

LILACS

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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

*IN THIS
ISSUE:*

Convention Program

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THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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Copies of this publication are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Fr. John L. Fiala, 7359 Branch Road, Medina, Ohio 44256.

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Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)

Single Annual	\$ 10.00
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Sustaining	20.00
Institution/Commercial	25.00
Life	150.00

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

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.

Published April, 1989

LILACS IN RENAISSANCE

By Dr. Karen T. Murray

Convention Chairwoman, Falconskeape Gardens

SUCH IS the theme of the 18th Annual International Lilac Society Convention being co-hosted by Falconskeape Gardens, Medina, Ohio and the Holden Arboretum, Mentor, Ohio, May 18-20, 1989.

At Falconskeape, visitors will view the splendor of one of the finest collections of lilacs — old and new — in the United States, originated by Father John L. Fiala, author of the definitive *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa* (1988 Tiber Press).

At the Holden Arboretum, visitors will tour the Lilac Walk where a whole new vision of lilacs in a new arboretum design has been accomplished with astoundingly wonderful results in 7 acres of plantings.

Also on the visitors itinerary is an afternoon tour of the horticultural treasures of the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. And, adding historical as well as horticultural substance to the itinerary is a docent tour of The Lakeview Cemetery — Cleveland's Garden Cemetery in the heritage of the great European designs.

The society's Dinner on Friday evening will be distinguished by the following guest presentations:

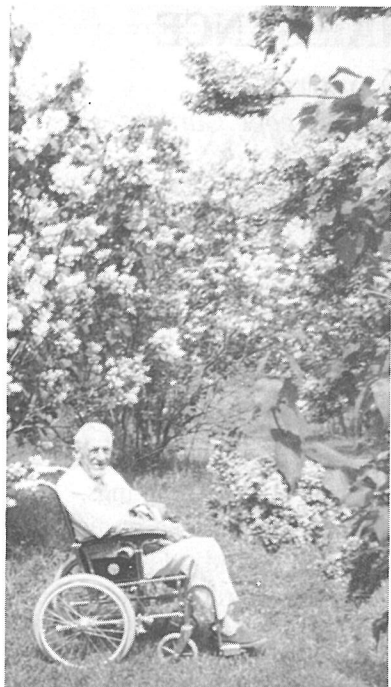
Lilacs in Perspective John Elsley, Director of Horticulture,
Wayside Gardens, Hodges, SC

Lilacs in the Nursery Marketplace Roy Klehm of
Klehm Nurseries, Barrington, IL

Microculture of Lilacs Dr. Deborah McCown of Knight
Hollow Nursery, Middleton, Wisc.

The Society's Lilac Auction will be held on Saturday afternoon at Falconskeape Gardens.

The Convention will be headquartered at The Fairlawn Inn, Akron, Ohio. Open to Lilac enthusiasts, all. For information and reservations, contact Dr. Karen Murray, Chairwoman at Falconskeape Gardens — P.O. Box 1529 Medina, Ohio 44256. Telephone (216) 723-4966. Reservation deadline is April 20th, 1989.



Mark Eaton



Bob Gilbert



Walter Eichort, Marty Martin, Orville Steward, Ellen Steward

Proclamation by the Mayor

City of Medina

“Lilac Week” -- May 14 to May 21, 1989

WHEREAS, At Falconskeape, the gardens, grounds, beds and woods, the lakes and estate house constitute a center for education and research on gardening and horticulture; and

WHEREAS, Falconskeape Gardens contains one of the largest and finest collections of lilacs in the world and possesses the crowning jewels of lilacdom; it is the source of the lilacs of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Falconskeape is, in 1989, co-host of the 18th Annual International Lilac Society Convention partly in tribute to its founder, Father John L. Fiala and in recognition of the contribution of Falconskeape lilacs to the world of lilacdom; and

WHEREAS, Father John Fiala was awarded the Thomas Roland Medal of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society in 1981 for his work in plant genetics. His dedication to the understanding and appreciation of genera of plants is evidenced in his work as a founding member of the International Lilac Society and the International Ornamental Flowering Crabapple Society. He has been the recipient of the highest awards in horticulture from these societies. He is also author of the most definitive text on lilacs for this century and the next to come — *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa*; and

WHEREAS, The enchantment of Medina is closely linked with our citizens' respect for the natural environment, plants, and history. As we ease out of the 20th century, we need more to maintain our tradition of respect for our environment and encourage plantings to maintain the beauty of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William C. Lamb, Mayor of the City of Medina, hereby proclaim the week beginning on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14 through Sunday, May 21, 1989 to be:

