# LILACS VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1

WINTER 1992



'Sister Justena'

# QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS Membership Directory

# A Publication of THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

Copyright 1992 Editor

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

## International Lilac Society

President							
Executive Vice President							
Secretary							
Treasurer							
Editor							
Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)							
Single or Family / Annual       \$ 15.00         Sustaining       30.00         Institution/Commercial       35.00         Life       150.00							

<sup>\*</sup>Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary

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

## Published January, 1992



'Henri Lutece'

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Lilac Society begins its third decade of publishing. The Society's title indicates its world-wide scope. Your editor and his associates thought it fitting that the final issue of the second decade should contain an article in another language than English. So we welcomed Mons. Raymond Cochez's recommendations on lilac culture at le jardin botanique ville de Montreal, Quebec, a garden featuring a notable collection of *lilas*. Furthermore, we welcome edited reports from foreign correspondents in their native language so long as they are authoritative and not too long. Photographs also are welcome.

Your editor believes that this also is an appropriate occasion to review how closely the Society has come to achieving its threefold objectives, namely, the studying of the lilac, of making these findings known to its members, and of encouraging the planting of lilacs in private and public gardens and parks.

The lilac has a long history of cultivation. Whether it be the enchanting fragrance or the profusion of late spring blooms, the lilac has been a favorite garden plant since ancient times. For these reasons a group of lilac lovers met at Bayard Cutting Arboretum of the Long Island State Park

Commission one Saturday in May 1970 to discuss the advisability and prospect of founding a lilac society. By the following May, 1971, the first convention was held at Highland Botanical Park, Rochester.

In spite of sixty years of phenological record keeping, North American springtimes are capricious. The spring of 1971 was late and only a few of the early hybrid lilacs, *Syringa x hyacinthiflora*, were in bloom. Dr. John C. Wister of Swarthmore, among others, brought armsful of lilac bouquets to grace the lobby of the Flagship Hotel where the indoor meetings were held. Each year during lilac blooming periods of the several large lilac gardens of United States and Canada ILS has held its annual meetings.

The affairs of ILS are managed by a Board of Directors, one-third of whom are elected each year. The many facets of the Society's activities are the concern of some twenty committees plus twelve regional vice-presidents and an executive committee consisting of president, executive vice-president, secretary, treasurer and editor.

Members receive *Lilacs*, the quarterly journal, and have the privilege of participating in the annual plant sale. Those who attend annual meetings also participate in lilac auctions which often are opened to the public. Members also are encouraged to take active roles in the Society's functions. For twenty years ILS has functioned on a voluntary basis. Each member is free to offer his particular talent toward the fulfillment of ILS's goals of study, education and greater appreciation of the lilac.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

CORNISH, Ms. Beverley Place, 801 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601
HOMENUK, Ms. Judy, 1710 Cumberland Ave. So., Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7H 2M7
KAMPJES, Mrs. Rusty, IRO Alexandra, Central Otago, New Zealand
KLEIN, Ms. JoAnne, 28102 Shelter Cove Drive, Saugus, CA 91350
RENNEBAUM, Mr. Robert, HEARD GARDENS, Ltd.,
5355 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131
WOJTKUNSKI, Terry A., Zero Spartan Arrow Road, Littleton, MA 01480

## Arnold Arboretum Welcomes ILS

The staff of the Arnold Arboretum extends a cordial welcome to the 1992 International Lilac Society Convention to be held here May 14-16. In 1973 the Arboretum was host to ILS's Second Annual Convention, and we are happy to have you with us again. We hope you will enjoy the program we have arranged as well as our famous display of lilacs.

# Lilacs and the Arnold Arboretum By John H. Alexander III and Nan Blake Sinton

HEN you plant a lilac in your garden you are choosing a shrub that is part of this country's history. In 1767 Thomas Jefferson wrote in his garden book how he planted lilacs, and on Thursday, March 3, 1785, George Washington noted that he transplanted existing lilacs at Mount Vernon. The oldest living lilacs in North America may be those at the Governor Wentworth estate near Portsmouth, NH, believed to have been planted around 1750.

Although lilacs are thought of as a part of New England's heritage, the plants, like most of our citizens, are not native here. Of the 24 different species of lilacs, two derive from Europe and the rest from Asia.

