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Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Assessippi'

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Published October, 1993

This Issue is Respectfully Dedicated to



ORVILLE M. STEWARD

The Founding President

Some twenty-three years ago, during the winter of 1969-70, Orville Steward and John Wister got together to determine the prospects of forming a plant society devoted to lilacs. Accordingly, Orville sent out about three hundred letters to possible lilac lovers or anyone connected with producing or maintaining large collections, public or private. In spite of a five percent favorable response, Orville and his good wife Ellen, nevertheless invited fifteen lilac aficionados to the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, at Great River, New York, one Saturday in mid-May 1970. Each founding member offered to contribute his/her talents to the enterprise and in due course the International Lilac Society was launched as a New York not-for-profit educational corporation with Orville as president.

Our honored first president brought to the Lilac Society a thorough training and experience in plants. He was graduated from SUNY at Farmingdale and the New York Botanical Gardens' School of Horticulture. He was director of Bayard Cutting Arboretum when ILS was founded. He also served as head gardener of several country estates in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. He is a veteran of World War II, and patriarch of the Steward clan, two sons and six grandchildren.

Currently Orville with helpmeet Ellen serves in various capacities, often as chief mover and pusher, in civic, religious, political and social organizations. Yet he finds time for his beloved plants, his hillside garden and his devoted Ellen – in that order, she claims.

A grateful society salutes you both.

Skinner's American Hybrid Lilacs

By Robert B. Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

With cruel April fair daffodils hastened away. Springtime now attains its high point amid fragrant lilacs. First to unfold their pastel flowers are the early hybrids perfected by Dr. Frank L. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba. In his search for hardy woody plants for the northern great plains, Skinner repeated Victor Lemoine's cross of fifty years earlier, using the eastern Asiatic *Syringa oblata* discovered by Guiseppi Giralaldi (but this time with its variety *dilatata* from Korea) with the Balkan lilac *S. vulgaris* to produce a showier, hardier *S. X hyacinthiflora*.

Dr. Skinner's race of "American hybrids" is finding accommodation in American gardens from Philadelphia to St. Louis because they bloom ahead of the summer-like spring days of the United States' middle latitudes. At Highland Park, for example, Lemoine's 'Fenelon' is the bellwether of Rochester's Lilac time festival, while at Birchwood, Dr. Rankin's 'Lewis Maddock' blooms along with its parent (cover photo). Each large lilac collection has its own harbinger, usually a *S. X hyacinthiflora* cultivars.

At the 1974 I.L.S. annual meeting held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Dr. William A. Cumming recounted his in-law father's breeding work over a thirty-four period resulting in twenty-two American hybrid cultivars (Table I). I quote Cummings remarks in extenso (*Lilacs* 3(1) 22-23, 1974).

Miss Preston was also active in producing early flowering lilacs of the hybrid species *S. x hyacinthiflora*. From crosses made in 1922 – *S. vulgaris* 'Negro' x *S. hyacinthiflora* 'Lamartine' she described and named the three cultivars 'Maureen', 'Muriel' and 'Norah' and from open-pollinated seedlings of 'Lamartine' two more cultivars were named, 'Peggy' and 'Grace'. Miss Isabella Preston's story is truly international. As Canadians we are grateful that this English woman chose to work in Canada's capital city and that an American woman, Mrs. Susan Delano McKelvey, chose to perpetuate her name with both *Syringa x prestoniae* and the lilac cultivar 'Isabella'.

Dr. Frank L. Skinner, L.L.S., M.B.E., came to Canada in 1895 at the age of 13 when his family left Scotland to settle in an outpost of north-western Manitoba to become cattle ranchers and grain producers. Frank Skinner, because of circumstances, received little formal education but by a consuming interest and sheer perseverance he became internationally known as a horticulturist, a plant explorer and a plant breeder. He could well be described as a genius with plants and could easily hold his own with leading horticultural professionals in all countries of the northern hemisphere, whom he either knew personally or by correspondence. All of this he managed to accomplish from his own personal resources and labor and he was honored in Canada and abroad with both governmental and horticulture's highest awards. His first and only financial help from outside sources was a grant from the federal government which was given to him after he had reached the age of 80 to record his experiences for benefit of posterity. This he accomplished and it was published in the form of a book entitled "Horticultural Horizons" in 1967 by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture about 6 months before his death on August 27th, 1967, in his 86th year.