“LILAC WEEK”

in the City of Medina, in order to foster a better understanding of the value of lilacs and to encourage our citizens to plant the newer cultivars for future generations to appreciate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Medina to be affixed this third day of March in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

/s/ William C. Lamb, Mayor, The City of Medina

Eighteenth Annual Meeting
INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY
May 18, 19, 20, 1989

*Co-Hosted by Falconskeape Gardens, Medina,
and the Holden Arboretum, Mentor*

Headquarters: Fairlawn Inn & Conference Center
I-77 at Route 18, 4037 Medina Road, Akron, OH 44313

P R O G R A M

THURSDAY, MAY 18

7:00 p.m. Board of Directors' Meeting
Registration; Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, MAY 19

8:30 a.m. Coach departs for The Holden Arboretum Tour
Lilac Collection and Lilac Walk
12:00 noon Luncheon
Luncheon Speaker: C.W. Eliot Paine, Executive Director
Award Presentations
1:30 p.m. Coach departure
2:30 p.m. Tour of Lake View Cemetery,
Cleveland's historical and horticultural garden cemetery —
Docent program conducted aboard coaches
3:30 p.m. Tour of Garden Center of Greater Cleveland
— lilacs and other horticultural treasures of the Garden
4:45 p.m. Coaches return to Fairlawn Inn
6:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour
7:00 p.m. President's Dinner
8:00 p.m. Guest Speakers Panel
John Elsley, Horticulturist of Wayside Gardens, Hodges, SC
Roy Klehm, Nurseryman of Klehm & Sons Nursery,
Barrington, IL
Dr. Deborah McCown, Propagator, Knight Hollow Nursery,
Madison, WI
9:30 p.m. ILS Committee Meetings / Hospitality Suite Open

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

SATURDAY, MAY 20

7:30 a.m. Board of Directors' Meeting
9:00 a.m. Coaches depart for Falconskeape Gardens
 Tours of the Lilac Collections
12:00 noon Luncheon at the Gardens
 Luncheon Speaker: Father John L. Fiala
2:00 p.m. ILS Lilac Auction
4:45 p.m. Coaches return to Fairlawn Inn
6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour
6:30 p.m. Awards Dinner /
 Annual Meeting and Award Presentations /
 Installation of Officers for 1989 / Adjournment

SUNDAY, MAY 21 (optional)

Church services to be announced

11 a.m. Tour of Stan Hywet Hall Foundation, Akron, OH

— OR —

Tour of Gardenview Horticultural Park, Strongsville, OH



LILACS FOR AUCTION

Members wishing to contribute lilacs and other items for the Lilac Auction at Medina are requested to notify David P. Gressley, The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, OH 44060, giving a list of cultivars or species available.

AUCTION

A partial compilation of the plant material that will be at this year's auction:

ROOTED CUTTINGS

Syringa vulgaris

'Agincourt Beauty'
'Angel White'
'Anne Shiach'
'Archeveque'
'Bogdan Khmel'nitskii'
'Bogdan Przyrzykowski'
'Crepuscule'
'De Miribel'
'Edward J. Gardner'
'Excellent'
'Flora'
'James Steward'
'John Kennedy'
'Kapitan Teliga'
'Krasnaya Moskva'
'Marechal Foch'
'Marshal Zhukov'
'Mechta'
'Monge'
'Nadezhda'

Syringa vulgaris

'Nebo Moskv'y'
'Ogni Donbassa'
'Olivier de Serres'
'Ostrander'
'Rusgkaya Krasavitsa'
'Saint Joan'
'Souv. de Mme. Louis Gielis'
'Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya'

Syringa x hyacinthiflora

'Maidens Blush'
'Sunset'

Syringa x prestonae

'Goplana'
'Jaga'
'Ursula'

Syringa laciniata

Syringa pekinensis

'Pendula'

Syringa x henryi

'Summer White'

AUCTION . . . (CONTINUED)

3" POTTED LINERS FROM TISSUE CULTURE

Syringa hyacinthiflora

2 'Anabel'

Syringa vulgaris

2 'Andenken an Ludwig Spath'

2 'Charles Joly'

2 'Charles X'

2 'Edith Cavell'

2 'Katherine Havemeyer'

2 'Leon Gambetta'

Syringa vulgaris

2 'Lucie Baltet'

2 'Miss Ellen Wilmott'

2 'Mme. Lemoine'

2 'Olivier de Serres'

2 'President Grevy'

2 'President Poincare'

2 'Primrose'

2 'Sensation'

LARGER PLANTS

Amelanchier x grandiflora

1 'Autumn Brilliance,' 2 gal.

