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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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^{*}Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PLEASE DO JOIN ME IN A SALUTE TO THE HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON WITH ALL ITS EXCITEMENT, BUT DO
FIND A LITTLE QUIET TIME TO REMEMBER THAT ALL THE
GOOD THINGS WILL CONTINUE IN 1984.

OWEN M. ROGERS
PRESIDENT

EFFECTIVE AND VALID PUBLICATION OF BOTANICAL NAMES

James S. Pringle

In earlier articles on botanical nomenclature in the Lilac Newsletter, and in papers on lilacs in other journals, I have referred to "validly published" scientific names. In this paper, I shall discuss the requirements for effective and valid publication of botanical names under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

Effective publication is defined as "distribution of printed matter (through sale, exchange, or gift) to the general public or at least to botanical institutions with libraries accessible to botanists generally." This rule and additional provisions covering specific situations are designed to prevent new botanical names from being established inadvertently or being published where their existence will be unknown to most botanists, or the publications unavailable.

Most persons accept the principle of priority in botanical nomenclature. Few, however, would sympathize with the indignation of certain early botanists who found other botanists unwilling to accept the priority of botanical names they had only used orally during tours of their garden! Oral presentation of scientific names, their appearance on slides or posters at scientific meetings, and their use on labels in public gardens do not constitute effective publication. Also, handwritten material, even though copied many times, facsimiles of handwriting, and publication in nonscientific newspapers, tradesmen's catalogues, and seed exchange lists fail to qualify as effective publication under present rules. However, since many botanical names originally thus published had been in use for years before the present rules were adopted, the rules in the latter group were not made retroactive when they were incorporated into the Code;

the rule pertaining to publication in seed-exchange lists applies to names published after 1972, and the others to names published after 1952. (These rules

do not apply to cultivar names.)

Valid publication requires effective publication, and several other conditions must be met as well. No botanical name for a new taxon is validly published unless it is accompanied by a description or reference to a published description of the taxon to which the name is applied. (Strictly speaking, the Code makes a fine distinction between a "description and a "diagnosis," the latter being defined as "a statement of that which in the opinion of the author distinguishes the taxon from others." Either is acceptable, diagnoses being used mostly for intraspecific taxa.) For names published after 1934, a Latin description is required. By 1935, of course, Latin had ceased to be the common language of scholars of different nationalities. main reason for this requirement in the present day is that no one is likely to write a description in Latin unless one definately intends to name a taxon considered to be new to science, and unless one is familiar with the rules of botanical nomenclature. This reduces the likelihood of "new" taxa being named by persons unqualified to assess their distinctness or to assign appropriate taxonomic ranks. It also prevents new names from being validly published inadvertently, with vague and abbreviated descriptions such as "a big bush."

Another requirement for valid publication is the designation of a holotype specimen. Holotypes and other nomenclaturally significant specimens were discussed in Lilac Newsletter 9(5);1-3 (1983). Failure to designate a holotype, as when several specimens are given equal status as "types," renders publication of a name invalid. However, like the rule requiring Latin, this rule, which took effect in 1958, was not applied retroactively.

Other rules for valid publication include a clear indication of the author's intent to describe and

name a new taxon, and a clear indication of the taxonomic rank of the entity being named.

Thus far, I have discussed the rules pertaining to the naming of new taxa. When a new name is created as the result of a transfer or change in taxonomic rank, the type specimen remains the same, and no new description is required. (Examples include the transfer of the Korean Lilac, now known as Syringa patula, from Liqustrum to Syringa, or the reduction of Syringa amurensis to varietal status within S. reticulata.) In such cases, the rules for valid publication require that the name (basionym) on which the new combination is based be clearly indicated, along with its authorship, the title of the book or journal in which it was published, the volume number if appropriate, the page number, and the year of publication. (Minor errors or discrepancies, such as might occur if a publication dated "1970" was actually published in 1971, do not invalidate a new combination.) Combinations published before 1953 need not have so clear and thorough a citation of the basionym.

Botanical names that are not effectively and validly published have no standing whatsoever in questions of priority. Therefore, "new" names in Syringa that appeared in one case, to my knowledge, in a seed-exchange list and in another case on arboretum labels (neither involving the R.B.G.) are prevented, for all time, from surfacing to cause

nomenclatural confusion in the lilacs.