The common lilac (Syringa vulgaris) originated in Eastern Europe. This species and hybrids of it were so frequently grown and selected by French nurserymen that their country became synonymous with fine lilacs; we know them as "French hybrids." The term "French hybrid" now commonly includes lilacs of that type even though they may not have been bred in France.

Known as plants for colder climates — they need a period of dormancy initiated by cold weather to trigger their flowering mechanism. Today lilacs

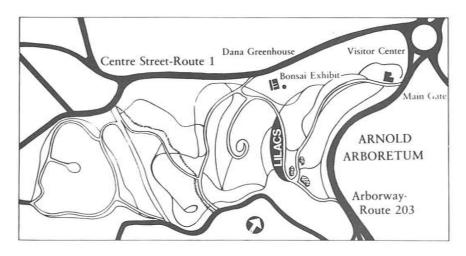


Bob Gilbert with 'Clyde Lucie'.

have become the subject of attention for Russian, American and Canadian hybridizers who are active in introducing a range of new selections for your garden.

Asia is the source of many of our lilacs including two of the most popular choices for the contemporary landscape, *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim' and *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin'. The compact later flowering 'Miss Kim' lilac is noted for its intense fragrance while the neat growth habit of 'Palibin' lilac fits well in the modern garden.

In Boston the Arnold Arboretum displays one of the oldest and largest collections of lilacs in North America and Lilac Sunday, celebrated the third Sunday in May, has become a tradition. Lilacs in the Arboretum's Jamaica Plain grounds actually predate the 1872 founding of the institution. [Benjamin Bussey acquired the land in 1806 and probably planted lilac hedgerows soon after. Those same hedgerows can still be seen on the east side of what is now called Bussey Hill.] Although attendance on any given Lilac Sunday is difficult to estimate, one noteworthy peak was in 1941 when 43,000 people are said to have visited.



Planting of the area where the Arnold Arboretum's lilac collection is located began in 1900, and many of the lilacs date from that time. The oldest lilac in the collection is a Japanese tree lilac (Syringa reticulata), started in 1876 from seed collected in Japan.

There are over 600 lilac plants of about 300 different kinds in the Arnold Arboretum collections. These include approximately 250 cultivars, those cultivated varieties that have been selected by nurserymen and hybridizers for certain horticultural merits, such as flower size and color. The remaining 47 kinds include 22 species and their botanical varieties, the

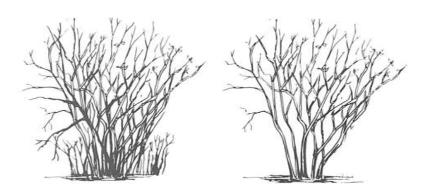
15

parents of many of today's hybrids. Together they provide a season of color and scent that extends for approximately five weeks each spring, with the peak for this area occurring the third week in May. Colors in the collection range from white and blue to pink, red, dark purple and the traditional lilac mauve. Blossoms can be single or double and vary in size as well as intensity of perfume, and the Japanese tree lilac, which blooms in early June, has its own unique scent, which more closely resembles privet (*Ligustrum*).

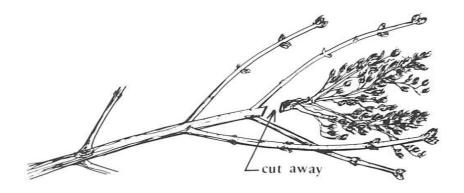
#### HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR LILACS

Lilacs grow best in full sun and well-drained soil and they take two to three years to become established in a new site. Once established they can live for centuries. Soil pH (alkalinity or acidity of the soil) may affect the plant's growth. Lilacs do well with a soil pH of 6-7. New England soils are often very acidic and require some modification for best lilac growth. Contact your County Extension Service for soil testing information and instructions for altering soil pH.

Two of the most often asked questions about lilacs are "When should I prune?" and "Why doesn't my plant flower?" The lilacs at the Arnold Arboretum are pruned immediately after flowering. When major pruning is required, about one third of the oldest stems are removed at ground level each year for three years. This encourages the growth of vigorous new stems from the base. By the end of the three years the plant should be fully rejuvenated with its blossoms once more at "nose level."



