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Publicity: Leslie Laking, Burlington  
Awards: R. S. Barber, Georgetown  
Newsletter: T. Ross Martin, Binbrook  
Librarian: to be appointed

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 24th - 8 P.M.

Directors' Meeting.

Sunday, April 18th, 2 P.M.

Annual Meeting for all members.

Both meetings in lecture room  
of R. B. G. Headquarters Bldg.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We begin another year realizing that anything we may do now could be anti-climatic after the activities of the past twelve months. Highlighted by the successful N.A.L.S. annual meeting and show, all the functions carried out indicate a growing interest in lilies and the society.

To keep this interest alive we should now try to encourage it by continuing a programme of meetings, shows, bulb auctions and any other function that will promote the growing of lilies. Some thought might be given to ways and means of furthering the displays of lilies in public gardens. The planting in the Royal Botanical Gardens is now becoming well established and reveals to what perfection they may be grown. It also proves that Canadian hybridizers are among the best and should be supported by our purchase of Canadian hybrid lilies.

As in all organizations most of the work is done by too few and there comes a time when one of these would like to step aside and let someone else take over. We meet with this situation every year, and it becomes increasingly difficult to find replacements. We ask that any member willing to spend a little time in helping with the operation of the society, make themselves known.

It will not be too long before we are once again digging into new experiences with this hobby (or vocation) of the wonderful world of lilies. In the meantime, we may be thinking with enthusiasm about our successes or pondering ways of overcoming our failures. Whatever it may be, we can all increase these experiences and this enthusiasm and perhaps learn how to grow what has frustrated us in the past by active participation in the Society.

Robert S. Barber  
President, O.R.L.S.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Another year has rolled around and with it a reminder that membership dues for the year 1971 are now payable. It's so easy to let it slip one's mind, and yet too few occasions arise when you can be reminded, so why not drop your two or three dollars in an envelope now and mail it to the treasurer. She will appreciate it, and at the same time it will save the society money by not having to send you a reminder a bit later.

We have assembled some interesting lily reading herein, and thanks go to Percy Wright, Charles Robinson, Emerson Hickling and Jim Taylor for their contributions. Many people have written to me expressing how much the newsletters are appreciated and I want to thank them for their kind remarks. However, these compliments to a large degree, must go to those who have been so thoughtful to send in contributions to our Newsletter. Without them, it would not exist, and I too want to say how much it is appreciated. It makes an editor's job so much more rewarding.

Each of us in his or her own way can make a useful contribution to the Society, and while we all have one common interest in growing lilies, each of us came upon our hobby in a different way. Whether through buying lilies from a department store or nursery catalogue, from contact with a gardening friend who grows lilies, or perhaps being enchanted with a few colourful pictures in a magazine article - something stimulated your desire to grow lilies, and from that point you have a story to tell. No matter whether you grow one or a hundred lilies there has never been, to my knowledge, a grower of lilies who would not admit that he could learn more. Many fascinating pieces of information come to me from even the most innocent of remarks. Clues that I can count on to provide me with material for a future article. What I mean to say is this - your experiences with lilies are meaningful and we would like to share them with you.

Take for example, the lily "G. C. Creelman". Few hybrid trumpets - even by to-day's standard - have improved on the form of this Lily. It has been grown in gardens for nearly 50 years, and while the stock which exists to-day is probably virus infected to a great degree, it continues to thrive and multiply. If you grow "G. C. Creelman" where did you obtain it? Jim Taylor has kindly provided us with information relating to the fact that probably all stock now grown as "G. C. Creelman" came from the Patterson stock (see article-pages 7 & 8). Patterson supplied this clone to the late Bill Brown of Fergus, Ont. who distributed it commercially. Mr. A. K. Thomas' stock at Rockwood Ontario is apparently from the Patterson clone, and this in turn is the origin of Creelman offered by Greenock Farms of Georgetown (Sandy Best) in the late 50's and early 60's. Can you trace your bulb of "G. C. Creelman" to any other source than this?

Norman Smith of Millbrook brought some fine bulbs of L. callosum to our auction last fall. Such fine bulbs in fact, they became quite a conversation piece, and tempted Mr. Smith to check back into his records to see when his stock was first obtained. He writes that the two original bulbs were purchased from the late E. O. Clement of Inglewood Lily Gardens in November 1948 and have travelled from Haliburton to Bernville Quebec, and thence to Millbrook where they still thrive. Two other relics from that time also grow in Mr. Smith's garden - Lilliam Cummings and Coronation.