Royal Botanical Gardens Hamilton, Ontario Canada

CAN YOU HELP?

I am looking for propagating material (scion

wood) of Syringa vulgaris 'SWEETHEART'.

If you know its whereabouts or have a cultivar on hand, please let me know about it so that I may mail the necessary import permit.

Many thanks in advance.

Charles Holetich Royal Botanical Gardens Box 399 Hamilton, Ontario Canada L8N 3H8

MANY THANKS

I wish to thank Max Peterson, Charles Holetich, and Walter Oakes for lilac scions and plants they sent to me some time ago.

> Fred Carlson Anaheim, CA

DON'T MISS A GRAND CONVENTION IN VERMONT

Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society

at

Econo Lodge, Burlington, Vermont

May 31 - June 3, 1984

Thursday May 31

3:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 pm	Registration
6:30 pm	Dinner (on your own)
8:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
Friday June	1
7:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Board of Directors meeting if necessary
9:00 am -	Speakers Program - Welcome I.L.S.
10:30 am	Chieppo & Rogers
	"Lilacs Predict the Weather"
	Leonard Perry, University of Vermont
	"Lilacs - Taxonomically speaking"
	Dr. Owen Rogers, University of New
	Hampshire
10:30 am	Leave for Shelburne Museum - guided tour
12:30 pm	Ticonderoga Tour - lunch on board
2:15 pm	Leave for Econo Lodge
3:00 pm	"Breeders Round Table"-What's up in Lilacs?
	Dr. Rogers, Fr. Fiala, C. Holetich, Dr.
	Clark, K. Berdeen, W. Heard
	Showing slides - miscellaneous
5:00 pm	Social Hour - Hospitality Room
6:00 pm	President's Dinner
8:00 pm	Annual Meeting

Saturday June 2

7:30 am Breakfast 8:30 am -Speakers Program 10:00 am "Biography of Havemeyer" "Lilac Culture" - Dr. Robert Clark 11:00 am Buses leave for East Burke, Vermont 12:00 pm Welcome at East Burke - Tom Chieppo 12:00 pm -Tour of Lumley Walk 1:00 pm 1:00 pm Lunch 2:00 pm Buses leave for Econo Lodge 5:00 pm Social Hour - Hospitality Room 6:30 pm Awards Banquet 8:00 pm Lilac Auction

Sunday June 3

am Sleep in or Church Services
pm Post Convention Tours

Dr. Robert Clark, Cattle Landing Road,

Meredith, NH

Mrs. Philip Hodgdon, Randolph Center, VT

Mr. Walter Oakes, Rumford, ME

Other Highlights:

"Lilacs in the Landscape" Mr. William Heard
"Propagation of Lilacs by the Novice" Mr. Jack Alexander
"History of ILS: How did it all get Started?" Mr.
Walter Oakes

Note: Speakers Program may be altered as necessary

INDEX (cumulative) - LILAC NEWSLETTER

January 1979 - December 1983

Compiled by M.C. Smith

Vol. V - No. 1 (Jan. '79)

p.1

Ornamental Shrubs and Woody Climbers p.l ...F.L. Skinner

Index - The Pipeline/Lilac Newsletter p.9
... Oct. 1974 - Dec. 1978

1979 ILS Plant Auction...H. Schenker

Vol. V - No. 2 (Feb. '79) Some remarks on my New Lilacs...Dirk p.1 Eveleens Maarse Sr. Time and Talent Volunteers...Dr. Owen p.6 M. Rogers ILS Convention-Durham, New Hampshire p. 7 -Tentative Program Weekly Notes-Experimental Station, p.9 Morden, Manitoba Vol. V - No. 3 (March '79) A Members Writes...Donald Lupold p.1 Lilac...Freek Vrugtman p.5 Propagating French Hybrid Lilacs by p.6 Softwood Cuttings...Roger G. Coggeshall Early Lilacs in N. America... Owen M. p.9 Rogers Ninety-two going on Ninety-three p.10 ... Editor Vol. V - No. 4 (April '79)

