

Lilacs

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IN
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Convention Proceedings

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Single or Family / Annual	\$ 20.00
Sustaining	30.00
Institution/Commercial	35.00
Life	160.00

• Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer Robert Gilbert

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 JULY 1998

Memoriam

Dr. Joel Margaretten

Dr. Joel Margaretten was born October 7, 1910 in New York. He passed away, with Tita at his side, on April 27, 1998. Vibrant, feisty, stubborn and passionate about his life and lilacs, he was always eager to teach and willing to share his knowledge of lilacs. He could hold your attention for hours without end. He joined the International Lilac Society at its third convention, at Hamilton, and was an active participant in its affairs until this last convention time, appropriately also at Hamilton.



*Joel and Tita Margaretten
April 1997*

At his funeral service, the following eulogy was given by his son John.

"My father was born in Brooklyn and grew up in a large Hungarian-Jewish Orthodox home. The values he received from this wonderful heritage were an integral part of him for the rest of his life.

Joel was an unconventional man who did not fit into any standard mold. He was a man who loved the outdoors - fishing and hunting, he liked to travel, always keeping busy with one hobby or another, mainly stamp collecting and photography. He never sat down; was constantly involved in something from the time he got up to late at night when he went to sleep.

He put other people's welfare before his own monetary interests. During the Depression and after, if someone did not have the money to pay for dentistry work, he would not be concerned and would perform the needed work, not caring whether he got paid or not. His fees were always below what other dentists were asking. He felt it was immoral to gouge patients in pain.

While dentistry was his life occupation, "lilacs" were his life work. When he retired in 1980, he and his wife, Tita, devoted full-time to tending the lilacs, fulfilling a life long dream.

He must have done all the right things to please God to be

blessed with a wonderful wife such as Tita. They loved each other and for eighteen years of the retirement together shared a happy life.

His two children, Selma and myself, were very much involved in our own lives, but periodically were able to share the happiness with him and Tita. Both of us looked forward to also spending time with Tita who was more like a sister to us than a step-mother. My father was sometimes jealous of the fact we bonded so closely.

It must be mentioned that Joel was in weekly contact with his last remaining sibling, his brother Marcus. The relationship was a comfort to both of them.

He also had a close relationship with his niece, Hope Heller and her family who did much to make his last years more content.

This last year after the heart attack left my father unable to do the things he most loved to do in life, he had to rely on the strength of Tita to take care of him and the lilac ranch, a 25-hour-a-day job. Again he was very thankful to Tita for the excellent loving care he received.

The last three days of his life were the happiest of the whole last year. On the 25th of April, he and I spent two hours getting lilac bushes ready for sale. He again felt useful and happy making ready one hundred potted plants to be sold. Afterwards, we went into the house and he proceeded to talk non-stop for an hour about his past life and his philosophy of life.

The next day, he and Tita spent several hours selling the plants. He got a chance to talk to his old friends and customers, just like he would have done in his days of good health. A truly wonderful day for him.

Monday, on the way home from his thrice-weekly doctor's office treatments, he felt dizzy. Tita wanted him to go back to the doctor's office, but he refused saying about the doctor, "He'll probably put me in the hospital".

A little time later, he passed on peacefully in his own home, just as he wished to do and not in the dehumanizing setting of a hospital.

Wherever he is, I'm sure he is tending lilac bushes and listening (perhaps live) to the musical voices of Cantor Rosenblatt and Enrico Caruso."

Editor's Notes

Joel Margaretten has passed away but his legacy lives on. Part of that legacy is recorded in this issue of **Lilacs** but other references to Joel can be found in earlier issues, notably the dedication in the fall issue of **Lilacs** in 1990. We shall miss him.

Bill Horman sends word of the death of his mother, Jane J. Horman. She died on April 26, 1998 after a long period of failing health.

The Ship

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at last she is only a ribbon of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says "There, She's gone!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight, that's all. She is just as fine in mast and hull and star as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her, and just at the moment where we say, "She's Gone!" there are other voices ready to take up the glad shouts - "Here she comes!"

Leonard Lyons

The Editor is especially grateful to both Bradley Bittorf and William Horman for the pictures of this year's convention. The issue would be drab without their contributions. The picture credit for the picture showing Brad Bittorf receiving his award is listed as Brad Bittorf. How do you suppose he did that?

A number of people at the convention banquet were wearing their lilac ties and scarfs. This led to questions from others about how to order ties or scarfs, so we have included an order blank as an insert in this issue.

There are a couple of places in this issue where lilacs are offered for sale e.g. Lilac Distribution. No special forms necessary to take advantage of these excellent opportunities to increase your lilac collection.

Editor's Notes – continued

This Issue of **Lilacs** has been delayed (as usual) so that we could collect and include all the convention material. We will push to get back on schedule by the fall issue.

Front Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Vesper' at the Katie Osborne Lilac Dell at the Royal Botanical Gardens (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada). One of the few *vulgaris* cultivars still in bloom during the convention. Photo credit Bradley Bittorf

Back Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Znamya Lenina' at budburst. Photo credit Colin Chapman.

Next Issue Deadline

The next deadline will be September 8, 1998 for the fall issue. That's only seventy days from the first of July so start planning your contribution now.

Election Committee Report

by Pauline Fiala

The following people were elected to serve a three year term on the International Lilac Society's Board of Directors. (1998-2001)

Bradley Bittorf
Dennis Eveleigh
Frank Moro
Owen M. Rogers

Pauline Fiala's name was also on the ballot but she has resigned from the Board. She will continue as Awards Chairman, Elections Chairman and mailer of all copies of **Lilacs**. Her resignation was accepted with regrets and the President will appoint a member to serve her term on the Board.

Election of Officers

At the International Lilac Society's Board meeting on May 29, 1998 the following were elected or appointed to serve the Society in 1998 -1999.

