



The Pipeline

Editor: Mrs. Isabel Zucker, 708 West Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 48013

Vol. I No. 5

February, 1975

BOOKS

by John C. Wister

E. H. Wilson often said that horticulture would never become really important in American life unless we developed our own gardening literature. We who have deplored the lack of interest in modern lilacs can point out that, until our Society was organized in 1971, nothing had been published in this country about lilacs in almost twenty years, and no book for almost forty years.

In England, this long vacuum had been broken in 1959 by "Lilac and Laburnum" by Douglas Bartrum* but this book apparently was not known here until very recently. Its four lilac chapters cover 121 pages. It has the best two color reproductions (of the varieties 'Ludwig Spaeth' and 'Firmament') I have ever seen, as well as over twenty excellent black and white photographs.

It is a very readable and interesting book but expensive and difficult to get and, like many British books, not of much practical value in our totally different climates. It interested me chiefly because of the author's astonishing choices of the approximately one hundred varieties he recommended and which he described in detail.

He included *Ambassadeur*, *Candeur*, *Maud Notcutt* and *Sensation* which are hardly known here, with *Belle de Nancy*, *Capitaine Baltet*, *Mme. F. Morel*, *Mont Blanc*, *President Lincoln* and two dozen or more which have been our top choices for a half century or so.

Then he praised highly *Alba Grandiflora*, *Emile Liebig*, *Geheimrat Heyder*, *La Tour* of 'Auvergne', *Mme. Briot* and twenty or more others that I remember seeing on my first visits to the Arnold Arboretum nearly seventy years ago and which, even then, were not among the best varieties then being grown. Perhaps these varieties behave very differently in the British climate than they do here. That certainly must be true of the very dark *Diderot*, *Massena* and *Pasteur*, which Mr. Bartrum praises highly. I never could persuade these to bloom or even grow well in Pennsylvania.

I think these choices and his descriptions can be of great value to any grower of lilacs for they point out not only how greatly personal tastes may differ, but also how differently many varieties behave in different climates and in different individual gardens and, indeed in different years while some of our good old standbys seem to be uniformly good in Britain or in Pennsylvania or New England or the bitter cold of Minnesota, Manitoba or the milder Pacific Coast. We certainly have a great, great deal yet to learn about making fair evaluations of varieties.

* Published by John Gifford, Ltd.
125 Charing Cross, London WC 2

SPEAKING FRANKLY

(A letter from Charles Holetich - Vice President, Eastern Canada Region)

There is no doubt in my mind that since its formation I.L.S. has made considerable progress. Three Annual Conventions and a number of publications, each better than the previous, reflect its progress the best. Thanks for this achievement go primarily to you, and to the dedicated few. But those dedicated few can only be as good as the support they receive from I.L.S. membership.

Today's paid up I.L.S. membership (individual, commercial and institutional), adds up to 250. It could be better, in fact it has to get better, and it will with time.

Our primary expenses are cost of publications, their mailings, cost of stationary and stamps of Secretary's, President's and Editor's correspondence, cost of awards, and a few other minor and miscellaneous items.

In order to balance our expenditure we need 350 members. This task may become a reality within a few months if every two members secure one new, or within a year or two if the matter is left to its present trend of membership growth.

There are a number of things you can do to help and save your Society some time and money :

1. RENEW YOUR 1975 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ON YOUR OWN INCENTIVE, SAVE COST OF STATIONARY AND STAMPS USED IN MAILING THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER.
2. IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS NOT YET AN I.L.S. MEMBER, SPEAK TO HIM, EXTEND HIM AN INVITATION TO JOIN, OR SURPRISE SOMEONE BY BUYING HIM AN I.L.S. MEMBERSHIP AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
3. ANOTHER EXCELLENT WAY TO HELP OUT IS TO BUY A SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP (\$10.00) INSTEAD OF INDIVIDUAL (\$5.00).

I am sure you can think of a few ideas on your own. If you do, make them realities no matter how insignificant they may seem. It is the summary of all contributions that will reflect our strength and our quality as a Society.