Book Review-The Lagerstro ChecklistEgolf, D.R		p.2
ILS Convention June 8-9,	1979-Program	p.5
1979 Convention-Back to C		p.3
Registration, Cost, et		1.44
A Member WritesM.C. Sm		p.7
From the Registrar's Desk 'POM POM', 'REDBUD', '	F.Vrugtman	p.8
Information Wanted-S. vul and S. v. 'CHARLOTTE M	garis 'EDEN'	p.9
	Vol. V- No. 5 (May '79)
A Member WritesMrs.Edw	ard Hill	p.1
LilacsJohn C. Wister		p.2
Hybrid LilacsF.L. Skin	ner	p.7
Syringa		p.11
Your Society Only as Good SupportW. Oakes	as Your	p.13
	Vol. V- No. 6 (June '79)
A Member WritesI.R. Hu		June '79) p.1
Lilac RexR. Wright	nter	
	nter	p.1
Lilac RexR. Wright	nter	p.1 p.3 p.12
Lilac RexR. Wright	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79)
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit	nterF. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like	nterF. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd.	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD	nterF. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd.	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like	nterF. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd.	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD Thank you Very Much D.	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd. F. Cameron W. Eickhorst Vol. V - No. 8	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10 (Aug. '79)
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD Thank you Very Much D. It Happens in Davenport,	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd. .F. Cameron & W. Eickhorst Vol. V - No. 8 IowaEditor	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10 (Aug. '79)
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD Thank you Very Much D. It Happens in Davenport, A Traveller PeportsEdi	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEdF. Cameron & W. Eickhorst Vol. V - No. 8 IowaEditor tor	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10 (Aug. '79) p.1 p.2
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD Thank you Very Much D. It Happens in Davenport,	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEdF. Cameron & W. Eickhorst Vol. V - No. 8 IowaEditor tor	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10 (Aug. '79) p.1 p.2 p.4
Lilac RexR. Wright From the Registrar's Desk Lilacs Do Get Old!Edit Wonder What it Looks Like A Longer Lilac SeasonD Thank you Very Much D. It Happens in Davenport, A Traveller PeportsEdi	nter F. Vrugtman Vol. V - No. 7 or TodayEd. F. Cameron & W. Eickhorst Vol. V - No. 8 IowaEditor tor tesL.R.Sjulin Vol. V - No. 9	p.1 p.3 p.12 (July '79) p.1 p.2 p.3 p.10 (Aug. '79) p.1 p.2 p.4

Lilac TimeC.W. Caldwell p.3 Gardening with LilacsL.R. Fischer p.5 Vol. V - No. 10 (Oct. '7)	01
A Member WritesC. & E. Foster p.1 Seeds-Now is the Time to Collect p.2R.F. Luce	9)
Minutes Board Meeting June 8, 1979 p.3 Minutes-ILS General Meeting June 8, 1979 p.5 Minutes-Board Meeting, June 9, 1979 p.6 Test Dates Set for North American p.9 Certificate in Gardening	
	9)
Vol. V - No. 12 (Dec. 'Season's GreetingsEditor p.1 The Breeding of LilacsW.B. Clarke p.2 International Lilac Society Membership p.7 List	9)
Vol. VI - No. 1 (Jan. '8 Happy New YearW.E. Eickhorst, Ed. p.1 Enjoy Your LilacsR.S. Leighton p.2	(0)
Vol. VI - No. 2 (Feb. '8	80)
A Member Writes Mrs. S. Brueggeman p.1 Lilacs At NightC.L. Lyden p.2 The Species of LilacMrs. F.B. Eylar p.3 Happy Birthday Jack p.9 In Memoriam - Mrs. Fred Van Orden p.10	

```
Vol. VI - No. 3 (Mar. '80)
A Member Writes ... A. R. Foster
                                           p.1
From the Registrar's Desk...F. Vrugtman
                                           p.3
   S.v. 'STADTGARTNER ROTHPLETZ'
Lilacs and Where to See Them ... editor
                                           p. 4
                           Vol.VI - No. 4 (April '80)
Lilacs from Early til Late
                                           p.1
Lilac Seed Exchange, 1980...R.F. Luce
                                           p.9
From the Registrar's Desk...F. Vrugtman
                                           p. 11
   S. oblata 'CHEYENNE', S. o.
                           Vol. VI - No. 5 (May '80)
A Member Writes...B. Emerson
                                           p. 1
Regarding the Lilac Project...Mrs. M.
                                           p.4
   Frankom
Vespra Township Lilac Project ... I. Nash
                                           p. 7
From the Registrar's Desk...F. Vrugtman
                                           p.8
                           Vol. VI - No. 6 (June '80)
Anne Payne Robinson...by daughter Anne
                                           p.1
The Lilac Garden Revisited...S. Beikmann
   Emma Watson Garden
Lilacs at Cedar Hill Nursery...J.
   Hergenreder
                           Vol. VI - No. 7 (July '80)
Homestead Draped in Lilac Haze...R.B. Clark p.1
Plant Auctions at ILS Convention
   ... H. Schenker
From the Registrar's Desk...F. Vrugtman
                                           p. 3
   S. 'ALADDIN', S. x josif. 'SULTE'
                           Vol. VI - No. 8 (Aug. '80)
The Beginnings of Lilacia Park of Jomhard, p. 1
   Illinois...C.R. Erlandson
Lilacia Park and Memorial Library. The p.4
   donors...H. Riedel
```

