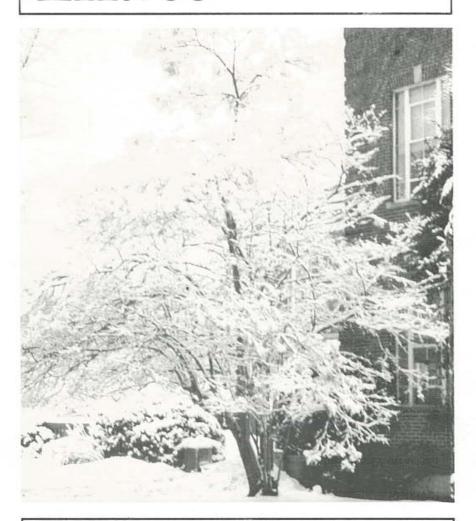
Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS ISSUE:

Membership Issue

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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.

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Owen M. Rogers, Editor, 38 College Road, Durham, NH 03824-3544

LILACS 1998

PUBLISHED JANUARY 1998

Covers

Front Cover

Syringa reticulata with snow. Picture taken on the University of New Hampshire campus, Durham, New Hampshire, USA. Photo credit, Owen Rogers.

Back Cover

Taxonomy with twigs. The twig on the left with the double buds is from *Syringa* Series *Syringa* (the Series which contains the common lilac *Syringa* vulgaris). The twig on the right is from *Syringa* Series *Villosae* (the Series which contains many of the late blooming forms such as *S. emodi* and the hybrid *S.×prestoniae*). Notice that it has a prominent terminal bud.

The species in the Series *Syringa* form a terminal bud, but it almost always blasts before the end of June and two axillary buds take over, whereas the terminal bud in the Series *Villosae* goes ahead and develops into a functional bud. A measure of the taxonomic distance between these series is that none of the species in the Series *Syringa* can cross with any of the species in the Series *Villosae*.

Next Issue Deadline

The absolute deadline for the next issue of Lilacs will be March 6, 1998.

This issue will contain convention information, so it is important that it be out on time.

Editor's Notes

Future conventions reported by the Convention Committee include these locations and dates:

1998 - Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

1999 - Shelburne, Vermont, USA

2000 - Montreal, Canada (Frank Moro, host)

2001 - Highland Park, Rochester, New York, USA

2002 - Nebraska, USA (Max Peterson, coordinator)

% % %

Also, did you enjoy the convention on Mackinac Island enough to consider going back as individuals to their Lilac Festival at some time in the future? If so, Bill Horman has supplied the dates for the next three years. They are these: June 5-14, 1998; June 4-13, 1999; June 9-18, 2000

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Don Wedge informs me that his wife, Vera, died from a stroke on August 17, 1997. Don would not agree to a long obituary, but did want his friends in I.L.S. to know of his loss. "She blessed me with 56 wonderful years."

Lilac Distribution

Spring is approaching and once again the lilac distribution continues. The new lilacs that are being offered for this issue are vulgaris 'Burgundy Queen' and vulgaris 'Bridal Memories'. Both these lilacs are very new in the market and extremely hard to find.

'Burgundy Queen' is a cultivar of 'Monge' that was selected by the L.E. Cooke Company in California. The color is the same as 'Monge', a very rich single red and a good bloomer. What is particular is that it flowers between 1-2 weeks before 'Monge'.

It will be available in a 1 gallon container for \$15.00 Canadian and \$13.00 U.S. for U.S. customers.

'Bridal Memories' is the second choice for distribution. It is a beautiful introduction from our very own Max Peterson of Nebraska. It is a beautiful single white that merits being in every garden. It is a cross of 'Rochester' ×'Vestale'. It will be available as a 1 gallon plant also for the same price as 'Burgundy Queen'.

Soil will loosened from 1 gallon plants, but this will not damage the quality of the root system. Prices include shipping and all other paper work involved for U.S. orders.

Orders will be shipped from mid-April to May 10.

Tentative Schedule of Events at the 1998 I.L.S. Convention

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario, Canada & The Venture Inn, Lakeshore Blvd., Burlington

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Registration I.L.S. Board of Directors Meeting Dinner on your own Hospitality Room

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Breakfast at the hotel

Buses to Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG Centre) for a morning of speakers Some of the topics include:

- "The Flora of China and its Implications on Lilac Taxonomy"
- "Lilac Propagation Techniques"
- "Landscaping with Lilacs"
- "The Lilac Story (the new entrance to the RBG Lilac Dell), its design and development"
- "Conditioning Cut Lilacs for Use in Floral Arrangements"

Lunch at RBG Centre

I.L.S. Annual Meeting

Buses to the RBG Arboretum

Tour of the RBG Propagation Facilities

Tour of the RBG Lilac Dell (over 800 species and cultivars) and an opportunity to stroll through the collection

President's Dinner

Hospitality Room

· FRIDAY, MAY 29

Breakfast at the hotel

I.L.S. Board of Directors Meeting

Buses to Niagara Falls

Tour of the Niagara Parks Commission Lilac Garden at the Floral Clock (1200 plants, 265 cultivars)

Tour of the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden

including the Lilac Collection and Tropical Butterfly Conservatory Drive-by view of Niagara Falls

Buses back to Royal Botanical Gardens (box lunch)

Lilac Auction at the RBG Lilac Dell (or RBG Centre in the event of rain)

Awards Banquet

Hospitality Room

President's Message

The Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society on Mackinac Island was well planned with the Officers, Members and Island people doing everything possible to make it an enjoyable occasion. A special thanks to Bill Horman who worked so hard planning to make it a success.

