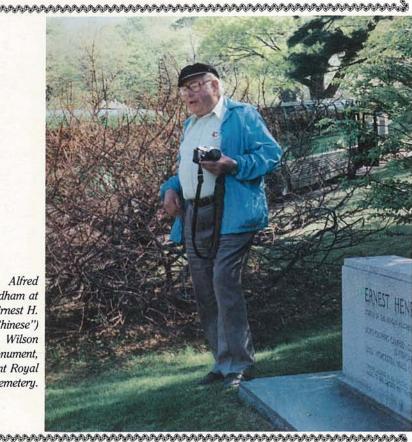
# **LILACS** VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 1990



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Alfred Fordham at the Ernest H. ("Chinese") Wilson monument, Mount Royal Cemetery.

# **QUARTERLY JOURNAL**

of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS ISSUE: Convention Highlights

# A Publication of THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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Copies of this publication are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mrs. Pauline Fiala, 6995 Congress Road, Spencer, Ohio 44275. \$5.00 (U.S.)

## International Lilac Society

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27 Lake Wood Circle, Meadow Wood Farms, Ocala, Florida 32675  Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)
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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 July, 1990



Alfred J. Fordham with Nan Sinton of Arnold Arboretum LILACS, Summer 1990 50

# Our Annual Meeting at Montreal

OR THE FOURTH time in nineteen years the International Lilac Society convened in Canada, the first time at Montreal, and a memorable meeting it was with warm hospitality and good fellowship. Dr. Pierre Bourque, director of the Montreal Botanical Gardens, welcomed us with a slide presentation of the many aspects and functions — horticultural, botanical and civic — which the Montreal Botanical Gardens afford. For instance, while the Society toured the Garden on Saturday afternoon numerous wedding parties visited the Garden for photo opportunities even in a public garden setting of lilacs, tulips, crab apples and other floral attractions.

Still in the Garden's auditorium, Tony Huber gave an illustrated talk on his breeding project with spireas; and Craig Hibben told of progress on his microplasma-like organisms research. By midmorning we moved out to the nearby lilac collection for study and enjoyment and our own photo opportunities. At noontime we sat under the tent for a picnic lunch à la francaise prepared by the ladies' auxiliary.

Naptime we repaired to the auditorium for the Society's annual meeting. (The committee reports will appear in the Convention Proceedings, No. 4, Autumn 1990.) The rest of the afternoon was devoted to trackless train rides to the several gardens, including the Japanese pavilion, an attraction for its Oriental design. Under construction with materials (other than plants) lying around awaiting an imported construction crew due to arrive momentarily is the Chinese garden. We shall look forward to enjoying this latest garden on our next visit to Montreal.

The President's dinner was served at Bill Wong's, 5666 est, rue Sherbrooke, a hot and cold buffet: le menu:

## **Buffet Chaud & Froid**

Salades assorties Viandes froides Rôti de boeuf au jus Vol au vent au poulet Pommes de terre sautées Petits pois a la francaise Rouleux impériaux Rouleaux de boeuf au cari Ailes de poulet grillées

Crudités

Côtes levées sauce brune Côtes levées á l'ail Poulet á l'ananas Chow mein au poulet Riz frit aux légumes Saucisses cocktail

Pâtisseries assorties Salade fruits frais café ou thé Post-prandial presentations by Messrs. Cole, Randeni and Bourque on lilac lore, imminent revelations by "fingerprinting" lilac taxa, and what the botanical garden of the future will be like concluded the first glorious day at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

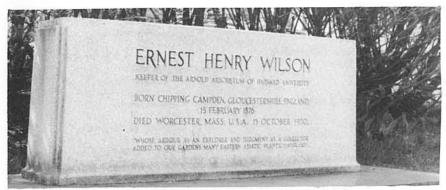
On Saturday morning two motor coaches took us through several horticulturally delightful neighborhoods of northern Montreal enroute to Mount Royal Cemetery, a horticultural paradise of lilacs, spectacular crab apples and other ornamental plants rarely seen except in arboretums. We paid homage to the memory of two botanists whose monuments stood side by side: Ernest Henry Wilson and Henri Teuscher. The former was Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum, the latter first director of the Montreal Botanical Garden. Al Fordham spoke reverently of "Chinese" Wilson who lost his life in an automobile accident just at the time Al was enrolled in a non-credit Arboretum course and consequently was invited to remain on the staff as a very junior member sixty years ago.

At Mount Royal's summit we paused for a 360° photo op overlooking the city to the south. Here also was the grave of the first superintendent, M. Roy. Buses then departed for Ste. Anne de Bellevue where Macdonald College's Morgan Arboretum is located. The arboretum is a multipurpose nature center covering a vast acreage. We arrived just in time for a box lunch picnic after which President Dan Ryniec planted a Rouen lilac to commemorate the occasion of our visit.

