

{from page 41}

(38) List #38 b Sat 6/26/76 (Phlox)
1st draft f Sun 6/27/76

- 1
- 2
- 3
- Phlox: Liddell / 763 4
- φλόξ ἡ [z: flux) 5
- a flame: blaze 6 8
- φλόξ οἴνου - 7 valerian purple / papule Wild Sweet | William
- the fiery heat of 8 Jack-pudding trumpets Jacob's ladder charity
- wine: pl. φλόγες Gray - ancient name of Lychnis, Gk
- (z: flogs) flames, fire ΛΥΧΝΟΣ a light, lamp, Perennial, / annual rare
- * flwr'd May 24, notes gathered) Liddell 420 - περι λύχνων άφάς (over)

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p 42) (Phlox notes cont) άφάς (z: how fast) περι (p 42
λύχνων άφας = about the time of lamp-lighting

*(z: fires rings crimson burn

flowers: (corymbs [KORUMBOL = peak, summit

high poop of ships II cluster of fruit or flowers (part. ivy)

Taylor 903 - Phlox f Polemoniaceae (*) more than 2

P. (Polemonium) divaricata (l.z. / branching) rose blood, ruby

Blue phlox. Wild Sweet William round out

creeping flowerless stems which root flowers as heads

mauve. || About 20 species native N.A. a few

found in Eu + Asia. Stems fleshy, ribbed, leaves

alt. compound, long + w. many opp lance-shaped

leaflets giving ladder-like appearance -

clasping. Fls branching clusters blue, purple, yellow

white. Calyx 5 sepals joined half-way down

Corolla broadly bell-shaped of 5 lobes joined

at base forming a short tube, stamens 5. Fruit

a dry 3-celled capsule, erect when the corolla

has withered. Propagated by division of rootstocks

or seeds. P. caeruleum = "Greek valerian,"

"Jacob's ladder" "charity" H. 3 ft. leaves

crowded at the base, longer than <the> stem lvs, many

leaflets, flwrs blue 1" across var. album, white flwrs

P. carolina ea. perennial 3 ft H purple, rose or white. | P. maculata "Wild Sw. Wm erect per. 3 ft H. stems purple spotted, flwrs ½" across pink or purple loose racemes June-July East U.S. | P. paniculate peren. 4 ft H lvs 3½-5" L. prominent veins varied colors 1" across, large spreading clusters, varieties much cult July-Aug. east U.S.

|| H.J. 4/29-5/2/76 Jack-pudding (Milton Gay) fine flower stem full flame . . slept upon flwrs in sight (Rod. Hudson) (38) 2nd draft f. Sun. June 27/76 (Phlox)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



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Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, *corymb, Phlox, Polemonium
 Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, Phlóx

Century Dictionary (CD), *corymb, jack-pudding
 Liddell & Scott, *A Greek Lexicon*, φλόξ, ΛΥΧΝΟΣ, κόρυμβος

Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*

Textual note

line 8: 6 words

line 1: **Flux ablaze flog a new**
 line 2: **wine look now's fast lamp-lighting**
 line 3: **corymb high poop of ships**
 line 4: **fires ring rose blood ruby**
 line 5: **branching raise round ladders leaves**
 line 6: **clasp full flame in sight**
 line 7: **valerian purple papule wild sweet**
 line 8: **william jack-pudding trumpets jacob's ladder charity**

June 26-27, 1976

line 1: **Flux ablaze flog a new**

Taylor, **Phlox** (flocks). Perennial and annual, usually hardy herbs, comprising about 50 species of the family Polemoniaceae, found mostly in N.A., but a few Asiatic. Growing from a few inches to 4 ft. high, some are strong and erect, others trailing. Stems sometimes becoming slightly woody at base. Leaves lance-shaped, opposite, and in pairs, or alternate, smooth or slightly hairy. Flowers in terminal, loose or closely packed clusters. Individual flowers showy, ranging in color from pure white to bright red, pale lilac or purple, usually having a conspicuous eye-like marking at the opening of the corolla tube. Calyx of 5 sepals united halfway down. Corolla of 5 united petals, forming a short, narrow tube, the lobes opening salver-wise. Stamens 5, usually enclosed in the corolla tube. Fruit a 3-celled capsule, usually only 1 seed in each cell maturing. (*Phlox* is from the Greek for flame, in allusion to the flowers.)

Liddell & Scott, **φλόξ** {*phlox*}, **ἡ**, gen. *φλογός*, (*φλέγω*) a flame, **blaze**; *φλίγα ἐγείρειν* to raise a flame: metaph. *φλόξ οἴνου* the fiery heat of wine: pl. *φλόγες*, flames, fire (763).

flog a new < *φλόξ οἴνου*, *phlox oinou*

line 2: **wine look now's fast lamp-lighting**

See Liddell & Scott line 1.

Gray, **FAM. 147 POLEMONIACEAE** (Polemonium Family) > **4. Phlóx** L. {...} (Greek for flame, an ancient name of *Lychnis*, transferred to this North American (and slightly Asiatic) genus.) (1187).

