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Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

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DESCRIPTION OF

Name and address of exporter: *cel ~ P C*

Name and address of consignee: *B. y. 1401*

Number and description of packages: *one*

Distinguishing marks: *as*

Origin: *✓*

Means of conveyance: *a*

Point of entry: *S*

Quantity and name of produce: *50*

Botanical name:

David J. Hill
(Signature.)

PLANT CONTAINER CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Designation.)

19/2 19 57
(Date.)

THE CONSIGNMENT

H R I S T I A N S E N : T A K A D U N A . N Z I B A L A N T J

BRISON. MISSISSIPPI. U.S.A.

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addressed

in Zabalana

en mail

ou pour en voir

SULPURIUM. BULBS.

The Auckland Lily Society

Voy. 1 — No. 10

February, 1958

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Since last new letter in December, 1957, Auckland Lily Society has been a hive of activity. A field day in December to the home of our President, Mr. H. B. and Mrs. Redgrove, was a very successful outing as well as a most profitable one. Mr. Redgrove's garden has grown in every way since our last visit, and affords much of interest. The day was a particularly pleasant one, the weather kind, and the hospitality extended by Mr. and Mrs. Redgrove of the best.

The month of January is one of the busiest in the A.L.S., the reason being that for many members, lilies are at their best, and this year proved no exception. On the 4th January to open the month's programme the field day to "some southern gardens" was another to be remembered. Here again the weather was at its best. A goodly number of over 500 members met in Auckland and then spent some time at the garden of Mr. Geo. Payne at Otahuhu. Mr. Payne is so well known to all of us. Here were lilies literally by the hundreds, Trumpets in all their glory, many being Mr. Payne's own crosses. It would be difficult to want anything more lovely than a collection of blooms such as this. Mr. Payne was, as usual, unsparring in the sharing of his knowledge. From here the party proceeded to Mr. Barry's garden at Papatoetoe. The afternoon was a very warm one, the trees and garden a real haven in which one could rest awhile. Again were trumpets, this time yellow trumpets, pale green, pale pink, of all shapes and sizes.

We were made very welcome once again and here Mrs. and Miss Barry had extended to us some very warm hospitality in the preparation of afternoon tea. Then the garden was ours for a while. I think, on these tours, that hardly a spot in one's garden is passed unnoticed; every little point of interest is of value—and it is surprising the copious notes that are taken on various plants, etc. If we all acquired one small portion of our lists I am sure our individual gardens would soon reach saturation point.

With Mr. Payne's variety of trumpets and Mr. Barry's numerous treasures we were having a real treat. Everything was in our favour, a colourfilm photographer, almost a record attendance, and varieties as are seldom found in such numbers. No doubt the highlight was to come with Mr. Barry's *L. Nepalence*, growing in a pot, with one full bloom and one in the making, this lily needs to be seen to be enjoyed, the colour is most exotic.

Our President graciously thanked Mr. and Mrs. Barry and Mr. and Mrs. Payne for their kindness. Says Mr. Barry: "My wife and I wish to thank everyone who visited our garden on January 4th. The courtesy and helpfulness during their brief stay was very much appreciated. *L. Regale* was just about over, having been previously spoilt by the persistent winds. Mr. and Mrs. Barry and family enjoyed the members' visit and hope it will be repeated; they sincerely hope that members enjoyed it as much as they did."

Some Aurelianense crosses of Dr. Yerex, America, were to be seen in the green trumpets, in Jan de Graaff's Heart's Desire Pink, while the yellow trumpets, really yellow, green, to deep cream, and for apricot were the results of *L. Sargentiae* x *Henryi* and Mr. Sayer's Aurelian x *L. Sulphureum*.

From here we travel on to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, also at Papatoetoe. Mrs. Wilson is one of our oldest members and perhaps better known as Lydia Biernall. Here we were in a most interesting spot, nicely landscaped and full of surprises—truly one that could be looked on as the result of the moving hand of a woman. *L. Henryi* towered

over an *Idezia*, Cambridge Hybrids were at their best set in amongst flowering shrubs, Fuchsias and Azaleas; Gladys Marshall, a dainty little orange Reflex was tucked away in amongst Gladioli, Bougainvillea, Viburnums, etc. Roses were still flowering well, while in most available spaces were the prettiest of climbers. This no doubt could be described as a complete garden—fruit trees, vegetables to complete the picture, and am I right in thinking Comfrey was there? Perhaps this could be summed up in the words of Mr. Muldoon as he passed a vote of thanks—"This is just the kind of garden as one could imagine would give the interest behind Mrs. Wilson's writings." Mrs. Wilson had been most generous in her experience of the gardening world, and sent us off with the same pleasant and restful feeling that had permeated our afternoon's outing. To all—"Our thanks."