In early afternoon we returned to the M.B.G. lilac collection for, to some members and Montrealites, the *piece de resistance*, the lilac sale and auction under the tent. Here for the first time the proceedings were bilingual. Monsieur Tortorici described the lilacs in French after which John Carvill & Co. conducted the bidding in U.S. dollars. One Montrealer carried home to his garden the nucleus of a fine lilac collection. (Most of the lilacs were contributed by Canadian institutions: Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Central Experiment Farm at Ottawa and by the Montreal Botan-



'The Diehards,' Montreal I.L.S. group at the Olympic Tower May 27, 1990



Headstone at Mount Royal Cemetery for Ernest Henry Wilson: "Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Born Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire England 15 February 1876, Died Worcester Mass. USA 15 October 1930. Whose ardour as an explorer and judgement as a collector added to our gardens many eastern Asiatic plants."

ical Garden itself.) This annual event affords the lilac aficianado almost the only opportunity to upgrade his own collection with rare and contemporary lilacs.

The Awards Banquet held at Auberge Ramada Saturday evening gave the Society collectively the opportunity to recognize and bestow honor upon those who contributed so greatly to the success of the Annual Meeting and to the Society's prime objectives of education and enjoyment of lilacs.

Die-hards remained over into Sunday morning to ascend the Olympic tower and view the city once again as it stretches along the riviere St. Laurence.

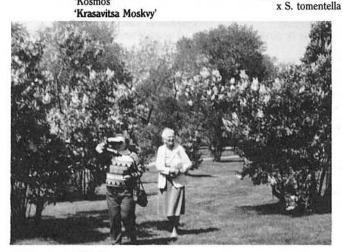
# MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS LILAC COLLECTION

Syringa x chinensis 'Saugeana' x diversifolia 'William H. Judd' x henryi alba x hyacinthiflora 'Assessippi' 'Churchill' 'Clarkes Giant' 'Daphne Pink' 'Evangeline' 'Laurentian' x josiflexa 'Elaine' komarowi microphylla x nanceiana 'Rutilant' oblata oblata var. dilatata x S.v. 'Pocahontas' patula (S. velutina) x persica pekinensis pinetorum

x prestoniae 'Coral' 'Donald Wyman' 'Dorcas' 'Ethel M. Webster' 'Helen' 'Isabella' 'Jaga' 'James Macfarlane' 'Jessica' 'Katherina' 'Mrs. J. Hebert Alexander' 'Redwine' 'Royalty' 'Valeria' reflexa reticulata 'Ivory Silk var. mandshurica

species

x swegiflexa 'Leon Gambetta' sweginzowii 'Leon Simon' 'Albida' 'Le Printemps' densiflora 'Lucie Baltet' 'Hedin' (villosa x sweginzowi) 'Marechal de Bassompierre' 'Hunting Tower' 'Marechal Foch' tomentella 'Marechal Lannes' 'uralensis' 'Marie Finon' velutina (See S. patula) 'Marie Legraye' villosa 'Marlyensis' 'Rosea' 'Maurice de Vilmorin' vulgaris 'Mechta' 'Amethyst' 'Miss Ellen Willmott' 'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth' 'Mme Antoine Buchner' 'Belle de Nancy' 'Mme Casimir Perier' 'Bleuatre' 'Mme Dupont' 'Capitaine Baltet' 'Mme F. Morel' 'Capitaine Perreault' 'Mme Kreuter' 'Cayour' 'Mme Lemoine' 'C.B. Van Nes' 'Mons. Lepage' 'Charles Joly' 'Monge' 'Colbert' 'Montaigne' 'Col. Wm. R. Plum' 'Mont Blanc' 'Comsomolka' 'Mrs. Edward Harding' 'Condorcet' 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall' 'Congo' 'Perle von Teltow' 'De Louvain' 'Pom' 'Dr. Maillot' 'President Lincoln' 'Duc de Massa' 'President Poincare' 'Edith Cavell' 'Prodige' 'Edmond About' 'Reaumur' 'Etna' 'Renoncule' 'Flora' 'Ruhm von Horstenstein 'General Sherman' 'Souvenir de Simone' 'Georges Ballair' 'Triomphe de Moulins' 'Hugo de Vries' var. 'Hugo Koster' 'Vestale' 'Johann Mensing' wolfii 'Jonkheer G. P. Van Tets' var. hirsuta 'Katherine Havemeyer'



Regina P. Campbell and Sue Ferguson

'Kosmos'

yunnanensis

# The Species of Syringa By Trevor Cole, Ottawa, Ontario

HE VAST majority of lilacs grow wild in China, and of these many are found in Sichuan Province (Szechuan in older books). Let us then hop on the magic carpet of the slide projector and whisk ourselves off to China the easy way; no jet lag, no camping out and no language problems.

Syringa julianae is a small shrub growing up to 2 m (6 ft.) and is a useful addition to the garden for its later flowering habit. The flowers are a dark lilac shade and are carried in clusters of up to three panicles on the ends of the branches. This species was discovered in 1901 by Ernest H. Wilson and owing to its beauty it is named after the wife of Camillo K. Schneider, the botanist who first described it. It is probably not available commercially and would be a good subject for the ILS propagation committee.