Again I would point out through success with many genera of plants, this paper deals only with lilacs. On his first visit to the Arnold Arboretum in 1918, Frank Skinner secured

small seedlings of *S. oblata dilatata* and *S. velutina* from Prof. C. S. Sargent. The former were grown from seed collected on the Diamond Mountains of Korea by E. H. Wilson in 1917. In the spring of 1920 he attempted his first lilac crosses using pollen of *S. reflexa* on flowers of *S. villosa* which were blooming at his home in Dropmore, Manitoba. This first effort produced nothing, but it does record the fact that two Canadians working independently and many miles apart had simultaneously chosen the same plant combinations. Miss Preston was successful in her first attempt and Frank Skinner had to wait until the spring of 1922 when he again got pollen of *S. reflexa* from the Arnold Arboretum and applied it to emasculated flowers of *S. villosa* with success. From the first generation seedlings arising from this cross Skinner introduced 4 cultivars, 'Handel', 'Helen' and 'Hiawatha' in 1935 and 'Hecla' in 1936. From 2nd generation open-pollinated seedlings the cultivar 'Donald Wyman' was named in 1944. The latter, in my opinion, is the best of the Skinner cultivars belonging to the hybrid species *S. x prestoniae* and it is rather a coincidence that the name 'Donald Wyman' should be so intimately linked with the Arnold Arboretum from whom Dr. Skinner received the pollen for the original cross.

In the spring of 1921 the seedlings of *S. oblata dilatata*, secured in 1918 from Sargent, commenced blooming and Skinner began his crosses using cultivars of *S. vulgaris* as pollen parents. The first two cultivars from these crosses were named in 1932, 'Asessippi' and 'Minnehaha'. The last one that Dr. Skinner introduced was in 1965 - 'Royal Purple'. My choice of the 20 other cultivars of this group introduced by Skinner in the intervening years are 'Pocahontas' - 1935, 'Gertrude Leslie' and 'Swarthmore' - 1954, 'Sister Justina' - 1956, 'Mount Baker' and 'The Bride' - 1961, and 'Dr. Chadwick' - 1962. He dubbed these as the "American Lilacs." Taxonomically, they are considered to belong to the hybrid species *S. x hyacinthiflora*. They are, however, much hardier than cultivars of this hybrid species derived from *S. oblata giraldii*.

Table I. Skinner's *S. x hyacinthiflora* cultivars

I - white, II - violet, III - blue, IV - lilac, V - pink, VI - reddish, VII - purple,
S - single, D - double

	S	D
I	Mount Baker (1961) The Bride (1961) Sister Justina (1956) White Hyacinth (1950)	Gertrude Leslie (1954)
II	Louvain (1962)	none
III	Dr. Chadwick (1962) Charles Nordine (1954) Laurentian (1945)	none
IV	Excel (1935) Nokomis (1934) Assessippi (1932) (cover photo)	Swarthmore (1954)
VI	None	Evangeline (1935)
VII	Pocahontas (1935) Minihaha (1932)	Royal Purple (1965) Tom Taylor (1962)

THE FIALA STORY

A plant-name group devoted to lilacs (*Syringa* species) was triggered by a missed legacy, a determined amateur plant breeder, the need for an updated check list, plus a willing pollster who, in the late 1960s, took the initiative to explore the possibilities among a modest list of lilac aficionados supplied by Dr. John C. Wister of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Orville M. Steward, then director of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, New York, took Wister's list and sent out invitations. Fifteen lilac devotees converged on Long Island one Saturday in mid-May 1971 (Photo, *Lilacs Quarterly Journal* 21 (1): 28 Winter 1992). Ten founders were from New York, two from Pennsylvania, and one each from Maine, Nebraska and Ohio.