January 11th: It would seem that all in all we had had a real feast of outings during these months—as was mentioned previously the months December, January and February are indeed busy in our line, so we come now into action in earnest. With January 11th came the first of two afternoon shows. As this venture was truly experimental and with many growers away on holiday, expectation was somewhat high as to the result. The day was beautiful, the setting just right with the numerous flower beds surrounding the Parks Dept. Headquarters and the hall itself one of the best. The monthly schedule was adhered to on these two occasions (for they were really taking the place of two extra night meetings usually held at this time), with the addition of some classes in decorative work, both competitive and non-competitive. Some fine displays in the non-competitive classes were arranged by some members of the Mangere-Franklynne Garden Circle, whose co-operation added considerably to our show. Our apprehensions were quickly dispelled towards the time of opening, with a very good attendance of the public who later joined members at afternoon tea and shared the beauty of the many lilies on display in the most congenial environs.

This display and that of January 25th will be remembered not alone for their beauty but for what could be described as being shows of an intimate nature. On each of these occasions the weather was most kind.

We are indebted to our busy treasurer, Mr. J. Aldred, who has spared time to prepare the following information for us:—

Aurelian Hybrid Lilies for Auckland Gardens

Members who saw the beautiful Aurelian Hybrids at our Grafton Road show on January 11th and went home determined to grow some, may be interested in a few details of their parentage.

About 1900 a seedling lily flowered in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, and authorities decided the parentage was *L. Sargentiae* crossed *L. Henryi*. This was named *L.X kewensis*, but later died out. In France, Mons. E. Debras, of St. Jean-de-Braye, near Orleans, made this cross repeatedly and finally flowered a seedling in 1928. He lost his original stock through diseases but managed to raise another lot and named his lily *L. X Aurelianense*. Then in England, Mr. E. H. Stooke, of Danesmore, Hereford, raised a hybrid of the same parentage, but as it was an even finer form, it was given the title *L. X Aurelianense*, Stooke's var.

In U.S.A. Mr. T. Barry raised a hybrid between *L. Henryi* and *L. Sulphureum* named *L. X. T.A. Havemeyer*. Mr. Edgar Kline, Lake Grove, Oregon, crossed *L. X. T.A. Havemeyer* and *L. Aurelianense*, and from these the hybridists have gone happily on, crossing back to the parents, *Henryi*, *Sulphureum*, *Sargentiae*, bringing in the best blood from Jan de Graaf's Olympic Hybrids, selling seedlings, or crossing among the best seedling selections; until a most beautiful race of hybrid Lilies has resulted. They fall more or less into three classes: one derives its shine from the trumpet type and comes in a range of colours from white through cream and apricot to deepest gold. The second is truly intermediate between trumpet and reflex—a short bowl shape in the same wide colour-range. And the third shows the reflex type strongly but with varying width and length of petal and the same range of colours, white, cream, lemon, copper, gold.

Jan de Graaff has named his three clones as (1) Golden Clarion hybrids, (2) Hearts Desire hybrids, and (3) Sunburst hybrids.

However, other hybridists have been equally as busy as de Graaff, particularly Carlton Yerex and Edgar Kline, and they have given their designations clone names—Aurelian Apricot Trumpets, Aurelian Sunshine Flares, A. Green-Gold Trumpets, A. Copper Flares, Chehalum Hybrids, etc., all very desirable and healthy colours and plants.

Seed has been obtainable from our Seed Exchanges, and some members have already raised beautiful lilies here. They flower from late December to February. *L. Henryi*, *L. Sargentiae*, and *L. Sulphureum*, the original parents, all do very well in Auckland, and hybridists can be quite certain of raising some spectacular lilies among their seedlings. Points from noted hybridists that may be worth remembering:—

L. Huffer: Seed of *L. Henryi* germinates best in warmth. (We find this applies also to the Aurelian seed we obtained.)

Col. Stern: Hybrids with much *Sargentiae* blood in make-up will slowly go back in soil with high lime content. Aurelian hybrids selfed or crossed with *Henryi* type seem more tolerant.

Jan de Graaff: Hybrids with such mixed parentage are not always fertile, or perhaps will not accept own or similar pollen. Using mixed pollen taken from best plants to fertilise the best plants available, gives a much better chance of a cross, and he finds that such pollen will give 50% of the resulting seedlings definite improvement on the parent plants. When a seedling has good colour, but poor shape, use the pollen to cross back on the parent plant before discarding.

Henryi type hybrids (Sunburst strain) used as a "bridge" can be crossed with such strains as "Fiesta" hybrids and once the desired colour is introduced, can be crossed back with other Aurelian type till the colour is introduced into the trumpet strain.