Kalmia latifolia

1 'Olympic Fire,' 2 gal.

1 'Star Cluster,' 4" pot.

1 *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, 2 gal.

Rhododendron

1 'Holden,' 4" pot

1 'Jury Jester'

(Leach hybrid azalea), 1 gal.

Syringa patula

1 'Miss Kim,' 2 gal.

Anyone who wishes to contribute additional plant specimens, please contact me at The Holden Arboretum, 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060, (216) 946-4400. Thanks are due to Charles Holetich of the Royal Botanical Gardens and to Charles Tubesing of The Holden Arboretum for their efforts to provide the above material.

/s/ David P. Gressley

EDITOR'S NOTE

REPORTS reached your editor that the Winter issue (Vol. 18, No. 1) of *Lilacs* was late in postal delivery or, indeed, never reached certain members. Our announced publication dates are the first of January, April, July and October; however, owing to unavoidable circumstances along the line, delivery may sometimes be delayed as much as two weeks. Therefore, if you do not receive your copy of *Lilacs* by mid-month, we urge you to drop a postcard to Pauline Fiala (6995 Congress Rd., Spencer, OH 44275) who will see that another copy is promptly posted. Be sure that our membership secretary has your latest address on file so that YOUR negligence is not the actual reason for non-delivery.

Lilacs is your means of communication both in getting authoritative information and in providing a means of notifying our members of vital activities which they need to know about. So, please feel free to consult ILS's officers (inside front cover for addresses) or committees (inside back cover — addresses in membership directory, winter issue) to get the greatest benefit from membership.

Format of each number may vary from issue to issue. However, your editor proposes to maintain several departments to better serve you. He hopes each quarter to publish a feature article, either of lilacdom's people, places or plants. A second department will contain your letters, opinions or observations, while a third section shall include items of lilac news or events. Our purpose is to serve you and provide authoritative information about lilacs and their proper culture.

Correction and Apology

The second paragraph of a notice entitled "New Cultivars to be Released," in the winter issue of *Lilacs* (vol. 18, no. 1, pg. 4) contains an unregistered name, viz 'Little Boy Blue.' This new sky-blue, 4½ foot cultivar is registered as 'Wonderblue.'

The last two sentences promised the introduction of a pair of tissue cultured Falconskeape novelties, 'Lourene Wishart' and 'Arch McKean.' Ameri-Hort Research Corporation apologizes because these will not be available for springtime introduction.



Lilacia Park (Lombard Park District), Lombard, Illinois

Lilacia Park:

A Plan for Rebuilding Lilac Collection

By Dave Coulter, Horticulturist, Lombard (Ill.) Park District

LILACIA PARK at Lombard, Illinois, has one of the better lilac collections in the United States, but that has not been so easy to prove. This was the fact I faced when I was hired as horticulturist for Lombard Park District in 1987. The challenge that was (and is) presented to me is to continue to upgrade this renowned collection of lilacs.

Having started during Lilac Time, I was often being asked to identify different lilacs, which proved difficult, as most of the plaques bearing the names of the plants had disappeared. From there I would proceed to check our inventory book, which, as often as not, would have a blank space rather than a name.

Proper identification for me has become a detective story.

Having a background in commercial landscaping and arboriculture I did not know much about putting together a plant collection. This led me to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario. There I learned that Freek Vrugtman (lilac expert par excellence) was going to attend a convention at Chicago. This was my first stroke of luck.

Freek was patient in explaining what I'd have to do in order to build a verifiable plant collection. His ideas and instructions are what I have built upon.

These same thoughts were echoed by Walter Eickhorst who has helped me chart a course of action in the caring of Lilacia Park. Walter also described the way to set up a grid system in order to map the collection more thoroughly.

In February 1988 I got together with Ray Schulenberg (who, like Walter Eickhorst, is retired from Morton Arboretum). Ray also stressed the usefulness of mapping the collection, and also gave me some insight about the availability of plants/seeds from overseas.

The quality that impressed me most about Freek, Walter and Ray is that they all stress the same thing: that the process of building a plant col-

lection really boils down to good, accurate record-keeping. This is what I had to do.