Wilson also introduced *Syringa komarowii* in 1908, although it had previously been collected and sent to Russia. It too is a native of Sichuan but grows up to 5 m (16 ft.) tall, probably a little large for most gardens. It is similar to *S. villosa* and has been used quite a lot as one parent of the late hybrid lilacs. The flowers open red and fade to a purple shade with age.

The cutleaved lilac, *Syringa protolaciniata* is found in Kansu Province in northwestern China and was introduced by Frank N. Meyer (of Meyer's lilac fame) in 1915. It grows 2-3 m (6-9 ft.) tall and has flowers in clusters with dark buds that open a violet shade. It gets its name from the leaves which have three to nine lobes, but are not actually cut as the word "laciniate" would suggest.

Meyer gave his name to a lilac that has had a somewhat checkered career. It is only known in cultivation, not having been found growing in the wild, but is assumed to have originated in China since the first collection was made in Peking in 1908. It is a desirable, dwarf plant with violet flowers, often re-blooming in the fall, a characteristic which may make it worth considering for breeding work. The miniature cultivar 'Palibin' is probably the best known form of this plant and is often recommended for use in rock gardens, but it does get quite large in time although it can be kept as a small hedge.

Another species with a re-blooming habit is *Syringa microphylla*, the littleleaf lilac. This has its very fragrant flowers in pairs of racemes. They open white and fade to pink as they age. This species was introduced into cultivation by Joseph Rock in 1910 who discovered it in northern China.

Syringa oblata is known as the early lilac and was one of the parents of the hybrid race known as the American hybrids. There are two



Agnes Smith

geographical variants of this plant, variety *oblata*, formerly called *giraldii* after its introducer, which is native to north China, and variety *dilitata* from Korea. The former is upright and the latter spreading in habit.

Another species from northern China, this time in the mountains, is the Peking (or should I say Beijing) lilac *Syringa pekinensis*. It grows up to 5 m (16 ft.) tall and has cream flowers in numerous panicles. It was introduced in 1881 by Dr. Bretschmeider and is distinctive for its attractive bark.

From southwest China comes *Syringa pinetorum* which is very similar to the Yunnan lilac and may be the same commercially. It should have pale lavender flowers, as against pale pink, and it grows 2-3 m (6-9 ft.) tall. Both species were introduced by George Forrest, this one in 1914, *S. yunnanensis* in 1907.

One other lilac species which has leaves that do not look lilac-like is *Syringa pinnatifolia*. Here the leaves are divided into individual leaflets, rather than being lobed as in the cutleaf lilac. This species has early white flowers in pairs which become tinged with pink as they age. The bark is exfoliating which gives added attraction and the plant grows 3-4 m (9-12 ft.) tall. It was introduced by Wilson in 1904 from Sichuan Province.

Syringa potanini comes from Gansu Province and would make a good companion plant for the last species since it grows to the same size but is late flowering, rather than early, and also has white flowers.

From northern China comes *Syringa pubescens*, which is found growing in dry conditions. It has very fragrant pale purple flowers in single or double terminal spikes. It was introduced in 1881 and has been used occasionally in breeding.

The next species, *Syringa reflexa*, is one parent of many hybrids. It was introduced in 1910 by Wilson and has since been used to create the famous Prestoniae group, among others. The species grows up to 4 m (12 ft.) tall

and has a spreading habit. The flowers are pink with white insides and are carried in nodding, terminal racemes.

The Chengtu lilac has an interesting history. Its Latin name, *Syringa sweginzowii*, commemorates the Russian governor of Latvia where plants of this species were first grown in the Riga botanical garden. They had been sent from Sichuan prior to 1910. This lilac was introduced to the horticultural world by Wilson in 1914. Plants are upright with pale rose flowers that fade to near white with age. This is the form 'Densiflora' with more compact flower trusses.

A comparative newcomer in the lilac world is *Syringa tigerstedtii*, named in honor of the owner of the Mustila Arboretum in Finalnd. It was discovered in Sichuan by K. Smith of Uppsala, Sweden in 1934. The habit is arching and the pink buds give pale flowers with a strong perfume. It survives in Ottawa but never reaches its full height of 2.5 m (8 ft.).

Wilson did us all a great service in his plant explorations and in 1904 he brought back seeds of *Syringa tomentella* from Yunnan. This lilac is very similar to the late lilac, *Syringa villosa* and may be mixed with it in the garden trade. It is slightly smaller at maturity, 3 m against 4 (9 ft. not 12) and the flowers are pink and fragrant in terminal clusters.

The late lilac's flowers are variable from dark pink to almost white and the fragrance is more spicy. This is the other parent of the Prestoniae group of late flowering lilac hybrids. It was first discovered by the Jesuit missionary, Fr. Pierre d'Incarville, who is commemorated horticulturally by the garden gloxinia Incarvillea, 'Hunting Tower', a *S. villosa x sweginzowii* cross.