President	<i>John Carvill</i>
Executive Vice President	<i>Robert Hoepfl</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>David Gressley</i>
Correspondence Secretary	<i>Walter Oakes</i>
Treasurer	<i>James Hastings</i>
Assistant Treasurer	<i>Robert Gilbert</i>
Editor	<i>Owen Rogers</i>

Regional Vice Presidents

New England	<i>Peter Ely</i>
Atlantic	<i>John Carvill</i>
South	<i>Louis Fiala</i>
Central	<i>Bradley Bittorf</i>
Plains	<i>Max Peterson</i>
Northwest	<i>MarvaLee Peterschick</i>
Pacific	<i>Reva Ballreich</i>
South Central & West	<i>L.D. Allison</i>
Eastern Canada	<i>Frank Moro</i>
Western Canada	<i>Elaine Peek</i>
Europe	
Asia	

The president was authorized to appoint individuals to vacant Regional Vice President positions.

International Lilac Society

Treasurer's Report May 27, 1998

Bank Statement (Acct. #190404000696) Key Bank of Maine,		
Skowhegan, ME. 04976 - Balance 3/31/98		\$8,451.43
Edward Jones Co. (Acct. #212-03072-1-6) Two C.D.s		39,000.00
Branch 2124 Naperville, IL		<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Funds available	4/1/98	51,451.43
Funds being held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	4/1/98	35,118.31
Total funds available in General Account	4/1/98	16,333.12

Funds being held in SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 4/1/98

LIFE MEMBER/ENDOWMENT FUND	\$16,082.48 including John Wister	
Memorial Fund 599.40- Brought Forward	4/1/97	\$16,681.88
L.M. 4/1/97 = 87 + 9 = 95	3/31/98	1,400.00
Miscellaneous contributions	3/31/98	<u>224.00</u>
Credit	3/31/98	1,664.00
		<u>18,345.88</u>
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)		
4/1/97 = 797.54 + Int. 56.23	853.77	853.77
Education & Research		
4/1/97 = 4,233.68 + Int. 298.47	4,532.15	4,532.15
Publications (other than Journal)		
4/1/97 = 519.33 + Int. 36.61	555.94	555.94
C. C. Clark Memorial Fund (Int. deferred		
to Color Photo Separation Fund)	5,000.00	5,000.00
Arch McKean (Contribution) (same)	5,000.00	5,000.00

Colored Photo (JOURNAL) Separation Fund

Brought Forward	3/31/97	690.57
Interest Credit	3/31/98	<u>705.00</u>
Funds Available	3/31/98	1,395.57

Debits: 3/31/97 - 3/31/98

Vol. 26 No 2	170.00
Vol. 26 No 3	195.00
Vol. 26 No 4	200.00
Vol. 27 No 1	<u>0.00</u>
	565.00

	565.00	<u>565.00</u>
Balance in fund 3/31/98	830.57	<u>830.57</u>
Total Funds in SPECIAL ACCTS. 3/31/98		35,118.31
Total Funds in General Accts. 3/31/98		<u>16,333.12</u>
Total Funds Available	3/31/98	\$51,451.43

Prepared April 1, 1998 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

International Lilac Society
Comparing 1998 (4/1/97 to 3/31/98) with 1997 and 1996

TOTAL CREDITS	1998	1997	1996
DUES	\$6,602.50	\$5,114.00	\$4,610.50
LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ ENDOWMENT	1,440.00	670.00	1,909.26
CONTRIBUTIONS	224.00	135.00	195.00
ADVERTISING	0	20.00	50.00
PUBLICATIONS	374.00	303.00	170.50
AUCTION	4,200.00	2,500.00	2,510.00
CONFERENCE	0	1,151.69	1,739.22
INTEREST	3,066.50	2,445.19	2,090.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	26.70
TOTAL CREDITS:	\$15,907.00	\$12,338.88	\$13,301.18
TOTAL DEBITS			
MISCELLANEOUS	\$5,252.78*	\$2,578.73**	\$328.30
OFFICE SUPPLIES	69.57	99.39	126.16
JOURNAL	4,696.17	4,855.88	4,953.90
BANK FEES	9.00	0	63.00
POSTAGE	1,458.01	1,491.69	2,085.99
COLOR PHOTO	565.00	666.50	705.60
SHIPPING	155.98	174.95	122.09
PHONE	188.48	594.32	500.40
AWARDS	683.77	672.20	636.80
CONFERENCE	592.34	0	1,750.56
TYPING/FAX	99.50	97.00	149.66
PRINTING (<i>other than Journal</i>)	56.74	1,210.95	801.64
TOTAL DEBITS:	\$13,827.34	\$12,441.61	\$12,224.10

*Includes \$1,000 donation to Univ. of Cal. Riverside and \$4,151.78 CD investment for second CD with Edward Jones Co.

**Includes \$1,000 donation to Univ. of Cal. Riverside and \$1,000 donation to McLaughlin Foundation, South Paris, ME.

Prepared April 1, 1998 by James P. Hastings, Treasurer

Comments on ILS 1998 Treasurer's Report

With the \$525 March dues added to our checking account balance on April 8, 1998 our current balance with all invoices paid is \$8,976.43. Our total assets on this date are \$51,976.43. Our assets are growing because of increased dues paid, increased investment income and lower expenses. Favorable U.S. economic conditions are reflected in this statement and while we know from history that this can change, perhaps it might be prudent for ILS to consider increasing our donations.

As instructed by the Board at its Annual Meeting last year I merged the John Wister Memorial Fund into the Life Member/Endowment Fund. By so doing \$42.26 interest from our investments (computed at .0705, a combination of .0715 and .0695 interest on our two CDs) was no longer added to the John Wister fund this year. The money instead remains in the General Account. The LIFE MEMBERSHIP/ENDOWMENT FUND increases yearly only through new life member dues paid and miscellaneous contributions. I do not consider this a problem.