To ensure an abundance of flowers, "dead-head" by pruning off all spent blossoms and cutting the flowering stem back to a set of leaves, thus preventing seed formation and directing the energy usually spent on seeds to next year's flower production. If this is not done, good flowering years may be followed by bad.



Known to gardeners as being tough and long-lived, lilacs are often found still blooming beside old deserted farm houses. To reduce the likelihood of problems the plants should be fertilized in early spring and again right after flowering with an all-purpose fertilizer such as 10-10-10, well watered in. Remember to water during periods of drought. In our area the most serious insect pests are the lilac borer (Podosesia syringae var. syringae) and oyster-shell scale (Lepidosaphes ulmi). Borers signal their presence by leaving 1/8-inch holes in stems and larger branches, often one or two feet above ground level. Oyster-shell scale, which looks like small elongated brown or gray warts on the stems, can be controlled by pruning out the most heavily infested branches, followed by the application of a dormant oil spray. Contact your County Agricultural Agent for specific advice on pest identification and control methods.

Lilacs can fall victim to foliar (leaf) diseases in late summer and early fall. These include powdery mildew (Microsphaera alni) and leaf-roll necrosis. Powdery mildew fungus produces unsightly whitish patches on the leaves, but the problem tends to be more aesthetic than physiological. Leaf-roll necrosis appears to be a disease of the modern environment — a result of air pollution. Some lilacs have proven to be less susceptible to these diseases than others, and at the Arnold Arboretum there is an ongoing research program to record annual levels of disease injury and to select resistant individuals.

#### THE BEST LILACS

With the exception of the tree lilacs these plants have been selected to be at peak bloom during our traditional lilac time, in New England the third and fourth weeks of May.

Recommended plants were chosen on the basis of their overall landscape and floral qualities, including their resistance to the foliar diseases leaf roll necrosis and powdery mildew.

# Fifty of the Best Lilacs for the Gardens of New England Selected by John H. Alexander III

Cultivar	Flower Type
VIOLET BLOSSOMS	
Henri Robert	Double
Louvois6	Single
Mieczta	Single
"BLUE" BLOSSOMS	O
Dr. Chadwick <sup>6</sup>	Single
Laurentian*6	Single
Maurice Barres	Single
Madame Charles Souchet	Single
President Lincoln*	
PURPLE BLOSSOMS	
Adelaide Dunbar*	Double
Paul Hariot	Double
Paul Hariot	Double
Sarah Sands	
Sensation	and the second s
Zulu	Single
MAGENTA BLOSSOMS	
Charles Joly*	
Glory	
Mme. F. Morel	Single
Paul Thirion	Double
	Single
"YELLOW" BLOSSOMS	
Primrose	Single
"PINK" BLOSSOMS	
Catinat*6	Single
Charm	Single
Churchill <sup>6</sup>	Single
General Sherman*	Single
Katherine Havemeyer*	Double
Lucie Baltet	
Mme. Antoine Buchner	Double
Scotia <sup>6</sup>	Single
Vauban*6	
Virginite	
WHITE BLOSSOMS	
Jan Van Tol	Single
Jeanne d'Arc	
Joan Dunbar	
	Double
Kracavitea Mackey	
Krasavitsa Moskvy	Double
Marie Legraye	Double
Marie Legraye Maude Notcutt	DoubleSingleSingle
Marie Legraye Maude Notcutt Miss Ellen Willmott	DoubleSingleSingleDouble
Marie Legraye	DoubleSingleSingleDoubleDouble
Marie Legraye	DoubleSingleSingleDoubleDoubleDoubleDoubleDoubleDouble
Marie Legraye	DoubleSingleSingleDoubleDoubleDoubleDoubleDoubleDouble
Marie Legraye	Double Single Single Single Double Double Single Single Single Single
Marie Legraye  Maude Notcutt  Miss Ellen Willmott  Mme. Lemoine  Saint Margaret  Sister Justena <sup>6</sup> LILAC BLOSSOMS  Alphonse Lavallee	Double Single Single Double Double Single Double Single Single Double Single Double
Marie Legraye  Maude Notcutt  Miss Ellen Willmott  Mme. Lemoine  Saint Margaret  Sister Justena <sup>6</sup> LILAC BLOSSOMS  Alphonse Lavallee  Assessippi* <sup>6</sup>	Double Single Single Double Double Single Single Single Single Single Single Single Single Single
Marie Legraye Maude Notcutt Miss Ellen Willmott Mme. Lemoine Saint Margaret Sister Justena <sup>6</sup> LILAC BLOSSOMS Alphonse Lavallee Assessippi* <sup>6</sup> Excel* <sup>6</sup>	Double Single Single Double Double Single
Marie Legraye  Maude Notcutt  Miss Ellen Willmott  Mme. Lemoine  Saint Margaret  Sister Justena <sup>6</sup> LILAC BLOSSOMS  Alphonse Lavallee  Assessippi* <sup>6</sup>	Double Single Single Double Double Single Single Single
Marie Legraye Maude Notcutt Miss Ellen Willmott Mme. Lemoine Saint Margaret Sister Justena <sup>6</sup> LILAC BLOSSOMS Alphonse Lavallee Assessippi* <sup>6</sup> Excel* <sup>6</sup>	Double Single Double Double Single Double Single Double Single Single Single Single