From Yunnan and Sichuan come the Yunnan lilac, *Syringa yunnanesis* introduced by Forrest in 1907. This is another late flowering lilac with pale pink terminal clusters of fragrant blooms.

All the preceding lilacs have come from China, and we now move on to the rest of the world. Their offerings are very poor in comparison, at least as far as quantity goes. *Syringa emodi* is the Himalayan lilac. It has pale blue to white, late flowers and was introduced in 1831 making it one of the first non-European lilacs known to the gardening world.

From Japan comes the Japanese tree lilac, surely one of the aristocrats of all lilac species. *Syringa reticulata* has attractive pale new foliage and I have been fooled several times into thinking it was something else when the leaves first unfurl. The flowers are a pale cream in pairs with a "different" smell that some people find offensive. One of the best features of this plant is the attractive bark on a mature specimen which resembles that of a cherry and almost glows when wet. The variety *mandshurica* from Manchuria, is similar but more shrubby and with a slightly different scent (or smell, depending on how it takes you).

Also from Manchuria and spreading into Korea comes Syringa patula

sometimes called the Manchurian lilac. This is a smallish plant, reaching 2 m (6 ft.) at maturity and is sometimes confused with *Syringa meyeri*. The flowers are white, tinged with pink and have a good fragrance. 'Miss Kim' introduced by Professor E.M. Yeager of New Hampshire is a particularly good form of this species.

Also from Korea is *Syringa wolfii* which was introduced by Wilson in 1909. It was named in honor of the director of the St. Petersburg Forestry Institute where plants of it were first grown. This grows 4-5 m (12-15 ft.) and has fragrant pale purple blooms.

There are two European species, *Syringa vulgaris* which, with its multitude of cultivars, typifies "lilac" to most people, and *Syringa josikaea* which was named in honor of Baroness van Josika upon whose estate in Hungary it grew wild.

I would like to conclude this brief survey of *Syringa* with a maybe mythical species that has only been found and described a few times and never been introduced, *Syringa afghanica*. With the current state of unrest in that part of the world, it is very unlikely that any serious plant hunting will be done in the near future and we may have to wait a few years to find out if this species is still in existence.

While the vast majority of lilacs are variations on the common lilac theme, there are several hybrids complexes that have been developed using these species, and I would like to talk briefly about some of these now.

The two most important hybrid groups are the American and the Preston hybrids; the first blooms before the common lilac, the other after. I am not sure how the name "American" got linked with these early flowering lilacs since the first cross was made by the celebrated French nurseryman Lemoine in 1878. They are the result of crossing both varieties of *S. oblata* with *S. vulgaris* and given the name *S. hyacinthiflora*. 'Lamartine' introduced in 1911, 'Berryer' (1913), 'Buffon' (1921), and 'Catinat' (1922) were all Lemoine introductions. My favorite is 'Gertrude Leslie' introduced by Dr. F.L. Skinner of Morden, Manitoba in 1934. It is the very first to flower in Ottawa and lasts for weeks.

Syringa prestoniae is the result of a cross made between the species S. reflexa and S. villosa by Miss Isabella Preston at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in the early 1920s. This cross has since been duplicated by many other breeders and there are now more 'Preston' lilacs from other people than Miss Preston herself would have imagined. Three that she named are 'Coral', 'Dorcas' and 'Elinor'. With a few exceptions, all of Miss Preston's original crosses are named after Shakespearian characters.

Miss Preston also made a couple of other crosses that proved successful: S. josiflexa is the cross between S. josikae and S. reflexa: 'Guinevere' and 'Royalty' are typical; while S. swegiflexa is a cross between



Hedge to Parking Lot Montreal Botanical Garden



Olga Rudenko at Montreal Botanical Garden



Double white lilac 'Aloise' at Falconskeape, May '89

S. reflexa and S. sweginzowii. 'Fountain' is the best example of this.

The Rouen lilac was thought to be a species from China and was named *S. chinensis*. It is now believed to be a hybrid between *S. persica* and *S. vulgaris*. It is a light pink and there are several cultivars with slightly different colored flowers; 'Metensis' are a rosy pink while 'Saugeana' are darker.

Syringa henryi is a cross made by Louis Henry in Paris in 1900, between S. josikae and S. villosa; the only named form is 'Lutece' but this cross was used as parent in the cross with S. sweginzowii to give S. nanceana by Lemoine in 1925. 'Floreal' typifies this group.

One last cross is *S. diversifolia*, between *S. pinnatifolia* and *S. oblata* and I use this as a trick plant when showing other gardeners round my own garden, since the leaves are very variable and range from entire to deeply lobed. The type specimen is 'William H. Judd' named after a Kew trained propagator at the Arnold Arboretum where it originated. My specimen has not flowered well enough yet to be worth a picture, but I enjoy it as a talking point.

# Living With the Presence of Lyme Disease

Since several ILS members are already infected:

- 1. Take precautions to prevent infection.
- 2. Know the symptoms.
- 3. If symptoms appear, seek immediate medical advice and treatment.

