



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VII, No. 9, September, 1981

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

	<u>1980 (\$ US)</u>
Single annual	7.50
Family	10.00
Sustaining	15.00
Institutional/Commercial	20.00
Life	150.00

*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary.

NEW DIRECTOR AT THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS, HAMILTON

Allen Peter Paterson, for eight years Curator of the Chelsea Pysic Garden, London, England, has been appointed Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Canada, succeeding Dr. Leslie Laking, who retired in June 1981.

Mr. Paterson received his horticultural training at the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, between 1950 and 1958; this training period was interrupted by serivce in the Royal Air Force. He earned a Certificate in Education from the University of Bristol in 1959 and received an M.Ed. degree from the University of Reading in 1972, teaching during that period in schools and colleges of education.

In other aspects as a horticultural educator he has led and has been on plant-study tours to various parts of the world and on several speaking tours to North America. His articles and book reviews have appeared in the Gardeners' Chronicle, the Journal of Garden History, Country Life and Amateur Gardening, and he has written several books on various aspects of gardening, including three children's books on plants. As a member of the Royal Horticultural Society he has been active in the scientific Committee and in the National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens; he is currently Chairman of the Garden History Society and serves on the School's Visiting Panel of the Landscape Institute.

A MEMBER WRITES

I have enjoyed learning about the lilac because it is one of my favorite flowers. I also think the Leaves are very pretty and the lilac makes a fine shrub.

When it comes to in-depth studies of the genus revolving around hybridization, propagation and so forth you lose me because I haven't any place to take part in this so I don't delve into it, and don't really understand a lot of what's being said.

My main reason in growing lilacs is to find the prettiest ones I can to grow in the space I have.

It was pretty hectic when I started buying lilacs because I had no place to go and see first hand what was available. So it took years of waiting to see what I bought. I made several long distance calls to get some view points after reading an article in the Flower and Garden magazine and writing for a source list they provided.

Those persons I contacted in the lilac Society were most helpful: Walter Oakes sent me helpful literature and I found that the old information is the most informative. Mr. and Mrs. Al Lumley also sent clippings which helped me a lot.

Heard Gardens sends very nice bushes as did the Brand Peony Farm.

A Pipeline article by R.L. Gardner which appeared in Oct. 1977 issue was one that I really enjoyed.

I enjoy reading a person's own opinion of certain varieties and I am amazed at the age of some of the lilac shrubs.

I have been growing flowers for more than 30 years and have roses that are 30 years old.

I don't follow the general practice of spraying and all the things you are supposed to have to do, but I don't neglect them, especially the watering.

I have found very little lilac reading that was informative to a beginner, as to what this one looks like and how it compares to another one etc..

I have good success with what I grow and I feel aside from good soil, mulching and a good watering program, whether it is with houseplants or outdoors, is the key to good gardening but this must be consistent. I don't fertilize like most people recommend but as long as I'm getting results I feel satisfied.

I now have 25 lilacs and wish I lived in the country where I could have at least a couple of hundred.

I would like to see the Lilac Society have different members write their favorite lilacs. And while the more serious aspects are important, I know, some of us would just like to know about the beauty of the flowers, how to fight borers and some of the other every day things concerning lilacs.

Mrs. Glenna Eubank
(Mrs. Albert)
502 N. Oak St.
Pratt, Kansas 67124

Pratt is located in south central Kansas. Temperature and rainfall information is not available. Mrs. Eubank has her own pump and waters her gardens regularly.

Her favorite and best performing white lilac is 'Snow Showers' (H. Sass). It is six years old it grows well, is bushy and bloomed almost from the beginning. The plant came from a friend who

got it directly from Mr. Sass.

In second place she names 'Esther Staley', 'President Carnot', and 'Leon Gambetta'. Others that do well for Mrs. Eubank are 'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth', 'Maiden's Blush', and 'Charles Joly'.

Editor.

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INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO TO ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE
I.L.S. ANNUAL CONVENTION IN OTTAWA, CANADA
MAY 27 - 29, 1982.

Dear Members,

Considering the announcement of your new editor of which Dr. Rogers wrote in the August issue, I can see why he is such a successful president of the I.L.S..

My interest in lilacs has been mostly subjective - I like the pretty flowers and the delightful fragrance. Therefore, as Dr. Rogers suggested, members must help me to find the kind of material we need for maintaining a quality Newsletter - a Newsletter for diffusing information and research relating to the lilac.

Your contributions, your comments or suggestions as well as your constructive criticism will be welcome any time.

Editor.

LILAC NAMED FOR MISS PRESTON

by Donald Wyman, Arnold Arboretum

*Reprint

On June 11 I had the pleasure of visiting the Experimentla Farm at Ottawa, Canada, and was greatly impressed by the splendid showing of mature palnts of Syringa x prestoniae. These plants were originated about 17 years ago and are now planted in several long rows at the Experimental Farm where they may be seen at their best. Many of them are now over ten feet tall and are doing splendidly. Planted in a rather windy situation, they are apparently able to withstand high Winter winds and yet about June 11, a week or so after S. vulgaris varieties cease blooming, these splendid S. x prestoniae hybrids are at their best. Some of the clusters are almost a foot in length. Some are rather loose, as are those of the variety 'Ursula'. Others are tight and compact. Some are a dark reddish-pink, as are the flowers of 'Elinor'. Others are considerably paler. It is indeed unusual to see such splendid pink lilacs in bloom at this late season!

A large number of seedling resulted from the original cross, and they have been named after Shakespeare's heroines. Unfortunately, the flowers are not fragrant, but because of their splendid conspicuous flowering habit during June they should be used to a considerably greater extent in this country. Since they are hybrids of S. villosa, they are completely hardy and certainly aid materially in lengthening the time of bloom of this very popular group fo shrubs.

*Reprint: This article was first published August 1938 in HORTICULTURE and is herein printed with thanks to that publication and grateful appreciation of the author, Donald Wyman.

Although it is difficult to pick the most outstanding of such a large group of plants in one season from the showing made by the flowers this year, some of the best varieties would include: 'Audrey', 'Ursula', 'Desdemona', 'Octavia', 'Isabella', 'Alice', 'Jessica'.

Let us hope that American nurserymen will soon begin to realize the potential value of this group of lilacs, so that they will be available in this country in a short time.

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BITS OF WIT

Success is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch.

The dog is man's best friend; he wags his tail, not his tongue.

If the going is too easy, you are headed downhill.

When paying a compliment, don't ask for a receipt.