The 1971 issue of the Lily Yearbook of the Royal Horticultural Society will be the last of the series. Costs of printing have forced the R. H. S. to discontinue some of its specialty yearbooks. Orders will be accepted by Mr. Fred M. Abbey, North Ferrisburg, Vermont 05473 at \$5.00 each, postage paid.



As most lily growers are now aware, the new hybrid, L. candidum var. Salonikae x L. monadelphum, was first exhibited at the 1970 Hamilton show. Since that date I have received many letters, some from abroad, asking for more particulars than were given by Dr. R. W. Lighty in the N. A. L. S. September Quarterly Bulletin.

It was in the mid-fifties that I first decided to attempt this cross, but at that time was unable to acquire Salonikae bulbs. I therefore obtained some seeds from England; these flowered for the first time in 1961. In the fall of 1962 I planted four of these bulbs, together with a few monadelphum, in a cold greenhouse. Because monadelphum remains underground for a full year after planting the cross could not be attempted until 1964. In this year the cross was made both ways. No auxins or prepared extracts were used. No aids such as cut styles or hot water treatments were used to effect successful fertilization. It was just a normal cross. Within a short space of time - and to my astonishment - most of the flowers of both parents showed signs of fertilization. Some immature pods shrivelled and died later, but about five or six pods on each parent continued to swell. I well remember fretting at the time because the temperature in the cold house rose on several occasions to almost 120° F, believing that such heat would prevent normal development of the pods. My present thinking on this subject has changed considerably, and it could well be that this additional heat may have been a contributing factor in the production of good seed.

On ripening, the capsules were carefully examined. Those from L. monadelphum yielded nothing but chaff, but Salonikae pods contained a few small (and somewhat shrivelled) seeds but which had embryos. Sown in 1965, five seedlings resulted and continued to grow and thrive without any special attention.

Thus was this hybrid surprisingly produced at the first attempt.

In the fall of 1968 these five seedlings were planted in a bed. At the end of June the following year one seedling had two small spikes, one had three flowers and the other had one. It was only then that I knew it was a valid hybrid. I reported it to George Slate.

All five seedlings flowered in 1970 and had almost finished blooming by the end of June. However, a small daughter bulb from one of the five seedlings produced a late flowering spike. It was not a good representative of the hybrid and I was very hesitant about exhibiting it. A much better spike would have been preferred for such an important show. But exhibit it I did and it earned the Earl Hornback Award for the seedling showing the greatest advance in lily breeding.

During the past year I made careful notes on the performance and characteristics of this hybrid. I herewith give my observations. The bulb is broadly ovoid; the scales are white with one or two outer ones being yellow or bronzy-yellow. The bulbs, like those of L. candidum, grow very close to the soil surface. In spite of the fact that my home is located high in the Caledon Hills and very exposed, no winter protection has been given at any time. Last year the snow did not leave until the end of March, yet at this time all seedlings had fully mature leaves at the base.

When fully grown, the spikes attained a height of up to four feet six inches and were clothed from the ground up with rather luxuriant foliage,

(Continued - page 4)



which resembled *L. candidum* rather than *L. monadelphum*. Leaves, to seven and one half inches long and one and a quarter inches wide. The flowers are borne in umbels or semi-umbels, outward and slightly downward facing. The colour is cream, deepening in the throat, and with a very few minute spots also deep in the throat. There is also a narrow, wine coloured ring in the exterior of the segments which replaces the wine coloured band on the *L. monadelphum* flowers. Each stem bears from six to nine flowers. The pollen is bright golden yellow but the anthers are somewhat shorter and thicker than those of *candidum*. Flower segments to three and one half inches long with the greenish-white filaments being fused at the base, again typical of *monadelphum*. The flowers are strongly, but pleasantly fragrant, scenting up quite a large area of the garden. Incidentally, there is no summer die-back as is characteristic of *candidum*; a few bulblets were found at the base of each stem.