Advertising in the Journal seems to have come to a standstill. Why?

I noticed the financial data published in the Journal in the summer issue of 1997 did not include the details on the Special Accounts, but included instead comparative data on 1997 vs. 1996. This was a change from what was published in the summer issue of 1996. I am including data on Special Accounts, General Account and comparative data for the last three years with this report.

Report of the Audit Committee

I examined the books of the International Lilac Society maintained by James Hastings on May 27, 1998. They appear to be in good order. Mr. Hastings has used standard accounting procedures and has fully reconciled the accounts as of April 1998. He maintains all the back-up information and can show where monies have come from and can show authorization for any expenditures of monies paid out. He has been prudent in the management of the Society accounts and the income they produce.

Respectfully submitted,

Owen M. Rogers
Chair, Audit Committee

1998 International Lilac Society Central Region Report

by Brad Bittorf

ILS Central Region Vice-President

The 1997-98 lilac year saw very early bloom. The two prior tough winters took their toll as some plants that were damaged in prior years did not fare well this year. Crushed, debarked, and broken trees showed their injury this year. Many parts of the region also experienced late-summer drought in 1997 which resulted in some plants ceasing the growing season early in response to conditions. Autumn rains revived some plants but not others.

The early bloom in the Central region has distorted all the calendars, as most vulgaris cultivars were at peak bloom in April rather than the usual May. Anticipated frost damage owing to early emergence of buds was light. Late blooming varieties are also expected to be ahead of typical.

Again, the progress on Internet activity for ILS has been deferred. It is hoped that the Institutional members may be able to provide infrastructure to support this effort.

Additional correspondence and membership business continues to grow with some information, question responses, and membership transactions now being conducted electronically as well as traditionally. Two regional letters were transmitted.

Questions this year center around warm-weather lilac care for members with southern addresses part of the year, and the salvage of storm-damaged plants. Some inquiries about care, preservation and drying of blooms are also received.

Plans are being made for a presentation to a regional gardening club in the autumn. Future opportunities may exist for participation in the Cleveland Floralscape show in spring.

All correspondence is welcome. Especially appreciated would be reports from your region about any lilac events or collections of which you are aware. Opportunities for a wider audience for lilacs would also be welcomed. It is impractical to travel to all these places frequently enough to keep up with the news of the region and any changes, events, festivals, and the like which you may know.

May you find health and pleasure in lilacs and life.

Membership Committee Report

by Dave Gressley
Membership Secretary

As of the twenty-sixth of May 1998, International Lilac Society has a total of 452 memberships. I reported 458 memberships for 1997. This year I have received correspondence and new memberships from published lilac articles in *Horticulture* and *House Beautiful* magazines. The rate of membership attrition has roughly equaled new memberships generated from published magazine articles since 1996.

The 452 memberships are comprised of 357 annual memberships, 81 lifetime memberships, 10 complimentary memberships and 4 honorary memberships.

Geographical representation of International Lilac Society is as follows: 385 memberships in the United States, 35 memberships in Europe, 26 memberships in Canada and 6 memberships in Asia.

Regional member lists have been distributed to the respective Vice Presidents.

Editor's Report

by Dr. Owen M. Rogers

There have been four issues (Vol. 26, Nos. 3 and 4; Vol. 27, Nos. 1 and 2) of *Lilacs* published since the last report to the Board. They have all been 28 or more pages in length and included advertisements. The small number of ads is noted, and the Editor would appreciate members contacting appropriate firms and making them aware of this opportunity (\$20.00 US for 1/2 page; \$40.00 US for a full page ad).

The column *Tips for Beginners* continues to be well received sometimes with questions the experts find difficult to answer. During this year one family submitted a family picture with one of their lilacs. The Editor would like to encourage more of these submissions and news of family lilac collections.

We are nearing the end of the copies of "*Lilacs: Plants of History - Plants for Tomorrow*" and have begun the process of revision before reprinting the booklet. Jack Alexander (one of the authors) will be responsible for the revision, so any suggestions or comments can be sent directly to him.

Freek Vrugtman will announce the publication of a new combined "International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L." as part of our 1998 Convention program. This is a monumental achievement and Freek is to be congratulated not only for this new work but for his dedication and effort as Registrar. The new register comes in the nick of time since the Society is almost out of copies of the first (1976) cultivar check list.

Lilac Distribution Committee Report

by Frank Moro

This time the lilacs chosen for distribution are in the pink colors. Some excellent pinks always have their place in a garden. A late lilac and a mid season lilac have been chosen for longer bloom time for those who purchase both. Also a lilac that requires little winter chilling was selected to be able to help those in warm climates.

'California Rose': In the *hyacinthiflora* group and crossed by John Sobeck of California, it has beautiful pink florets tinted paler rose on the underside. It has a sweet bouquet and requires little chill factor to set flower buds.

Plants are 24 inches: U.S. price \$22.00, Canadian \$27.00

'Silvia': In the *prestoniae* group this lilac has been in cultivation for 3-4 years at our nursery and we have seen the first flowers on some of the plants. The pink is satiny and light in color. It does not fade and has a sweet fragrance instead of a spicier one as many of the prestons do. We also had the chance to see a mature plant in bloom at the ILS convention in Hamilton and it was very striking.

Plants are 24 inches: \$22.00, Canadian \$27.00

Prices include shipping and handling.

Canadian customers add respective taxes.

All paper work for export is included.

Orders will be sent in the fall.

A donation of 3% of net sales will be returned to the ILS. Help our society grow and become the leader in the lilac world as a resourceful group.

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

High winds in April caused some damage to newly emergent shoots but a spell of cool, moist weather came along to provide a period for recuperation until, with the coming of the month of May, there unfolded a classical flower-and-songbird English Spring. The years of planning and travelling, the anxieties, the need to develop new cultivation techniques to counter drought, the heartbreak of last year's devastating frosts were all put into benign perspective by the lilacs which, this year, were utterly magnificent. This was the best flowering we have ever had and it happily coincided with the appearance of two glossy magazine articles about lilacs which featured us and which created a great deal of interest.