Liddell & Scott, **ΛΥΧΝΟΣ**, **ὁ**, pl. *λύχνοι* and *λύχνα*, a light, lamp: *περὶ λύχνων ἀφάς* about the time for lamp-lighting, i.e. at dusk (420).

look now's fast < *λύχνων ἀφάς*, *lychnōn haphas*

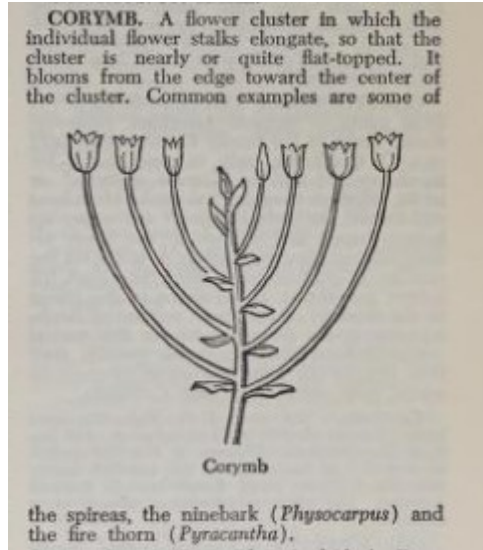
line 3: **corymb high poop of ships**

*CD, **corymb**, *n.* [*<* L. *corymbus*, *<* Gr. *κόρυμβος*, the uppermost point, head, cluster of fruit or flowers, *<* *κόρυς*, a helmet.]

Liddell & Scott, **κόρυμβος** {*korymbos*}, **ὁ**, pl. *κορύμβα* as well as *κύρυμβοι*: (*κύρυς*, *κορυφή*):— the top, peak, summit; *κύρυμβα νηῶν* the high poops of the ships. II. the cluster of the ivy flower: generally, a cluster of fruit or flowers (388).

line 4: **fires ring rose blood ruby**

{See LZ's notes above on *λύχνων ἀφάς* and *corymbs*. LZ may be picking up some clues from Taylor's entry on **Corymb**, which mentions the fire thorn (*Pyracantha*) as a common example and includes a suggestive lamp-like illustration:

line 5: **branching raise round ladders leaves**

branching < *divaricata*, see Gray line 7.

See Henry James, Chap. XII line 6.

Taylor, **Polemonium** (pō-lee-mō'ni-um). Hardy perennial, rarely annual, herbs comprising about 20 species belonging to the phlox family, and natives of N.A. or a few found in Eu. and As. Stems fleshy, and ribbed. Leaves alternate, compound, long, and with many opposite, narrow and lance-shaped leaflets giving the leaves a ladder-like appearance. Flowers in loose, branching clusters, blue, purple, yellow or white.

line 6: **clasp full flame in sight**

clasp {see LZ notes above; apparently LZ's interpretation of the "ladder-like" appearance of the leaves of the **Polemonium**, see Taylor line 5.}

Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*, Chap. IX: 'I've been carrying about in my head for years an idea for a creature as fine as a flower-stem and yet as full as a flame, but it has always stayed there for want of a tolerable model' (132). {NBk dated Apr 29/76 (p. 19)}.

Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*, Chap. XII: 'She {Christina Light} never raised a finger for herself, she breathed nothing but perfumes, she walked, she slept upon flowers. She never was out of my sight, and from that day to this I've never said a nasty word to her' (169). {NBk dated May 8/76 (p. 19)}.

line 7: **valerian purple papule wild sweet**

See Taylor, **P. caeruleum** line 8.

Taylor, **Phlox** > **P. divaricata** {> Divergent; spreading widely}. Blue phlox. Wild Sweet William. Erect perennial, growing to 18 in., with creeping, flowerless stems which root, thus increasing the size of the plant rapidly. Leaves broadly lance-shaped, 2 in. long. Flowers mauve, to 1 in. across, in loose clusters. Spring. Eastern N.A. (329) {as LZ notes, *divaricata* = branching}.

P. maculata {> Spotted}. Wild Sweet William. Erect perennial, growing 3 ft. high, the stems purple-spotted. Leaves lance-shaped, 3-5 in. long. Flowers pink or purple, ½ in. across, in loose racemes. June-July. Eastern N.A.

papule < *maculata* {spotted; CD, **papule**, A papula or pimple.}

line 8: **william jack-pudding trumpets jacob's ladder charity**

See Taylor line 7.

CD, **jack-pudding**, *n.* A merry-andrew; a buffoon.

And I persuade myself, the extempore rhymes of some antic *jack-pudding* may deserve printing better; so far am I from thinking aught he says worthy of a serious answer.

Milton, Def. of the People of Eng., I.

Jack-pudding in his party-color'd jacket.

Tosses the glove, and jokes at every packet. *Gay*.

Taylor, **Polemonium** {see line 5} > **P. caeruleum**. Greek valerian. Jacob's ladder. Charity. Strong-growing, to 3 ft. Leaves crowded at the base, and longer than the stem leaves. Leaflets many. Flowers blue, 1 in. across, drooping, in large clusters. A good border plant. Eu.

Thomas Hardy, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, Chap. XXIII: 'What's that long-favoured flower under the hedge?' 'They? O Lord, they are the horrid Jacob's ladders! Instead of praising 'em, I be mad wi' 'em for being so ready to bide where they are not wanted. They be very well in their way, but I do not care for things that neglect won't kill. Do what I will, dig, drag, scrap, pull, I get too many of 'em. I chop the roots: up they'll come, treble strong. Throw 'em over hedge; there they'll grow, stare me in the face like a hungry dog driven away, and creep back again in a week or two the same as before. 'Tis Jacob's ladder here, Jacob's ladder there, and plant 'em where nothing in the world will grow, you get crowds of 'em in a month or two. {...} They growed, and they growed, in the mixen and out of the mixen, all over the litter, covering it quite up. When John wanted to use it about the garden, 'a said, "Nation seize them Jacob's ladders of yours, Maria! They've eat the goodness out of every morsel of my manure, to that 'tis no better than sand itself!" Sure enough the hungry mortals had. 'Tis my belief that in the secret souls o' 'em, Jacob's ladders be weeds, and not flowers at all, if the truth was known.' {NBk (p. 3)}.