I encourage all of our members to make an extra effort to attend our forthcoming Convention in 1998 at Hamilton, Canada. The friends you make, warm fellowships and the lively Lilac Auction will have you coming back each year. The auction is one of the very best ways to acquire the choicest Lilacs at reasonable prices. It is also a lot of fun. If you are unable to attend the Convention and have questions or problems with your Lilacs, drop your Regional Vice President a line. They are ready and willing to assist you in your Lilac endeavors.

Our **Lilac Quarterly** is a source of information and editor, Owen Rogers, would like to hear from all of us for ideas, contributions and Lilac experiences

you would care to share.

Recently I found myself reflecting on the reasons our charter members formed the Society. Article II in the By-Laws states as follows:

"It is intended that the membership in this not-forprofit Corporation will be comprised of people who share a particular appreciation and fondness of the lilac. By the exchange of knowledge, experiences and facts gained by members, it is proposed that the individual members will increase their knowledge of the lilac and thereby help to promote a broadened public understanding and awareness of *Syringa*. The thrust is to be threefold, through education, publication and research."

Active participation of all members is needed and welcome. I look forward to hearing from you anytime. As you gather for Holiday celebrations to worship with your families and friends, may you have a season of joy, hope and peace.

John Carvill President

I.L.S. LILAC AUCTION - 1998

WANTED - LILACS FOR THE AUCTION!

L.S. needs your help to make the lilac auction at this year's convention a success. As has been the tradition through the years, we have appreciated donations of lilac plants (as well as other interesting plants) and other lilac related items to sell at the auction at each convention. Please consider the plants you have and which ones you could contribute to the auction. All varieties are welcome and certainly uncommon varieties and species are especially desirable. All proceeds from the auction go toward the financing of I.L.S. activities and projects.

Please write me or contact me as soon as you can with any information about possible donations. Knowing the names of the donated varieties is helpful in organizing the auction. I plan to arrange for an engraved aluminum tag to be made for each plant at the auction and to have a descriptive listing compiled. In the spring you can send the plants to me at Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG). Since for most donors, sending plants to RBG involves the crossing of an international border, there are some special requirements. The donor will need to contact their local agriculture or customs officer and arrange to get a "Phytosanitary Certificate" for the plants to be sent. The certificate must contain all necessary declarations for lilac movement in Canada. The person issuing the certificate should know what these are and that they may vary from state to state. This certificate must accompany the plants. An import permit is not required if plants are coming from the U.S.A. The propagation department staff at RBG suggests that plants be sent bare-rooted and by First Class Mail. When the plants arrive at Royal Botanical Gardens they will be potted up and grown on for the auction. For more details about shipping lilacs to Canada or donating to the auction contact me directly and I can provide more information. Bringing the plants with you to the convention may be a possibility, but you will still need a Phytosanitary Certificate to bring them across the border. Please contact me if you intend to do this and I will provide you details about the restrictions.

At the auction itself a Canada Customs official will be on hand to issue Phytosanitary Certificates to allow buyers to bring their potted plants back to the U.S.A. These will cost each person approximately fifteen Canadian dollars.

Contact: Dennis Eveleigh

Royal Botanical Gardens

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Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8

Phone: (905) 527-1158 Fax: (905) 577-0375

Email: develeigh@rbg.ca

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

November 1997

NCCPG National Collection of Lilacs

his year of 1997 brought our worst lilac flowering ever. I recalled seeing in New York State, last year, the sad sight of lilacs almost completely blackened by frost damage. This proved to be prophetic because this year it happened to us. Three beautiful, warm days early in May induced the lilac buds to expand, but each of these days was followed by severe night-time air-frosts which devastated the emergent flower buds. Of the Suringa vulgaris singles, only the latest flowering ones survived -'Etna', Znamya Leniana' and 'Taras Bul'ba'. The doubles fared better but all were severely scorched. I spent most of my time cutting out frost damage to prevent bacterial blight entering the frosted lesions. As ever, Nature compensated and this "early pruning" produced a remarkable pay-off when, for the first time since planting here began, moist conditions in late June coincided with our period of maximum growth. For the first time we were rewarded by the growth of long, vigorous stems with big, fat terminal buds. The recovery was quite dramatic, so the portents and auguries bode well for next season.

Fortunately, we had about 50 rare lilacs growing in containers which were under cover at the time and escaped the frost damage. One of them flowered for the second time and I must sing its praises. S vulgaris 'Gortenziya was bred by L.A. Kolesnikov and introduced in 1930. It is so named - and bear in mind there is no letter 'H' in the Russian alphabet. - because its flowers resemble those of an Hortensia Hydrangea. It has lilacpink buds which open to give a lilac-pink flower which is paler at the eye. Broad, flattened, rounded - but slightly pointed - lobes are arranged in such a way that each floret appears to be shaped like a square. It is when just a few of these florets are dotted about the buds that it looks most like an Hydrangea. The effect is quite extraordinary and baffled several informed visitors. When fully open 'Gortenziya' begins to fade to pale whitish-pink and breathes out a powerful fragrance. With a strong upright growth it is a completely satisfying single lilac.

In May, I returned to Brighton to meet Philip Williamson and to resume working on identifying and verifying the unlabelled lilacs in the original British National Collection. Brighton had not suffered so badly as we had. Being further south, the lilacs were more advanced and, hence, less vulnerable when the May frosts struck. What was immediately pleasing was that the severe cutting back of old and out of condition shrubs which Philip organized four years ago was beginning to influence the display. There was much more bloom on many more lilacs than last year and some of the thyrses were of a truly enormous size. Members of staff were leading

conducted tours and there was a general sense that the old collection was flexing its muscles once more.

