

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

July 14, 1948. Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.

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The annual meeting of the North American Lily Society was called to order by the president, Dr. L. H. MacDaniels, at 10:15 a.m. on July 14, 1948, at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass., with 19 members present (increased by those coming in later). A resumé of minutes of the preceding meeting were read by the secretary, and approved with one correction. The treasurer's report (appended) was read by Dr. Philip Brierley and acceptance moved by Mr. Odell, subject to the report of the auditing committee consisting of William Horsford and Carl Wilson. A balance of \$1104.19 in treasury was reported.

The matter of a nominating committee to report a slate for the coming year came up, inasmuch as the Society had failed in 1947 to elect such a committee to serve this year. Mr. Odell moved that last year's committee be elected with a substitute for N. E. Pfeiffer. Dr. Clark was nominated by Mr. Macneil, seconded by Mr. Stewart. Nominations were closed on motion. Mr. Odell's motion was carried and the secretary instructed to cast a ballot for Dr. Arno H. Nehrling, chairman, Dr. George O. Clark, Mrs. Norman Henry, Robert Stewart, and George L. Slate. This committee was to report at the afternoon business meeting.

Proceeding to committee reports, Mr. Slate reported for the publications committee that the Yearbook was assembled and in page proof state. He had a dummy copy available for examination. He proposed that financing be taken up later, but stressed two points, that promptness was important; he had experienced difficulty in the observation of the December 1 deadline, with the last paper coming in February 15. Second on the editing side, rules needed to be drawn up and this would be done before the next yearbook was assembled.

For the research committee report, Mr. Brierley said that the chairman, Dr. Emsweller, was in the west, and that the formal report would be made up by Mr. Robert Stewart and himself at 11 o'clock.

In the absence of the chairman, Miss Isabella Preston, there was no report from the awards committee. No schedule has yet been drawn up for judging. Dr. Clark called attention to the fact that a specimen should be judged against its own possibilities. For example when one kind is up to 100 per cent of its potentiality, another 40 per cent for its kind, the former should be first, although it might not be as striking as the second. Miss Pfeiffer remarked that it would be a service to garden clubs to publish standards. Mr. Wilson emphasized considering the plant.

Mr. Lawrence, chairman of the nomenclature committee, submitted no report. It is clear that there is work to be done in this division.

At this point Mr. Macneil asked for reservations for the luncheon at the Hotel Gardiner.

Dr. MacDaniels spoke of relationships with the American Horticultural Society. In the By-Laws, it is indicated that there should be affiliation with the American Horticultural Society according to pattern. This needs agreement of both societies and so is not in force. Giving a brief history of developments, Dr. MacDaniels told of the endeavor to work toward affiliation last fall, when a letter to the supposed president reached the hands of Mr. B. V. Morrison, who desired propositions from our group first, to be approved or disapproved by his organization, rather than the conference the Lily Society sought. Later Dr. MacDaniels made contact with the vice president, Mr. Lee, and eventually with the president, Mr. Youngman, so that a very thorough conference took place at Beltsville on April 3, 1948. A morning session interrupted by lunch was continued in the afternoon to a point of considerable agreement. A letter embracing the points agreed upon was written by Dr. MacDaniels to Mr. Youngman, president of the American Horticultural Society. There has been no final action by the latter society.

Mr. Wilson asked Dr. MacDaniels to outline briefly the advantages and disadvantages of affiliation with the American Horticultural Society. He indicated

that he thought the Lily Society would stand on its own feet. Dr. MacDaniels replied that there had been substantial help in the years of the Lily Committee. Advantages lie in help in underwriting the yearbook, in use of lists of purchasers of previous yearbooks (now in the hands of the Horticultural Society), advantages in mailing, in secretarial work, storing the yearbooks, etc.—a number of tasks someone must do.

Dr. MacDaniels indicated that this group must decide whether we should continue negotiations with the American Horticultural Society. Especially with regard to the yearbook, there was another course of action open. He spoke of the aid of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and its generosity even beyond the show.

Miss Alida Livingston said with regard to the American Horticultural Society, that in the early stages the magazine was important in reaching persons in isolated spots and those who hesitate in joining a young organization until sure of it. On question by Mr. Stewart, it was brought out that the American Horticultural Society had a membership of 2000, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society over 10,000.