## Precautions

•Wear light-colored clothing, to make it easier to spot ticks. Wear long-

sleeved shirts tucked into long pants; pant cuffs should be tucked into socks. Wear closed shoes.

- •Although no repellent can be fully effective, a commercial tick/insect repellent with a high DEET content (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) is said to provide some protection. Spray clothing, especially pants from knees to cuffs.
- ·Stay on trails, away from brush and tall grass.
- •Brush off clothing after returning from the trails. At home, check for ticks immediately . . . they usually explore for several hours before attachment.
- •Inspect your children for any new "freckles."
- •If you find a tick that has become attached, you might want to consult a physician. If this is not possible, the tick should be removed carefully by grasping it with very fine tweezers <u>by the head</u> (not the body), and gently pulling it straight out. Try not to crush the body or cause the tiny mouthparts to break off, which might result in an "injection" of bacteria or in infection at the site.
- •Know the symptoms of Lyme disease!

## **Symptoms**

Because Lyme disease in its early stages can be treated successfully with antibiotics, it is best to learn the symptoms and be able to recognize the skin rash that sometimes accompanies infection.

- •Skin rash: Some -- but not all -- who have Lyme disease exhibit a red, ring-like rash appearing from 3 to 32 days after the bite. This rash usually begins with a small red spot that expands to a diameter of 1 to 18 inches. The expanded rash has a bright red border and a hard, often pale central area that is hot to the touch. Other similar red, ring-like rashes may appear elsewhere on the body.
- •Early symptoms may resemble the flu:

Fatigue Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Stiff neck

Pain in muscles and joints Swollen lymph glands, spleen Headache, fever, chills Sore throat, dry cough Chest, ear, back pains Recurrent joint swelling Dizziness, sun sensitivity

•Later symptoms may include neurological and heart problems, and joint problems that can be confused with arthritis.

### Treatment

- •Remember: Treatment is most effective in the early stages of Lyme disease. See your physician if you suspect you might have the disease.
- •Later symptoms are also treatable with antibiotics.



Gertrude S.
Hodgdon with
Orville M.
Steward at
Hamesbest,
Randolph, Vt.
with Berdeens
blue lilac.

Meet Fellow Member...

# Gertrude S. Hodgdon of Randolph Center, VT

**To Honor** the memory of her late husband, Phillip, Gertrude has converted his Hamesbest nursery into a memorial lilac garden. She has built a dry retaining wall and replaced several nursery rows with a broad turf panel. Around the edges she has planted specimens of about ninety lilac cultivars she and Phil admired most and grow to perfection (see list). Between the plants she has spread sheets of black plastic over which she covers with four inches of woodchips as a weed-controlling mulch.

Phil, who is remembered by our older members and whose workmanship is exemplified in our presidents' gavel, was ever in search of hardy plants throughout the northeastern states from Maine to Ohio. Lilacs, of course, played a prominent part in his landscape creations. Gertrude for her part, besides rearing three daughters (Joan, Kate and Ruth, not necessarily in that order), is an accomplished gardener and horticulturist herself. She could not carry on Phil's nursery business, however she does donate small lilac plants to her church nearby which offers them to parishioners for their donations, thus killing two birds with one stone in the Lord's work.

Gertrude's red brick house is set in a garden of native and exotic plants of ornamental trees and shrubs to patches of wildflowers. Some of the notable specimens are: dawn redwood with a two foot trunk, Toba hawthorn with tiny double white roses of bloom, the native hobblebush, *Viburnum alnifolium*, as well as the fragrant viburnum, *V. Carlesii*, the white Canadian anemone and the blue *Veronica repens*.

A few of Hemesbest's outstanding lilacs:

Adelaide Dunbar, Dunbar 1917, double purple Ami Schott, Lemoine 1933, double blue Berdeen's unnamed single blue Bardeen's unnamed single red Buffon, Lemoine 1921, single pink early hybrid Chris, Berdeen 1969, single purple Cynthia, Berdeen, single pink Esther Staley, Clarke 1948, single reddish early hybrid Firmament, Lemoine 1932, single blue Lynette Sirois, Berdeen, double blue Maiden's Blush, Skinner 1966, single pink early hybrid Marechal Lannes, Lemoine 1910, double blue Marie Finon, Lemoine 1923, single white Miss Kim, Meader 1954, single violet, S. patula Mme. F. Morel, Morel 1892, single reddish Mme. Lemoine, Lemoine 1890, double white New Hampshire white Paul Thirion, Lemoine 1915, double red President Poincare, Lemoine 1913, double reddish Priscilla, Havemeyer 1944, single reddish Reaumur, Lemoine 1904, single reddish Rochester, Grant 1970, radial double white Silver King, Lemke 1941, single pale bluish Sunset, Clarke 1949, double reddish early hybrid White Swan, Havemeyer, single white

## LILACDOM NEWS

## LILAC THIEVES APPREHENDED

BRUNSWICK, ME — Two Massachusetts men were recently apprehended by local police for theft of a van full of lilac flowers taken from town property. One of the thieves told the policeman that he was merely doing what he had done for the past twelve years: searching for wildflowers and selling them to Boston florists. Police confiscated the lilacs (giving them to local hospitals) and booked the thieves who had to post bail of \$325 each. "That's how I make my living," admitted one man, "but I'm never coming back to Maine again."