The weather was sparkling and it seemed to trigger overwhelming

fragrance which, concentrated as it was within the intimate and relatively small enclosure of the garden, took visitors visibly aback the moment they stepped out of their cars. By the time they left they were slack-jawed and glassy-eyed from the seemingly endless exposure to lilac after lilac, each one flowering its heart out.

At least a hundred cultivars flowered for the first time, and most of them were flowering for the first time in the United Kingdom whilst some were flowering for the first time in Western Europe. I cannot possibly mention them all but here are just a few. *S. v.* 'Elena Vekhova' with two corollas having longish lobes reflexed backwards set elegantly hose-in-hose and placed, matching exactly, one above the other. Just another gentle, soft-white double lilac, and unlike any double white lilac I have ever seen before. *S. v.* 'Ogni Moskvyy' (Moscow Fire) opened sensationally with single florets the colour of a glass of old Burgundy wine - say a Vosne-Romanée 1966 - held up to the light to catch a swirl of ruby highlights and tawny-purple shadows. *S. v.* 'Drifting Dream' had large pale violet florets, squarish in shape with each lobe of the inner corolla fitting precisely within each of the outer lobes and with a further fold over the eye. *Syringa meyeri* var. *spontanea*, kindly sent to me from Kew, is like the horticultural cultivar 'Palibin' only more so! The flower buds are a shade darker and the florets are brighter and bluer with less pink and the foliage appears bigger and more green. It seems to be a superior form but that could just be the prejudice of a proud and over-doting parent.

Of the established plants both 'Masséna' and 'Glory' put out huge florets, flower heads the size of soccer balls and challenged each other for the glamour title. Not far behind was 'Paul Thirion' showing its wonderful contrast between reddish buds and big pale lilac double flowers. As for 'Ami Schott', she looked all the world like an art installation of Brussels Sprouts sprayed mauve and blue and seemed to be enjoying herself immensely. I could go on and on but that must suffice, and at least I have shared a small part of what happened with you.

In December, I prepared a list of Eastern European cultivars not represented in Western collections and I hand-wrote it out in Russian. I posted this to Ole Heide and he sent it on to Vasily Gorb. Ole subsequently called to say he had received scionwood which Dr. Gorb had acquired from the Botanical Gardens of Moscow, Minsk and Donetsk. Ole and I then hogged the Anglo-Danish telephone link whilst we translated the names from handwritten Ukrainian. It would not be appropriate to say what the cultivars are until Ole's grafts have taken and the plants have survived their first winter, but I can confirm that this is an extremely important parcel with more than twenty cultivars we do not have in the West. What I can say is that there are included two of the top four on my East European dream list. Perhaps those of you who were present at the Boston Convention in 1992 might recall that I was bowled over when Dr. Arcady Mushegian mentioned *S. v.* 'Pyatidesyatiletie Oktyabrya' (Kolesnikov and Mironovich 1986). Well,

perhaps you can also work out just why I have got my fingers crossed. Just for the record, the current edition of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, which has been produced continuously since 1787, mentions the journey of *Syringa × chinensis* 'Duplex' from Kiev through Denmark to a certain British National Collection.

Three years ago I went to Mount Congreve in Ireland to advise on a lilac collection looking very sorry for itself amongst the magnificent Camellias, Magnolias and Rhododendrons of this internationally renowned garden. In April I returned to confront the results of my advising. With relief, I saw that what had been tired old shrubs were rejuvenating strongly from their bases to provide light and elegant structures. I mentally sent a word of thanks over the sea to Croatia to my friend and mentor, Charles Holetich for I could not have done it without his example. I was also delighted to see that the Russian and 'Rochester' cultivars, which I donated, then were doing well on their neat little mounds. On the downside, I also had to endure luxurious surroundings, gourmet meals, fine wines and elegant conversation but I am, of course, always prepared to suffer for my art.

Before I reflect on the next in my series of favourite lilacs, let me remind you that I am not attempting to provide pure botanical descriptions but my own reactions to the plants. Specific descriptions are necessary to the literature of the lilac but so too are words which tell us why we think a lilac is beautiful. Though I cannot remember a single McKelvey "Ridgeway Chart" description, I will never forget Charles Morren's 1854 description of the fragrance of *S.v.* 'Ekenholm' as "*d'une suavité extraordinaire*" which I don't think needs translating.

Syringa vulgaris 'Znamya Lenina' (Banner of Lenin)

L.A. Kolesnikov, Moscow.

Deep, glowing, red-purple buds on simple, pyramidal clusters, open to give single florets of medium size (2cm) which are the same colour initially. Becoming a beautiful shade of deep red-purple with violet tones, they then begin to fade - a characteristic inherited from parent 'Congo' - to a complex mix of red, violet and lilac. The tone of the flower heads is dark and at the half-bud stage the effect is mesmeric. "The People's Flag is deepest red" said the old song, and it truly is. I have regularly seen people who have suddenly caught sight of "The Red Flag" from a distance and, like those people in the film "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" who have no will, they turn and trudge fixedly towards it, seeing and sensing nothing else on the way. It achieves a distinguished maturity as the florets become a lovely faded violet with pale lilac reverses until the lobes acquire a cheeky little nipped-in twist. This is a magnificent lilac which imposes a vibrant presence upon the landscape and which is invaluable because it flowers so late in the *S. vulgaris* season.

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

Is Your Lilac Single or Double?

by Owen M. Rogers

Traditionally we have listed lilac cultivars as "single" or "double" following the example set by Dr. Wister in the 1940s and 50s. As we have become more professional and more precise, it is evident that we need a description notion that does not ignore everything between single and double.