After fifteen years the lilac check list (*Lilacs for America*, 1953) needed updating. Accordingly Dr. Wister turned over to Dr. Owen M. Rogers of the University of New Hampshire, his often re-typed list for editing and publication. This revision appeared in soft cover entitled "A Preliminary Check List of Cultivars of *Syringa*" 1976.

But I'm getting ahead of the story. Dr. John Rankin, a physician, organist and gardener (roses and lilacs) of Elyria, Ohio, died without leaving his estate to any lilac organization because there wasn't any such body. Such a denouement provided the impetus to Fr. John L. Fiala of nearby Medina, Ohio, to form an Ohio lilac society, a group which became known as Chapter 2, International Lilac Society Corporation.

The first annual meeting was held at Highland Park, Rochester, New York, May 19-21, 1972 with 126 charter members attending. The Rochester story was reported in *LQJ* 17 (1) May 20-22, 1988.



Haarenstroth Baumschule

The Story of Grape Hill Gardens

By William A. Utley, Clyde, New York

Lois (nee Devereaux) and I were musicians. I don't know that that is any worse background for horticulture than many other lilac people have. I was graduated from Willomette University at Salem in 1939 and went to Rochester, New York, to attend the Eastman School of Music, where I met Lois. We went together for the few years we were there. And Rochester is full of lilacs. We both were interested in separate careers, but we did keep in contact. After Lois' mother and father died and my father died we decided we didn't want to grow old alone, and so to make a long story short, after 24 years we were married in 1965. I had retired from Broadway and Lois, who had retired from teaching, said "we'll get married if you are willing to come to Clyde, New York, and live on the farm."

Grape Hill Farms has been in the Devereaux family for five generations. It soon became apparent that we didn't own the farm, the old farm owned us. Lois' mother had planted lilacs in her dooryard gardens; among them were 'Lilarosa', a single pale pink, very fragrant old-fashioned variety and Lemoine's 'Miss Ellen Willmott', a double white. We soon found that we had a love of lilacs in common. For years we had been going to Rochester during lilac time, having recalled the Highland Park lilacs from our Eastman School days. So we started collecting shoots from this and that lilac which we admired. We didn't know, or care about, the names at that time.

One day in Highland Park, we met Bob Clark who, as taxonomist of the Monroe County Parks, carried his clipboard and looked official, was rating the lilacs of that 22 acre collection. Lois asked him questions which offhand he was reluctant to answer, requesting instead her name and address to which he would supply the answer, which he did. Then in 1971 when the original invitations went out from Orville Steward of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, New York, Bob wrote back that "You must invite the Utleys too." That opened the door for us. That meeting on Long Island brought us in contact with lilac lovers from New York, New England, Pennsylvania and Ohio; even Lincoln, Nebraska. Neither of us was knowledgeable about lilacs until we began to associate with these people. So my first suggestion to anyone interested in lilacs, would be to join the ILS, and the second is that, if at all possible, to attend its annual meetings. Its first convention was held at Rochester, and each year at lilac season it is held throughout the United States and Canada; this year at Spokane, and hopefully one year soon in Europe and even northeast Asia.

So for the past 20 years our collection at Grape Hill Gardens has grown little by little until today it consists of some 400 named varieties. Each year during lilac bloom we invite the public to come see GHG lilacs. I have a few brochures telling where we are located and our purpose and plans for the future.

The farm has been in the family for 140 years. Lois' great-grandfather started growing grapes imported from Spain and Portugal in 1854, hence the name. It is situated on the Erie Canal. The State of New York is planning to develop the canal as a tourist attraction and that pleasure boats may dock at strategic or historic points along its course between Albany and Buffalo, Grape Hill Gardens being one such attraction.

Geologically the farm occupies glacial till between two drumlins (elongated N-S ridges of massive unconsolidated glacial deposits). The soil is fertile, well suited for growing lilacs.

Question (C. Holetich): "How do you support your lilac collection?"

Answer: The only source of funds currently is from the sale of plants. In the past several years it has not been unusual to attract 1,000 visitors on a lilac weekend. Our maintenance staff consists of our foster daughter Wanda and her fiance, Timothy Camerford, full time, assisted by four young people during the summer. We have two rider mowers to cover seven or eight acres during May, full time.