p.6

Lilacs Available-Wanted...W. Oakes

From the Registrar's DeskF. Vrugtman Consider These Lilacs for Modern SettingsP. Shedesky	p.7 p.8
Vol. VI - No.	9 (Sept. '80)
A BiographyW.W. Oakes 'Bertha Fhair' A Letter to Owen M. RogersA. Chodum, Poland	p.1 p.4
Vol. VI - No.	10 (Oct. '80)
Noteworthy Lilacs at BirchwoodR.B. Clark	p.1
Lilac News from Afar-Arboretum Kalmthout, Belgium	p.4
LilacsK.W. Stewart ILS Committees for 1980-1981 In Memoriam - Dorothy Eickhorst	p.5 p.6 p.9
Vol. VI - No.	11 (Nov. '80)
Forty Dark-Toned Lilacs Mostly with Large and Sometimes Doubled FloretsR.B. Clark	p.1
Election of ILS Directors Lilac Time in UkiahF. Baker In Memoriam - Bernard Harkness	p.5 p.7 p.10
· Vol. VI - No.	12 (Dec. '80)
Season's GreetingsEditor W.E. Eickhors Honor Goes to ILS President, Dr. Owen M. Rogers	
To Grow, or Not to Grow - LilacsP. Tritenbach	p.3
Election of ILS Directors	p.8
Alphabetical Listing of ILS Membership Nov. 15, 1980	p.9

Vol. VII - No.	1 (Jan. '81)
Happy New YearW.E. Eickhorst, Editor A Member WritesL.E. Romer From the Registrar's DeskF. Vrugtman S. v. 'JANE ELLEN', 'LILAC HILL'	p.1 p.2 p.5
Vol. VII - No.	2 (Feb. 81)
Tenth Anniversary at Des MoinesR.Clar A General Plan for Lilac Collections in Public GardensJ. Wister The Tenth ILS Convention, Des Moines	k p.1 p.2 p.10
Vol. VII - No.	3 (Mar. '81)
Ninety-fourWork'n Toward Ninety- fiveEditor	p.1
Lilac Seed Exchange, 1981R. Luce A Letter from AfarRussia The Spokane Lilac FestivalL. Kinney Add a New Lilac to your Collection	p.2 p.5 p.7 p.8
Vol. VII - No.	4 (April '81)
A Second Invitation to Tenth ILS Convention	p.1
Lilacs for a HedgeM. McCormick	p.3
Vol. VII - No.	5 (May '81)
A Lilac Tree Through the Mists of MemoryG. Kidd	p.1
Lilacs Get BetterDr. D. Wyman Albert Lumley, 78, Teacher, Politician, and Lilac Lover	p.3 p.6
Vol. VII - No.	6 (June '31)
Notes on Some of the Newer LilacsE.L. Kammerer	p.1
Convention '82 in Ottawa, Canada	p.5
GardenA.R. Buckley	p.7