Then as if imbued with show fever, we started off in preparation for the A.L.S. annual show, February 6 and 7, in the Concert Chamber, Town Hall. To the uninitiated this means just another show, but to those who help it certainly means lots of activity (we will not say "work"), but of a very rewarding nature. Here again we had blooms such as were not on display before. The hall was transformed overnight from a mass of staging, dressing, etc., into a cool, refreshing spot. Imagine the setting in the floor of the Concert Hall of a pond of water lilies, on a very hot day or what is more, on two very hot days! *St. Paulia* violets, striped petunias—then *L. Speciosum* and *L. Auratum* with their numerous and varied crossings, many exhibits by members who have not shown before and decorative work, all featuring lilies. All this and the co-operation of the Parks Dept. with their shrubs, greenery, *St. Paulias*, petunias, etc., is evident on every hand, but to the writer the most important contributor to this or any show is the exhibitor without whom the show would not come into being. Might I here say, there is always room, at any show, for more and more entries. They are the most important feature.

In his opening remarks the President made reference to some outstanding features on display, while the official opening was in the capable hands of Mrs. H. J. Short, whose comments urging the younger members to be more active in the executive work of the society will be heartily welcomed by all.

Among the really important highlights were some blooms that surpassed all expectations. Doubtless members have read and seen the picture of our Blue Riband Champion Lily—something quite in world class—and what greater achievement could one wish for? "Some achieve greatness"—in this Mr. W. A. Christensen, whose name is inseparable from A.L.S. and one of our Vice-Presidents, has truly merited a well-deserved place in the Lily world. To have flowered *L. Brownii Australis* recently with such merit, and now to give us "Akarana" Mr. Christensen has proved the value of skill and perseverance.

Mr. Geo. Payne's *L. Speciosum* as the Cosgrove Memorial Trophy winner, and in the Edie Cairns' Cup were really "things of beauty". Miss N. Copesey's *L. Sulphureum* in the Saville Award—a treasure. It might interest members to know that *L. "Akarana"* is a cross between *L. Speciosum Magnificum* and *L. Parkmanii*, var. *Manawatu*.

On Thursday, February 6th the public patronage was not prolific. The happy thought of a scheduled talk on "Hybridising" during the afternoon of the second day, Friday, may have been the attraction, as

the increased attendance proved. On request in the morning an extra talk was given much to everyone's pleasure.

It is surprising where our show exhibits finish their journey—after that of the 4th several of the decorative pieces helped to grace one of our city churches, some gave pleasure to the Auckland Hospital patients, while on this occasion, the annual show, thanks to the thought of our secretary, the champion bloom was dispatched to Her Majesty, the Queen Mother. Maybe the method used will interest members. The stem was wrapped in damp moss, the whole stem then encased in a polythene bag, inflated, and tightly tied at the bottom—the result, a cushion-like package which carried well. The following is a copy of the letter received by Mr. M. Reid, secretary, of which we are very proud.

Grand Hotel,
Dunedin,
10 February, 1958.

Dear Mr. Reed,

I am commanded by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to ask you to convey to the President and members of the Auckland Lily Society Her Majesty's warmest thanks for their gift of the beautiful lily "Akarana".

I am to tell you that Queen Elizabeth thinks it is a glorious bloom, and surely one worthy to win your Blue Riband Championship.

If, sometime in future, bulbs of L. Akarana are available, Her Majesty would much like to know how they might be acquired.

Queen Elizabeth would be proud to have this lily in her garden. With renewed thanks for this lovely lily, which has given much pleasure to Her Majesty,

Yours sincerely,
JEAN RANKIN,
Lady-in-Waiting.

Cultural Notes: There is little activity at this period, the lilies are about to go into their winter rest. Care must be taken that all fallen leaves are gathered and destroyed, as beetles can over-winter in dying foliage. As stems die down they may be cut off, leaving at least six inches of stump. Stems also should be burned. Any lilliums carrying seed pods need careful watching and should be gathered prior to splitting; as soon as they start to split gather and place in a glass jar to dry (not air-tight) on a sunny ledge. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that seeds of L. Regale, L. Formasanum, L. Longiflorum, and our beautiful L. Brownii should be sown as soon as gathered. Germination will follow immediately, and will reward you with their first bloom in 12 months. L. Brownii in 2 years. Now is the time to think of adding to our Lillium plantation. March is an ideal time to transplant.

Report on Monthly Meetings: Tuesday, January 16th, a large attendance gathered, together with some very fine stems of lilies for the monthly competition. In the absence of Mr. Redgrove, President, the chair was taken by Miss O. Darrach, Vice-President, who welcomed members and friends and gave a brief account of the first show of the year, that of the 4th January, followed by a very interesting practical demonstration by A. Christensen on the recent exhibition, also of lilies on the show table for the evening. After answering several questions the speaker was accorded a vote of thanks.