## LATE BULLETIN

ANOTHER LILAC communication . . . Lilacs seem rather popular (here in Japan). From the train window I've seen many growing in yards. Strangely inconsistent, however, in "timing"; some have gone by, others just peaking (May 31st). Local climates must vary. I have taken pictures of the Sapporo collection.

- Ray(mond Tripp, Jr.)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The pictures on the back cover are of the lilacs growing in Japanese dooryards.)

## CONTRIBUTION NO. 73

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA to the Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus Syringa L. compiled by Freek Vrugtman is published as Contribution No. 73 of the Royal Botanical Gardens, 1990. Lilac students and fanciers will find useful this 72-page listing of additions and corrections to Owen Rogers' 1976 lilac checklist. Upwards of 1,000 names are treated, giving accurate spelling plus authoritative classification by floret form and corolla color. In its present form, however, this new list must be used by comparing the names with those given in the earlier listing. See insert for ordering.

## Lilac Time

ARTICLES ON LILACS or about where they may be seen have been appearing in Sunday newspapers and horticultural magazines in greater frequency during the last couple of decades. The following four have come to your editor's attention.

"At a Glorious Garden in Ontario, Lilac Time." I.L.S. member Eliot Tozer wrote an in-depth article in *The New York Times* (May 6) on the Royal Botanical Gardens and its Katie Osborne Lilac Collection. Tozer gives arboriculturist Charles D. Holetich credit for his dedication and docent service (the reason for Charlie's early departure from Montreal on Saturday).

The Rutland Herald of Wednesday, May 23rd, carried a colorillustrated article entitled "Lilac Time" calling attention to the Shelburne Museum's lilac collection of ninety-one lilacs. The close-up photo appears to be of Lemoine's 'Reaumur', a single dark red. Electra Havemeyer Webb founded this 45-acre colonial museum and planted it generously with her favorite flower, the lilac.

"Scent From Heaven" is the fetching title of Helen Skinner's story of the lilac in Canada's *Century Home* magazine. Ms. Skinner embroiders her treatment of lilacs around Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed." She mentions where notable lilac collections may be seen in Canada. One tiny bit of misinformation crept in, however, that membership in I.L.S. is \$2.00 Canadian!

Karen Davis Cutler writing in *Hammersmith Country Journal*, Mayl-June (pp. 66-73) reaches the ultimate titlewise: "The Father of Lilacs, John Fiala, plantsman and priest, has reinvented the dooryard bloom." This article is the result of searching interviews with Bill Utley and Owen Rogers as well as Fr. Fiala himself. Fr. Fiala's horticultural story is almost as absorbing as his clerical one. Colored illustrations are superb. Highly recommended reading.

FALCONSKEAPE, the garden which contains most of Fr. Fiala's hybrid lilacs, crab apples and other plants, is incorporated as a not-for-profit educational institution. I.L.S. has held its annual meetings there in 1980 and 1989. Membership is available to all lilac lovers as "Friends of Falconskeape." Address: Dr. Karen Murray, President, 7359 Branch Road, Medina, OH 44256. Members receive an annual dividend of one of Fr. Fiala's lilac cultivars. Currently available are 'Albert F. Holden', 'Arch McKean', 'Avalanche', 'Blanche Sweet', 'Wedgwood Blue' and 'Yankee Doodle'. Each or all of these may be ordered through Ameri-Hort Research, Inc., P.O. Box 1529, Medina, OH 44258. Tel. (215) 723-4966.



(Left to right) Mrs. Randeni, Dr. Gamini Randeni, Dr. Louis Erickson



(Left to right) Jacqueline S. Reynolds, Dr. Craig Hibben, Francesco Tortorici, William A. Utley.



(Left to right): Daniel Ryniec, Bill Heard, Walter W. Oakes

# **Lilac Evaluation Committee Report**

(May 24, 1990)

Current lilac evaluation is carried out using the "ILS Lilac Evaluation Form" and the "ILS Lilac Performance Form" — See accompanying pages.

Slide photographs using Kodachrome 64 ASA film are taken at specific time depicting the following characteristics:

- 1) Complete inflorescence in bud stage, when 1-5 florets are open.
- 2) Complete inflorescence 3/3 open, 1/3 in bud.
- Complete lilac shrub with graduation rod along side to reveal its size.
- 4) Complete inflorescence, all buds open.
- Complete inflorescence at fading-out stage, when approximately ¼
  of petals are dried out.

In some instances herbarium specimen will be collected at stage as outlined under 2 above.