Last year, we sorted out more than 100 cultivars at the Stanmer Road nursery. Philip then sent me propagating material of the ones I was uncertain about last winter so that I can work on them at home. This year, we almost completed the S. vulgaris and S. ×hyacinthiflora display beds. Next year we start on the species and late hybrids and also the huge colour beds. These are planted with lilacs of the same colour but no planting records exist for them whatsoever. When the work is completed as far as possible, Philip and I will present a joint paper to this Journal. As a preview, let me mention a few things that have taken my eye. There was a most magnificent 'Maximowicz', which had flower heads the size of a cheer-leaders pom-pom, and these were rivalled in size only by those on their great plant of 'Mme. F. Morel' which I mentioned last year. A beautiful stand of three of the now scarce S. xh 'White Hyacinth', in splendid condition, was breathtakingly framed by S. ×h 'Blue Hyacinth' on one side and S. ×h 'Sunset' on the other. I also found a small, very old and gnarled specimen which had not flowered for several years of what I think is S. xh 'Missimo'. This latter was the right colour and is in the right position according to old records subsequently found, but it was only just coming into flower so had not developed the characteristic reflexing noted by Joseph Dyorak (Lilac Study, ILS 1978 p. 50). It will be necessary to photograph this plant at a later stage of bloom to verify it.

The Convention venue of Mackinac Island was a joy. The relationship between three features of the hilly, turtle-shaped island, its neat, white houses and the all-prevailing presence of the lake-water make it a very special location. The absence of motor vehicles was bliss and the sheer profusion of lilacs - which came into bloom right on cue - was unexpected and overwhelming. There was insufficient time and too many competing demands from the events of the Lilac Festival for anything but a preliminary look at the plants, but I came away with the feeling that there might have been three main phases of lilac planting - early nineteenth century, followed by late nineteenth to early twentieth century, and then a post WW2 period characterized by some well-grown specimens of S x'Esther Staley'. The great lilac in front of the Jacob Astor House looked to me to be a form of Syringa vulgaris var purpurea so it might be the oldest surviving specimen of S.v. 'Charles X': the first named lilac cultivar which was introduced in 1831. It is a very fine specimen and its preservation and welfare should be of major interest to ILS.

At the time, an over-concern with plant names would have been an inappropriate intrusion into the spirit of the place. What mattered was to be at peace and at one with the perfect harmony of landscape, community and lilacs. It was so special that one must respect the judgement of my forebears who with characteristic good taste refused to give up Mackinac Island until the Treaty of 1815. I have to tell you, I'm afraid, that had I been

there at the time I would have stayed there too.

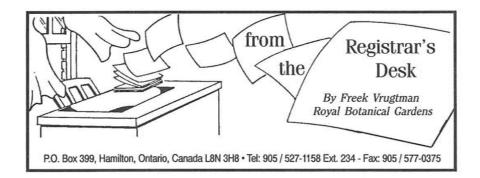
It was a great pleasure meeting Konrad Kircher at the Convention. I have been told by several people that Konrad has a very large and impressive lilac enterprise at his nursery and he is busy in other respects also. In May, he had a very large response from an article published in the German Gardening Magazine "Mein Schöner Garten". Also in May, he gave a lecture at the Courson which is a large and influential French Flower Show. This was May 16th. By an unfortunate coincidence I had a bus-load of visitors booked in to see our own collection on that day so I had to turn down a request I received from the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens to go to Paris and represent them at the same show. Konrad spoke about the new Russian and North American lilacs and he has asked me to thank David Gressley, Bob Hoepfl, and Freek Vrugtman for the information they sent him to use in that lecture.

Speaking of David Gressley reminds me of the very busy month we had in July. We were delighted to receive at Normans Farm David, Nessa and their daughter, Grace. We had some good days out in Cambridge, London and at the Suffolk coast and we did manage to find our way to a few English pubs as well. During their visit, there also arrived Ole and Grethe Heide with their children, Christina, Magnus and Frederick. One night we extended the dining table to its full twelve feet (3.6 metres) and ten of us sat down to feast, talk and toast the international tentacles of our Society. I had such a good time that I forgot to get out the camera to record this truly remarkable gathering of two Britons, three Americans and five Danes.

Ole Heide has since told me over the phone that he and Grethe were themselves hosts to Dr. Bugala who paid a visit to their nursery at Thisted, Denmark. Dr. Bugala has now retired, but he does maintain an office at the Kornik Arboretum in Poland. His book on the Genus *Populus* has now been published. Ole has received some un-named seedlings from Dr. Bugala one of which he has sent to me, but it has not flowered yet. Vasily Gorb has also been active and, among other lilacs, Ole has received 'Utro Rossii' (Russian Morning) which should be a Vekhov double with large florets of violet edged pearl, and 'Shkol'nitsa' (Schoolgirl) which is a bluish-lilac single of Shtan'ko and Mikhailov.

It is important that dues be renewed by annual and institutional members by the end of December. Though highly successful in terms of the lilac work being done, ILS-Europe has a very serious problem. We have such a high proportion of life and complimentary members that there is insufficient revenue coming in each year to meet Bank charges and postal and stationery costs. Please make sure that cheques are made in Sterling to "ILS-Europe" and not to me personally, otherwise I have to bear your conversion and transfer costs myself. I will certainly have to make a rigorous review of the situation early in the New Year.

Norman's Farm Wyverstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SF, UK



The Rankin lilacs reviewed

John Paul Rankin [1891-1967] died thirty years ago last January. Precious little remains of his lilac legacy. Through the efforts of John Fiala, Clare Short, Reva Ballreich and a few others at least some of the Rankin lilacs are in cultivation. In my opinion, it would be timely for the ILS to take a critical look at this legacy, recognize what is outstanding [and perhaps what is good], and come to terms with what is not worth keeping. The Rankin lilac names will have to remain in the International Registrar, but we do not need more mediocre lilacs in our collections; plant breeders ought to be remembered by the best garden plants they produced.

