



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. IV, No. 1, January, 1978.

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.

This publication, *LILAC NEWSLETTER* (formerly *THE PIPELINE*) is issued monthly. Back copies are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mr. Charles Holetich, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8N 3H8. Please send 50 cents for each copy requested.

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#### *MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION*

Single annual .....	\$ 5.00
Family .....	7.50
Sustaining .....	10.00
Institutional/Commercial .....	15.00
Life .....	100.00

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

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT -

Midway in its seventh year the International Lilac Society finds itself distributing to members some twenty hard-to-find cultivars and two species of lilacs. This is a remarkable achievement, indicative of a real demand for quality lilacs. It reminds us that lilacs are very much "in", but in a discriminating market. With its soft colours and its pervasive fragrance the lilac remains a popular favourite to usher in summer. We rejoice.

I.L.S. has further blessings to recount. Each springtime since 1972 as a Society we foregather to receive inspiration and instruction. But, for those unable to attend (as well as for those who do) we publish monthly bulletins and yearly reports of our activities. To each member of the Board of Directors, who contributes his time and money to serve the Society's needs, we extend grateful thanks. Our financial position remains sound. I pledge continued fiscal prudence. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I see a growing confidence among our members to speak out for the lilac and for the Society in all seasons and wherever each finds himself. This is good, and the impact of increasing beauty in our gardens and in our lives is bound to be felt in our separate communities and the world around us.

Robert B. Clark.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM BIRCHWOOD -

This holiday season we send you our warmest greetings with the hope that all is well and that you also are greatly blessed. After living at Birchwood for five summers I find the wooded two acres slightly less shaded. We rejoice in the abundance of wood which the thin soil produces - it also produces flowers and fruits in profusion.

We returned from Florida in late March - from summer to winter, having to shovel the long driveway to get to it. It didn't take long, however, to get comfortable. We watched spring come to the North Country, and we've remained close by ever since. Trips to Amherst and Esperance in May, New Haven in August, and Philadelphia in October were the only excursions - aside from day trips to South Harpswell and to Palmer. Friends and family from far and near dropped by or stayed for a few days: Freedom and Weare, New Hampshire; Newton Center, Massachusetts; Cheshire, Connecticut; Clyde, New York; Newark, New Jersey; Upper Darby, Pennsylvania; Belleville, Illinois; and Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Gardening occupies most of our spare time. We enjoy the springtime wildflowers, bulbs and flowering shrubs, the summertime daylilies, and the fall asters, goldenrod and foliage. At all seasons songbirds and waterfowl are companions. The lake exerts a profound influence on Birchwood. Ice covers the lake from early January to late April. We go into deep freeze during January, but as the sun climbs higher each day after midwinter, we delight in each sign of spring. Summer is all too short, but a prolonged growing season in the fall allows for transplanting, and I've set out a modest lilac collection. Meanwhile the fir seedlings, set out five years ago, are beginning to make a showing.

Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year

Bob and Mother (1977)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

In your lead article "Tribute to the Dooryard Lilac" by Audrey O'Connor of Cornell Plantations, the celebrated Long Island lilac breeder's name is given as Mr. A.T. Havemyer (page 5). The mistake is grievous because we all know the name for the wondrous large-flowered lilacs which came from "Cedar Hill" (later "Lilac-Land"), the 40-acre home of Theodore Augustus Havemeyer (1869-1936), at Brookville, New York.

Mr. Havemeyer raised some 20,000 lilac seedlings in the 1920's of which only twenty-one were introduced into commerce (all but one after his death) by 1954. The residue of this collection was transplanted to Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, New York, by our founder-president, Orville M. Steward, about 1971. The Havemeyer lilacs are noted for their exceptionally large florets. Mr. Havemeyer is known to have carried in his pocket a \$20 gold piece which he used to measure the size of individual florets. Incidentally, if you didn't know already, the size of the gold piece compares with that of the "cartwheel" or silver dollar - the current standard for measuring the expanded floret.

Although born to wealth Havemeyer lived simply. I am reminded of Baltimore's Mr. Sherwood, likewise an amateur horticulturist or gardener, and whose city-block garden in a northern section of Baltimore is opened during the first week of May with its profusion of Japanese-type azaleas. A visitor once suggested that Sherwood acquire a yacht. The rejoinder was quick: Can flowers be grown on a yacht? Mr. Havemeyer served as president of the Horticultural Society of New York from 1913 to 1935, and as

chairman of the exhibits committee of the International Flower Show from 1916 to 1934. He was an honorary member of the National Association of Gardeners. In 1924 he wrote "The development of the modern lilac" (International Flower Show booklet).

(Name withheld)

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Editor's Note:

Wonderful! Somewhere, somehow, someone dropped an "e" and what great feedback we got - a whole story evolves. I have no idea to whom I am indebted, but I'd surely like to know (please let me hear who you are).