My initial impression of this hybrid is that it should prove to be a good garden plant. In addition, of course, it has much to offer to a hybridizing programme involving other species of the *liriotypus* (*candidum*) section. I did manage to obtain a few good seeds this past summer, but certainly not as many as I had expected. More data is required about the seed-producing capacity of this hybrid.

One important question remains to be answered. How susceptible or resistant is this hybrid to botrytis? No fungicide of any kind was used until 1970 when it was kept covered at all times throughout the growing season. This was, of course, necessary if healthy seeds were to be had. Although no disease of any kind has been observed through the years, I still feel that the botrytis problem may rear its ugly head sometime in the future. It is a question for the future.

Charles Robinson  
Alton, Ontario

#### BENLATE - THE NEW SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDE

Much has been reported internationally about this new systemic fungicide, but this is the first report in our Newsletter since it should be made available this spring in Canada. Glowing reports from the use of Benlate (Benomyl Fungicide) on lilies for the control of fusarium (bulb rot) and botrytis are but two of the uses of this new chemical product, but these are of special interest to lily growers.

Basal bulb rot, caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum*, once introduced in the soil through planting a contaminated stock may survive for many years, and healthy stock planted in such a soil may soon become infected. Treating the bulbs with Benlate has proven to be very effective in preventing infection of healthy stock that has to be planted in locations where lilies have been grown previously. While the degree of effectiveness in the control of botrytis cannot be agreed upon by many authorities, reports from The Netherlands, and more recently the United States, indicate a good degree of control if a fairly systematic program of spraying is followed.

Reports presented at the International Lily Conference in London in 1969 were high in praise of Benlate. After extensive testing in the United States, it was released for sale in the U. S. in 1970, through Dupont. Mr. Kenneth Begg of the Hort. Research Institute of Ontario at Vineland advised that Benlate should be released for sale in Canada this spring. A further report will follow this up, but indications are that while the

(continued)



## BENLATE - (Continued)

Benlate is rather expensive (\$20.00 for 2 pounds - U. S.) it has a low rate of application - about 8oz. to 100 U.S. gals. Providing both curative as well as residual action, Benlate should be a promising aid to gardeners. Unlike many systemics, the toxicity of Benlate for humans is rather low.

## DOUBLING CHROMOSOME NUMBERS

- (Percy H. Wright)

The doubling of the number of chromosomes in the cells of lilies is an old story today, in 1971, but old only in the sense that years have passed since it was demonstrated, too, that the texture of the flowers is very markedly improved by the increase in cell size that accompanies the doubling. The story is not an "old" one, however, in the sense that the possibilities have been exhausted. For some obscure reason, lily breeders have failed to follow up the leads given them by the pioneer workers in this field.

That is to say, dozens and dozens of wonderful lily varieties that have been regarded as "good enough" could easily be made more remarkable still, if only more of us would "do our homework" on how to use the drug colchicine in inducing doubling, and acquaint ourselves with the advantages of doing so. A quick summary of the topic would result in a statement that a variety that is so hybrid that it is sterile or nearly so, will have its fertility much improved by doubling. A perfectly fertile (normal) diploid, on the other hand, will often, perhaps usually, be somewhat less fertile after it is converted into an auto-tetraploid.

But I wish to make another suggestion that I have never known to be discussed till now. It is that the chromosome number of those varieties which have been doubled already be doubled again by the use of the same drug which induced the first doubling. Until this is tried, no one will know what the result will be. We can hazard a guess that the plants will be still larger, the texture of petals and sepals still heavier, and the fertility still further reduced, but that these things will happen must remain a guess until the procedure is tried. The reduction in fertility should not matter too much, since the new varieties will be propagated asexually in any case. We would have to hope that harmful mutations would not occur that might interfere with asexual reproduction.

One species of plant has already been converted from a diploid to an octoploid by nature itself. This is *Rosa acicularis*, the Arctic rose, which occurs in the northern or colder parts of Asia, Europe, and North America. This rose is undoubtedly an auto-polyploid, by which is meant that all four of its chromosome sets are identicals, just as they would be if we were to convert a man-made tetraploid lily to an octoploid by repeating the original procedure. *Rosa acicularis* has not suffered any reduction of fertility because it has been doubled and redoubled. In fact, we can suppose that a part of its extraordinary hardiness (it grows at Aklavik in the Northwest Territories) is due to its duplication of genes. However, just how it has retained fertility when other species have suffered a reduction in fertility is still a mystery, and one that scientists are not likely to unravel in a hurry.