On Tuesday, February 18th the President, Mr. H. B. Redgrove presided over a fair attendance. Here again was a good number of blooms on the points table. The President in a few well-chosen words thanked all who had assisted in making these shows the success they were. The speaker for the evening was Mr. K. Russell who together with Mr. Connor was responsible for the exhibition of water lilies mentioned previously. On this occasion Mr. Russell spoke on "The making of a pond" in which he certainly made things seem easy. In his opening remarks Mr. Russell said he would trace the making of a pond, etc., from his own experiences. When one was first disposed towards building one of concrete, a good and reliable method was as follows: The area would be dug to a depth where clay would be found; the hole must be neatly dug. A mixture of clay made of a consistency that would be suitable to be "pugged" round to make a lining, which as it settled on would make the

walls quite watertight. A porcelain bath also makes a very good pond. The lilies may be planted in boxes, or in a good mixture suitable and placed in the pond. After filling with water the pond needs to be seasoned with alum or Condy's Crystals, and when mosquitoes arrive round the pond 'tis time to put in the fish. Moss will form round the sides of pond—this should not be scrubbed off as the scum is really bacteria, breeding, on which the fish live. It is necessary to change soil in a pond about once in two years only. Mr. Russell uses a Californian oxygenator. Lillium makes good subjects for growth round a lily pond. One essential to a successful result is that the pond must be in full sun, otherwise no flowers.

Mr. Russell topped off his informative talk with a very well received invitation to visit his garden and ponds of which he has seven, on March 22nd, a Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Barry very ably thanked the speaker.

Bulb Sale: Tuesday, March 18th will be the A.L.S. Bulb Sale. The object of the sale is as has been on the past occasions, an opportunity for members to obtain a selection of bulbs of various varieties. In order to make this operate successfully an appeal is being made to all members who may have a surplus of any variety of bulbs that can be donated to the Society for this purpose. Small bulbs, i.e., bulbs which are approaching the flowering stage, are especially in demand. It is not intended that anyone's garden should be unduly strained for the purpose, but even a small number of bulbs from members will be of great value to other members.

Please remember March 18th, Bulb Sale in the Architects' Hall, Short's Buildings, Queen St.

Monthly Meetings.—March 18th: Bulb Sale. Presentation of Cups: April 15th. Speaker: Mr. R. D. Muldoon. Subject, "Getting to Know Your Lilies." May 20th: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Subscription Notice: The Committee of the A.L.S. has approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee: "That subscriptions to A.L.S. be increased." This motion will be brought forward at the Annual Meeting on May 20th, 7.45 p.m.

Field Day: A Field Day will be held at Mr. Ken Russell's, 34 Churchill Rd., Manurewa, on Saturday, March 22. All members meet at Mrs. I. Masfield's home, No. 102 Gt. South Rd., at 1-1.15 p.m.?

Trading Table: Once again may we appeal for more support for the Trading Table. Country members could make a valuable contribution by sending in a parcel occasionally from their own gardens—produce, etc., cuttings, plants, seeds or bulbs. They will be much appreciated.

Schools' Project: It was to be regretted, though understandable, that no exhibit came from any of our interested schools, this due, no doubt, to the close proximity of school holidays and opening days.

Secretary's Note: We include herewith a letter from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. Reed, re the show. It was rather difficult to condense without losing Mr. Reed's objective so have printed it in toto:

ANNUAL SHOW REPORT

The 11th Annual Show of the Auckland Lily Society is now a matter of history, and those of us who were actively engaged in all the various tasks which are required to be done to promote a successful show, can feel a measure of satisfaction that those tasks were done willingly and without fuss with the result that the show was indeed very successful.

It is very difficult to decide what is the most significant factor, or the greatest contributing cause of the success of any show, but it is generally agreed that it is the eagerness of all the workers to do all, and more, than is asked of them, and thereby allowing the organisers to carry out smoothly all the many details which are required to stage a function of such a comprehensive nature. Such co-operation assures success.

The Show Secretaries, Mrs. F. M. Madden and Mrs. R. E. Dowling have done a magnificent job. Receiving entries, chasing along reluctant exhibitors, completing the accounting by the end of the second day with all prize money paid out and generally helping all and sundry with their problems. To these two ladies we say "Thank you very very much."

The activities of our Vice-President and former Secretary were not quite so easily defined. Miss O. M. Darrach seemed to be here, there and everywhere, doing all sorts of jobs and at everybody's beck and call. We saw Olive behind the Sales Table, the Information Table, welcoming country members, discussing lilies with the experts, in fact, being her usual efficient yet charming self. To Miss Darrach we also owe many many thanks.

To the Judges too go our warmest thanks. Dr. Donk, who judged the open section must have had quite a difficult task in making his decisions, because, despite the fact that everyone thought there would be nothing worth judging, the assembled blooms were really very beautiful and fine, even though the season had been rather a difficult one. The task of Mr. Geo. Payne in judging the novice section was not quite so difficult but Mr. Payne gave it his full attention and we are grateful for his help.