Cultivar											Flower Type					
Michel Buchner														. Double		
Nokomis6														Single		

<sup>\*</sup>Indicates a high degree of fragrance 6Indicates an early-blooming hybrid

Recommended plants were selected based on their overall landscape and floral qualities, including their resistance to the foliar diseases, leaf roll necrosis and powdery mildew. Jack Alexander was assisted in the foliar disease research by Richard Dwight M.D., and in the fragrance project by Michelle Kramer and Ellen McFarland.

#### TEN FAVORITE UNCOMMON LILACS

The "best fifty" list includes only cultivars of Syringa vulgaris and the early-flowering S. x hyacinthillora because they have the general appearance of the traditional or common lilac. Hybrids and selections of the species listed below have leaves, flowers and fragrance that are different, and offer adventurous gardeners the opportunity to break with tradition.

Syringa protolaciniata

- S. meyeri
- S. meyeri 'Palibin'
- S. microphylla 'Superba'
- S. patula 'Miss Kim'
- S. pekinensis
- S. x prestoniae 'Agnes Smith'
- S. x prestoniae 'Miss Canada'
- S. pubescens
- S. reticulata



Bob Clark with 'President Lincoln'

# Noteworthy Lemoine Lilacs By June Taylor in "The Plantsman"

F thirty-four *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars listed in *The Plant Finder* as commercially available in the UK, 22 were raised by the firm of V. Lemoine et Fils of Nancy, many of them during the 1880s and '90s. Of 25 mock orange cultivars (excluding forms of *Philadelphus coronarius*), 16 are Lemoine's. Many of the best deutzias raised by Lemoine are still available, and several of the firm's weigelas; no doubt others, no longer commercially offered, are still in cultivation, for these are long-lived plants. No wonder that, for all the efforts of later breeders, it is the name Lemoine that springs to mind when these four genera, garden staples all, are mentioned.

Yet, as recently as 1986, at the Conservatoire et Jardins Botaniques de Nancy, where the Lemoine cultivars of Philadelphus are being assembled, only six were grown. A new role emerges for Britain's National Collections: to restore to the country of their origin the garden plants introduced to Britain and cherished here ever since. The National Collections of garden plants, as every reader of The Plantsman must surely know by now, have been established under the auspices of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG); but central funds are limited, and it is the Collection holders themselves who are responsible for their Collections, though all I am sure would acknowledge the support given by the secretariat. Some Collection holders, despite constraints of time and finance. nonetheless are able to reach out beyond the confines of these islands. So I cannot write about these four genera of Lemoine plants without referring to the holders of the National Collections. and especially without expressing my gratitude to Terry Exley of Leeds for the assistance he has given me in the research for this article. Terry is responsible for the Leeds City Council's National Collections of Philadelphus (the most developed), Deutzia, and Syringa (recently designated). Exchange of material and of information between Leeds and Nancy, especially as regards Philadelphus, is well in hand. The more extensive National Collection of Syringa species and cultivars is grown at Brighton (Brighton Borough Council Parks ¿ Recreation department); it was seriously damaged in the October 1987 gales and is being restored as fast as the other demands upon the overstretched staff allow. One of the two Weigela Collections is also in institutional hands: the City of Sheffield Botanic Gardens; the other, in private hands (N.D.J. Carne and K.E. Carne, Church Enstone, Oxon) has been very recently designated.