About 1969-70 Jackson & Perkins moved its Newark (NY) nursery to Oregon. We bought our first lilacs at their clearance sale. We dug them from the Newark fields and planted them along the roadside opposite the house. When there were too many for the first row we started a second row, and soon filled the 2-acre field and the hillside to the west.

Question (C. Holetich): "Of all the varieties you have, is there one or more that are closer to your heart?"

Answer: No, not really. Oh, there are a couple which I favor for historical reasons: Maarse's 'Sensation' and 'Primrose'. I actually corresponded with Dr. D. Eveleens Maarse of The Netherlands who introduced these varieties (1938 and 1949 respectively).

Question (unidentified): "What varieties are on your brochure cover?"

Answer: 'Sensation', the purple with white margins, and 'Edward J. Gardner', pink.

Question (unidentified): "Is there a lilac in your collection which bloom consistently from year to year and from top to bottom?"

Answer: As a matter of fact there are a lot of them. We have an ideal climate for lilacs, plus excellent soil conditions, fertile loam with good drainage with about 40" of precipitation a year well distributed month by month. We irrigate our seedlings and newly transplanted stock the first year. Lilacs require very little care except for trimming spent blooms in June.

Question (unidentified): "Where can we buy named variety lilacs?"

Answer: From time to time the Society's Quarterly Journal publishes lists of lilac sources. Until ILS was founded in 1971 nurserymen would sell up to 50,000 lilacs by color (blue, white, red), but nowadays the market is becoming sophisticated and lilac lovers are searching for favorite varieties – just as Lois and I learned to discriminate between favorite and ordinary lilacs.

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Chapman Home, Norman Farm (built in 1518). Pan Meadow Lilac Collection, Wyvetstone, Stowmarket, England.

Consolidated List of Awards (1972-1992)