II

In January 1989 I was going through Lilacia Park to find plaques that I felt certain corresponded to the plant behind them. Lilacs used to be given a code, such as A-15, to identify them (This would denote the 15th lilac in bed "A"). When I had completed this list of "safe bets" I checked through the old records to see if I could discover the cultivar names. Then, I would refer to Fr. Fiala's new text to see if it rated highly enough to consider propagating anew.

I was looking for the name of a plant called "O-3," so I went back to a flyer printed for the 1936 Lilac Festival and found that it was blank. So, here I am trying to identify a lilac that was unknown to park personnel even in the 1930s.

I asked Parks Director Bill Moran if there might be any older records of the lilac collection. Bill sent me to a storage area in one of our buildings. That day will rank as one of the most exciting of my professional life. I did not find any older lilac records, but I did find the original blueprints for Lilacia Park, as laid out by the famous Chicago landscape architect, Jens Jensen. So, as far as going back in the history of Lilacia Park, I had arrived at Day One. This plan was drawn circa 1928. Curiously, lilacs made up perhaps 15 per cent of the plants in Jensen's plan. By 1936, almost the entire park was planted in lilacs.

So, at some point in the early 1930s, a decision was made to create the magnificent lilac garden we enjoy today.

But, even then, plant records were haphazard at best.

III

Starting in 1987 I began keeping accession records, under the guidance of Dennis Eveleigh and Ed Hedborn, record-keepers of the Royal Botanical Gardens and Morton Arboretum respectively. I only include lilacs that have been planted and verified. Instead of a code like "A-15," we now have a number like 88015; which, when referred to the computer, tells the complete story of that plant.

Since 1987 I have planted over 170 new lilacs, some 27 cultivars.

Charles Lewis of Morton Arboretum got me thinking about how to approach the collection. "If you can't verify it, don't try. Just continue to plant good cultivars, and record them. It may take a lot of years to create a verifiable collection."

In 1989 Lombard Park District is building a new greenhouse, and one

of the functions of this structure will be the propagation of lilacs, whether from cuttings from the collection, or from seed obtained from various arboreta worldwide. It would be nice to show the different species in the genus *Syringa* to the public, the modern lilac's ancestors.

So as Lilacia Park approaches the end of the 20th century, I hope to guide it towards becoming a legitimate, verifiable plant collection — an outstanding collection of lilacs.

IV

Something I've noticed in my dealings with all these folks who care for lilacs is the great sense of enthusiasm and encouragement for what I am trying to do.

I apologize to the reader if it seems that I have been name-dropping, but I really owe a lot to the plantsmen mentioned here. Without a doubt Lilacia Park has gained from their shared wisdom and enthusiasm. Most certainly I have.

Regional Vice-Presidents to Meet

By Bill Utley, Executive Vice-President

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS, who are present at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting are invited to attend a breakfast on Friday morning, May 19th (details to be announced at the registration desk).

Purpose of the meeting is to consider ways to promote I.L.S. and to serve members in their respective regions.

We are looking forward to Montreal in 1990 as the first convention in a non-English speaking city. There is much to see and do in Montreal so it should be great fun. Then maybe we can go out West again before we come back to the East for a convention. Let's explore and make new friends in new places. Anyone interested in seeing a particular convention site, see me and perhaps it can be arranged.

A REVIEW:

“LILACS, The Genus *Syringa*”

By Fr. John L. Fiala

By James Forsyth, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

AS A SMALL BOY on the family farm there was one lilac, the old lilac found throughout the country — a pale mauve — blooming heavily and the perfume marvelous. Down the road at the little country store there was a white one. One of the first things I ever planted was an offshoot from that white single lilac. I would judge I was about five or six years old.

Then I started school, a two-room country school that was just under two miles away. Daily I walked to and from school. An old lady lived near the school and had the reputation of being *unfond* of children but she had a lovely medium deep purple lilac. I finally screwed up courage and stopped on my way home from school, went in and asked her about it. I can still remember how pleased she was to tell me that she had bought it, and how much she had paid for it. Now this was in the deep depression, and few, if any, country people could spend money on such as this . . . but she scrimped and saved to get it. She promised to dig me an offshoot of this lilac in the proper time, which she did, and that offshoot is still growing and blooming over fifty years later on the farm, even though the house has changed hands several times over the years. An offshoot of the offshoot is growing in my yard now. Certainly it is a French hybrid, but the cultivar unknown.

Over the years, since then, I have traveled widely in this country, and the USA, always appreciating lilacs, and reading anything I could about them. However there has been nothing that I have ever found to read about lilacs that equals Fr. Fiala's book. I have visited the Katie Osborne collection at R.B.G. in Hamilton during blooming season, and even then did not appreciate the diversity and range of this wonderful shrub. It was only upon reading and re-reading Fr. Fiala's monumental work that I fully appreciate just how much is not known by many, many lilac lovers.