The Lemoine cultivars have in common an air of domesticity; these are shrubs which, in the main, belong in a gardened context with other products of the nurseryman's art rather than among untamed species. The lilacs and mock oranges also have the precious quality of fragrance.

#### Syringa

One must put into perspective the survival, in commerce, of the Lemoine lilacs. Those 22 vulgaris cultivars, one × hyacinthiflora cultivar, and one named selection of another species, are apparently all that remain on offer in the trade from 214 cultivars of vulgaris parentage, raised by Victor Lemoine and his successors, and several other lilacs with the blood of different species. The story of their creation has been told in a recent book by Father John Fiala, Lilacs (Christopher Helm), and in Mrs. McKelvey's classic The Lilac (New York, 1928). (Anyone relying on Fr. Fiala's book should note, incidentally, that he consistently spells the French cultivar names without their accents; Martyn Rix and Roger Phillips, in their latest book on shrubs, on the other hand, seem so anxious to avoid this solecism that even the name Lemoine gains a superfluous accent to become Lémoine.)

The lilac-breeding programme of the firm of V. Lemoine et Fils began in the early 1870s, using a double mutant known as S. vulgaris azurea plena, which had been developed in Belgium in 1843. The flowers were devoid of stamens and so ill-formed that the deformed pistils themelves were almost inaccessible. Nonetheless, Victor Lemoine decided to use this as a seed parent, using pollen from the best of the single-flowered lilacs, in an attempt to raise double-flowered cultivars of quality in a range of colours. M. Lemoine was not in good health, so it was his wife who climbed the ladders to dust with pollen the best of the pistils; one hundred flowers were pollinated in the first year from which only seven seeds were obtained. The following year, however, 30 seeds were harvested, and the new strain of double-flowered lilacs became a reality. The first three seedlings bloomed in 1876: "S. hybrida hyacinthiflora plena", to use Lemoine's own nomenclature, was a cross between 'Azurea Plena' and S. oblata, giving an early blooming shrub with double, very fragrant, gappy lilac blue flowers. 'Lemoinei' flowered in 1877 and was in commerce by 1879, receiving a First Class Certificate in 1884; it is a good clear near-blue double, deriving from 'Azurea Plena' and a LILACS, Winter 1992 20

single vulgaris cultivar, the same cross which gave 'Renoncule', 'Rubella Plena' (1881), and 'Mathieu de Dombasle' (1882). These early doubles, now of historical value only, were soon being crossed with the best available singles, to give 'Alphonse Lavallée' and 'Michel Buchner', both dating from 1885, 'Mons. Maxim Cornu' (a double mauve-pink), 'Président Grévy', 'Pyramidal' (double lilac) and 'Lamarck' (double 'blue'), all dating from 1886, 'Condorcet', pink 'Virginité', 'Léon Simon' in lilac, and magenta 'La Tour d'Auvergne' in 1888, pink 'Jean Bart' and lilac 'Emile Lemoine' in 1889. Victor Lemoine was the first to produce a clean, pure white: the creamy 'Marie Legraye', introduced some time before 1879 and much used in his search for the finest whites, crossed with an unknown double, produced the famous 'Mme Lemoine', introduced in 1890 and still one of the best double whites. Under Emile Lemoine, the firm also raised some of the finest near-blues: 'Firmament' of 1932, 'Ami Schott' in 1933, 'Mme Charles Soucher' in 1949 and others. A clone often used by Lemoine in creating these fine 'blues' was Baltet's 'Bleuâtre'.

Victor Lemoine died in 1911 at the age of almost ninety; well before this, his son Emile (1862-1943) had begun assisting him in the



'Joseflexa' Seedling of Orin Rogers

lilac breeding programme. The production of *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars continued after the death of Victor Lemoine, and Emile also raised hybrids between *S. oblata* var. *giraldii* and cultivars of *S. vulgaris*, to produce a further range of *S. × hyacinthiflora* cultivars, following upon those raised by his father using *S. oblata* and *S. vulgaris azurea plena*. Emile's *hyacinthiflora* cultivars are typified by 'Lamartine', a lanky shrub with mauve-pink flowers which received an RHS Award of Merit in 1927; they were not as popular with gardeners as the *vulgaris* cultivars, despite their early flowering which extends the lilac season by two weeks.