In point of fact, the Arctic rose has two forms, the hexaploid form (with three sets of chromosomes) occurring in Canada, and the octoploid form in Alaska, Asia, and Europe. As far as I am aware, no hexaploid lily has ever been reported, either in nature or in the laboratory, but one could easily be created by doubling the cell size of the common triploid *Tigridium* lily. - Here we have a perfectly fascinating topic, one deserving of much more study than has ever been given it. It's time that someone awoke to the possibilities.

Percy H. Wright  
Saskatoon, Sask.



## FALL BULB AUCTION - 1970

The October 1970 lily bulb auction of the O.R.L.S. drew a large number of new faces due to the fine publicity given the auction by the news media. Unfortunately the number of bulbs for auction was considerably less than in previous years. One reason was that the Oriental hybrids ordered from the U.S. west coast were refused entry into Canada due to the phytosanitary certificate requirements not being met. Mr. Ted Kirsch of the Sun Valley Bulb Farms from whom the bulbs were ordered has sent his apologies for the error.

While no records are kept, it appeared to this observer that fewer members attended than in previous years, and this too meant that the quantity of bulbs offered was reduced.

Some fine numbered clones from the H. R. I. O. at Vineland, together with a selection of choice Byam hybrid varieties donated by the Royal Botanical Gardens created a keen bidding atmosphere. There were many fine bulbs representing all divisions in the lily classification, among them a few mammoth bulbs of L. callosum brought by Norman Smith of Millbrook. An especially interesting donation for its ancestry dates back to two bulbs purchased by Mr. Smith in 1948 from E. O. Clement, Inglewood Lily Gardens.

Our treasurer, Miss Watson, reports a net profit of \$130.70 from the auction, down a few dollars from last year's event. However, much of this total can be attributed to persons trying lilies for the first time - either from seeing the International Show in July, or visiting the Canadian Lily Collection at the R.B.G. And after all, isn't this an equally important part of our society's objectives - to try to make the lily more widely grown?

## YEARBOOK 1970 - THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY INC.

The 1970 yearbook of the N.A.L.S., recently mailed to its members, and available for \$5.00 from Fred M. Abbey, North Ferrisburg, Vermont 05473, contains a biographical sketch of Jan DeGraaff and the sixty years of his interest in lilies. Recently retired from the Oregon Bulb Farms, Mr. DeGraaff looks back on his years in hybridizing and selling lilies around the world.

Cultural articles from Denmark and Holland, further studies detailed on Benlate, and detailed accounts of searching for lilies in the southeastern United States and Japan are other featured articles.

The copy of the yearbook, received as part of affiliation benefits from the North American Lily Society, will be added to the O.R.L.S. library for use by our members.

## YOUR 1971 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

The fiscal year of the Ontario Regional Lily Society runs from January 1st to December 31 of each year. Dues are \$2.00 per person, or \$3.00 for husband and wife membership. Paying your dues now will save the treasurer work in having to mail out reminders to you later. You may pay more than one year should you wish.

The society's constitution will be printed in the March bulletin, before the annual meeting to be held in April.



I first attended the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph Ontario in 1916 and shortly afterwards met Professor Crow, a man well known throughout the world for his contribution to early work in lily breeding. Professor Crow was born at Ridgeville Ontario in Welland County. He began his training by practical work in one of the large nurseries in that area. When he was sixteen years of age he came to the College and took the two-year course. Ten years later he returned to specialize in horticulture and was graduated with the class of '07.

Immediately after graduation Professor Crow joined the staff of the Dept. of Horticulture where he remained for the next 15 years, and for the last 10 he was head of the department. He was an able and popular teacher whose services were in demand at horticultural conventions throughout the country. Improvement of plants by plant breeding and selection was his favourite field of investigation; and it is my association with him in this field that I recall here.