	Vol. VII - No.	7 (July '81)
It's A Bloomin Success, St Garden	campe Lilac	p.1
Walk in a Lilac Garden I	D. L. Wulf	p.3
Neighbors Happy with Garde Lilac Garden, Niagara H		
Dr. W.A. Cumming Honored		p.5
Use Several Varieties to I TimeD. Wyman	Lengthen Lilac	p.7
*	Vol. VII - No.	8 (Aug. '81)
Mary Smith Elected Newslet	ter Editor	p.1
1981 ILS Lilac Auction atH. Schenker	Des Moines	p.2
Regional Vice-Presidents-H	Mistorical Data	p.4
Regional Vice-Presidents-I		p.7
Election Report		p.9
	Vol. VII - No.	9 (Sept. '81)
New Director at the Royal Gardens, Hamilton	Botanical	p.1
A Member WritesMrs. G.		p.2
Lilac Named for Miss Pres	tonD. Wyman	p.5
	Vol. VII - Nc.	10 (Oct. '81)
Californian Says Many Lila Suitable for Here (De		p.1
Reminders From Past Newsle		p.3
From Casper, Wyoming a Mer	mber Writes	p.5
Try Some Lilac Species	J.C. Wister	p.6
	Vol. VII - No.	11 (Nov. '81)
Lilacs at the Devonian Bo	tanic Garden	p.1
R. Vick		
Election of ILS Directors		p.7
Garden Notes from the Plan Institute, OttawaA.		p.9

Vo	ol. VII - No.	12	(Dec.	'81)	
A Holiday Message From Our I		p.			
Seed Time Again!R. Luce		p.	2		
Election of ILS Directors		p.			
How To Bring Plants from U.S Canada		p.	5		
An Acrostic For Lilac EnthusJ.S. Pringle		p.	6		
Alphabetical Listing of ILS Nov. 1, 1981	3.	p.	10		
From the Registrar's Desk S. x hyacinthiflora 'MAII	F. Vrugtman EN'S BLUSH'	p.	25		
Vo	ol. VIII - No.	1	(Jan.	'82)	
Lilacs At Ottawa Solution to Acrostic For Lil Lilacs In Houston, TexasMr Partly CloudyE. Perenyi ILS Eleventh Annual Meeting 29 - 1982 Program	s. B. Tilton	р. р. р.	2 3 5		
Vo	ol. VIII - No.	2	(Feb.	182)	
From Martha's Vineyard, Mass V A Reader WritesPolly H	i11	p.			
List of Lilacs Sold at ILS A	auction - 1981	p.	8		
Gardens, Hamilton for the May 1982	al Botanical	p.			
Pruning Lilacs		p.			
A Member WritesW.E. Hughe	S	р.			
Become ActiveEditor	T	p.			
Late But Not Too LateC.L. Welcome New Members		p.			
		р.			
	ol. VIII - No.	3	(Mar.	'82)	
News From the West CoastD Margaretten		р.	1		
Story of the Lilac Lady - Hu Lilac Garden, Hulda Klage Garden Society		p.!	5		

Welcome New Members	p.7
List of Lilacs Propagated by Travers	p.8
Hutchison for ILS Auction 1982	
The Status of Alleged Intersubgeneric	p.9
and Interseries Hybrids in Syringa (Oleaceae)J.S. Pringle	
(Oleaceae)	
Vol. VIII - No.	4 (Apr. '82)
The Case for Grafted Lilacs	p.1
Lilacs at Bicklehaupt Arboretum, Clinton	p.4
IowaM.C. Smith	
Welcome New Members	p.7
By The Lilac BushH. Rosenblatt	p.9
In Memoriam - Miss Freda Foerster	p.9
Vol VIII - No.	5 (May '82)
A Member WritesP. Hill	p.1
A Request From Dr. Joel Margaretten	p.2
Apr. 1, 1982 Hulda Klager Lilac List	F
Collecting, Packaging and Mailing of	p.5
Lilac ScionsC. Holetich	•
Lilac Seed Exchange, 1982R. Luce	p.7
Welcome New Members	p.9
ILS Most Wanted List W.W. Oakes	p.10
From Nebraska	p.12
In Memoriam - Leonard K. Slater	p.13
Vol. VIII - No.	6 (June '82)
Lilac's Companion Plants	p.1
Lilacs in Maine - A Birth Announcement	p.4
W.W. Oakes	-
Welcome New Members	p.5
Syringa in Bean's Trees and Shrubs Hardy	p.6
in the British Isles - a review	
J.S. Pringle	
Lilacs in IndianaC. Bass	p.8