The last of the Lemoine lilacs to be introduced was 'Souvenir de Louis Chasset', in 1953, the works of Victor's grandson Henri. Two years later, the nursery closed.

All the Lemoine lilacs are described in the two works already referred to, so I will confine myself mainly to those that are still in commerce or in the Leeds National Collection, which did not suffer the 1987 gales and is well documented.

- S. × chinensis Willd. (S. protolaciniata × S. vulgaris). The Rouen lilac was not raised by Lemoine, but he did repeat the cross and raised many seedlings from it. It bears its large, arching panicles in May; typically of the conventional lilac colouring, it also comes in palest pink, almost white, in cv. Alba. A branch sport with slate grey flowers, blue-violet in the throat, was noticed by Victor Lemoine in a private garden in 1850 and introduced by him as 'Bicolor'. Later, in 1897, he introduced 'Duplex', raised from a cross between S. laciniata and a double-flowered S. vulgaris cultivar.
- S. × hyacinthiflora (Lemoine) Rehd. (S. oblata × S. vulgaris). Victor Lemoine first crossed these two species, using the double-flowered S. vulgaris azurea plena, to produce a race of early flowering lilacs; the original clone had double flowers. His son Emile repeated the cross using S. oblata var. giraldii and forms of S. vulgaris, which resulted in both single and double-flowered cultivars. One that is still offered is 'Buffon', with single mauve-pink flowers in dense trusses on a plant of the usual lax habit. It dates from 1921. A.M. 1961.
- S. sweginzowii Koehne & Lingelsh. One of the most beautiful lilac species, with pale pink, very fragrant, loose panicles borne in June. Lemoine introduced in 1915 a form which was called 'Superba', differing in its somewhat larger panicles. A.M. 1918.

# Syringa vulgaris; the garden lilacs

- 'Alphonse Lavallée'. 1885. Double lavender blue from purple buds: 'un beau bleu de ciel nuancé de violet, boutons purpurins' in the Lemoine catalogues; another describes the flowers as 'en forme de jacinthe'. A.M. 1893.
- 'Ambassadeur'. 1930. Light azure blue single, with a nearly white eye, from pinkish buds.'
- 'Belle de Nancy'. 1891. Lilac pink double fading to blue-mauve: 'rose satiné brillant avec le centre blanc'.
- 'Charles Joly'. 1896. A very popular double dark red-purple: 'lie de vin ou mûre noire, revers argentés'.
- 'Condorcet'. 1888. Double violet purple from redder buds, dense trusses:' 'bleu ardoisé, revers blancs'.
- 'Congo'. 1896. Single, red-purple buds opening to lilac purple, in large open trusses: 'rouge giroflée vif'.
- 'Etna'. 1927. Another dark purple single, redder than 'Congo', and later flowering.
- 'Firmament'. 1932. Single light azure blue opening from pink buds.
- 'Genéral Pershing'. 1924. Double flowers in long trusses, giving a bicolour effect of lilac pink and pale violet with the paler pink reverse clearly visible.
- 'Katherine Havemeyer'. 1922. Another widely grown lilac, very fine with large, double lavender flowers fading towards pink. A.M. 1933. A.G.M. 1969.
- 'Mme Antoine Buchner'. 1909. Long narrow trusses filled with very double or hose-in-hose flowers, deep wine purple in bud opening to soft mauve pink. A.G.M. 1969.
- 'Mme Lemoine'. 1890. Still one of the most famous lilacs and among the best of the double whites, with erect compact trusses freely borne even on young plants. A seedling of 'Marie Legraye' (single white) crossed with a double lilac. A.M. 1891. F.C.C. 1897. A.G.M. 1937.
- 'Maréchal de Bassompierre'. 1897. Double red-purple: 'rose carmin trés foncé, boutons carmin'.
- 'Maréchal Foch'. 1924. Large trusses of carmine pink buds opening to mauve pink and fading towards lilac. Early flowering. A.M. 1935.
- 'Masséna'. 1923. Low-growing shrub with wide loose panicles of large flowers, of deep reddish purple. A.M. 1928. A.G.M. 1930.
- 'Michel Buchner'. 1885. Long narrow panicles of lilac, white-eyed double flowers: 'lilas pâle un peu rose'. A.M. 1891.
- 'Mrs Edward Harding'. 1922. Semi-double red purple, fading to