Professor Crow had a seedling apple project before 1916; he was also breeding strawberries, lettuce, beets and Spanish onions. In 1920, after completing my second year at Guelph, Prof. Crow hired me as assistant plant breeder to succeed Isabella Preston. This was probably in April, and one of my first jobs was to ship out small lots of experimental strawberries to people throughout Ontario who wished to try them. There were over 100 unnamed varieties which probably had been developed by Miss Preston. It was the task of three other students and myself to test each variety and score it. These test had been made in previous years and it was amazing how some varieties improved while others deteriorated over the years. In addition to work with head lettuce, we had a long row of Spanish onions, each capped with a paper bag to keep the flowers from being pollinated by bees. We had made a shadow picture of each bulb before planting; the purpose was to breed an onion that would produce a good shaped bulb from seed. I used to go out every day, remove the bag, and with a camel hair brush would brush the entire head, bag it up again, dip the brush in alcohol, and then go on to the next one to repeat the task with a fresh brush. This was a selfing process. I still have a snapshot of those onions and also one of Prof. Crow and the general foreman of the gardens and lawns, Mr. R. L. James.

Mr. Crow was a large man, at least six feet tall, and rather well built. He was a bachelor, a Presbyterian, and I remember well how he would come to our rooms in 1916 and teach the Bible in a sort of Sunday School on Sunday mornings. He was enthusiastic about everything horticultural. Two of my classmates went to Vineland that summer, and later worked there for many years. Two other students who worked there in 1920 went on to be nationally known. Professor Crow was practically the father of the lily work done by Isabella Preston and between the two they gave the first impetus to lily breeding. He and E. F. Palmer were friends and his lilies were used as a start by Dr. Palmer and others. It is said that Jan DeGraaff and John Shaver started with their lily work using the Crow and Palmer lilies.

I left the college in August of 1920 to try to make a bit of money to complete my course. When I returned in the fall of 1921 Prof. Crow had left the college and I never saw him again. For the last nine years of his life he was engaged in hybridizing and bulb growing at Simcoe in Norfolk County. I had care of the lilies during 1921 - there were only about 12 to 15 bulbs altogether and they flowered in flats in one cold frame. Isabella came one morning and after introductions she showed me what to do in the greenhouse and left for Ottawa an hour later; I never saw her again. Professor Crow passed away in March of 1933.

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I have wondered what became of all of Miss Preston's lily progeny in those early years. She reported such crosses as auratum x speciosum, candidum x testaceum, croceum x elegans, elegans x croceum, henryi x auratum, henryi x candidum, henryi x regale, speciosum x testaceum, speciosum x tigrinum, and regale x candidum. However, she reports only 195 seed heads from 999 crosses from 1913 to 1916. That leads me to think that her so-called crosses would be better called pollinations, as many did not form seed pods. Her story, which I would like to correct, is that the lily "G. C. Creelman" was named after the president of the Ontario Agricultural College. It was named in 1923, several years after Creelman had given up the presidency (in 1920).

The following is a brief resume taken from the Lily Yearbook of the American Horticultural Society, 1940, written by Isabella Preston under contribution #544 of the Dept. of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The name 'Lilium x Princeps' was given to a chance seedling which appeared in 1916 in the plantings of Messrs. R. and J. Farquhar, Roslindale Mass. The plant has since been lost. Bulbs of L. regale and L. sargentiae were purchased by the O. A. C. from R. and J. Farquhar, Boston, Mass., and in 1916 a cross between these parents - L. sargentiae (female) and L. regale (male) was made. Three seed pods formed, the seed being planted in the O.A.C. greenhouse.

In 1919 the young bulbs first bloomed, and it is believed that it was at this time that six stem bulbs were given to Mr. H. L. Hutt of Georgetown. Further examination of the original planting in 1920 revealed there were few differences in the seedlings, but in 1921 three or four of the original bulbs were removed from the college and planted in the garden of Mrs. Oliver Stickney of Guelph. (Ed. note: It is interesting to recall that Mr. Hickling suggests only about 12 to 15 bulbs existed at this time, and since the bulbs were moved in the spring, it would appear that Mr. Hickling's estimate would be after the removal of the three bulbs). In 1923 Mr. Crow took three bulbs from Mrs. Stickney's garden to his new home in Simcoe. They were numbered 1, 2 and 3. Number 3, considered to be the best, and distributed first as L. x Sargale, and later as L. x Princeps. Numbers 1 and 2 were sold in mixtures, with seedlings of L. x Princeps. This same year, the remaining lilies of this cross still at the college were named "George C. Creelman" the idea being they were all alike.