By International Lilac Society

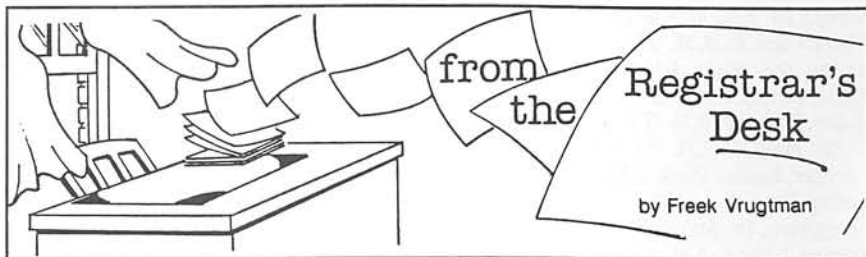
Individuals

- Alexander, John Herbert, A.M. '73
Alexander, J.H. III, Dir. '84, A.M. '92
Berdeen, Kenneth, A.M. '73
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Clark, Robert B., A.M. '72, H&A '76, Pres., '84
Cochez, Raymond, A.M. '90
Coggeshall, Roger, A.M. '92
Cole, Trevor J., A.M. '82, '90
Cumming, Dr. William A., A.M. '72
Dalby, George, A.M. '74
Dvorak, Joseph Jr., A.M. '76
Eaton, Mark O., A.M. '72
Egan, John S., A.M. '91
Egolf, Dr. Donald, Dir. '80
Eickhorst, Walter E., A.M. '75, H&A, '91
Elsley, John, A.M. '89
Emerson, Nancy, A.M. '79
Faust, Joan Lee, A.M. '85
Fenicchia, Richard A., Dir. '72, A.M. '76, '88
Fiala, Fr. John L., H&A '76, Pres. '80, Dir. '85,
McK '89
Fiala, Pauline Lucille, A.M. '84, H&A '89
Fordham, Alfred J., A.M. '73, '92
Forsythe, Robert, A.M. '78
Franklin, Mabel L., A.M. '73
Graham, Chris, A.M. '86
Grant, Alvan R., A.M. '72, '78
Green, Peter S., A.M. '87
Hagaman, Mrs. C.B., Pres. '87
Hall, Elizabeth, A.M. '85
Halward, Raymond, A.M. '74
Hasselkus, Dr. Edward R., A.M. '83, Pres. '91
Heard, William R., Pres. '81, McK '86, H&A
'89
Hibben, Dr. Craig R., Pres. '85
Hildebrandt, Dr. Virginia, A.M. '86
Hodgdon, Gertrude, Pres. '85
Hoepfl, Robert, A.M. '88
Holetich, Charles D., A.M. '74, H&A '86
Huber, Tony, A.M. '90
Jones, Gordon, A.M. '85
Kara, Elsie Lenore, A.M. '84
Katnik, Mitch, A.M. '75, '91
Kidd, George & Joan, A.M. '86
Klehm, Roy, A.M. '89
Knight, Charles L., A.M. '80
Kolesnikov, Leonid A., Dir. '73
Koller, Gary L., A.M. '92
Krieg, Sena, A.M. '91
Laking, Dr. Leslie, A.M. '74
Lammerts, Dr. Walter E., A.M. '77
Lape, Fred, A.M. '74
Luce, Roger F., A.M. '84
Lumley, Albert E., H&A '74, A.M. '77
Lydon, Cora, A.M. '79
Margaretten, Dr. Joel, A.M. '75, H&A '83, Dir.
'87
Martin, Winfried K., A.M. '80, H&A '89
McCowan, Dr. Deborah, A.M. '89
McKean, Arch, A.M. '75, H&A '86
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Norweb, R. Henry & Elizabeth, Dist. Recog.
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 Webster, Charles, A.M. '85
 Wedge, Don, Pres. '83
 Wilbur, John & Atheline, A.M. '80
 Wirth, Thomas E., McK '92
 Wishart, Lourene B., A.M. '72, H&A '78
 Wister, Dr. John C., H&A '72
 Wood, Kenneth W., A.M. '83
 Woodroffe, Fleeta Brownell, A.M. '81
 Zucker, Isabel, A.M. '75, H&A '80

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- Agriculture Canada Dominion Arb., Pres. '82
 Arnold Arboretum, Pres. '73, '92
 Better Homes and Gardens, A.M. '81
 Bickelhaupt Arboretum, Pres. '83
 Birchwood, Pres. '84
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Pres. '85
 Canadian National Capital Comm., Pres. '82
 Cantigny Memorial Park, A.M. '75
 Chicago Botanic Garden, A.M. '91
 Deerfield, Historic, A.M. '77
 Denver Botanic Garden, Pres. '87
 DesMoines Park Comm., Ewing Pk., Pres. '81
 Falconskeape, Pres. '80, '89
 F.R. Newman Arboretum, A.M. '88
 Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, A.M. '89
 Gardenview Horticultural Park, Pres. '80
 Governor Wentworth House, A.M. '79
 Grape Hill Gardens, Pres. '76
 Heard Gardens Ltd., Pres. '81
 Highland Botanical Park, Pres. '72, '88
 Hodgdon Memorial, Philip, Pres. '84, '85
 Holden Arboretum, Pres. '80, '89
 Hulda Klager Lilac Society, A.M. '79
 Interstate Nurseries, A.M. '75
 Jardin Botanique de Montreal, Pres. '90
 John J. Tyler Arboretum, Pres. '78
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 Lilacia Park, Pres. '75
 Lombard Garden Club, A.M. '91
 Lombard Park District, Pres. '75
 Longfellow House, National Pk. Serv., Pres. '92
 McDonald College, Morgan Arboretum, A.M. '90
 Morton Arboretum, Pres. '75, A.M. '91
 Mount Auburn Cemetery, Pres. '92
 Mount Royal Cemetery, A.M. '90
 New Hampshire Governor & Legislature, A.M. '79
 New York Botanical Garden, Pres. '85
 Niagara Park Commission, A.M. '86
 O'Fallon Trust, Denver Botanic Garden, Pres. '87
 Ottawa Horticulture Society, A.M. '82
 Parks & Rec. Dept. Boro of Brighton, Engl, Pres. '86
 Principal Botanical Garden, Moscow, Pres. '86
 Royal Botanical Garden, Hamilton, Pres. '74, '86
 Scott Horticultural Foundation, Pres. '78
 Sheridan Nurseries, A.M. '86
 Strawberry Banke, A.M. '79
 University of Guelph, Pres. '86
 Univ. of New Hampshire, A.M. '79
 Univ. of Wisconsin, Pres. '83
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 Wm. Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Pres. '85
 Woodland Garden Club, A.M. '79
 Woodstock, VT, Pres. '84