Committee proposes that all lilacs chosen as "Promotional Lilacs" by ILS, be subjected to the above outlined evaluation and performance observation and that the cultivar description be published in the Quarterly Journal before it is released for the distribution.

Respectfully submitted, /s/ Charles Holetich, Chairman

# International Lilac Society, Inc.

# Lilac Performance Form

CULTIVAR NAME			
	S0 F		
LOCATION — Specimen obs	erved at		
GROWTH PRUNED OR THINNED: REJUVENATED PROPAGATION OF SPECIMI FLOWERS AVERAGE NUMBER OF COR TIP OF COROLLA LOBE SHAPE OF COROLLA LOBES	. yrs. Height m SproStrongly	Moderate (20-40 cm/yr) Regularly C  fted Budded On Ow e Diameter of Corolla (Average Eight Twelve C d Rounded Other Cupped	Short (1-20 cm/yr) ccasionally Never real Yes No real No real Other  Flat Reflexed
FLOWER CLUSTER	Length	cm Width at the Base	cm
☐ Rigid ☐ Pointed	□ Lax □ Rounded	□ Dense	□Sparse
	ON: Bud		
	1		
OVERTOPPED INFLORESCE POLLEN PRESENT PUBESCENCE DISTRIBUTIO COLOR CHART DESIGNATIO AMOUNT OF BLOOM FLOWERING HABITS BLOOMING TIME. FR LASTING QUALITY OF CUT LEAF SIZE (From Medium L SOIL AT CULTIVAR SITE FORAINAGE EXPOSURE EAST PESTS AND DISEASES OB BORE Hornet	ON AND DENSITY	Munsell   Other   20-   40+ Clusters   20-   Alternately   Good Occ:   (From Opening of First to the content of	Yes No Yes No Sparse Dense Code Unknown Searing of Last Cluster) Unknown
	PERATURE AT OR NEAR THE COLLEC		r°0
AS OBSERVED IN PAS	T YE	ARS.	
OTHER COMMENTS			
-			
111 100 0 1000			

# I.L.S. Lilac Evaluation Form

Draft Copy as Per Ad Hoc Committee Session June 2, 1984

CULTIVAR NAME				
Heightm (ft.) Spread	m (ft.) Age	ge (If Known)		
Location Cultivar Observed			13	
Floret Single Double	Color (I-VI			
TRAITS		POINTS		
		Awarded	Maximum	
Unique Color (Clear Blue, Clear Red, Etc.) (Color Clarity a		10		
Amount of Inflorescence (% It Covers the Bush)			10	
Bud Showiness (Very Attractive at Bud Stage)			10	
Medium to Good Quality Bloom Year After Year			10	
Unique (Recognizable With Ease)			10	
Inflorescence Not Concealed by Foliage			8	
Easy to Propagate			8	
Landscape Value: Medium Size Shrub in Maturity With Good Branching and Bloom to Ground Level	(Lateral)		8	
Good Grower and Bloomer at This Climatic Range			8	
Prolonged Bloomer (14 Days or Longer)			8	
Good Fragrance			7	
Non Fading Color (Stable Color 12 Days or Longer, From Open	ning of Florets)		7	
Good as Cut Flower (5 Days or Longer)			7	
Attractive Foliage Color in Autumn			7	
Tendency to Sucker (Score One or Other, Not Both)	Moderate		5	
	Too Many		-3	
Susceptibility to Frost Damage			-7	
Susceptibility to Diseases (Blight, Mildew, etc.)			-7	
Further Comments				
NOTE: Inflorescences whether rigid or loose, dense or sparse, upright to refl "trait-point" evaluation. Examples: S. Vulgaris 'CVS', S. reticulata 'Ivory Si				
Date Observed Rv				

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For Blank Forms Write to Charles Holetich, c/o Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L&N 3H8

# LETTERS...

# Help Needed to Man Exhibit

To Eastern States Exposition Volunteers:

The Montreal agenda was so busy that there was no time to talk about setting up a schedule of people to man (or woman) the Society's exhibit at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, September 13 to 23.

The exhibit will consist of a three-part background on a table. The Society's name will be on the center panel and the two RBG posters will be used on the side panels. On the floor beside the table we will "construct" a dormant lilac bush that really needs pruning. There will be cards on the "bad" stems explaining where the cuts should be made. The bush works as a draw when someone is with the exhibit (what are you doing with a dead bush?) and as a static exhibit when no one is there. We will also have plenty of membership folders and applications to pass out. There are many other things that might be added but it seemed prudent to keep it simple this first year. If the exhibit works well this year, we can be more ambitious next year.

I will set the exhibit up on Wednesday, September 12, and man it through Friday the 14th. I'll also plan to come back on Sunday, the 23rd, to take the exhibit apart. That leaves Saturday the 16th, through Saturday the 22nd, when we need your help. Would you please let me know what dates would be possible for you. I'll collect your answers and try to work out a schedule. If you include your phone number with the answer, I'll call you to negotiate dates, inform you of the schedule, etc.