Nowhere have I found information on parentage of the Rankin lilac selections. In a letter Clare Short mentioned the apparently voluminous correspondence between Rankin and Wister over a period of about ten to twenty years, but I do not know whether any of it was saved. There never has been any mention about the existence of lilac breeding records or notes on the plantings at Rankin's "Dunridge Garden" at North Ridgeville. In 1953 Dr. Rankin reported 385 different lilacs growing in his collection [Wister, 1953]. Rankin's lilac breeding and selecting venture was primarily for his own recreation and enjoyment; he named his lilac selections for his friends, neighbours and patients. Rankin did not actively propagate his lilacs; though he may have shared divisions with friends, he appears to have had no commercial interests.

In 1956 the A.H. Scott Horticultural Foundation was appointed International Registration Authority for Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L., and the late Dr. John C. Wister became the first Lilac Registrar. With the establishment of the lilac registry the publication *Lilacs for America*, 1953 edition, compiled and edited by Wister, became the first recognized registration list. Validly published names of lilac cultivars that appear in *Lilacs for America*, 1953 ed., plant of which have been introduced in cultivation are considered "registered" under the rules of the Cultivated Plant Code. The first four names of lilacs selected by Dr. Rankin appeared in *Lilacs for America* [1953]; an additional 20 cultivar names, submitted for registration in 1963 were published in *Arnoldia* 23(4):77-83 [1963].

As Registrar I divide the Rankin lilacs in five groups.

1) From the information available to me it appears that of the 24 cv. names registered 14 cvs. have been in cultivation at one time or another. The names of these 14 cvs. have been "established and accepted" under the rules of the Cultivated Plant Code, though some of the cvs. have become extinct since.

Names established and accepted (=valid names):

'Bertha Dunham'
'Betty Opper'
'Caroline Foley'
'Esta'
'Geraldine Smith'
'Jane Smith'
'Jennie C. Jones'
'Lewis Maddock'
'Pink Bluet'
'Pinkie'

'Hazel Opper' 'Robert Dunham'

'Helen Palagge' 'Sobra'

2) There appear to be five "ortets" growing at Falconskeape, original plants named by Rankin which have never been propagated and distributed. Names for these five ortets were registered, but since they have not been propagated and distributed they are not recognized cultivars under the rules of the Cultivated Plant Code. These five plants may or may not be worth growing. Perhaps Julie London and some of the knowledgeable ILS members in the region could be persuaded to do a critical evaluation of these plants. Outstanding ones among the five could be propagated and distributed, which would validate the [already registered] cv. epithets. The remaining ones ought to be culled.

Ortets (=original plants) apparently in cultivation at Falconskeape that would require cloning and introduction for their registered cultivar names to be established and accepted:

'Alice Stofer' 'Jane'

'Edna Dunham' 'Margaret Opper'

'Inez'

3) Names for 7 selections were registered, but to date I have found no evidence that the ortets of these selections are still extant and that they were ever propagated and distributed. If such evidence shows up the status of the name or names will be updated.

Names that may not have been established in spite of having been registered (selections extinct):

'Jack Smith' 'Pinkinsun'

'Nina Baker' 'Two Star General'

'Pauline Beck'

4) Six Rankin lilacs were named, but the names were not registered; five of these appear to have been propagated and distributed, one may exist as ortet at Falconskeape. Some of the best of Rankin's lilacs appear to be in this category, namely; 'Dove', 'Edith Braun' and 'White Lace' (Fiala, 1988). A critical evaluation of these selections would be highly desirable; the names of the deserving ones ought to be registered.

Names not established (= invalid names) for selections that are in cultivation:

'Dove'

'Paul Henry Lang' (ortet at Falconskeape)

'Edith Braun'

'White Lace'

'James Maddox'

'White Long Fellow'

5) Five names have been mentioned for selections that now appear to be extinct. These names have neither been registered nor published. For 'Ilona' see below under "'Helen Palagge' - correct or substitute?"

Names not established (= invalid names) for selections that appear to be extinct:

'Efrim Zimbaslist'

'Pauline Holcomb'

'Estelle Brugge'

'Ralph'

'Ilona'

Syringa vulgaris L. 'Helen Palagge' - correct or substitute?

'Helen Palagge' is one of twenty new lilac names registered in 1963 and published in the April 1963 issue of *Arnoldia*. 'Helen Palagge' is described there as S I, or single, white. Robert B. Clark [1991], in his biographical sketch of Dr. Rankin lists 'Helen Palagge' also as a single, white cultivar. Plants grown in the garden of Reva Ballreich, Idyllwild, CA, and at Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, bear flowers that are single and white.

Fr. John L. Fiala, however, lists 'Helen Palagge' (misspelled Pellage) as S VII. or single, purple (*Lilacs*, p. 208 [1988]).

We have a letter dated 17 November, 1976, written by the late Clare E. Short, an ILS member and friend and contemporary of Dr. Rankin. The letter contains notes on Rankin lilac selections. About 'Helen Palagge' Short writes:

"Helen Palagge: (this is the correct spelling), but the account at Highland Park is that this cultivar has died. We have never been able to find such a plant at the Rankin garden. At Helen's suggestion I propose substituting a later cultivar, a single flowered deep lilac-magenta single, which Dr. Rankin named 'Ilona' which is Hungarian for Helen, . . ."

I have checked with Bob Hoepfl, Highland Botanical Park, Rochester, NY; their plants of 'Helen Palagge', either original ones or possible later

substitutions, no longer exist.

To date we have not found any records of single, purple flowering plants grown under the name 'Helen Palagge'.

Based on the information available we conclude that lilac plants grown under the name 'Helen Palagge' which produce single, white flowers are named correctly.

