

ROBERTA C. WATROUS, 1904-2000

American hybridizer of miniature daffodils Roberta C Watrous (Fig. 19), died on 28 December 2000. She had been active in daffodils for more than 60 years, and was one of the founders of the American Daffodil Society (ADS). She was chair of the ADS Breeding and Selection Committee for nine years, and from 1968-1978 was Editor of *The Daffodil Journal*, which she made into one of the world's premier publications on daffodils.

Largely through her efforts, miniature daffodils enjoy great popularity in the United States, and in 1963, the ADS recognised those efforts with the creation of the world's only large collection class for miniature daffodils, the Roberta C. Watrous Award. This is a gold or silver medal for twelve miniature cultivars or species from at least three RHS divisions, one of the most challenging classes in any show.

Roberta began hybridizing in 1944, and continued making crosses until 1984, mainly with miniatures, though her 'Happy Hour' 7Y-O is the earliest, and one of the very finest standard jonquils. Her best known miniatures include 'Sewanee' 2W-Y, 'Kibitzer' 6Y-Y, a quartet of orange-cupped jonquils, 'Chappie' 'Little Rusky' 'Loyce' and 'Odile', and the enchanting two-headed 'Flyaway' 12 Y-Y.

Roberta Watrous is one of only five people to have won both of the highest awards given by the ADS. In 1972, she received the Silver Medal for service to the Society, and in 1987, its Gold Medal for pre-eminent service to the daffodil. A daffodil legend and a great lady has passed from the scene, one whose like will not be seen again. She will be greatly missed.

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