To judge the decorative section we had the very charming Miss McLean and we don't think anyone can complain of any of the decisions of the very decorative decorative judge. Thank you Miss McLean.

We are very grateful for the work of the stewards and so extend to Mrs. Madden, Miss Phillipson, Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. Nicolls, Mrs. Kinvig, Miss Masfield, Miss D'Estorre, Mr. Slater our thanks for their work in carrying out this exacting task.

On the Sales Table we find the usual bevy of ladies doing great business under the direction of Mrs. Manning and Miss Darrach. Here we find also Mrs. Alfred, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Burk, Mrs. McCloughen, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Petersen, Miss D'Esterre and Mrs. Cole. From contributions to the Sales Table by these ladies and many other members a sum of nearly £40 was contributed toward the finances of the Society. Thank you ladies for a truly wonderful job.

In the box office we find Mr. Holt, Miss Masfield, Mrs. Skinner, Mr. Bates, Mr. Christensen and Mr. Slater. Over £80 went into the till from this department. We are grateful to you ladies and gentlemen for a job well done. Thank you very much for your assistance.

The very necessary information was passed over by Miss Darrach, Miss Phillipson, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Bates and Mr. Barry. These folk did their job truly and well and quite a number of new members were signed on. We hope the enthusiasm of these new members will not diminish, but increase with the years. Many thanks to the staff of the Information Table.

On the door we found Mr. Barry, Mrs. Manning (relaxing), Mrs. Madden, and the ubiquitous Mr. Bates. We feel that Mr. Bates deserves a special thank you all to himself because he carried out so very willingly any task allotted to him and would fill in so enthusiastically wherever he was required.

In the kitchen we find the boffins dispensing refreshments with a cheery smile no matter what the state of weather. A meal when we felt peckish, a cup of tea when we needed reviving, they were always ready with it. It was a joy to be able to relax with a cup of tea in the company of Miss Tate, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Crighton, the Misses Bischoff and Mrs. McDonald. To these ladies we owe a very great debt of thanks.

On Wednesday evening we also had the assistance of Mr. G. Blamey and Mr. Percy Alton. The services of these two were invaluable as we seemed to be lacking in able-bodied men to put up the staging. Our thanks to these gentlemen for their help. Many of the members mentioned above were also present on Wednesday evening and everything went swimmingly.

The activities of Mr. and Mrs. Connor of Takapuna and Mr. and Mrs. Ken. Russell of Manurewa with the lily pond calls for a lot of comment. This quartette really excelled themselves in supplying water lilies, and arranging them so tastefully in a shallow tank eight feet in diameter and fifteen inches deep supplied by courtesy of the Director of Parks and Reserves. At one stage disaster seemed imminent when the tank began to leak. We all had visions of a flooded Town Hall, but Mrs. Dowding came to the rescue with some rock hard putty "borrowed" from a generous workman in the Main Hall. It was fortunate that our beloved enemy Mr. Michael was on holiday. One can picture the air turning blue

and the water in the tank bubbling up like the champagne pool at Rotorua. However, had Mr. Michael been on hand the lily pond would have been conspicuous by its absence. We owe a vote of thanks to the assistant caretaker for his long-suffering forbearance. The finally completed pond was a joy to behold and with pot plants from Winstones Nurseries and imitation grass from the Parks Dept., the result was very pleasing and it was noticeable that quite a number of visitors chose this spot to sit down and relax. To Mr. and Mrs. Russell and Mr. and Mrs. Connor, our very grateful thanks.

Our thanks are due again to the Director of Parks and Reserves, and his staff for the stage decoration where *Lilium Speciosum* in pots blended in so well with shrubs in tubs, and along the footlights a row of colourful *Coleus*. The latter are not everybody's favourite but one striking yellow one was quite outstanding. Also from the Parks came a dwarf Lollipop petunia called "Glitters". Although not a thing of beauty, "Glitters" is very striking and made a bold show with its variable bands of red and white radiating from the centre of the flower. There was also a good display of the ever-popular *St. Paulias*. It was very noticeable that it was unnecessary to stage them in a "fowl run" as was the case two years ago when they were all the rage. Are they losing their popularity?

A display by Winstones Nurseries attracted much attention, especially the new introductions. Among these we saw Tiger Face which could be likened to a very bold Lavender Lady. The spots were much larger and the whole flower had a robustness about it as opposed to Lavender Lady. Another gem was Lavender Princess which could be described as a blushing Lavender Lady. Perhaps the bold Tiger Face had been making advances, but joking aside, this is a very lovely lily and is a Lavender Lady with a delicate pink stripe running from approximately the centre of each petal to the outer tip. Truly a Princess. One wonder how beautiful Lavender Green is going to be!