When the book arrived, I had to pick it up at the post office, and opened it right there, and showed it to the two ladies working at the branch. Their reaction was, “why, I never knew that lilacs came in so many colors? I thought they only came in white and lilac.” In showing this book to many of my friends, I got the same reaction everywhere.

Most of my friends here consider me a lilac expert because I have about forty cultivars. I thought I was fairly well versed on the lilac, however, it

took this book to show me just how little I really did know on the subject. The book covers everything from history to propagation. The color pictures are beautiful, and there are lots of them. It is well written so that anyone can read and enjoy it and at the same time gain knowledge and expertise while doing so, I cannot say enough about it. The price may be high to some people, but, if living on a pension I can afford it, then anyone can, and it is cheap at any price . . . IF YOU LOVE LILACS, AS I DO, THEN GET OUT AND BUY THIS BOOK. YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT.

In the Spotlight

Dan Ryniec

FROM TIME TO TIME, your Lilacs Quarterly will feature an outstanding member of I.L.S. To begin the series, we want you to meet Dan Ryniec, member of ILS Board of Directors.



Dan has been a staff member at Brooklyn Botanical Gardens since 1977. Beginning as a gardening aide, he was promoted to Gardener in 1981. Currently he is Curator of the Louisa Clark Spencer Lilac Collection and the Systematic Collection. In addition, annually he teaches pruning classes, leads tours and other staff duties.

Ryniec received the ILS Award of Merit when he was local chairman of the 14th Annual Convention in 1985, hosted by the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

He is a member of Grape Hill Gardens Board of Directors who serves generously with expertise and leadership as vice-president.

In New York City, Dan Ryniec is a member of Local 374, DG, 37 AFSCME; served as vice-president, 81-'84, and president, '84-'86. In 1986 he was honored with their Distinguished Service Award.

Dan and his lovely wife share exciting goals for the future. They are working to complete the restoration of their 1889 Brooklyn brownstone home.

Dan hopes to locate and collect all species of lilacs including *S. afghanica*. Sounds interesting doesn't it?

Lilac Color Quiz

TO ADD A LITTLE INTEREST and to prove a point in my lilac color study project, 25 Society members volunteered to cooperate in a quiz during the Rochester convention. They were asked to write down their color description of 16 colored chips on a chart covering a range of lilac colors. The Hue names — adverbs and adjectives combined to describe the color as printed in the American Horticultural Council Nickerson Color Fan was the criterion used in grading the answers.

Tied for 1st place with a score of 42 points were Sally Schenker and Dr. Bob Clark. Tied for 2nd place with 38 points each were Kathryn Heard and Wilson Stampe. Nancy Emerson was in 3rd place with 37 points followed by Robert Hoeple with 36 points and Dr. Louis Erickson with 35 points. A perfect score was 80. One member scored 44 points but did not sign his or her name. If you wish to silently take credit for that score you are welcome, but if you wish official recognition the FBI will require a sample of your printing and writing!

Both Robert Hoepl and Bob Clark made some very good observations and other comments which were greatly appreciated.

A special recognition should go to Marie Chayhowski and Pauline Fiala. They came up with some exciting new original lilac colors such as: Blushing Bride, Blue Lagoon, Laughing Eyes, Angel Wings, Old Lace, Cherry Slush, Lipstick, Bold Lady, Cotton Candy, Champagne. I wondered if they had just come from a bar or a paint store. But they made it fun and refreshing.

Thank you -- Don Wedge

Prizes for the Winners

Sally Schenker — Book (*Death Under the Lilac*), Bob Clark — Book (*The Lilacs are Blooming in Warsaw*), Kathryn Heard — Book (*Lilacs Out of the Dead Land*), Wilson Stampe — a lilac of his choice. For the five others honorably mentioned above — a white round stone weight, personally selected from a hidden Wisconsin beach on the shore of Lake Michigan, with a lilac bloom hand-painted and signed by a well-known artist.

Tributes to the Lilac

By Don Wedge

THE REMINISCENCE of beautiful trusses of lilac bursting into bloom with their delightful fragrance during the height of spring has inspired many “poets” throughout the years. Some poetic tributes to lilac have been set to music. One outstanding classic was “Jeanine I Dream of Lilac Time,” a waltz (from the motion picture production *Lilac Time*) which came out probably in the 1930s. At the I.L.S. Convention many of us bought the record “How Lilac Came to Rochester,” a recording of the musical pageant produced for the Rochester Lilac Festival.