However, plants grown under the name 'Helen Palagge' that produce single, purple (or "deep lilac-magenta") flowers, if they exist, are incorrectly named and must be discarded or renamed. If such plants exist and are worthy of renaming, we propose the epithet 'Ilona' for this selection, the name originally chosen by Rankin. To become "established" under the Cultivated Plant Code the name must be registered and published with a description, and plants must have been propagated and distributed.

The Registrar would welcome corrections and additional information on Dr. Rankin and his lilacs; he can be reached by

mail: Freek Vrugtman

phone: (905) 527-1158 Ext. 234 fax: (905) 577-0375

Royal Botanical Gardens

phone (res.): (905) 689-5209

Box 399 HAMILTON ON

CANADA L8N 3H8

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Fiala, J.L., Lilacs - The genus Syringa, pp. 207-208 [1988].

Short, C., personal communication

[Short to Vrugtman, November 17, 1976].

Wister, J.C., ed. Lilacs for America, pp. 8, 17, 20, 25, 28, 31, 32 [1953].

Wister, J.C., Supplementary registration list of cultivar names in the genus Syringa L. Arnoldia 23(4): 77-83 [1963].

Abbrevations used in the following Appendix (see next page)

S - Single flower D - Double flower

Colours

I - White V - Pinkish II - Violet VI - Magenta III - Bluish VII - Purple

IV - Lilac

& - bicolour [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

/ - colour combinations [e.g. III/VII for bluish-purple; V-VI for pinkish to magental

* - cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage

? - information incomplete

Appendix

LISTING OF THE RANKIN LILAC CULTIVARS

Lines in bold type explain the current status of each name.

S IV 'Alice Stofer', Rankin VULGARIS

{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldnia 23(4):80 [1963]
cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably not introduced.

[name registered and published; but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication; reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

DII 'Bertha Dunham', Rankin VULGARIS
{parentage not known}
Wister, Lilacs for America, 25 [1953]
cv. name registered 1953; name established and accepted.
[name established and accepted]

D V 'Betty Opper', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):80 [1963]
cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted.
[name established and accepted]

S VI 'Caroline Foley', Rankin VULGARIS

{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):80 [1963]; Fiala, Lilacs, p. 207 [1988]
-re. use as standard for grafting
cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted.

[name established and accepted]

D II 'Dove', Rankin VULGARIS

{parentage not known}

Fiala, Lilacs, p. 208 [1988] - as gray-purple, slate-gray
name not established.

[name not registered, not published; recorded as being in
cultivation]

S VII 'Edith Braun', Rankin 1968 VULGARIS {parentage not known}
Fiala, Lilacs, 105, 207 [1988] - as rich magenta red-purple name not established.

[name not registered, not published; recorded as being in cultivation]

SI 'Edna Dunham', Rankin VULGARIS syn - 'Edna' {parentage not known} Wister, Lilacs for America, 28 [1953] cv. name registered 1953, but name not established; probably not introduced. [name registered and published; but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication; reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)] SIV 'Efrim Zimbaslist', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} name not established; probably extinct. name not registered, not published; no record of being in cultivation] DIV 'Esta', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963] cv. name registered 1963; name established; probably extinct. [name established; recorded as being in cultivation at one time] SIV 'Estelle Brugge', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} name not established; probably extinct. [name not registered, not published; no record of being in cultivation SI 'Geraldine Smith', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963] cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted. [name established and accepted] SIV 'Hazel Opper', Rankin HYACINTHIFLORA {parentage not known} Wister, Lilacs for America, 31 [1953] cv. name registered 1953; name established and accepted. [name established and accepted] SI 'Helen Palagge', Rankin VULGARIS syn - 'Helen Pellage' {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]; Fiala, Lilacs, p. 208 [1988] - as "Helen Pellage', S VII; Clark, Lilacs-Quart. Jour. 20(2):34 [1991] cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted. [name established and accepted]

S IV/VI 'Ilona', Rankin

VULGARIS

{parentage not known}

perhaps in cultivation under the name of 'Helen Palagge' -

See: Vrugtman, Lilacs - Quart. Jour. [in print]

name not established

[name not registered, not published; no record of being in cultivation]

S I 'Inez', Rankin

VULGARIS

{parentage not known}

Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]

cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably

not introduced.

[name registered, and published; but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication; reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

S IV 'Jack Smith', Rankin

VULGARIS

{parentage not known}

Wister, Arnoldia, 23(4):81 [1963]

cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably

extinct.

[name registered and published, but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

DV

'James Maddox', Rankin

VULGARIS

{parentage not known} Clark, *Lilacs* - Quart, Jour. 20(2):34 [1991]

name not established.

[name not registered, not published; but recorded as being in

cultivation]

D IV

'Jane', Rankin

VULGARIS

{parentage not known}

Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]

cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably

not introduced.

[name registered and published; but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication; reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape (the original single plant or ortet must be

propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

D II 'Jane Smith', Rankin VULGARIS
{parentage not known}
Wister, Lilacs for America, 32 [1953]
cv. name registered 1953; name established and accepted.
[name established and accepted]

D I 'Jennie C. Jones', Rankin VULGARIS
{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]
cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted.
[name established and accepted]

S IV-V 'Lewis Maddock', Rankin HYACINTHIFLORA syn - 'Lewis Maddox'
{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963] as S. vulgaris, S IV;
Fiala, Lilacs, pp. 58, 101, 107 (as 'Lewis Maddox'), 207, 208 & Pl. 41 [1988] - as S. *hyacinthiflora, S V;
Clark, Lilacs - Quart. Jour. 20(2):34 [1991] - as S V
cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted.
[name established and accepted]

'Long Fellow' - See 'White Long Fellow'.

