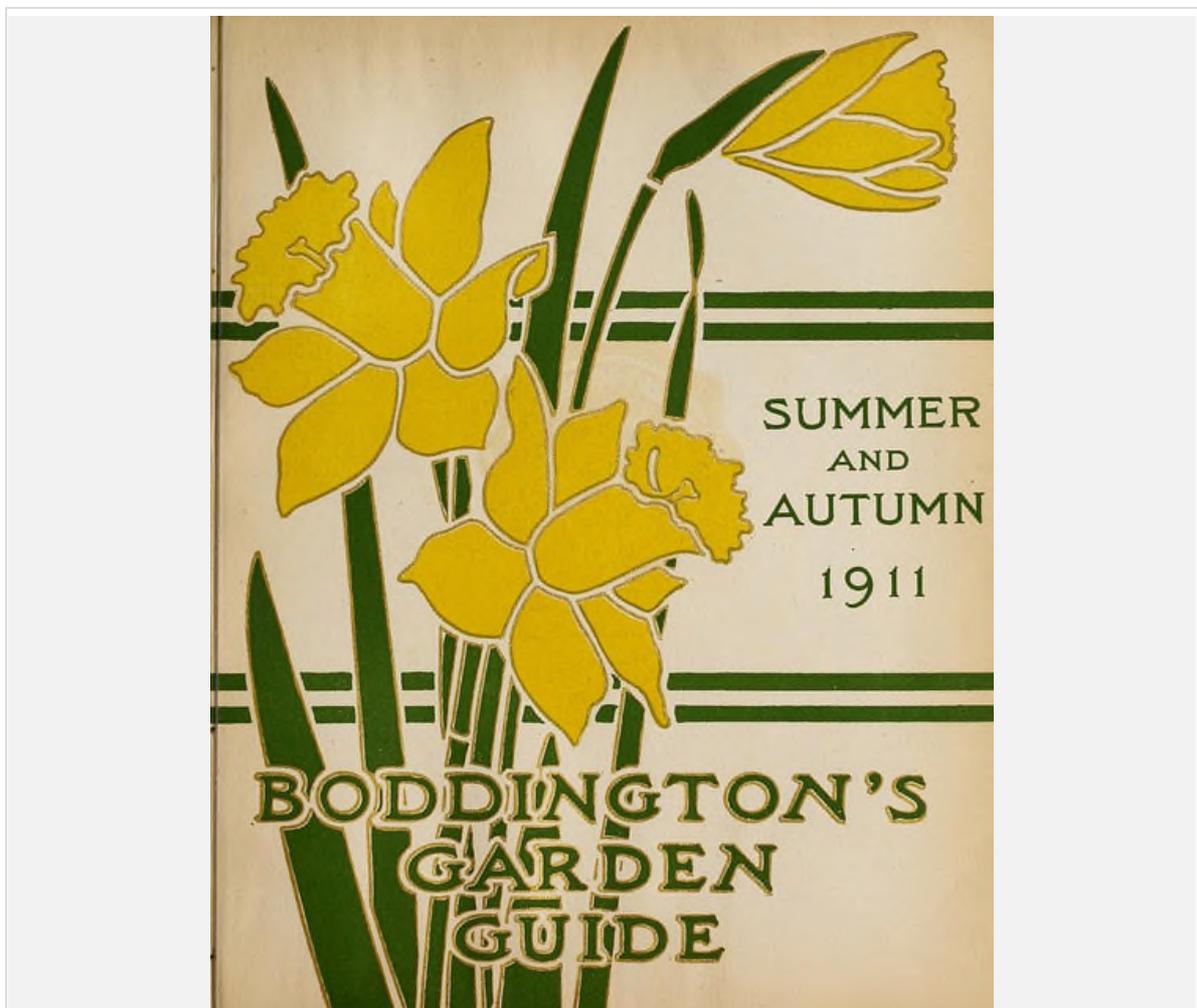
published in the *Journal*, and maybe there'd be a little action then, but interest didn't last. Eventually, it was decided that we should at least get back issues of the *Journal* scanned, so in 2004 we had 40 years' worth of the *Journal* professionally scanned. Several years later, someone suggested that we should think about scanning some of the other materials we had. I foolishly said that I could do some scanning... and it's turned into a permanent job! But it's one I enjoy."



A painting of yellow flowers with a darker yellow background. Ferry, D.M. & Co. *Bulbs and seeds*. 1913. Digitized in BHL by [U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library](#).

DaffLibrary is now the most-viewed of the ADS' websites, and gets much more use than the physical collection did: in just the first 3 months of 2018, it connected close to 15,700 visitors to nearly 55,000 pages. Popular resources included book, historic, and scientific references; plant show handouts/material; casual-reading books and articles; biography information; and information about growing daffodils using different methods.

Many thanks to the American Daffodil Society for contributing [*The Daffodil Journal*](#) to BHL, and to Mary Lou Gripshover for sharing her story with us and dedicating years of work to support open access information!



A bold stencil-style image of yellow daffodils with green leaves and stems.
Boddington, Arthur T. *Boddington's quality bulbs, seeds and plants*. 1911. [Digitized on BHL by New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library](#).

References

[American Daffodil Society](#)

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Elizabeth Meyer joined the Ernst Mayr Library at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology as a project assistant in 2015. She digitizes and transcribes library materials for BHL, including the archival collection of American ornithologist William Brewster (1851-1919). With her background in biology, she enjoys promoting access to scientific information and writing blog posts to connect people to BHL.