Mr. Oliver Stickney and Mr. Robert Patterson both worked at the Guelph Stove Company, and one day Mr. Stickney brought a lily flower to work to show him. Even an offer of fifty dollars for one of the bulbs did not persuade Mr. Stickney to sell one; he thought his fellow employee to be kidding, and it was not until 1924 that Mr. Patterson finally persuaded his friend to part with one, by means of offering him a shipment of bulbs from Holland in exchange for it. Permission was granted by the college to let Mr. Patterson call his lily "G. C. Creelman" and all the stock sold by Mr. Patterson from this bulb was from true bulblets of that particular clone.

At about this same time, Mr. R. L. James, Mount Pleasant, Ont. left the employ of the college, and was given one large bulb of the stock at the college. It is not known how many bulbs were distributed by the college, but general agreement now seems to be that the clone, transferred ownership between Stickney and Patterson, distributed by Patterson and now widely grown in Canada and the United States is the original "G. C. Creelman" as we know it to-day. Mr. Hutt's clone, not as vigorous as the Patterson stock, had been given the name "Crow's Triumph".

Emerson Hickling  
Eden, New York.

(Ed. note: Thanks is acknowledged to James C. Taylor of Guelph for supplying additional information)



## MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR THE YEAR 1970

Members receiving this newsletter those names do not appear below, can assume their dues have been applied to the year 1971.

- Ackert, A. C., 337 Thames St. South, Ingersoll, Ont.  
 Abbott, John R., 1155 Parma Hilton Rd., Hilton, N. Y. 14468  
 Abbott, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J., 2361 Queenswood, Victoria, B. C.  
 Begg, Kenneth S., H.R.I. O., Dept. of Agriculture, Vineland Station, Ont.  
 Barber, Robert S., 50 Market Street, Georgetown, Ontario  
 Beswick, Clayton, 12 Graham St. South, Hamilton, Ontario  
 Blakey, Mr. & Mrs. T. S., 2208 Kennedy Rd., Agincourt, Ontario  
 Belyea, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, 306 Wilson, Burlington, Ontario  
 Berthier, Mrs. P., Box 906, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario  
 Breuss, Henry H., 740 Pleasant Ave., Hamburg, N. Y. 14075  
 Chaffin, Hugh W., R. D. #1, Freeville, N. Y. 13068  
 Glas, Mrs. J. Edwin, 4 Shephard Ave., Westmere, Albany, N. Y. 12203  
 Cruickshank, Mr. & Mrs. C. W., R. R. #1, Gormley, Ontario  
 \*Cutts, Mrs. Richard, "Dondoric", The Plains, Virginia 22171  
 Clutterbuck, Mrs. Norman, 872 Glenwood Ave., Burlington, Ontario  
 Clemens, Miner, R. R. #1, Preston, Ontario  
 \*Crowe, Mrs. Beatrice, 114 Leacrest Road, Toronto 352, Ontario  
 Carr, Douglas M., 168 King Street West, Ingersoll, Ontario  
 Dilling, Bernard, 23 Nelson Street, Bowmanville, Ontario  
 Evans, W. D., 45 Cedar Street, Guelph, Ontario  
 Fair, Mrs. Howard, R. R. #2, Millbrook, Ontario  
 Gardner, Charles, R. R. #2, Waterloo, Ontario  
 Giroux, Mrs. Silvia, 182 Pembroke St. East, Pembroke, Ontario  
 Howarth, Frank, 440 Hamilton Drive, Ancaster, Ontario  
 Hayes, Fred H., 1222 Bellview Street, Burlington, Ontario  
 Hickling, Mr. & Mrs. Emerson F., 8065 North Main St., Eden, N. Y. 14057  
 Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. S.D., R. R. #2, Box 26, Orono, Ontario  
 Holland, Mrs. George, 440 Douglas Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario  
 Hutton, Dr. and Mrs. Lyle, 15 Maple Avenue, Brantford, Ontario  
 Hughes, Edward, 869 Long Drive, Burlington, Ontario  
 Holmes, Mrs. Paul, 726 Garner Road North, Niagara Falls, Ontario  
 Ives, Dr. R. E., Box 220, Stayner, Ontario  
 Jackson, Miss Eileen, R. R. #2, Norval, Ontario  
 Jones, Mrs. F. L., 4059 Apple Valley Lane, Burlington, Ontario  
 \*Jacobi, Hans, Box 255, Salmon Arm, B. C.  
 Laking, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie, Box 399, R.B.G., Hamilton, Ontario  
 Lemke, Mrs. Arthur A., 463 Maple Avenue, Pembroke, Ontario  
 Little, Robert D., 54 Arnold Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario  
 Moon, Lorne, 253 Harris Street, Ingersoll, Ontario  
 McDonnell, D. J., 346 Supple Street, Pembroke, Ontario  
 \*MacDaniels, Prof. L. H., 422 Chestnut Street, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850  
 Martin, Mr. & Mrs. T. Ross, Binbrook, Ontario  
 Miko, Henry, 32 Chilton Road, Toronto 6, Ontario  
 \*Mooney, Robert F., 24555 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44123  
 Moore, Mrs. S., R. R. #2, Port Perry, Ontario  
 Norman, Alfred, R. R. #1, Paris, Ontario  
 Packham, Mrs. W. J., 477 Elizabeth Street, Apt. 1201, Burlington, Ont.  
 Parker, Mr. & Mrs. J. A., R. R. #1, West Hill, Ontario  
 Peebles, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. N., 240 Tottenham Rd., Burlington, Ontario  
 Palmer, Dr. E. Frank, Vineland Station, Ontario (Honourary)  
 Reid, Mrs. Wm., 871 Glenwood Ave., Burlington, Ontario  
 \*Reading, Mrs. A., Box 36, Sioux Narrows, Ontario  
 Rickaby, Mr. & Mrs. H. C., 71 First Street, Oakville, Ontario  
 Rossberg, Mr. & Mrs. R., 75 Dundas Street, Paris, Ontario  
 Rutledge, John R., 94 Duneden Drive, Toronto 18, Ontario