'Margaret Opper', Rankin

{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963]
cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably not introduced.
[name registered and published, but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

VULGARIS

S IV 'Nina Baker', Rankin VULGARIS
{parentage not known}
Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963]
cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably extinct.
[name registered and published, but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication (the original single plant or

ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

SIV

VULGARIS SVI 'Paul Henry Lang', Rankin {parentage not known} name not established; probably not introduced. [name not registered and not published; reported in cultivation only at Falconskeape; probably not introduced]

VULGARIS SIV 'Pauline Beck', Rankin {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963] cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably extinct. Iname registered and published, but no record of being a

cultivar at time of publication (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

VULGARIS S VII 'Pauline Holcomb', Rankin {parentage not known} name not established; probably extinct. [name not registered, not published; no record of being in cultivation]

SV VULGARIS 'Pink Bluet', Rankin {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963] cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted. [name established and accepted]

'Pinkie', Rankin (not 'Pinkie', Mahaux) VULGARIS SV {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963] cv. name registered 1963; name established and accepted. [name established and accepted]

VULGARIS SV 'Pinkinsun', Rankin syn - 'Pink-in-sun' {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963] cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably extinct. [name registered and published, but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication (the original single plant or

ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)]

SIV 'Ralph', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} Fiala, Lilacs, p. 208 [1988] name not established; probably extinct. [name not registered, not published; no record of being in cultivation 'Robert Dunham', Rankin SIV VULGARIS {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23 (4):82 [1963] cv. name registered 1963; name established; probably no longer in cultivation. [name registered and published, but recorded as having been in cultivation at one timel 'Sobra', Rankin DIV VULGARIS {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):83 [1963] cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably extinct. [name established and accepted] DIV 'Two Star General', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):83 [1963] cv. name registered 1963, but name not established; probably extinct. [name registered and published, but no record of being a cultivar at time of publication (the original single plant or ortet must be propagated or "cloned" to produce a cultivar)] SI 'White Lace', Rankin VULGARIS {parentage not known} Fiala, Lilacs, p. 208 [1988] - as "small florets, but very heavy bloomer" name not established. [name not registered, not published; but recorded at being in cultivation SI 'White Long Fellow', Rankin VULGARIS syn - 'Longfellow', 'Long Fellow' {parentage not known} Fiala, Lilacs, Fiala, 208 [1988]: Clark, Lilacs - Quart. Jour. 20(2):34 [1991] - as 'Long Fellow' name not established [name not registered, not published; but recorded as being in

cultivation

Merle L. Keaffaber and his lilac Syringa vulgaris L. 'Merlann'

by Freek Vrugtman

The late Merle L. Keaffaber has been an ILS member from 1980 until his death on 23 July 1988.

In January 1980 Merle Keaffaber contacted the RBG to register a new lilac selection. The proposed cultivar name, 'Merlann', combined the first names of the originator with that of his wife.

The cultivar name was registered in 1982 and published in *The AABGA Bulletin* 17(3):67 [1983].

The registration reads:

"Syringa vulgaris 'Merlann'

This new cultivar was originated, described and registered by Mr. Merle L. Keaffaber, 1022 Pine Street, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551. Originated in 1975 as open pollinated seedling of 'Sensation', it flowered first in 1978. Color similar to that of 'A.M. Brand' (rose-red), but holds color, does not fade to tints of blue. Heavy bloomer; florets single, rose-red. Does not sucker. Completely hardy in northern Ohio. Not yet introduced."

This is all the information we have in our file. ILS Membership Secretary David Gressley learned that there are no other Keaffabers listed in the Perrysburg, Ohio telephone directory.

The Registrar would like to hear from ILS members who have known Merle Keaffaber, and from members who have plants of the 'Merlann' lilac.

> mail: Freek Vrugtman Royal Botanical Gardens Box 399 HAMILTON ON CANADA L8N 3H8

phone: (905) 527-1158 Ext. 234

fax: (905) 577-0375 phone (res.): (905) 689-5209

T. A. Havemeyer's Lilacs Reviewed

by Freek Vrugtman

Theodore Augustus Havemeyer [1868-1936] was a highly respected and knowledgeable amateur horticulturist interested in gladiolus, iris, lilies and peonies, but above all in lilacs. About 1910 Havemeyer visited the nursery of Victor Lemoine & Fils at Nancy, France, returning home with some of the Lemoine lilac introductions. These plants became the nucleus of his lilac collection and his future lilac section work.

During his lifetime Havemeyer selected and named about 45 new cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* L. Most of the names of these new lilacs were published in *Lilacs for America*, the Report of the 1953 Lilac Survey Committee of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, John C. Wister, chairman and compiler. Those names that are accompanied by a description, however brief, and are documented as having been introduced, i.e. distributed, may be considered "established" names under the rules of the Cultivated Plant Code. Names published without description, and names of selections that have never shown up as live plants in collections or in nurseries must be considered "not established".

An additional eleven Havemeyer seedlings were selected and named by Mark Eaton; the names of six of these selections were published in *Lilacs for America* [1953], two were registered in 1963, one in 1970, and two names appear never to have been published. The same rules apply. One Havemeyer seedling was named by Thomas Sears; its name also appears in *Lilacs for America* [1953].