On the show benches we saw some very choice blooms despite the unhappy weather before Christmas and immediately after. Among the elite we saw Miss Copsey's *Salpurgum*. This was a very magnificent clone, one flower and one bud. This seems rather an insignificant exhibit to have won the Saville award but these who saw it were amazed at the size and purity of the open trumpet. At a guess the flower was at least 6ins. across and of corresponding length. Miss Copsey is to be congratulated. Looking at the *Speciosums*, we were privileged to see George Payne's three splendid stems, and among them the Champion *Speciosum*, a very handsome specimen and well deserving of the award. Mr. Payne was awarded the Cosgrove Memorial Cup. The Champion Bloom for 1958 was Mr. Christensen's "Akarana" which, to the ignorant, means Auckland. This was a cross between *Speciosum Magnificum* and *L. Paikiamii* var. *Manawatu*, and was a superb bloom. Very bold, very robust and well worthy of the City of Auckland. Mr. Christensen is sending some bulbs to Wisley in England, the trial grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society, where it is expected to create a lot of interest.

In the decorative section Mrs. M. E. V. Wood of Mt. Albert was very successful and easily carried off the vase for the most points in the decorative classes, donated by Mrs. A. P. Stuart of Runciman. Which reminds us that we didn't see Mrs. Staart at the show. We trust that all is well with her.

In the advertising field we must thank the Herald and the Star for featuring our show. It is recognised that publicising any function is quite necessary if success is to be assured, and in this respect the Star and the Herald did a fine job and we are very grateful to them, particularly Mr. Webber of the Star and Mr. Chappell of the Herald. On the air we heard from Mr. R. L. Thornton who made announcements during his session from 1YD and Mr. Geo. Dean from 1ZB really excelled himself. Mr. Dean gave us so much air that listeners heard very few questions answered and we are very grateful to our friend George Dean. An alert eye was kept on *Physodesia virginiana alba* but it seemed to remain pure and unadulterated, perhaps Mr. Dean's suggested experiment was taken with a grain of salt by the uninitiated. Those in the know of course wouldn't bother.

Observations:

It was remarkable the likeness between *L. Auratum* var. "Rouge" *L. Auratum* var. "Manawatu".

The way the water lilies went to sleep on Thursday evening and woke up again Friday morning.

Could we have a class for "True Species Only, any *Lilium*". They seem to be disappearing from the showbench.

Mr. Christensen's two talks, both the impromptu one in the morning, and the scheduled one in the afternoon were very popular. The audience was held spell-bound by Mr. Christensen's very able discourse. Thanks Bill.

Mr. Redgrove always seemed to be busy at meal times. Luckily the weather was warm, the meals cold and the kitchen ladies very compassionate and long-suffering. The Secretary was another offender!

The Fuchsia Pallette was most attractive and Mr. Moir is a great ambassador for the N.Z. Fuchsia Society. It was quite evident that the public wants to see what it is buying. Cuttings of fuchsias exhibited on the pallette sold well, others hung fire.

Mrs. Olson exhibited in the novice decorative section for the first time and won three firsts and one third. Congratulations Mrs. Olson! Mrs. Olson feels the honour wasn't merited as there was no opposition whatsoever. We agree that there should be more entries in these decorative classes.

It's high time some of the staging material was overhauled. One of these days an exhibit will collapse and the exhibitors won't be pleased. Neither will the public if any of them happen to be underneath the debris.

Mr. Gordon Nicholls is out on his own as an auctioneer. No wonder he was elected as President of the Horticultural Council. Gordon has plenty of "drive". Thanks for your help, Mr. Nicholls.

We felt that the opening ceremony was conducted with the utmost dignity, and thank Mrs. H. J. Short for her very kind remarks, and trust that her lovely garden will flourish through the years.

Mr. Barry is a great enthusiast. We saw him in earnest conversation with several youngsters and we do agree with his ideas of starting 'em young.

It was nice to see so many country members at this year's show. We were pleased to meet Mr. and Mrs. Maunder of Mangapai, The Hon. Mrs. Vane of Waipu, Mr. and Mrs. Berg of Whakatane and of course Mrs. L. Fullarton Johnson of Cambridge. We were also very glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Dickson of Beverly Hills, Sydney, Australia, who thought the show "marvellous". It was too! We hope all these folk were duly impressed. Mrs. Cummins of Norfolk Island was another visitor from overseas. Mrs. Cummins, who grows Gerberas, thought the lilies really beautiful and one felt that this was said almost wistfully. Mrs. Cummins has taken some seed away with her and we shall be interested to hear results. Mrs. Cummins could easily be our first overseas exhibitor.