At least three late novels have been published using the word “lilac” as part of the book title:

The Lilacs Are Blooming in Warsaw by Alice Parizeau, translation 1985 to English, published for NAL books. A historical novel showing the courage of the Polish people in their fight against a suffocating regime and the lilacs still bloom on the land they love in spite of all their trials and tribulations.

Death Under the Lilac by Richard Forrest, copyright 1985 — St. Martin's Press. A mystery novel of a kidnapped wife allowed to tape a message to go along with a ransom note to her husband. She carefully worded it to give a clue to her whereabouts. “I am being held in a cemetery crypt; it would seem prudent for you to do exactly as he says! Please do, Lyon because I love you and want to come home to take care of my lilacs.”

Lilacs Out of the Deadland by Rachel Billington, copyright 1972 — Saturday Review Press. Have not read as yet.



FROM THE . . . REGISTRAR'S DESK

By Freek Vrugtman
Curator of Collections

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

Syringa vulgaris 'Konstanty Karpow', Karpow-Lipski 1953; S V (NOT D V). In 1972 Royal Botanical Gardens obtained scions of *S. vulgaris* 'Konstanty Karpow' from the Kornik Arboretum in Poland. Soon afterwards Max Peterson, Ogallala, Nebraska, received material of it from RBG. Subsequently RBG lost its plants before the identity of the plants could be checked and confirmed. RBG obtained scions from Peterson in 1984 to replace its losses.

In 1988 Charles Holetich looked at the flowers of our 'Konstanty Karpow' plants in the Lilac Collection and found them to be single, contrary to the listing as D V in ARNOLDIA 31(3): 126 (1971). We looked up the original Polish description in ARBORETUM KORNICKIE 3:102 (1958); there 'Konstanty Karpow' is listed in Group I, cultivars with single flowers ("odmiany o kwiatach pojedynczych"); 'Konstanty Karpow' does not appear in the English and Russian language summaries on pages 107 to 109. I wrote Professor W. Bugala at the Kornik Arboretum, and he confirmed that their plants of 'Konstanty Karpow' have single flowers.

Syringa reticulata var. *reticulata*, Herrmann 'Chantilly Lace' Registered 28 July 1986. Registrant: John Herrmann, John Herrmann Nursery, R.R. #1, Limehouse, Ont. LOP 1H0, Canada. First noticed by Herrmann at the nursery in 1980, the cultivar has been registered with the

Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation. Seedling with variegated foliage found in mass seeding of Japanese tree lilac. Margins on young leaves pale yellowish green, maturing to creamy yellow; width of margins irregular, varying from 5 to 20 mm. Central portion of leaf blades blotched dark green with light green. Plants in most aspects somewhat smaller than the green form. In exposed sunny locations variegated foliage is prone to sunburn.

Syringa vulgaris 'McMaster Centennial,' Brown. Registered 31 Dec. 1987. Registrant: Hugh M. Pearson, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3H8, Canada. Seedling of hybrid origin ('Primrose' x 'Saint Joan'). Large vigorous shrub, highly floriferous; thyrses large; florets white, double, and up to 3.2 cm in diameter. Raised by Joan L. Brown at the Royal Botanical Gardens, where it flowered first in 1981 and was selected for further observation in 1981 and 1982; it drew the attention of delegates to the 1986 International Lilac Society's annual meeting. Named to commemorate the centennial of McMaster Univ., Hamilton, Ont. The prospective year of introduction is 1990.

Corrigendum

Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Melissa Oakes,' Oakes 1977. Originally registered as a cultivar of *S. oblata* [AABGA Bul. 14(3):95. 1980]; subsequently identified by J.S. Pringle, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ont., Canada, as belonging to *S. x hyacinthiflora*.

LETTERS

Need Detailed Articles on Culture

To the Editor:

I have some basic questions about lilac cultivation that I hope your experts will be generous and unstinting to answer and comment upon, remembering Walt Whitman's brave lines from *Song of Myself*: "Do I contradict myself? / Very well, then, I contradict myself; / I am large — I contain multitudes." Give us, then, multitudes of responses...

1. Fertilizers:

Assume a soil testing pH 6.0. What chemical fertilizers do you recommend, in what quantities (for 18", 3', 6', and mature plants, respectively), and at what stages of growth or times of the season? What organic fertilizers, and in what quantities, are best?