Category 1: Cultivar names registered, with descriptions: plants of these cultivars have been documented as having been introduced names established:

'Allison Gray'	'James Stuart'		
'Anne Shiach'	'Jane Day'		
'Blue Angel'	'Lady Lindsay'		
'Carley'	'Martha Kounze'		
'Charm'	'Moonlight'		
'Dawn'	'Mrs. A. Belmont'		
'Downfield'	'Mrs. Elizabeth Peterson'		
'Dusk'	'Mrs. John S. Williams'		
'Ellie-Marie'	'Mrs. Trapman'		
'Fred Payne'	'Mrs. Watson Webb'		
'Glory'	'Mrs. W.E. Marshall'		
'Hallelujah'	'Nancy Frick'		
'Heather'	'Night'		

'Pink Mist'
'Priscilla'
'Prof. E.H. Wilson'
'Romance'
'Sarah Sands'
'Serene'
'True Blue'
'White Swan'
'Zulu'

Category 2: Names not established; cv. names registered, but not reported in cultivation:

'Dazzle'

'Ethan Allen'

'Ethel Dupont'

'High Noon'

'Mister Big'

'Mrs. B.S. Williams' (possibly erroneous listing of 'Mrs. John S. Williams'

'Mrs. Flanders'

'Mrs. John W. Davis'

'Pink Havemeyer' (may or may not be a Havemeyer selection)

'Smokey-grey'

'Snowflake'

'Sonia Colfax'

'Tit Tat Toe'

Category 3: Name not established; cv. name registered, but without description:

'Mauve Mist'

In order to update and possibly upgrade the classifications of the cultivars in Categories 2 and 3 the Registrar would like to hear from readers who have any of these cultivars in their collections, or who happen to have seen them in other collections. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

An excerpt from the International Lilac Register, listing the Havemeyer selections and the information available, can be supplied on request to members who are interested in the full literature references.

Literature consulted for this review:

Anon. Havemeyer lilac collection of the New York Botanical Garden. Lilac Newsletter 11(1):6-8 [1985]

Anon. (untitled) [n.d.; prob. 1954] - Lilac-Land nursery descriptive catalog. Eickhorst, W.E. (untitled) *Lilac Newsletter* 4(1):4-5 [1978]

Fiala, J.L. *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, 201-202, 216 [1988]

Kammerer, E.L. Notes on some of the newer lilacs.

Morton Arboretum Bull. Pop. Information 36(6):27-29 [161].

Wister, J.C. Where the country's finest lilacs grow.

Horticulture [Nov. 15, 1933].

Wister, J.C. The late T.A. Havemeyer - lilac fancier.

N.Y.B.G. Jour., 153-155 [Sept./Oct. 1952]

Native Companion Plants for Lilac Collections

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

ilac collectors soon come to find that the common or French hybrid lilacs alone present a uniformity and monotony to their gardens. One antidote is to introduce woody companion plants of various sizes and shapes, of foliage texture, of floral contrast or harmony.

The flora of eastern North America offers an abundance of such trees and shrubs, deciduous and evergreen, even conifers. Herewith are twenty-five native companion plants which I have grown over the past sixty years in gardens from New England, New York, New Jersey and Ohio and Missouri to northern Florida.

Trees with Summer Foliage

Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, 15 to 20 feet tall, occurring in eastern states and southern Ontario. Its conspicuous four-bracted white flowers borne in profusion along horizontally layered branches before the smoothedged leaves appear. Clusters of scarlet berries ripen in October amid autumn turning leaves.

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, 15 to 20 feet tall, ranging throughout the South from mid-Atlantic states to northern Mexico. The flowers are actually pea-shaped true flowers of rosy pink hue and borne in clusters on short spurs along the branches before the heart-shaped leaves unfold.

Pin cherry, *Prunus pensylvanica*, slender small tree 20 plus feet tall with smooth reddish bark clusters of white flowers appear with the narrow, finely toothed leaves in early May. This handsome cherry ranges widely across North America as far south as North Carolina and Colorado.

Shadbush or Shadblow, *Amelanchier canadensis*, up to 25 feet in height becomes a fleecy white cloud at edges of woodlands in early spring. Dark purplish berries ripen in June.

White fringetree, *Chionanthus virginicus*, reaches 12 to 15 feet in height under cultivation and is covered with whispy white flowers before the large leaves unfold. The plants bearing staminate (male) flowers are more floriferous. The white fringetree belongs to the olive family, the same family as the lilacs. This species occurs from New Jersey to east Texas.

Mountain Silverbell, *Halesia monticola*, to 100 feet tall slender while young tree becoming round-headed in age. Showy white flowers hang in clusters of two to five as leaves unfold during lilac season. *Halesia carolina* is a multistemmed small tree to 20 feet in height. The Carolina Silverbell ranges throughout the southern states while the mountain species is confined to the Great Smokey mountains.

Black-haw, *Viburnum prunifolium*, 15 feet tall with upright branches bearing circular clusters two inches across of tiny white flowers on spurlike twigs. Bloomy ellipsoid fruit with flat seeds ripen amid wine-colored leaves in October.

Evergreen Trees

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, narrow conical tree 15 to 20 feet tall with smooth gray bark and spring leathery dull green leaves which persist over two growing seasons. Pistillate (female) flowers on short-stubs are borne on branchlets often in profusion, on wood of the current season. Bright red berries ripen in autumn, often persisting through the winter. In early spring these berries become bleached and furnish sustenance to migrating birds. This holly is a magnificent tree occurring widely in southeastern states, especially on coastal plains. Of doubtful hardiness in northern latitudes further than Boston.

Balsam fir, *Abies balsamea*, the northern species, *A. Fraseri*, of the south. Handsome spirelike needled evergreens bearing fragrant foliage.

Colorado white fir, *Abies concolor*, 50 foot tall broad conical tree of the Rocky Mountains. It bears glaucous needles up to two inches long and having a tangerine scent when crushed. This species retains its lower branches in contrast to the blue spruce, *Picea pungens glauca*, and deserves to be planted in preference.

Shrubs with Summer Foliage

Fly honeysuckle, *Lonicera canadensis*, 5 feet high with upright canes bearing dull green leaves inconspicuous nodding flowers are exceedingly fragrant blooming in April. Red berries ripen in June. This shade tolerant delicate shrub occurs in northeastern North America.

Leatherwood *Dirca palustris*, 5 feet tall with flexible branches and tough bark. Cream colored drooping flowers appear in April before the dull green leaves appear. Red berries ripen in May and June. Occurs in eastern North America. Transplants with difficulty owing to stringy roots.