Mr. Slate said the Lily Society was short of funds. The American Horticultural Society had published previous yearbooks, and if there were profits, had kept them. (Almost no profits on last book because of low price.) Mr. Slate felt negotiations were hampered chiefly by one person. The present yearbook was financed from the treasury and loans. We must have profits to go on well.

Mrs. Henry spoke of the quality of the National Horticultural Magazine, indicating that it was saved where Horticulture went into the wastebasket. Dr. Clark questioned if this was true in the last year, saying that it was authoritative and was now cherished.

Mr. Odell said that serial magazines might or might not be kept, but that yearbooks were different. He spoke of getting circulation of the yearbook; if established, one had something. One needs advertising and Horticulture goes to

40,000. Can you get membership through an organization of 2000 or better through a yearbook?

Mrs. Henry: "There are several ads in Horticulture."

Mr. Odell: "The Massachusetts Horticultural Society would probably give space without being paid, if some arrangement for slight profit on yearbook could be made. There is good relation and cooperation between the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and several plant societies."

Dr. MacDaniels: "The question at the time is 'Does the Society direct the officers and directors to proceed with negotiations with the American Horticultural Society?'"

Mr. Wilson: "What is the cost of publishing the yearbook?"

Mr. Slate: "\$3000 for 2000 copies. As to selling the yearbook, the American Horticultural Society has the mailing list." As to the National Horticultural Magazine, Mr. Slate felt no inclination that the Society should contribute lily notes unless there was cooperation from the American Horticultural Society. Mr. Odell suggested that furnishing review material got better results.

Dr. MacDaniels: "Shall we wait for an answer on our proposals to the American Horticultural Society? These things take time, like negotiating with Russia."

Mr. Odell moved that we empower directors to continue negotiations until they decide there is no possible basis. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clark. Mr. Wilson commented that he thought we should be on our feet, with no prejudice to either horticultural organization. There was further comment on a separate series of the yearbook, the cost in relation to the size of the edition; if large enough number, could be \$2.00 to members, according to Dr. MacDaniels. Mr. Macneil said a price of \$2.25 to \$2.50 would move 300 copies in his place.

The motion to leave the decision on affiliation with the American Horticultural Society in the hands of the directors was carried.

Mr. Slate said there was \$2000 available in the treasury and loans, and that another thousand was needed.

Dr. Clark in looking at the yearbook copy moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Slate as editor; seconded by Mr. Odell. Motion carried.

At 11:30, the program proceeded to the report on current research by Dr. Robert Stewart and Dr. Philip Brierley. Dr. Stewart said that research at Beltsville the past year covered two things, one of which was the continuation of studies with colchicine. He gave a background on the work, speaking of the chromosomes as determiners of heredity, with 24 in 12 pairs as the normal in lily. The tetraploid has more doses of determiners in the double number and has advantages in larger flowers, robustness or better texture. Often there is sterility and longer flowering. On the other hand, if diploid is sterile, often the tetraploid is fertile.

Spontaneous occurrence of tetraploids is not noted in lilies. Colchicine affects the individual cell and only when it is dividing, by affecting the splitting chromosomes. It works on growing points such as stems, young seedlings, scales in lily, best if it effects the initial for the bulblet at the start. If treated later the situation may be mixed, with only some of the cells tetraploid.

He gave methods for treating scales and criteria for selecting those bulbs affected by the treatment, both young and at flowering.

The second phase of research covered endeavors to overcome incompatibilities. Most lilies are self sterile, many are intersterile. Failure to get seed set may be due to genetic factors, pollen not germinating or developing too briefly. When growth promoting substances were used as an aid, some set seed was secured which did not occur without their use. Most successful was naphthalene acetamide, at a concentration of 0.1 per cent in lanolin.

Other work covered attempts to speed up the time from seed to flowering, back crosses in *Lilium T.A. Havemeyer* and *L. auratum x speciosum* hybrids, and work

on maternal inheritance, especially on *L. superbum*.

Mr. Wilson: "Any question of increase of number of petals being related to chromosomes?"

Answer: "Not usually. It is possible if consistent year after year to have change in inheritance.

Mr. Horsford raised the question of precautions in handling colchicine. It is toxic and should be handled with caution since it may cause overgrowth around cuts.

Mr. Brierley spoke of the occurrence of black scale disease, an anthracnose, showing black whiskers with a hand lens. It is not too damaging, but looks bad. This can be controlled by Puratize, an organic mercury compound. He suggested Easter lilies destined for the garden be grown from seed in order to avoid this disease.