2. Mulch:

To mulch or not to mulch (given the labor involved), that is the question. What materials do you suggest? How does mulch affect sucker growth? If you mow to keep grasses down around lilacs, what equipment works best? How often do you mow?

3. Propagation:

What's the optimal size for suckers? The best time to dig them? What potting mixtures should be used for suckers? How does one stimulate sucker growth? Can one get a non-suckering lilac to sucker? What other methods of propagation are feasible for the amateur grower? What are the proper techniques for propagation from cuttings, from seed, or by grafting?

4. Display and Landscaping:

What are some of the possibilities for displaying a large number of lilacs? How might one lay out a "walk"? What kinds of groupings are effective? What is a good spacing of plants? What other ornamentals, shrubs, trees, can be integrated with a lilac display and how? What sorts of hedges, borders, and house plantings work well?

5. Visitors:

If one's planting is open to the public, what physical layout is most functional? How do you direct and instruct visitors? How do you arrange parking? How do you advertise your collection? What ideas do you have on

pricing and marketing? On selling to local nurseries and landscapers? What methods of promotion are effective?

I hope these basic questions will stimulate a continual flow of information — and while the basics of cultivation may be obvious to some of our members, we are always gaining new members who are planting lilacs for the first time, or, like myself, are still unsure of facts they really should know to be better plantspeople.

(Name Withheld)

Fellowship and Promise

To the President:

This is a long overdue letter to you! Thanks for your note to me. I had a wonderful time at my first Lilac Convention this past spring. It was great being together with all the members. I am excited about the I.L.S. and plan to remain as active as I can. I will be in Ohio next year. I have ordered a copy of Fr. Fiala's book and expect it will be very useful.

My trip to Poland and Hungary was great. Even more interesting was my long visit with our own members, Dr. Gorop Schmidt and Peter Bercsek in Budapest, Hungary. I was treated like a grand dignitary from U.S.A. and the I.L.S. of course. I toured the Lilac Plantation, the nursery of many ornamental plants and shrubs, had brunch with them, met several other experts in botany from Hungary, given several pages of material about lilacs and just was overwhelmed by their kindness and friendliness. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot from them about lilacs over there. They would like to exchange lilacs and written materials. I plan to keep in touch with them indeed!

I am putting this experience together now and will send an article to our editor as soon as possible. It just has not been enough time until now to arrange it all. With my pictures and materials about Hungarian lilacs I may be able to present a short talk at the next Convention in Ohio, if you like. We should have a great time at Falconskeape in May 1989.

Some of the Hungarian lilacs are: s. Josikaea, s. vulgaris Andenken An Ludwig Spaeth, s. vulgaris Charles Joly, s. vulgaris Doyen Keteleer, s. vulgaris Jeanne D'Arc, s. vulgaris Jules Ferry, s. hyacinthiflora Lamartine, s. vulgaris LaMauve, s. vulgaris Leon Simon, s. vulgaris Maximowicz, s. vulgaris Mme. Casimir Perier, s. vulgaris Mme. DeMiller, s. vulgaris Mme. Lemoine, s. vulgaris Negro, s. vulgaris President Faillieres, s. vulgaris Stephan, s. hyacinthiflora Vauban.

/s/ Peter Ely, Seymour, CT

How About Lilacs for the Ozarks?

To the Editor:

First, I want to congratulate you on the last issue of *Proceedings*. If that is an indication of what we might expect in the future issues of our publication it is well worth waiting for. I also enjoyed your "Lilac Culture" and learned a lot from it.

I've grown lilacs in Winnipeg, Canada, but it was easy there. In fact, you could not have grown poor lilacs there if you tried. Not so here in southwestern Missouri. I see some lilacs locally — not many. They are nothing like those I remember from my native Poland, or what I have grown in Canada. The bushes are not vigorous and the blooms are sparse and of poor quality.

I planted some two dozen bushes of common and Persian lilacs four years ago. They have not bloomed yet. The growth is slow, mostly suckers, little height. The one or two blooms that appeared have been thumbnail size.

They froze, buds and leaves, twice — the common frosts here are in early April after very warm March. In 1987 the freeze, named "The April Fool's Day Freeze," was the coldest of the entire winter. After a very warm March, temperatures dropped to 15 °F one night and remained well below freezing for a week with days in low 40's, cold, wet, windy. Miserable. Summers are hot and dry. In 1988 we had virtually no rain from March to September. My water bills were disastrous. This year we have had nice weather for half of December that south Florida might envy. Then one day of 33° maximum, a night of 5 °F and now nice and mild again.