Vol. VIII - No.	7 (July '82)
Observations on the 11th Annual ILS Convention in Ottawa	p.1
Lilacs in Spokane, WashingtonMrs. H.V. Vande Vanter	p.2
Spokane's Lilac FestivalM.S. Funnell Lilacs Making Spokane a Bloomin' Beauty	p.4 p.5
SpotP. Freeman Lilac BiographyW. Oakes Lilacs Intrigue Scientists Plants Sold at ILS Auction 1982 Welcome New Members	p.7 p.8 p.9 p.10
Vol. VIII - No.	8 (Aug. '82)
Comments on the 1982 ConventionEditor More About Our Convention - Ohio Chapter ILS	p.1 p.2
Convention Notes from Elsie Kara Transplanting Lilacs In Memoriam - Cora Lindsey Lyden From The Registrar's DeskF. Vrugtman 'Canada Gem' lilac, S. x hyacinth. 'GRACE MACKENZIE'	p.3 p.5 p.7 p.8
Skeedee ScribblesJ. Strand	p.10
Vol. VIII - No.	9 (Sept. '82)
Lilacs in Randolph, Vermont (Hamesbest Arboretum)	p.1
Lilac Registrations 1980F. Vrugtman Where the Country's Finest Lilacs Grew in 1933J.C. Wister	p.2 p.4
Welcome New Members	p.10
Vol. VIII - No.	10 (Oct. '82)
Warm Weather Tolerant Lilacs: Their Origin and Hybridizing PossibilitesW.E. Lammerts	p.1
Comments Concerning Grafted Lilacs	p.7

Welcome New Members	p.8
Election Report	p.9
ILS 1982 Conference Financial Statement	p.13
Hospitality Suite Recipes from the	p.14
1982 ILS Convention	•
Vol. VIII - Nc.	11 (Nov. '82)
Dear ILS MembersEditor	p.1
Propagation of Syringa Reticulata and formsJ. Leiss	p.2
Election of ILS DirectorsE. Kara	p.6
Landscape Lilacs	p.8
In Memoriam - Mrs. Stanley M. Rowe, Sr.	p.10
Vol. VIII - No.	-
	12 (Dec. 82)
Season's GreetingsEditor	p.1
Election of ILS DirectorsE. Kara	p.2
From The Dawes Arboretum	p.4
Alphabetical Listing of ILS Membership November 1, 1982	p.5
Herbs For Healing	p.20
Vol. IX - No. 1	(Jan. '83)
A New Year's Greeting From Our PresidentO.M. Rogers	p.1
Palibin Dwarf LilacR. Kvaalen	p.2
Welcome New Members	p.8
Invitation to 1983 Convention - Univ.	p.9
of Wisconsin	
Vol. IX - No. 2	(Feb. '83)
In Memoriam - John C. Wister	p.1
Lilac Seed Exchange, 1983R.F. Luce	p.3
Growing Lilacs from SeedR.F. Luce	p.5
Welcome New Members	p.8
Warm Weather Tolerant Lilacs: Their	p.10
Origin and Hybridizing PossibilitiesW.E. Lammerts	
Helpful Hints from CaliforniaDr. J.	p.18
Margaretten	£ 7.—7

About the 1983 Convention Si Registration Form - 1983 Con	te nvention	p.19 p.20	
	ol. IX - No. 3	-	'83)
A Summary of Currently Acception Nomenclature at The Speci	oted fic and	p.1	,
Varietal Levels in Syring Get To Know Him Better - BilI. Zucker	gaJ.S. Pring ll Horman	p.7	
Japanese Tree LilacC.T. G	leaves	p.9	
From the Registrar's Desk Why Register Cultivar Nam	F. Vrugtman	p.11	
Are Lilacs Good Soil Stabili Slopes?C. Holetich	zers on the	p.18	
Welcome New Members		p.18	
The University of Wisconsin Site of the 12th Annual C	Arboretum: Convention	p.19	
Registration Form, 1983 Conv	rention	p.21	
Vo	ol. IX - No. 4	(Apr.	(83)
LilacsJ. Hillstrom		p.1	
Visiting With Judith J. Hi	llstrom	p.11	
Havemeyer's 'GLORY', What aR.B. Clark		p.14	
Membership News		p.16	
Things are Good and GettingMrs. E. Stenlund		p.17	
New Lilac Festival at Niagar		p.18	
ILS 1983 Convention Schedule		p.19	
Vo	1. IX - No. 5	(May	83)
What is a Type SpecimenJ.	S. Pringle	p.1	
Borer and Scale Control in W NebraskaM. Peterson		p.4	
Flash (Sensation, Primrose).	W.W.Oakes	p.7	
Caveat EmptorW.W. Oakes		p.9	
Research with InterspecificDr. W.E. Lammerts	Crosses	p.10	