- pink, in large wide trusses. A.G.M. 1969.
- 'Paul Deschanel'. 1924. Elegant trusses of double mauve-pink flowers opening from carmine buds.
- 'Paul Thirion'. 1915. Large rounded panicles of very double flowers, carmine in bud opening rosy red and fading to lilac pink. Mrs McKelvey likens the flowers to double violets. A.G.M. 1969.
- 'President Grévy'. 1886. Large loose trusses of deep pink buds opening to near cobalt blue with a paler margin. A.M. 1892.
- 'Souvenir d'Alice Harding'. 1938. A late flowering double warm white, with tall panicles.
- 'Vestale'. 1910. A vigorous shrub flowering from base to top, with well filled pyramidal panicles of single white flowers. A.G.M. 1931.





Taken of Colonel Schenker's place in Freedom, New Hampshire.

# Bibliography

The chief source for this article has been the catalogues of the firm of V. Lemoine et Fils, from which the descriptions in French have been quoted. The genus *Syringa* has been the subject of many articles and books. The two major works are:

McKELVEY, S.D. 1928. The Lilac; a Monograph. Macmillar, New York, FR. JOHN L. FIALA, 1988. Lilacs. The Genus Syringa. Christopher Helm.

A useful article on *Philadelphus* appeared in *Arnoldia*, Vol. 25 No. 5, June 18, 1965: 'The Mock Oranges', by Donald Wyman. Terry Exley made available to me correspondence and lists of taxa of *Philadelphus* sent to him by the curator of the conservatoire et Jardins Botaniques de Nancy.

Emile Lemoine published a 'Monographie horticole du genre Deutzia' in Jour. Soc. Nat. Hort, 1902, Vol. 3, p.298.

As always, the busy researcher falls back upon work done by others, as well as turning to original sources; I consulted the invaluable:

BEAN, W.J. 1986-80. Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, 4 vols, 8th (revised) edition, John Murray.

KRUSSMAN, GERD. 1984. Manual of Cultivated Broad-leaved Trees and Shrubs. Trans. Michael E. Epp. Batsford, 1984.



The Hermitage Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia

# LETTERS...

# St. Petersburg, Russia: City of Lilacs

To the Editor:

When I planned my trip to St. Petersburg, Russia, in late June 1991, I did not realize I would be there at the height of the lilac bloom. St. Petersburg is a city of lilacs; great drifts of bushes line the parks and many of the great buildings are skirted with colorful displays of lilacs in various shades.

There were fairly recent plantings of the newer hybrid varieties. The dacha in Alexandria Park had several bushes of a lovely rosy pink variety that was not labeled lining its front driveway. The most tantalizing display was in a glassed-in alcove of the Hermitage Winter Palace which included five or six large-flowered bushes of various colors viewed only from the end of the row.

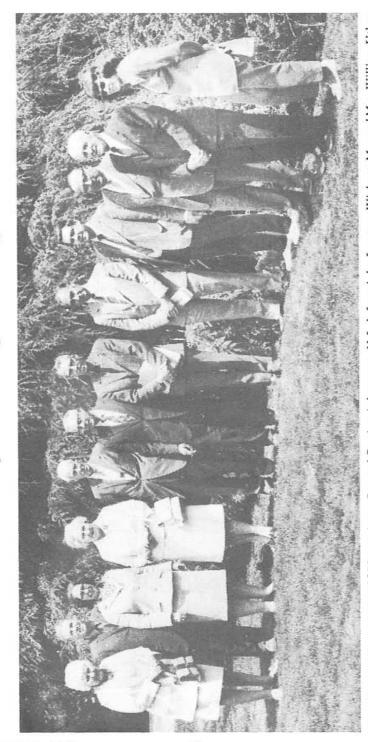
The staff at Hortus Botanicus (the botanical gardens) of the city were very friendly and obliging. They guided me to their collection of lilacs which included glorious specimens of Mechta and Krasavitsa Moskvy in full bloom. They also presented me with a brochure of the gardens and a catalog of the specimens included in their collection.