It was a great thrill to be able to send "Akarana" to the Queen Mother and somewhat compensated us in not having Her Gracious Majesty to open our show. Her Majesty's reply to this gift is given in full elsewhere in this Bulletin. The bloom was sent to Government House Wellington, encased in a plastic bag which was subsequently blown up and tightly tied. This is an excellent method as no part of the florets were touching the plastic casing. It was sent by air express and we are sure the pilot treated it with due reverence.

The cleaning up after the show was done expeditiously, thanks to all those who stayed on to the bitter end, including Mr. Aldred, and all those who helped at the beginning. All was finished by 9.30 p.m.—a record. All seemed to go well under the benevolent eye of the Assistant Caretaker instead of the eagle eye of Mr. Michael.

Another show has finished and we must now prepare for the 12th Annual Show, 1959.

Folio

8

19-2-1957

M

B. J. MORRISON

ROUTE 1 BOX 24, PASS CHRISTIAN
MISSISSIPPI, U.S.ADr. to W. A. CHRISENSEN
4 BLIMFIELD SPA
TAKAPUNA
NEW ZEALAND

Terms

50

L. SUIPURGIUM
STEM BULBILS

NIL

Forwarded per

air MAIL 19-2-57

to U.S. Dept of Agriculture

Agriculture Building
SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

H Blomfield Spa

Takapuna

Auckland N.Z.

21 FEB 1957

Dear B. V.

Thank you for

kind remarks in your letter of 11 Feb. Have also received your letter of 1 Feb enclosing green and yellow export tags. By the time this reaches your home town the package of 2 Sulphur can Bulbils will have been received in the office of the Dept of Agric. Saw I can do, and I do hope are quickly cleared and forwarded to your home address. I would suggest you divide the bulbils into two half and normal conditions, and place the other half packed in Vermiculite in the Frig. until sent towards the end of Oct ^{NOV} when they also could be planted in the open ground.

As previously mentioned these bulbils if planted when gathered soon after maturity growth almost within one month, then die down and reappear about Oct-NOV. I had gathered one lot of bulbils which were placed in damp Vermiculite waiting despatch but they all developed strong roots. These have been planted in my own nursery plots.

I am hoping that any packing will discourage root growth until you can get them under your control.

I do hope you have a least a measure of success and eventually grow up to giant on maturity. A thrill awaits you if you are successful. I have again tried to get one close to set seed, and am anxiously watching for signs of success, and if seed is available will forward some to you. I thank you for your kind offer to refund the cost of despatch, but would much prefer that you allow me that little pleasure. Also your

TIM BARKER.

your generous offer to assist me secure something in return. I do appreciate that gesture. I have a married daughter in Vancouver, her husband DR B. L. WHITE is on the Staff of B.C. variety also I correspond with several residents in U.S.A. very good friends of War days when several en from your country were passing through N.Z. was so interested in your efforts to grow a collection of species from S. Asia also the allied plants and shrubs which you grow.

I also grow *Camellia Reticulata* *Magnolia* var *Parviflora* your native *Kalmia japonica* *Scaptes* and *Wandah* from Australia, a really beautiful but somewhat difficult shrub. Lilies include *Longiflorum*, having a splendid strain which seeds freely and flowers in six months. *Bignonia* *Hydrangea* *Aspidistra* *Cycas* *Conium* also easy from seed. *Speciosum* all the dark red varieties including *Gibrey* from Australia.

In the past few years I have been working on *Parkmanii* x *Auratum* x *Speciosum* hybrids and have now produced one which my friends consider surpasses the beautiful *Gillian Wallace*. Here in N.Z. remarkable progress is being made in raising these *Parkmanii* hybrids, many of which created a sensation at our Annual Show on Nov 7-8

As with you *L. Formosanum* is a weed here also I think a carrier of the Wretched Virus and for that reason that variety has been cast out from my garden.

Certainly I will gladly pass on your expressions of appreciation to Geo Payne. Better still I will forward your cheery letter for his pleasure. In the meantime am anxiously waiting news of the success or otherwise of the *Suepturum* *Pultorum*.

Yours Sincerely
W. Christensen

Blomfield Spa
Takapuna N.Z.
Ruckland N.Z.
12 Mar. 58.

Dear Mr. Morrison.

Well another
fily season has almost ended in
the Southern Hemisphere, certainly
one of great interest to our Society
and I hope fily growers generally.

However to cut short a long
tirade I am enclosing a copy of
the Society's news letter which
deals very fully with all the
points of interest and will give
you some indication of our
activities.

Just as our filies are preparing
for their dormant period yours
will be thinking of rising from
their slumbers, somehow I always
welcome the Spring even though it
brings evidence of many failures.

This season L. Sulphureum

have been really magnificent,
though mine was too late in
flowering to take their place
on the Show Bench, though I
did have the pleasure in supplying
a bulb to a friend which carried
off one of the previous awards.