In trying to come up with a simple, short designation that everyone will understand and use, I would make these points. There are single and there are "not singles", i.e. doubles. There are, however, at least three different kinds of doubles

- (1) radical doubles, e.g. 'Rochester';
- (2) staminode doubles, e.g. reproductive parts turned into petaloids in some degree but only one corolla;
- (3) hose-in-hose doubles in which there are two or more corollas but fully functional reproductive parts;
- (4) a combination of categories, e.g. hose-in-hose double plus staminode double. Translating this into a simple designation would give this notation:

S = single

D_R = radial doubles

D_S = staminode doubles

D_H = hose-in-hose double

Combinations

D_{S,H} = staminode and hose-in-hose double

I push this approach because it can be very precise for those that need precision, e.g. breeders and registrars, and still be simple enough for everyone who only wants to know single vs multi-petal to use. It does not, however, draw the line between single and some form of double very well. Does one petaloid enlargement on one anther filament change the designation from single to D_S? This is exactly the problem I am chewing on in the later blooming lilacs. The earliest florets tend to be clearly double but all the subsequent florets (on the same bush) are all clearly singles. Also, it is well known among plant breeders that a plant that has been starved or stressed will revert from



Single lilac bloom split to show the four petals and the anthers



Radial double



Staminode double



Hose-in-hose double

double to some degree of singleness. Carnation breeders use this technique all the time. I have decided that I won't release one until it is "reliably" double, i.e. showing doubles over the whole bloom season and consistent from year to year.

For our ubiquitous "everyone", I'd suggest drawing the line when there is enough difference to be visible. For example, does it "look double"? If it does, use one of the double designations; if not, call it single with a note of "occasional double" in the cultivar description. Since much of this becomes a value judgment, I am perfectly willing to ask the Registrar to be the arbitrator between the breeder and introducer or as the sole arbiter on the historic cultivars.

Editor's Note:

There was some discussion of the topic after its presentation at the convention in Hamilton. Sally Schenker asked if a subscript could be added to the hose-in-hose double to indicate how many corollas were nested one inside the other. For the simplest case of two corollas, one inside the other, the designation would be D_{H_2} . It would increase to D_{H_3} etc. as more full corollas were set one on top of the other.

If you have ideas, comments or condemnations, please discuss them with your friends, write to the Editor or propose a new and better designation.



PHOTO CREDIT: BRAD BITTORF

Late lilacs in full bloom during the convention.

Family Vignettes

Before the euphoria subsides from a fantastic meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, I feel compelled to communicate with the membership in its entirety. I have long been active in a number of Horticultural societies and trade organizations and rank our society at the very top for many reasons - mostly the camaraderie, the communication, and of course the venues like The Royal Botanical Gardens.

Eight years ago, I sold, and "retired" from, a large tree and landscape business in the Rochester, NY area. Two years later, I was asked to sell lilacs at the Highland Park "Lilac Festival", where, in some years, 500,000 people attend during a ten-day period. After the first year, the lilac bug bit me hard. I visited the R.B.G., the Far West Show in Oregon, the meetings in New Hampshire and MacKinac Island and dozens of nurseries and collections around the country. I bid actively at our auctions to swell my collection to nearly 200 varieties and have over 10,000 lilacs in containers or in the ground. Like a lot of you, I ask myself on occasion "am I crazy, or what?" Needless to say, I have crossed the legendary Rubicon.

Now I wish to serve, and be served, by the International Lilac Society in every way possible. The wealth of information there is endless. To begin with, we offer the hundreds of thousands of lilac festival-goers an information sheet to better arm them for planting lilacs properly. Also, I offer for sale or trade over 150 lilac varieties. Please write for an availability list and prices.

Lastly, I wonder about the goals of the society as far as membership numbers. I honestly believe that if properly presented at the Rochester Lilac Festival and other events, the society could double its membership in one year. Do we want that? Would it be unwieldy? Would we lose the charm and closeness we now enjoy? Please feel free to write or call me, and thank you for the solid, satisfying society you have fashioned.

Ted Collins
a.k.a. Doc Lilac of
Lilac Hill Nursery

Editor's Note

Anyone else want to submit a family "lilac" sketch? If you'd like to contact Ted, you can at:

2366 Turk Hill Rd
Victor, NY 14564
Phone: 716-223-1669

AWARDS - MAY 1998



PHOTO CREDIT BILL HOIMAN

International Lilac Society **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

is presented to

Dr. James S. Pringle
R.B.G. Plant Taxonomist

For outstanding scientific work
over many years on the lilac

International Lilac Society **AWARD OF MERIT**

is presented to

Barbara McKean
*R.B.G. Coordinator of Interpretation
and Public Programs*

For coordination of "The Lilac Walk"
educational plant display.

Resulting to the public's knowledge and enjoyment of lilacs



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF

International Lilac Society **AWARD OF MERIT**

is presented to

David Schmidt
R.B.G. Propagation Supervisor

For outstanding
world-wide lilacs propagation distribution



PHOTO CREDIT BILL HOIMAN

International Lilac Society **AWARD OF MERIT**

is presented to

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*ILS Central Region
Vice President*

For his prominent contribution
to dissemination of lilac information and support



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BITTORF



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International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to
Frank Moro

Select Plus International Nurseries
For his enthusiastic efforts in the distribution
of lilac species, cultivars and promotion of lilacs

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

The Niagara Parks Commission
For maintaining an exceptional collection
of lilacs for the public to enjoy



PHOTO CREDIT BILL NORMAN



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International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Ana Milovsoroff
R.B.G. Plant Landscape Architect
For promoting lilacs by designing a large
award-winning display garden at a National Garden Show

International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Royal Botanical Gardens, Canada
For building and maintaining
one of the largest, well-documented collections
of lilac species and cultivars in the world



PHOTO CREDIT BILL NORMAN

Chris Graham



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International Lilac Society
AWARD OF MERIT

is presented to

Dennis Eveleigh
R.B.G. Plant Documentation Coordinator
Executive Vice President for Canada
For hosting the 27th Annual Convention



PHOTO CREDIT: BRAD BITTORF

*Charles
Holetich*

Pictures from the 1998 Annual Convention



PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HORMAN

*Konrad Kircher and his wife on the left.
Peter Ely on the right.*



*Iris
garden
at RBG.*

PHOTO CREDIT:
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Amy Plamann and Rudy Schaffer.



PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HORMAN

*Pauline
Fiala*

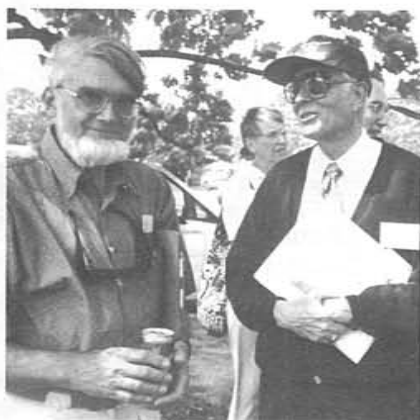


PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HORMAN

Freek Vrugtman and Owen Rogers.



PHOTO CREDIT: BILL HORMAN

Auction Crew
John Carvill, Brad Bittorf and Frank Moro.

The Syringetum

by Robert B. Clark
Meredith, New Hampshire

"God almighty first planted a garden," wrote Bacon to begin his essay on gardening. He went on to affirm that man comes sooner to build stately than to garden finely. Jingo Jones and "Capability" Brown went on to develop the English garden using plants in a natural setting with open spaces and long vistas. Such was the forerunner of landscape architecture which Frederick Law Olmsted developed in America. After designing Central Park and New York he went on to lay out English gardens throughout the United States during late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Botanical gardens meanwhile kept to the systematic layout whereby plants of the world were grouped according to botanical relationships. The New York and Missouri botanical gardens, for instance, were copied after the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Tropical plants were not hardy in northern latitudes, requiring construction of enormous glass houses. Moreover, the plants were displayed in formal beds of geometric design.

From the establishment of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, only woody plants able to withstand the rigorous climate of New England were planted. Hardiness was the criteria. Providentially the flora of eastern Asia fitted into the Harvard scheme and so "The Arboretum" - as it came to be known throughout America - was the focus of introductions of hardy trees and shrubs in America.

On the only level plot in The Arboretum the shrub garden, or fruticetum, botanically speaking, was laid out row on row alongside a carriage road as it ascended Bussey Hill. Technically this planting could be called a syringetum, that is, a garden of lilacs or a lilac collection. Anyone possessing a small acreage with a suitable site could develop a syringetum of his own. Lilacia Park at Lombard, Illinois, is the work of Colonel William R. Plum.

Horticulturally lilacs are divided into five categories: early hybrids (*S. hyacinthiflora*), common lilacs (*S. vulgaris*) little-leaved (e.g. *S. microphylla*), late (*S. villosa*, et.al.), and tree lilacs (*S. reticulata*). These lilacs bloom in the sequence above extending according to the season from late April to sometimes into July.

The Chinese common lilac (*S. oblata*) and its hybrids with the common lilac of the Balkans (*S. vulgaris*) are among the earliest lilacs to bloom. Cultivars vary in height according to their parentage, some smaller, some much larger than the familiar common lilac. Their leaves are broader and some have good autumn color. Their flowers are borne in loose clusters of pastel shades. At Highland Botanical Park, Rochester, New York 'Fenelon' blooms about ten days or so earlier than the common lilacs.

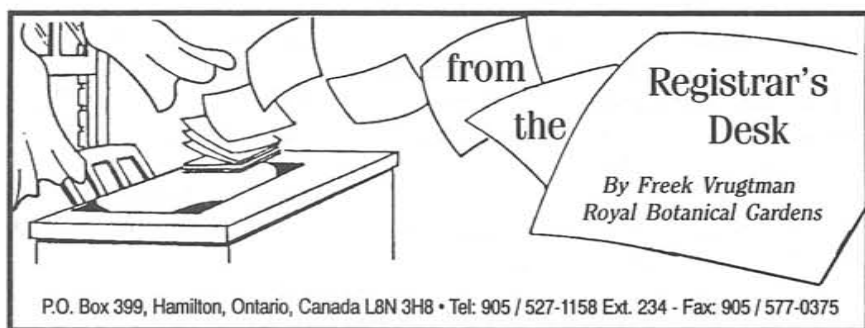
The common lilacs in the low forty latitudes of eastern North America bloom during the last half of May usually. Their blooming period constitutes

the lilac season. Their glory has been enhanced by the Lemoine family of Nancy, France, hence French hybrids.

Blooming concurrently with the common lilacs are the little-leaved species characterized by slender arching stems with small, hairy leaves that turn burgundy in autumn. Their flowers also are small and borne in scented small clusters in long wands of lilac or pink. 'Miss Kim' is a popular representative of *S. patula*, which E. M. Meader found on a Korean mountainside in 1952.

The late lilacs are massive shrubs with upright canes bearing huge leaves. Flower clusters appear sporadically among the foliage. Their fragrance is slightly spicy.

The tree lilac is indeed a small tree of oval shape to a height of twenty five feet. Branches are smooth like a cherry tree. Foliage is rich green. In June the branchlets are tipped with massive clusters of cream-colored, ill-smelling flowers, reminiscent of privet.



The Klager lilacs listed by Fr. Fiala

The late Fr. John L. Fiala devotes page 200 of his book *Lilacs - The Genus Syringa*, to the life and work of Hulda Thiel Klager [1864-1960]. The names of five of Mrs. Klager's lilacs are listed on that page; an additional five names appear elsewhere in the book. Since some of the names need clarification it seems best to review them all.

