

Annual Report from the Research Committee.

1969/70

The chairman of the Research Committee wishes to apologize to the Board of Directors for a year in which little has been accomplished. Due to a very unexpected and heavy professional work load, he has been unable to carry out most of his plans.

During discussions with NALS members and other lily enthusiasts, it was found that there is a considerable lack of knowledge regarding results of lily research, and several members suggested that the Research Committee try to fill this gap.

A second field of urgent need is the encouragement and, if possible, financial support of lily research itself.

After discussion and correspondence with other societies which are in a similar situation, the following suggestions are made:

- 1.) That time be provided at the Annual Meetings for the presentation of new research on lilies.

Details: A fair amount of lily research is being conducted, but rarely comes to the attention of NALS members, because it is published in journals which are not readily accessible to members. Often, it does not even come to the attention of other lily researchers, because they work in different disciplines. The presentations should be limited in time (20 minutes?), should be open to ample discussion, and should definitely be member-oriented. Abstracts should be published in either the Yearbook or the Newsletter. It is hoped that this would not only help to bring research results to the attention of members, but would also help to attract people actively engaged in lily research to the meetings, thus providing a group of specialists who can answer some of the questions which arise at each meeting.

- 2.) That the Research Committee collect and publish the titles of all publications which have to do with lily research.

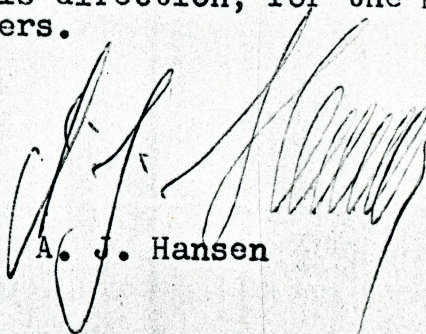
Details: At the moment, there seems to be no lily research bibliography which is published regularly. If the NALS could provide such a service, it would be of considerable help to both members and lily researchers. The committee could test the feasibility of this for a year, if the Board of Directors feels that it is a useful project, and if general response can be tested by publication in either the yearbook or the Newsletter.



- 3.) That the NALS explore the possibilities and legal technicalities of establishing a special fund which can be used to stimulate and support lily research.

Details: The present trend in agricultural and horticultural research is toward an approach by discipline, instead of by crop. From our point of view, this is very deplorable, because researchers will be less and less interested in "the lily as a lily", and will regard lilies more and more as tools for basic research. In many cases, even a very small grant together with definitely expressed interest from an organized group like the NALS can counteract this trend. Voluntary financial contributions from members or organizations could be placed in a separate fund; this fund could be self-liquidating, or could be permanent, with payments or grants being made from the interest earned. To be free from "internal politics" (if any?), it should be administered by a board different from the Board of Directors.

We hope that you will find time to discuss these points, which we think can make a valuable contribution to our society. Project 1 and 3 may start on a modest scale, but we think that the time has come to move in this direction, for the mutual benefit of members and researchers.



A. J. Hansen