Bernard Orville Case and the Lilacs of Duniway Park

B.O. Case was born about 1866 in Bloomfield, Connecticut. As a young man he moved west. In 1915 he came to Vancouver, Washington, where he settled in Fruit Valley, Clark County, earning his living as a farmer and nurseryman. He died there, age 70, on November 14, 1936.

One of the major crops produced on the Case farm was walnuts, and the farm appears to have been known for its large-scale walnut drying operation. Case's special interest, however, was propagating and hybridizing ornamental trees and shrubs and fruit trees.

Bernard Case was interested in lilacs; he purchased lilacs from V. Lemoine & Fils of Nancy, France, and obtained additional cultivars from the Arnold Arboretum. Case originated and named at least two lilacs, namely *Syringa vulgaris* 'Alice Case', a double, magenta lilac named for his wife Alice M. Case and introduced ca. 1930, and *S. v.* 'Cases Frilled Pink' with double and pink florets. A third, unnamed, selection has been grown under the designation Rose Pink Case. He also appears to have known of Mrs. Hulda Klager and her lilac work at Woodland, Washington, because he introduced the lilac 'Vivian Evans', said to be one of Klager's originations.

Following B.O. Case's death in 1936 his nursery stock had to be sold. The Portland Garden Club took the initiative, and the Case lilac collection was purchased for \$2,000. The Portland Park Bureau made available men and trucks to dig the lilacs and take them to Portland, Oregon, where they were planted by members of the National Youth Movement. The Lilac Garden is located in Duniway Park, just south of Portland City Center and at the base of Terwillinger Boulevard. The Lilac Garden covers appr. one acre, holding about 225 plants of 125 cultivars.

References used:

- Personal communication – Anne Kowalishen, Portland, Oregon
- Personal communication – Leila Scott, Vancouver, Washington.
- Lilacs for America, 1942 and 1953 editions.
- Wister, J.C. 1968. Alphabetical list of lilacs (unpublished manuscript).

- Eickhorst, W. 1978. Forty years ago. *Lilac newsletter* 4(11):4-5.
(ref. to: *Bulletin of the Garden Club of America* May, 1938, No. 9
[Sixth Series], pp. 103-104).
- Anon, n.d., (ca. 1985). Fact sheet – Duniway Lilac Garden, Portland
Park Bureau. 3 pp. mimeographed.

Syringa x chinensis 'Le Troyes' – A Phantom Lilac?

Documented Chronology

1934 – The name 'Le Troyes' appears for the first time in the plant records of the Monroe County Department of Parks at Rochester, New York (for convenience referred to as Rochester Parks).

1942 – Lilacs for America Report of 1941 survey conducted by The Committee on Horticultural Varieties of The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, April 1942. On p. 51 of the Report is listed: LE TROYES (CH) RO. RO indicates that 'Le Troyes' was being grown at Rochester Parks; this entry has no descriptive notation and no notation for originator and year of introduction. The collaborator at Rochester for this survey was R.E. Horsey of Highland Park. The entry in the July 1943 Revised and Corrected printing is identical.

H.P. Kelsey & W.A. Dayton are the editors of the second edition of Standardized Plant Names compiled by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature (1942; McFarland, Harrisburg). On p.616, 1st column, is listed: LeTroyes (sic). Name of originator and year of introduction are not listed.

Arnold Arboretum receives a graft of *S. x chinensis* 'Le Troyes' from Rochester Parks in March 1942; the plant is accessioned as AA no. 182-42.

1953 – Lilacs for America – Report of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums. October, 1953. On p.33 of the Report is listed: S IV LE TROYES (CH) AA, RO. (S = single flowers; IV = flower colour lilac; CH = *S. x chinensis*; AA, RO = grown at the Arnold Arboretum and Rochester Parks.) The collaborator at Rochester for this survey is Bernard Harkness of Highland Park.