(Continued)



## MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 1970 (Continued)

- Ryckman, Dr. M. B., 542 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, Ontario  
 Robinson, Charles, R. R. #1, Alton, Ontario  
 Scheak, H. M., 75 Rosedale Hts. Drive, Toronto 7, Ontario  
 Scott, Norman G., 187 Marlin Crescent, London, Ontario  
 Slate, Prof. George L., 37 Highland Avenue, Geneva, N. Y. 14456  
 Smith, Norman P., Box 51, Millbrook, Ontario  
 Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. H. M., R. R. #3, Uxbridge, Ontario  
 \* Stewart, Mr. & Mrs. Midler, 83 Isabelle Street, Apt. 37, Toronto 235, Ont.  
 Taylor, James C., 12 Graham Street, Guelph, Ontario  
 Tiffin, J. A., 401 Bournemouth Apts., 45 Livingstone Rd., Scarborough, Ont.  
 \* Trilsbeck, G. T., 93 Anndale Drive, Willowdale, Ontario  
 Tawse, Wm. J., 85 Free Lane, Guelph, Ontario  
 Utting, Gordon F., 1399 Crescent Rd., Port Credit, Ontario  
 Uptis, Peters, P. O. Box 11, Dobeles, Latvia, U. S. S. R.  
 Verity, Mrs. Ruth J., R. R. #4, Morland, Brantford, Ontario  
 Visser, Nick, R. R. #2, Graham Side Road, Newmarket, Ontario  
 Watson, Miss Mabel, 2 Watson's Lane, Dunlask, Ontario  
 \* Windus, Wallace, 1437 Bryant Lane, Meadowbrook, Pa. 19046  
 \* Woleben, Stanley H., Riviera Apts. 120, 7350 Inkster Rd., Dearborn Heights,  
 Walters, Dr. J. Allan, 922 Medical Arts Bldg., Toronto 5, Ont. / Mich. 48127  
 Whitwell, H., 275 Evelyn Street, Ingersoll, Ontario

\* beside name indicates 1971 dues have been paid.

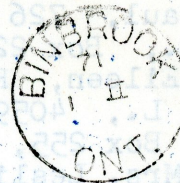
New 1971 members will appear in next bulletin.

Please report correct address or any changes to Newsletter editor.

ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY  
 BINBROOK, ONTARIO



*January '71*



FIRST CLASS MAIL

*Mr. & Mrs. Emerant Hickling  
 8065 North Main St.  
 Eden  
 New York 14057  
 U.S.A.*