'City of Cehalis' pp 21 and 23; Dvorak lines drawings 1N and C-8

No descriptive information and not credited to Klager.

'City of Gresham' p. 9; name only.

No description information and not credited to Klager.

'Frank Klager' p. 105; single, purple.

'Miriam Cooley' p. 101; single, mixed pink.

'Mrs. Morgan Cooley' p. 200; double, orchid pink.

The correct name is 'Mrs. Morgan' as it appeared originally in the 1928 R.M. Cooley catalog, and later in McKelvey, *The Lilac* (1928) and Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1942 and 1953].

'My Favorite' p. 200; double, deep magenta-purple

'Ostrander', 'Ostrander Cooley' & 'Ostrander' (Cooley)

pp. 106, 108, 200, Pl.25;

double, deep carmine-purple

The correct name is 'Ostrander' as it appeared originally in the 1928 R.M.Cooley catalog, and later in McKelvey, *The Lilac* (1928) and Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1942 and 1953].

'Roland Mills' pp. 101, 106, 107, 200; single, purple

The earliest description on file is that in Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1942]; as single, purple. Descriptions in Fiala, *Lilacs* [1988] vary: p. 101, single, mixed deeper pink; p.106, single, purple; p. 107, mixed pink.

On p. 200 'Roland Mills' is listed erroneously as a synonym of 'R.M.Mills' (sic).

'R.M. Mills' (sic) p. 200; as double, pink

We believe 'R. M. Mills' to be a misspelling of 'R. W. Mills', a double, pink Klager selection, the name of which was originally published in the 1928 R. M. Cooley catalog and subsequently in McKelvey, *The Lilac* (1928) and Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1942 and 1953]. Neither 'R.M.Mills' nor 'R. W. Mills' appear in the index of Fiala's book. 'Roland Mills' is a single purple cultivar, and not identical to 'R. W. Mills'.

'Susanna' p.21; 1Q of the Dvorak line drawings

No description information and not credited to Klager.

On page 200 Fr. Fiala reports that "...Hulda Klager originated 62 new lilac cultivars (at one time her seedlings numbered over 300)." Fiala's *Lilacs - The Genus Syringa* was published in 1988. Presumably this number (62) is based on information found in the R. M. Cooley catalogs, McKelvey's book *The Lilacs* and Wister's *Lilacs for America* survey reports. It does not yet include additional names listed in "Hulda Klager's Lilacs", a list of lilacs being grown at Hulda Klager's restored garden in Woodland, Washington, which was reprinted in the *ILS Newsletter* 14(4):3-4 [1988]. The current count of cultivar names credited to Mrs. Klager exceeds one hundred.

It is unfortunate that the Klager lilacs were poorly documented to begin with, but confusion must have been compounded by the aftermath of the flood of 1948. It appears that only 13 of her lilacs had been introduced commercially at the time of the flood. We may presume that, when reconstructing her collection with "rootlets and plants" obtained from "friends, neighbors and wellwishers, some of the plants were no longer true to name. Finally, there has been a time-lapse between Mrs. Klager's death and the reconstruction of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens during which few records were maintained, if any.

Sorting out the remaining Klager lilacs is a tedious chore. The information available to the Registrar has been updated, but may not be of interest to the general readership. Copies can be assembled and provided on request.

Literature references used:

McKelvey, S. D. 1928 *The Lilac - a monograph*. Macmillan, New York, NY
Committee on Horticultural Varieties (J.C. Wister, chairman) of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums. April 1942. *Lilacs for America - report of 1941 survey*. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, A. H. Scott Horticultural Foundation. This publication has been referred to as: Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1942]

Lilac Survey Committee (J. C. Wister, chairman) of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums. October 1953. *Lilacs for America - report of the 1953 lilac survey*. Swathmore, Pennsylvania, A. H. Scott Horticultural Foundation. This publication has been referred to as: Wister, *Lilacs for America* [1953]

Fiala, Fr. John L. 1988. *Lilacs - The Genus Syringa*. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

Anon. 1988. Hulda Klager's lilacs. *ILS Newsletter* 14(4):3-4.

***Syringa* L. 'Dancing Druid', Fiala 1969 of what percentage?**

by Freek Vrugtman

In his book *Lilacs-the genus Syringa* [1988] Fr. John Fiala lists different and conflicting parentage for his lilac section 'Dancing Druid'.

On p. 104: The hybrid formula or parentage is given as (*S. yunnanensis* × *S. tomentella*) × (*S. komarowii* × *S. sweginzowii* 'Albida'). [It should be noted here that *S. sweginzowii albida* is a synonym of 'Albida', a cultivar introduced by Lemoine in 1930, resulting from the cross *S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*.]

In the same entry 'Dancing Druid' is classified as a *S. ×quatrobrida*, which is defined on p. 7 as: (*S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*) × (*S. komarowii* × *S. wolfii*) [*S. sweginzowii* × *S. tomentella*] actually being 'Albida'.

On pp. 124 and 224: thy hybrid formula is given as (*S. yunnanensis* × *S. tomentella*) × *S. komarowii*.

We have found no other reference in the lilac literature to 'Dancing Druid' and its parentage and are wondering **which of these entries list the parentage correctly?** The Registrar would appreciate hearing from readers who have additional information or comments.

The Gardener Brothers and their Lilacs

by Freek Vrugtman

Edw. J. Gardener Nursery, West DePere, Wisconsin [starting date not known]; moved to Horicon, Wisconsin, in the late 1940s, where it was located ca. 2.5 mi. east of Horicon on Highway No. 33 and operated until 1972.

Edward ("Ed") James Gardener

Born: September 20, 1891, Appleton, WI - died: June 8, 1952.

Founder and owner-operator of Edw. J. Gardner Nursery.

Ed was a nurseryman who was interested in improving methods of plant propagation. He wrote an article on mist propagation in *American Nurseryman*, May 1, 1941, issue.