1964 – Bernard Harkness lists 'Le Troyes' in his paper "A checklist of the cultivated woody plants of the Rochester Parks," *PHYTOLOGIA* 10(4):254 (1964), but the entry lacks the source from which 'Le Troyes' was received and the year it was received.

1968 – Royal Botanical Gardens (HAM) receives cuttings of 'Le Troyes' from Rochester Parks; accessioned as RBG no. 83567.

1991 – James W. Kelly, plant taxonomist at Rochester Parks checks the flowers of the plants labelled 'Le Troyes' (nos. 393 and 2444) against plants labelled *S. x chinensis* and finds, in his words *absolutely no difference*. The plants are deaccessioned as 'Le Troyes' and included with *S. x chinensis*.

1992 – Jack Alexander, plant propagator at Arnold Arboretum, checks

the flowers of their plant (no. 182-42) at the Case Estates and finds them to be *not obviously different* from those of the plants labelled *S. x chinensis*.

1992/93 – Robert B. Clark, former plant taxonomist at Rochester Parks and currently editor of LILACS, quarterly of the International Lilac Society, expresses his view that a handwritten label or record of *S. x chinensis* 'Le Proges' may have been misread and may have given rise to the (erroneous) name "Le Troyes."

1993 – Robert E. Hoepfl, superintendent of horticulture at Rochester Parks checks the lilac records and finds ". . . that 'Le Troyes' is listed in all inventories and location records from 1934 to the present. I could not locate any older Lilac lists. Also, 'Le Progrès' was not to be found in any of our lists."

James S. Pringle, plant taxonomist at Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, compares the plant of *S. x chinensis* 'Le Troyes' (RBG no. 68357) with plants labelled *S. x chinensis* in the RBG collections, namely no. 531175, no. 54252 (hedge no. 99 in the Arboretum hedge collection), and the non-accessioned plants in the Rock garden. Dr. Pringle reports: "68357 has distinctly paler corollas than 531175. Compared with the plants in the hedge no. 99, 54252, its corollas are paler than those of the plant at the east end, but it appears indistinguishable in all respects from other plants in the hedge. It also appears indistinguishable from plants at the Rock Garden."

Conclusions and Dilemma

From the information available to date all 'Le Troyes' lilac plants can be traced back to Rochester Parks, but the name 'Le Troyes' cannot be traced back further than 1934 and not beyond the records at Rochester Parks. All known 'Le Troyes' lilac plants appear to be identical with the nominate hybrid, *S. x chinensis*; consequently, the description in Lilacs for America (1953) does not apply to 'Le Troyes', but to the nominate hybrid, *S. x chinensis*.

We are left with the choice of two possible answers. The first possible answer is that there is (or was) a true 'Le Troyes' cultivar of unknown origin, that it was grafted on *S. x chinensis* rootstock, but that sometime between 1934 and 1942 the 'Le Troyes' part of the plant died and the rootstock was grown on under the 'Le Troyes' name.

The second and more credible answer has been suggested by Robert Clark, namely that "Le Troyes" is a misspelling of 'Le Progrès'. *S. x chinensis* 'Le Progrès', a selection with single or semi-double lilac-coloured flowers, was originated, named and introduced (1903) by V. Lemoine & Fils of Nancy, France. The listing of Le Progrès (sic) in Standardized Plant Names, 1924, p.486, is an indication that this lilac was grown in North America at that time. The late John C. Wister, in his A Lilac Check List (THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE 6(1):11; January 1927) lists:

Le Progress Ro. (Lem. 1904) D. (sic)

indicating that this cultivar was in the collection at Rochester Parks. This appears to be the only record of 'Le Progrès' ever having been grown at

Rochester Parks, because in Lilacs for America (April 1942, p.51) LE PROGRES is listed as "Obsolete"; in other words, by 1941 when the Committee on Horticultural Varieties conducted its lilac survey 'Le Progrès' was no longer in cultivation in North America. Robert Clark suggests that at some time between 1927 and 1941 the writing on the label on the 'Le Progrès' plant(s) may have become illegible and, subsequently, was transcribed as "Le Troyes"; it was the name "Le Troyes" that R.E. Horsey submitted for the 1941 lilac survey. The circumstantial evidence is quite convincing; where the North American record of 'Le Progrès' peters out the name "Le Troyes" fades in.