Dr. Neil Stuart's work on forcing for bloom by cool temperature in storage has led to regulating time for Easter lilies quite accurately. With other lilies, some factors still require working out.

Mr. Brierley made some comments on virus disease in lilies and said virus can be carried from sprout to sprout in storage by aphids.

Mr. Wilson: "What is the best fungicide for basal rot?"

Mr. Brierley: "Arasan is effective on scales, but no proof that it is good on the bulb as a whole. But it does not hurt."

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 for lunch at the Gardiner Hotel, which was arranged by Mr. Alan Macneil. Twenty-nine members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal and a brief interval during which Dr. Clark acted as M. C. and identified each person present with appropriate remarks.

At 2:00 p.m., Mr. Slate addressed an open meeting on lilies with emphasis on garden forms, their diversity, methods of culture, diseases, and gave a showing of excellent Kodachromes.

The afternoon business meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m., with discussion of the next meeting place as the first item. Mr. Slate moved that the sentiment of the group indicated Beltsville, Maryland, on June 17 and 18, but that the committee be empowered to change if necessary for expediency. Seconded by Mrs. Harris. Mr. Brierley commented that this may not be the best time for greenhouse material. The motion was carried.

Discussion of the size of the edition of the yearbook brought out that 1000 copies would cost \$2000, 2000 cost \$3000. Mr. Wilson asked if the type could not be kept until possible to foretell probable sale. Mr. Slate said the money consideration was too great to hold the type.

Mr. Wilson moved the publications committee be instructed to go ahead with 1000 copies, but leave it to the board of directors to change the number if further developments warrant. Seconded. Motion carried.

A report of the auditing committee by Mr. Horsford that the accounts were satisfactory was followed by acceptance of the report, with commendation for Mr. Brierley for his report.

A report of the nominating committee by Mr. Nehrling, who asked the question "Why change horses before reaching the middle of the stream?" led to this slate nominating for reelection as president, Dr. L. H. MacDaniels of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; vice president, Prof. E. F. Palmer, Vineland Experiment Station, Ontario, Canada; treasurer, Dr. Philip Brierley, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland; secretary, Dr. Norma E. Pfeiffer, Boyce Thompson Institute, Yonkers, New York; trustees, Prof. Victor Ries, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, and Mr. Alan Macneil of North Springfield, Vermont. Mr. Nehrling moved the report be accepted. Mr. Wilson moved the secretary be instructed to cast a ballot for these officers. Seconded. Motion was carried.

The nominating committee to serve in 1949 was the next order of business. The following nominations were made: Mr. Wilson nominated by Mr. Stewart, seconded

by Mr. Slate; Mr. Kline nominated by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Slate; Miss Preston nominated by Mr. Macneil, seconded by Mr. Slate; Mr. Horsford nominated by Dr. Nehrling, seconded by Mr. Stewart; Miss Henry nominated by Mr. Cass, seconded by Mr. Slate. A motion that the secretary cast a ballot for these five was carried. Mr. Slate moved that Miss Henry be chairman, seconded by Mr. Stewart; motion carried.

Mr. Wilson moved that a committee be appointed to set up a Kodachrome collection. Carried. Mrs. Harris was appointed to head this committee. Miss Henry suggested that a black and white slide with an invitation to garden club members to join the Lily Society be prepared to go out with the set when rented.

The importance of seed exchange was emphasized. Exchange of pollen was suggested by Mr. Horsford. The need for geographical blocking out of field days and variation in time of the show were both brought out. Mr. Slate suggested that with a board of directors widely scattered, an executive board comprised of a smaller group would facilitate quick action. Mrs. Henry suggested an increase in life members' dues to \$100, to be paid in four installments. Mr. Cass moved, seconded by Mr. Stewart, that the price of the yearbook to non-members be \$3.00. Carried. Mr. Stewart, seconded by Miss Livingston, moved that for members, the price be \$2.50 for additional copies. Carried.

Due to an article in the Constitution, it was pointed out that 23 members joining in May and June would get two yearbooks on one year's dues. Mr. Macneil suggested that large book companies be seen as to the possibility of handling the next edition, which might then be available in regular bookstores.

Mr. Slate moved that the Society take action to express their deep appreciation to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for their generous hospitality. Seconded. The motion was carried in a rising vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Norma E. Pfeiffer*

Norma E. Pfeiffer, Secretary