The only problem is housing; it is expensive. The Society can pay for travel and to set up the exhibit but all the local motels charge at least \$100 per night during the Exposition. I'm going to reserve a room (I'm looking to travel some to find a better rate) but feel I have to pay for it myself because it will be part of a vacation for my wife and me. Anyone from New Hampshire can stay in the New Hampshire State Building dormitory for \$10/night but I don't know if the other State buildings have similar accommodations. What all of this means is that I'll also need to know your housing needs as well so we can plan for expenses.

Sincerely, Owen M. Rogers, Lilac Bush Builder

# LETTERS...

# A Walk in the Katie Osborne Lilac Dell

To the Editor:

The spring 1990 number of the Quarterly Journal has been very interesting, and the picture on page 31 urges me to tell members about a most interesting annual walk we have in the Katie Osborne lilac dell at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario, with Charles Holetich. Indeed, my first participation in the walk stirred my latent love of lilacs, and now I am acquiring a nice collection of my own. On this walk Mr. Holetich not only gives excellent instructions on lilac care with demonstrations on pruning, but points out the outstanding features of the many cultivars we observe.

A few of the ones I became enthused with and recently acquired are 'Edward J. Gardner' a most beautiful double pink, 'Frank Paterson' showy reddish purple, 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' a lovely subdued white double whose beauty really defies description, 'Mme. Lemoine' a bright white double, 'Monge' a single red-purple that is an annual bloomer, 'Mrs. Edward Harding' double magenta, 'Nadezhda' a pretty blue with pink double florets, and 'Sensation' purple edged white. 'Paul Thirion' is the leader on my want list, but unfortunately not available from nurseries in Canada.

As a child I had a warm feeling for the old mauve fragrant lilac that grew at the corner of the ice house on my grandfather's farm, but only became aware of the beauty of the many new creations (not new, just not known to me) at the Katie Osborne lilac dell. More people should get to know these beauties and plant them. There is room in I.L.S. for more Canadian members. Maybe we could have bumper stickers to put out a message about lilacs, and perhaps have a contest to suggest the wording on them. Also the lilac motif on note paper and napkins might be featured.

If I were younger, a second career would be raising lilacs. Their care is required at a time when we are enthused with the outdoors, nor do they have the many problems that other plantings have.

Mr. Holetich is to be commended for his time and care in furthering knowledge about lilacs, their beauty and their care. It was through his encouragement that I became a member of I.L.S.

"Meet Our Member" Bernard McLaughlin was interesting, and his list of lilacs includes some that I have and some I am wanting to acquire. Labels have always been a problem with me and Dr. Harvey's article is helpful. My next project is to succeed in getting a pop can apart.

-- Juanita Brown, Princeton, Ontario



(Left to right): Gloria K. Oakes, Tony Huber, Ellen Steward.

# **Publications Exchange**

To the Secretary:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 28, 1989. We have received a copy of LILACS, vol. 18, no. 4, "Convention Proceedings" with pleasure and we are interested in its further regular reception in the framework of our exchange. For our part we can offer you copies of our new publication on Lilacs which have English resumes.

-- N.V. Proskurnya, Chief Exchange Acquisition Department, Central Scientific Agricultural Library Moscow, USSR

# 'Maiden's Blush' Flourishes

To the Secretary:

We had a heavy infestation of mice and moles. Why they overlooked 'Maiden's Blush' I shall never know. How that lilac did flourish and grow! It is now a gorgeous full rounded shrub, almost six feet high. It has the most beautiful flowers, while the scent is just heavenly. Alas, they don't last in water, but are a real marvel on the bush. Everyone greatly admires this wonderful lilac.

The new LILACS format is really nice.

-- Lorraine Hill, Esko, MN

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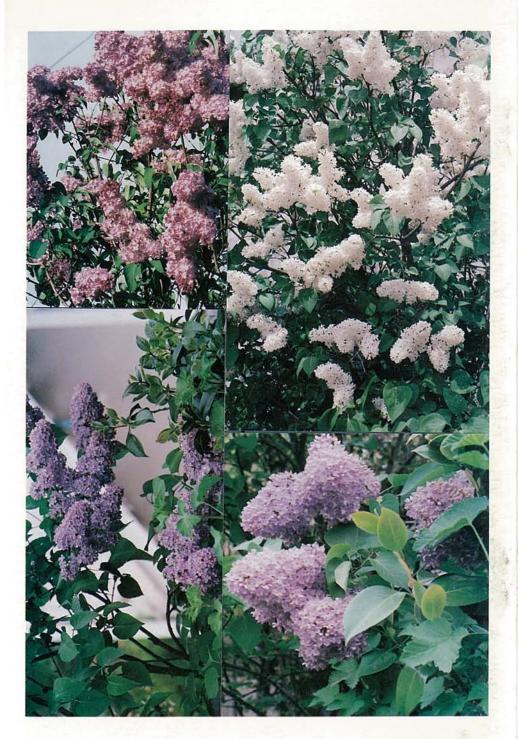
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Lilacs in Japan