He was a member of the American Peony Society [see *Am. Peony Soc. Bull.* No. 102, June 1946, p.33], and originated several new peony cultivars. His name is mentioned in: Nehring, A. & I. 1960. *Peonies, outdoor and in.* pp. 253 & 273; and in: Wister, J. C., ed. 1962. *The peonies.* p.202. He originated a new cultivar of mock-orange patented in 1956.

Ed Gardner was interested in lilacs; Walter Eickhorst reports that his 1950 price list contained more than 250 names of lilacs. He selected, named and introduced seven to nine new lilac cultivars, one of which was patented prior to his death; two were patented after his death by his brother Robert.

For many years he worked at the Gardener Manufacturing Co., at some time as superintendent.

Robert Louis Gardner, younger brother of Ed

Born: February 3, 1909, DePere, WI - died: May 13, 1972, Marshfield, WI.

Robert was a graduate of St. Norbert College at DePere, WI; he also attended University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin.

After the death of his brother Ed he became owner-operator of Edw. J. Gardner Nursery.

He was also connected for many years with the Gardner Manufacturing Co. From 1957 until 1972 he was employed in the sales department of Metalfab in Beaver Dam, WI. He was a church organist.

The Gardner Lilacs

??	'C.J. Gardner', Gardner syn - 'Gardner No. 442'	VULGARIS
----	--	----------

name not established; probably not in cultivation.

D V	'Edward J. Gardner', Gardner pre 1950 syn - 'Edward Gardner', 'Edward J. Gardner', 'Edw. J. Gardner', 'Gardner No. 443', see also - FLAMINGO™	VULGARIS
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Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Price list, 3 [1950];

Gardner, US Pl. Pat. No. 1086 [Apr. 22, 1952]; Wister,

Lilacs for America, 28 [1953]

cv. name registered 1953.

- S II **'Jessie Gardner'**, Gardner 1956 VULGARIS
syn - 'Gardner No. 472'
Wister, Lilacs for America, 32 [1953];
Gardner, US Pl. Pat No. 1444 [Jan. 3, 1956];
Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Price list, 6 [1956]
cv. name registered 1953.
- S III **'Lawrence Wheeler'**, Gardner VULGARIS
syn: 'Gardner No. 509', 'S. L. Wheeler'
name not established; probably not in cultivation.
- S VII **'Leone Gardner'**, Gardner 1956 VULGARIS
syn: 'Gardner No. 451', 'Leone Hanratty'
Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Price list, 6 [1956];
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):122 [1971]
cv. name registered 1970.
- S III **'Mary Gardner'**, Gardner 1956 HYACINTHIFLORA
syn: 'Gardner No. 444', 'Mary Ann Gardner'
Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Price list, 6 [1956];
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971] - as 'Mary Ann Gardner'
cv. name registered 1970.
- S VII **'Mrs. R. L. Gardner'**, Gardner 1956 VULGARIS
syn: 'Gardner No. 441', 'Mrs. Robert M. Gardner'
Gardner, US Pl. Pat. No 1443 [Jan 3, 1956];
Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Price list, 6 [1956];
Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4): 82 [1963] - as 'Mrs. Robert M. Gardner'
cv. name registered 1963.
- D VI **'Polly Stone'**, Gardner VULGARIS
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971]
name not established; cv. name registered, but not reported
in cultivation.
- S I **'White Sands'**, Gardner VULGARIS
Wister & Oppe, *Arnoldia* 31(3):123 [1971]
name not established; cv. name registered 1970, but not reported
in cultivation.

The Registrar would appreciate hearing from readers who happen to know true-to-name plants of the Gardner cultivars 'C. J. Gardner', 'Lawrence Wheeler', 'Polly Stone', and 'White Sands'.

ABBREVIATIONS:

S - Single flowers D - Double flowers

COLOURS

I - White, II - Violet, III - Bluish, IV - Lilac, V - Pinkish, VI - Magenta, VII - Purple
& bi colour [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

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

* cultivar with variegated and-or golden foliage ? information incomplete

Tips For Beginners

Question:

Our neighbor's dog prefers our lilac bushes to the local fire hydrant. Is there a way to repel the dog from the bushes? Is there something we should apply to the bushes to protect them from the damage?

Answer:

The "experts" came up with a whole range of ideas from "pay the neighbor for the fertilizer his dog is providing" (it is very little) to "put up an electric fence and wait for him to make contact" (do you carry dog liability insurance). In the middle ground you might try one of the male dog repellants (or deer repellants) that are on the market. If those don't do it, or if reapplying the material every time it rains is a bother, you can try the old "ammonia in the squirt gun" technique, although running out waving your arms every time the dog appears would probably be just as effective. In practical terms, you don't have to do anything. The amount the dog applies will not hurt the lilac and the dog will probably change his routine after a time so that the problem will just go away by itself.

What fertilizer should I use on my lilacs?

The recommendation is for a handful of 5-10-10 or its equivalent broadcast in the area around the bush yearly. The figures mean 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 10% potassium. The nitrogen figure is lower because nitrogen encourages leaf growth while the other two (especially the phosphorus) encourages bloom. "Or its equivalent" means that you can use any fertilizer adjusted to the "handful per bush" recommendation. If you mix some superphosphate and wood ashes you'll get a combination that is good for the lilac and will also raise the soil pH a little. If you have a source of well rotted manure, use that but remember that while manure is an excellent source of organic matter, it provides only small amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium so you'll need at least half a bushel per plant - a full bushel would be better. The fertilizer can be applied in the spring where it will enhance growth or in the fall where it will enhance plant hardiness and the quality of growth next spring. One caution, if you decide to apply fertilizer in both spring and fall be sure to also divide the amount applied. Too much fertilizer can "burn", i.e. kill, the fine feeding roots.

*Reprinted from Lilacs,
Fall, 1995*

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International Lilac Society

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