Soil is very stony with a pH of around 5.5. Lime applications are needed. The soil fertility must be observed to be believed. The native forests are tremendous!

When I receive the membership directory I'll cull out members from this area and will try to compare notes — all this leads to the question which is the main purpose of this letter: To what extent should I commit myself to lilac culture? There is no lack of more suitable plant material, but my wife feels very nostalgic for lilacs, especially the common, strongly scented ones. That is reason enough if needed.

What do you say? Are there newer varieties more suitable to the southern regions?

*/s/ Julian A. Hessel
Highlandville, MO*

Disappointment and Hope

To the President:

It was with great disappointment when I read that the monthly publication of our Society was to be discontinued and go to a quarterly format. Each month I looked forward to the Newsletter and I firmly believe that receiving a monthly publication does much more and keeps members active at least mentally if in fact not actively. Perhaps your Board of Directors could have done a poll of membership and had a consensus from them on this.

However I shall look forward to the first quarterly issue and hope that it will be informative in more areas than the Newsletter was. Areas I would be interested in seeing more on: where the newer lilacs are available from, more details on the species other than *Syringa vulgaris*, more advertising from those persons who are working towards the availability of the newer varieties.

Although this letter may be looked upon as criticism, may I assure you that this is not the case. Since joining I.L.S., I have been more than happy with the benefits I have derived from my membership and look forward to more pleasure in the years to come.

/s/ Jim Forsyth
Sault St. Marie, Ont.

The Correct Name Please

To the Membership Secretary:

If you can answer this, or refer it to someone else, I would greatly appreciate an answer in the next issue.

For years one of my favorite lilacs has been Ludwig Spaeth. Now I see frequently in magazines and in your published lists in the Newsletter "Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth." Is this the same as the Ludwig Spaeth, or as it was sometimes called Ludwig von Spaeth???

Or is it a new cultivar? If not, why the sudden change in name?

/s/ Helen Petraske, Milford, NH

ANSWER: *'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth' is the proper name for the old favorite dark-flowered lilac commonly sold as plain 'Ludwig Spaeth.' Nurserymen often use a shorthand designation, instead of the full name under which the cultivar was initially published.*

Lilacs in Southern California

To the Editor:

A few years ago I mentioned in one of my talks with you that lilacs in this area have a peculiar habit of growing (elongation of branches) during the dormant period of winter. This year there was a marked demonstration of that growth, minus leaves, from November til January. As you know we have had a bad drought for two years and the best we could get out of most of the lilacs, under water rationing irrigation, was one to two inches. Since the rains started in November plus occasional snow, the young stems show an increase in length from six to eight inches.

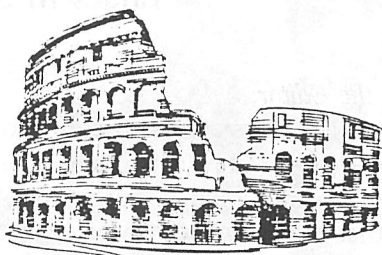
I have only one logical explanation for this phenomenon. My lilacs never go completely dormant. Considering the fact that there is a difference in day-night temperatures of 50 degrees F. at least, it's no wonder we get swelling of buds and stem growth.

I will have some slides to show you when I get them back from the lab. Some time ago I sent Owen Rogers a summary of weather conditions in California and particularly this area. The government climate zones are 2-24, with extremes adjacent to each other. Over the hill from me is the Mojave Desert. Here, my altitude is 3500 feet. Consider Death Valley, just an hour's ride from here, with an altitude below sea level. No wonder my lilacs behave themselves in the manner they do. Consider that my average optimum blossom time is April 15th, while in Northern California it is closer to May 15th, or later.

Tita always sees to it that I have a bundle of vulgaris lilacs on the table for my birthday at the beginning of October, just by taking the water away from those bushes at the beginning of August and then watering them at the end of September to get next year's blossoms at the beginning of October. No sweat. Our deciduous fruit and nut trees act similarly. So do herbaceous plants. Come and see us to believe it.

*/s/ Joel and Tita Margaretten
Leona Valley, CA*

*Owen Rogers, Chairman of the
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and his wife, Marie, invite
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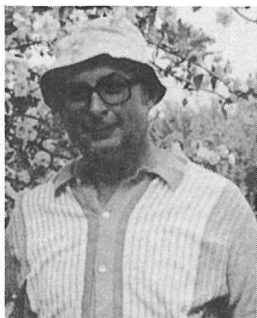
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