	14	
Welcome New Members Lilacs WantedW.W. Oakes Lilacs Donated For The 1983 Auctions Endings and BeginningsW.W. Oakes Tips On Lilac PlantingW.R. Heard	p.11 p.12 p.14 p.16 p.20	
Vol. IX - No. 6	(June	(83)
Typical Varieties and AutonymsJ.S. Pringle	p.1	
An Annotated BibliographyW.W. & G.K. Oakes (Listing of 24 Lilac monographs tentative register, books and pamphlet published by ILS and others)	p.4 s	
Welcome New Members	p.8	
New Varieties of Lilac (Syringa vularis	p.10	
L.)	P.10	
Vol. IX - No. 7	(July	'83)
The Korean Early LilacR.B. Clark	p.1	
Growing Filacs in CaliforniaDr. J. Margaretten	p.2	
Lilac Hybridizing as Seen and Practiced by Leonid KolesnikovC. Holetich	p.3	
Money Paid For Lilac Plants at 1983 ILS Auction	p.6	
Welcome New Members	p.9	
CorrectionR.B. Clark (J. Hillstrom, April 1983)	p.10	
Future Convention Sites	p.10	
Vol. IX - No. 8	(Aug.	(83)
A Good Meeting In MadisonM.C. Smith	p.1	
The Dwight D. Eisenhower LilacR.B. Clark	p.3	
Chivalry is Alive and Well in the ILSL. Gfeller	p.5	
Officers, Directors and Editor Elected at 1983 Convention	p.6	
Sample Ads	p.7	

Notes From the Nominating Committee 1983 ConventionE. Kara	p.8	
Tissue Culture - Vast Possibilities	p.8	
A Special Gift For Lilac LoversW.W. Oakes	p.9	
Welcome New Members	p.9	
Vol. IX - No. 9	(Sept.	'83)
Planting Lilacs With Max Peterson Fall Fertilization and Watering of LilacsEditor	p.1 p.4	
New Lilacs From OldW.E. Eickhorst Lilacs Wanted-AvailableC. Holetich	p.5 p.7	
What is ILS All About?M.C. Smith Current Area Vice-Presidents	p.8	
Inexpensive Plant LabelsW.E. Eickhorst	p.9	
Increase of ILS Dues as of January 1984		
W.R. Heard	p.11	
Make Your Dollar Run a Little FartherC. Holetich	p.12	
Welcome New Members	p.13	
Vol. IX - No. 1	.0 (Oct.	183)
Taylor Lilacs Bloom At CaryR. Parow-Place	p.1	
Wishart Garden - A Haven in Lincoln, Nebraska	p.4	
When to Fertilize Lilacs	p.5	
Don't Miss Spring in Vermont	p.5	4
Report of 1983 Auction CommitteeH.	p.6	
Schenker	Г	

		-	
	Vol. IX - No.	11 (Nov.	183)
Autumn Foliage Colour in L Clark	ilacsR.B.	p.1	
The Dark OnesC. Holetic	h	p.2	
Lilac Preferences are like J.C. Wister	Race Horses	p.3	
We Need Slides of Lilacs		p.11	
Looking For Talent Ads		p.11 p.12	
Welcome New Members		p.13	
	Vol. IX - No.	12 (Dec.	'83)
Season's GreetingsEdito	p.1		
How can You Help Our Socie	p.2		
Lilacs Praised-Wanted O.	p.3		
Make Your Dollar Run a Lit	p. 4		
In Memoriam - Mrs. A.T. (L	p.5		
ILS Membership List	p.7		

NOTE: For Index of articles in publication 'Lilacs'; to lilac cultivars; to authors et al.; to subjects, Vol. 1-9, see Lilacs, Vol. 10:31-38.

Cumulative index of articles in "Newsletter", "Proceedings" and "Lilacs" (from Vol I - No. 1 to Vol. VI - No. 1) was printed in Lialcs Vol. 7, Spring 1979.