Evidently I had been too
generous with water during a
dry spell and retarded flowering
by fully a week.

I am so interested in the
progress of planting of *Sulphureum*
and would be pleased to learn
of your success in due course

Yours Sincerely
W. Christensen

Christensen, Wm A.

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss., USA.
12 May 1958

Dear Friend,

Your fine letter and the inclosed most interesting report of Lily Society doings came long ago. I have delayed in answering because at that time there was nothing to report.

We have had the coldest winter for years! Not the lowest temperature, but just one long stretch of cold weather since late December, and even yet we are having very cool nights and an unbelievable amount of rain, all in tropical bursts, and we are NOT tropics! The great virtue of the winter from the point of view of the plants was that we did not suffer our usual variations, the kind of midwinter warmth that starts sap up and cause great damage when the following frost arrives. This we did not have. Our only damage here came on our few citrus trees and that is to be expected.

As to the sulphureum, I have to admit that I lost some of those planted in the open, possibly a third, but I had kept the pot of 15 in the cold greenhouse all winter. Even they had not started at the time your letter came. They are all up now and some are starting the stems you told me would come this season. Those outside we have moved into a new and even better prepared bed and they will have the extra care that I plan on for all the lily seedlings, which include my crosses, that probably will turn out to be no crosses at all but apomictic seedlings! I'll not tell about them until I know the "worst"; then I'll confess....

The various lilies that I had bought have behaved rather curiously. The one bulb of Jillian Wallace made no top last season at all, but I found the bulb quite sound and larger than when planted. This year it has a poor shoot, poor in size only, as it is not ill. Auratum has done the same thing. The centifolium hybrids and the Sargentiae hybrids (all from Mr Kline) apparently will like us here as they have grown well. They did not have the promised color in the pink to rose range, but all the yellows were good, and Mr. DeGraaff's Golden Clarion was excellent. I planted the Golden Regal last autumn and it is up finely. My old regals look now as if they too had decided that life here was good. The sulphureum hybrids from Kline, that were very slow to come last season have been earlier and less irregular this season, and some should flower. Nepalense has not reappeared; and if Wallichianum and neilgherrense are as late this season as last, it is still much too early. Last season they came in summer and gave me only basal leaves. I wrote Mr. Kline last season that I'd like to skip a year in ordering to see what luck I had, and this year I'll plunge again!

My speciosums were wonderful last year but are making superb growth this season and should outdo themselves if their present vigor is any indication.

In reading the report you sent, I do not envy you the agonies of putting on a show. I have spent my time on every phase of more than one kind of show, and have judged and entertained and all the rest; but I confess that in this plan I do miss the stimulation that comes from fellow enthusiasts. There are none here, save perhaps for camellias, and most of them seem to get their greatest joy out of having "more" than any one else! But my own garden which is really too large for me, is a great joy and the situation here is far enough away from the center of this very small town so we have ideal quiet and peace. (The household is entirely bachelor, Mr. Anderson who owns the place is younger than I, and our little dachshund, is of course only 5.) I have one helper in the azalea nursery that we foolishly started with the notion that sales would pay his salary, and all the running expenses. Of course it does not yet, but in time it will, if we survive. I think most of the worst hurdles are now passed and the total extent of land to be used is prepared and will need only

to be reformlshed with additional pest, before a second use. Of course as we have a sandy base, we use fertilizers all the time and everywhere save on the lawns, which apparently do quite well without it.

It is a delightful country, with a climate that I personally enjoy very much, a winter that is mild usually and yet enough of chill so one knows when spring is here! Summers that are hot, but not unbearable to me, as we are near enough the Gulf to have a breeze that keeps the air moving, preventing the stangant heat that is so trying inland. It is true that there are many insects; flies and gnats in particular, but the modern repellents are truly effective and I am not ashamed to use them. The one new epi demic hazard is the so-called Fire Ant, a very small fellow with a prodigious capacity for building a great mound is not topped, but quite easily killed with Chlordane. His bite is like a flame of fire! Our w hole nursery has been treated with Dieldrin, the preferred agent, and our eyes are alert elsewhere in the place with chlordanes for any sign. So far we are quite free. As there is plety of water in the area, there are mosquitoes, but they are seasonal, and often of little annoyance, depending often on the direction of the wands.

But people are not garden minded, and frequently are quite content with the few things they can do in winter, and then... nothing. I who work all year through am considered more or less "touched"... but who cares. It is a joyful life and even the poorest of gardeners is pleased with a bouquet from here!

I'll be writing you again when the sulphureums are further along and if they do make offsets, as you felt they might, that will ne news too.

Thank you again for your letter and the report, and more than that for the original sending and for your continued interest.

Wm A. Christensen
 4 Bloomfield Sta
 Takapuna N. 2
 Auckland
 New Zealand