Beach plum, *Prunus maritima*, 6 foot tall spreading shrub occurring on coastal plain from Maine to Virginia. It is covered profusely with small white flowers before the leaves unfold producing a misty effect. Small rounded edible plums ripen in summer. Autumn foliage is reddish.

Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*, 6 to 8 foot upright shrub whose canes become arching with age; bearing coarse-toothed dark green leaves which turn wine-colored in October. Powder puff clusters of white flowers borne in June after the leaves unfold; dark blue fruits ripen in the autumn.

Witherod, wild raisin, *Viburnum cassinoides*, 6 to 10 feet tall, upright shrub with small white flowers borne in clusters in June-July, fruit blue-black ripening sporadically in September-October. Foliage turning yellow in fall.

Smooth winterberry, *Ilex laevigata*, 6 to 8 foot shrub found in wooded swamps from Maine to Georgia. This deciduous holly bears elliptic leaves up to 4 inches long which are lustrous surfaces and finely toothed margins. Scarlet berries borne amid yellowish foliage in autumn. All hollies have the sexes borne on separate plants.

Summer green shrubs that grow in acid soils

Several species of American azaleas make excellent companion plants. However, they grow in acidic soils and therefore may require specially prepared beds - often raised and contained by old railroad ties. They also require special plant nutrients.

Pink Shell azalea. Rhododendron vaseyi, showy pink flowers.

Rhodora, Rh. canadense small shrub with rosy pink flowers.

Pinxter bloom, Rh. nudiflorium, flowers white in May.

"Honeysuckle", Rh. roseum, flowers pink in May.

Flame azalea, Rh. calendulaceum, flowers yellow in May.

Swamp honeysuckle, Rh. viscosum, flowers white, fragrant in July

Summer-sweet, *Clethra alnifolia*, 6 to 8 feet tall upright shrub with sharp toothed leaves and candle-like white flowers in late summer. Exceedingly fragrant. Grows in damp sites along the Appalachian mountains to Florida and east Texas.

Evergreen Shrubs

Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, 4 to 6 foot tall shrub with upright canes covered with glossy dark evergreen leaves. Berries purplish black. Found on coastal plain in southern states north to Massachusetts.

Carolina rhododendron, *Rhododendron*. *carolinianum*, 8 foot tall much branched shrub occurring at high altitudes of Great Smokey mountains. Pink flowers in June.

Mountain-laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, 6 to 8 foot tall upright shrubs bearing glossy dark evergreen leaves. Clusters of white or pinkish flowers appear in June. This laurel occurs in the southeastern states as far north as Connecticut and Massachusetts. Variously colored cultivars are becoming available.

The 1997 Blooming and Growing Season of the Lilacs at Descanso Gardens in California

by Rudy Schaffer

fter early rains in October-November of 1996 we lost approximately 20% of flowers, prematurely about the size of golf balls. This happens almost annually to some degree.

However, it paid off in larger flowers in the season to come. In late February "Anabel" was the front runner, beating all the other early ones by 8 to 10 days and thereafter it was a show to behold for 6 to 8 weeks, with 'Znamia Lenyna' rounding out the race for a glorious finale.

The Lilac Seminar on March 15 was a great success and we converted a good many nonbelievers, that it is true, lilacs indeed bloom in southern California, in our case, a mere 15 miles from Down Town Los Angeles. Thanks to our volunteers we were able to remove the spent flowers weekly to keep the Garden attractive.

From earlier years, when lots of seed pods were left in the plants we were able to get a good number of seedlings, which by 1998 may produce the first flowers.

The open pollination may have some surprises in store for us.

1997 was an extremely long and hot summer. Non or few max. temperatures, but consistently above normal.

The cultivars planted in 1994 look good and are ready to bloom and so are some of the 1995 plants.

In 1997 we were given a good number of plants by Reva Ballreich from Idyllwild, California. Thank you indeed, Reva!

With more cultivars available for planting, we should reach the magic number of 100 varieties in 1998.

Our plants are, to divide that number into the seven color categories, to represent a good spectrum of color and long blooming period.

We will, however, pay special attention to the up-to-date registered Descanso varieties and maybe to add a few new ones in the years to come.

The location of Descanso Gardens is much favored by lilacs, because of the cool air coming from the western San Gabriel mountains in a large C curve from an elevation of 6161' (San Gabriel Peak) to La Canada Flintridge 1318'. The perhaps most difficult job with lilacs is to keep the names and labeling straight. We noticed that the colors are changing practically day by day. Depending on the temperature, soils and the mineral contents colors can vary from place to place.

One typical example is the 'California Rose' variety which begins with a soft pink, but by the time it is in full bloom, is white.

We look forward to the challenge of making the Descanso Lilac Garden competitive within the many existing collections in the USA and abroad.

Note from Select Plus International Nursery

by Frank Moro

With a new year approaching Select Plus International Nursery has taken on the task of being an industry leader to help bring lilacs to the 21st century. A project that will be completed by early May 1998 will definitely get lilac enthusiasts excited. A CD-ROM will be available for sale through Select Plus International Nursery with over 500 color photos and descriptions of lilacs. The CD will be multimedia and fully interactive with as much information as possible from choosing a lilac at a garden center to total care for lilacs.

This project is Part 1 of a three part phase that will lead up to the masterpiece CD-ROM that will be introduced at the millennium convention in Montreal, Quebec for the year 2000.

There will be a special launch price for ILS members. The CD will be compatible for PC and Mac computers.

The reason behind this CD is to make it a helpful tool for those wishing to purchase a lilac for the first time or for those who have always wanted to know more about lilacs but the information is just not available on the market.

Please see ad below for ordering information and details.

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