Needless to say, I'm sorry for the omission, but the concern sent me a digg'n. Not having the whole story on T.A. Havemeyer I shall only touch on what appears to me to be a little known bit of modern history. I've searched the I.L.S. check List (1976) and find that Mr. Havemeyer apparently left those of us who admire Lilacs a real legacy of beauty. Out of his efforts of the 1920's and 30's have been selected not a mere 21, but rather 47 cultivars thus far (see list appended). Undoubtedly one or two persons close to and acquainted with Mr. Havemeyer's work have continued to evaluate and introduce quality items right up to the mid 70's. Probably the one reason that our collections have not reflected more of this beauty is the fact that to date only about 10 of these finds are listed as available in the trade by our recent I.L.S. Plant Source List, and most of these

are only known by one or two growers. Thirty-one of the Havemeyer materials were listed as growing in the Rochester Collection in 1972 according to the report in the Convention Issue of I.L.S. published in 1972.

Here's a challenge - an in depth evaluation should be made of this total effort and reported out in a future issue of "LILAC NEWSLETTER". Is there a volunteer out there that would like to make a contribution to the Society input of Lilac data ?

Walter E. Eickhorst.

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Allison Gray	+	High Noon		Nancy Frick	+
Anne Shiach	*+	James Stuart	+	Night	*+
Blue Angel	+	Jane Day	*+	Pink Mist	*+
Carley		Lady Lindsay	+	Priscilla	*+
Charm	+	Martha Kounze	+	Prof.E.H.Wilson	+
Dazzle		Mauve Mist	+	Romance	+
Dawn	+	Mister Big		Sarah Sands	*+
Downfield	+	Moonlight	+	Serene	+
Dusk		Mrs.A.Belmont	+	Smokey-grey	
Ellie-Marie		Mrs.Elizabeth Peterson		Snowflake	+
Ethan Allen		Mrs. Flanders	*+	Sonia Colfax	
Ethel Dupont		Mrs.John S.Williams	+	Tit Tat Toe	
Fred Payne	+	Mrs.John W. Davis		True Blue	+
Glory	*+	Mrs. Trapman		White Swan	+
Hallelujah	*+	Mrs. Watson Webb	+	Zulu	+
Heather	+	Mrs. W.E.Marshall	*+		

\* Available in the trade

+ Rochester Collection - 1972

I.L.S. MEMBER IN ACTION -

In April of 1977 Donald M. Lupold, R.D. # 2, Muncy, Pa. 17756 contributed no less than 30 plants (8-10 yr., 5-6 ft.) to the Horticulture effort of WILLIAMSPORT AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE. The College has 300 acres devoted to their Earth Sciences and Horticulture Department - these sizable specimens should provide an excellent floral display once the plants become established in their new environment. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment Don on his contribution, I'm sure that WACC is most pleased with the valued addition to their landscape as well as to their physical teaching facility.

This is an excellent demonstration of an I.L.S. member in action and does much to strengthen the image of our Society. Thanks Don.

Ed.

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PUBLICATION NAME CHANGE -

As of this issue (under dateline January, 1978, Vol. IV No. 1) the International Lilac Society official publication published on the 10th. of each month for general circulation among its membership, Woody Plant Institutions, Libraries and others generally interested in the genus Syringa, will hereafter be known as LILAC NEWSLETTER (replacing PIPELINE). The format will continue as it has been in recent months with Vol./Issue numbers being consecutive.

There has been a membership request for a revision of publication title and a consensus of opinion among Society Officers, Publication Committee and concerned members that such a change was in order. The name LILAC NEWSLETTER thus seems to more closely parallel and naturally direct a readers search toward the basic concept of the Society. It is sincerely hoped that the more meaningful title might serve with a greater degree of ease whereby those who wish to catalog or otherwise retrieve printed information will more readily accomplish this end. We feel that this title selection will be more meaningful in the I.L.S. effort to convey our message to the amateur as well as the professional and the scientist.

Ed.

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WANTED -

Back issues of LILACS and THE PIPELINE are wanted for a Horticultural Library. If any members have spare copies of our publications here's an opportunity to put them in good hands. A gardening library is being developed and the persons involved in the undertaking are extremely interested in featuring available materials on Lilacs. Contact: Miss Renee Jochens, R.R. No. 1, Box 5-A, Hoskins, NE. 68740.

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IN MEMORIAM ---

MARCUS LESLIE HANCOCK  
1892 - 1977

Les Hancock, founder of Woodland Nurseries in Mississauga, Ontario, and originator of Syringa vulgaris 'Woodland Blue' (1967, introduced 1973), died on December 2nd, 1977.

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J. HERBERT ALEXANDER

Jack Alexander's grandfather died on December 12 after more than 60 years in the nursery business. At one time the Alexander Nursery specialized in dahlias but their entire inventory was destroyed in a fire and did not continue with dahlias. He was probably best known for his hybridizing of blueberries and had several acres under commercial production. He was an enthusiastic hybridizer of many other plants and produced many valuable varieties particularly lilacs. He always was alert to rare and unusual plants to collect which would give pleasure to his gardening customers and his many friends. He has always been a faithful supporter of I.L.S. and encouraged a great many people to collect and plant more and better lilacs. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends everywhere.