/s/ Frances Davies, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



The Hermitage Winter Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia

# From The Bayard Cutting Founding In 1971



Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Wilder, Dr. Robert Clark, Walter Oakes, Dennis Brown, Franklin Niedz, Orville M. Steward, Fred Van Orden and Founding Members at May 1971 meeting at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, N.J., left to right: Lourene Wishart, Mr. and Mrs. William Utley, Mrs. Franklin Niedz. (Not in picture: Case Westerbeek, Ellen Steward, who was hostess and Fr. John L. Fiala the photographer.

# INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY STANDING COMMITTEES

#### I. ADMINISTRATIVE

#### EXECUTIVE

President . . . Daniel K. Ryniec Executive VP William A. Utley Membership

Sec'y ...... Walter Oakes Recording

Sec'y ..... Sally Schenker Treasurer Walter E. Eickhorst Editor ..... Robert B. Clark

#### BUDGET AND FISCAL

Walter E. Eickhorst, Chm. Walter W. Oakes Trevor Cole

# GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Robert B. Clark, Chm. Peter Ely

#### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

7. California... Reva Ballreich 1. New England . 2. Atlantic . . . . . John Carvill 8. Great Basin . . . Merle Moore

3. South . . . . Robert Forsythe 9. Southwest

4. Central Charles Lamprecht 10. Canada East ... F. Tortorici

Plains . . . . . Max Peterson 11. Canada West . . Roger Vick 6. Northwest .. Reva Ballreich 12. Europe ... Colin Chapman

AUDIT: Don Wedge, Ch., W. Stampe, Dr. Owen M. Rogers

#### II. CONVENTION

#### CONVENTION

William A. Utley, Chm. Dr. Louis C. Erickson Robert Gilbert

#### CREDENTIALS

Walter W. Oakes, Chm. W.H. Martin, Co-Chm. Fllen Steward Charles Holetich

#### AUCTION

John Carvill, Chairman

Marie Chaykowski Dan Cohen Walter Eickhorst Elsie Meile

Pauline Fiala Max Peterson Col. Hanssen Schenker

#### III. EDUCATIONAL

#### **EDUCATION**

Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman

Dr. Craig Hibben John H. Alexander III Dr. Ed Hasselkus

# Dr. Louis Frickson

Trevor Cole W. Stampe

#### RESEARCH

Dr. C. Hibben, Chairman Dr. Ed Hasselkus Dr. Louis Erickson

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman Robert B. Clark Charles D. Holetich

## IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL

#### HONORS AWARDS

Pauline Fiala, Chairman Dr. Joel Margaretten R.B. Clark

#### LEGAL

William A. Utley, Chm.

#### ARCHIVES

Lois Utley, Chairman Mahel Harkness Orville Steward

#### V. LILACS

#### REGISTRATION

Freek Vrugtman, Registrar

#### LILAC EVALUATION

Charles D. Holetich, Chairman Robert Hoepfl Walter W. Oakes

#### DISTRIBUTION

William A. Utley, Chm. Charles Davis Robert Hoepfl Dr. Joel Margaretten

William Heard

#### SEED EXCHANGE

William Heard, Chairman Charles Holetich Max Peterson Don Wedge Don Wedge

#### VI. MEMBERSHIP

#### MEMBERSHIP

Winfried Martin, Chm. Walter W. Oakes William Horman

#### NOMINATIONS

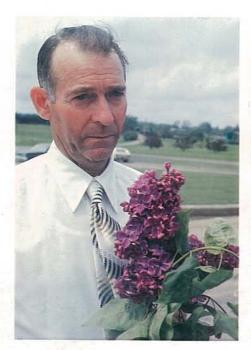
Orville Steward, Chm. Robert S. Gilbert Peter Ely

#### ELECTIONS

Pauline L. Fiala, Chm. Mollie Pesata Sally Schenker W. H. Martin Plus Regional VPs

#### PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dr. Joel Margaretten, Chm. Reva Ballreich Sabra Gilbert





Above: Slater's Pink seedling unregistered called 'Irene'. Pictured is Irene Slater.

Left: L. Slater with his 'Agincourt Beauty'

Below: 'Slater's Elegance'