There is, however, a dilemma. The original description of *Syringa Varina le progrès* in Lemoine's catalogue no. 155 (1903) on p.29 reads: "Fleurs bien rondes, semi-doubles, couleur lilacé beauâtre foncé à revers plus clairs, lobes des fleurs très concaves, couleur n'existant pas dans les Lilas Varins" (see footnote); the description of 'Le Progres' does not fit the plants that have been cultivated in recent years under the name 'Le Troyes'.

In summary, *S. x chinensis* 'LeProgrès' plants growing at Rochester Parks disappeared from the record, and probably from the collections, some time between 1927 and 1934, and the name "Le Troyes" may have arisen about that time from a misread label. However, in our opinion, one should not draw the conclusion that plants labelled "Le Troyes" should be renamed 'Le Progrès'. In other words, even though the name "Le Troyes" comes from 'Le Progrès', the plants now in cultivation so identified appear in all cases *not* to be true 'Le Progrès', so they should *not* be relabelled 'Le Progres'.

The registrar wishes to thank all those who contributed in this attempt to solve the riddle of 'Le Troyes', and Dr. James Pringle for his suggestions and for reviewing the paper.

NAPPC – A New Plant Collections Network

The NORTH AMERICAN PLANT PRESERVATION COUNCIL (NAPPC) was incorporated in December 1991 in the State of West Virginia. NAPPC has been modelled after the very successful National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) in the United Kingdom. NAPPC, a tax exempt organization, is intended to become the North American network of plant collections, predominantly in the private sector, but with links to the North American Plant Collections Consortium of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, the public-gardens network.

For additional information contact: Barry Glick, Executive Director, NAPPC, Renick, WV 24966 (Tel: 304/497-3163; Fax: 304/497-2698; Telex: 3799183). FV

Translated: Flowers well rounded, semi-double, deep bluish-lilac, lighter on the dorsal side, floret-lobes very concave; this colour does not occur elsewhere within Varin's Lilac (*S. x chinensis*). FV

Clarification to the Membership Secretary's Report

The extraordinary difficulty I encumbered during my first year as Membership Secretary is in no way a reflection on the integrity or performance of Marty or Lisa Martin's tenure while they worked on the Membership Committee. Lisa instructed me thoroughly with the mechanics of maintaining membership files for which I thanked her in my report published in volume 21, number 4 of this journal. My apology is extended to the Martins for the lack of clarity in my current report printed in the previous issue.



*Konrad and
Elfrieda Kircher*

Bad Zwischenahn

Pan Meadow Lilac Collection

Norman's Farm, Wyverstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SF 0449 781081
NCCPG National Collection of *Syringa*



Shelagh and Colin Chapman, Pan Meadow Lilacs

One day, Pan was wandering in ancient Arcady when he saw a beautiful nymph. He was roused by the sight of her and gave chase but the nymph fled through the woods. She soon reached a river and, realising that her retreat was cut off, she took one last look at the green and bountiful world and turned herself into a reed.

The disconsolate Pan cut the reed and kissed it but as he did so his sigh played across the rim of the reed and produced a haunting note. He fashioned the reed into a set of pipes and for ever after performed his melancholy airs to the lonely shepherds in the hills.

The Greeks called that nymph "Syrinx" but the Romans called her "Syringa," and this was the name that Linnaeus assigned to the lilac which had been known since the time of Gerard and Parkinson as the "Blew Pipe Tree."

International Lilac Society

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TOP: *ss.*
Assessippi
(right) and
Pocahontas
(left),
Lucie's Butternut
Hill Farm,
Hampden, ME

ABOVE: *Syr.*
vulg. '*Edw J.*
Gardner',
Spokane, WA,
May 15, 1993

LEFT: *Table*
arrangement at
the convention.